

K-12 Education & College Expo Mar. 5



Metro Voice will hold the 2016 Christian Education and College Expo Saturday, March 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Colonial Presbyterian Church. This year, a K-12 Open House has also been planned for the Northland on Monday evening, March 7 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Gladstone Community Center.

For the March 5 event, parents looking both at K-12 options and high school students scouting colleges can come with specific questions in mind, said Anita Widaman, who started the Expo in 1999.

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

The free Expo also features 50 Christian universities from 17 states and free mini-seminars on everything from homeschooling to finding financial aid and taking the ACT.

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

More info at www.metrovoicenews.com

What it means to RESPECT Life

Anita Widaman | Metro Voice

What does it mean to "respect life?" Whether it is protecting the life of the unborn child or serving the child born with special needs or the grandparent with Alzheimer's, there are many faces to the pro-life efforts of millions of

Americans. See how you can play a part in our special "Respect Life" section on page 5.

GUIDE
BEGINS ON
PAGE 5!



Calvin Beck (left), a senior at Colorado Christian University, and Joseph High (right), a freshman at Lipscomb University in Nashville.

WHY MILLENNIALS QUIT CHURCH

College students spend summer in Kansas City discovering seven ways to win them back

by Annika Bergen

While at Shawnee Mission Park, I overheard snippets from a couple's conversation as they hiked.

"Any religion?" the girl asked—a 20-something with bleached, buzz-cut hair.

"Atheist," the guy replied.

"Amen, hallelujah!" she said laughing. "I can't stand how Christians think they're so 'welcoming' as long as you believe what they believe and do what they

tell you to do."

The rest of the conversation slipped out of earshot, leaving me to ponder the state of my generation. As a fellow millennial (born between 1980 and 2000), I worry over my generation's statistics. According to the Pew Research Center, one-third of adults under 30 claim no religion. With 75 million millennials in the U.S., that's just over 24 million that don't subscribe to any faith whatsoever.

■ See MILLENNIALS page 23

Kansas teen's shoe drive gains national attention

Amelia Flores had a goal of collecting 2,000 pairs of shoes by December 18.

After collecting 1,000 pairs herself, the goal was met overnight with a tweet by Kim Kardashian West.

"I woke up and had a ton of messages from people who I did not know," said the 17-year-old. "They were showing me these tweets from Kim Kardashian."

The tweets said the following: "I'm up breastfeeding & watching this show Dish Nation. I heard the cutest story of a girl who is trying to find 1000 pairs of shoes to donate to this charity Soles For Souls! They helped her during Hurricane Katrina. I think I know the designer of Shoe of the Year Award!"

"I'm so grateful. I don't think she understands how much this means to me. I'm just glad that she helped with the publicity and getting attention," Flores said.

Now that her goal is met, the teen is



Amelia has made a huge difference fundraising and raising awareness.

hoping to raise 25,000 pairs of shoes by March 1.

Andover High School will continue collecting shoes for Flores' drive until March 1.

You can also donate shoes for Flores' Drive by contacting Soles4Souls.org.

BOARD APPROVES FINANCING PACKAGE FOR NEW ST. LOUIS FOOTBALL STADIUM

New Rams Stadium in St. Louis not supported by NFL



The proposed new football stadium would be open air and located on the edge of the Mississippi River.

The St. Louis board of Aldermen voted in late December in favor of a funding package for a new NFL stadium that has many calling it the biggest boondoggle in state history. In fact, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell is even against it, telling Governor Jay Nixon that the stadium proposal "is fundamentally inconsistent with the NFL's program of stadium financing."

Under a task force's proposal, the city would finance \$150 million of the \$1.1 billion project. The rest of the money would be footed by Missouri taxpayers at the expense of state roads and bridges, the NFL and \$250 million from the team owner.

Goodell said the NFL provides a maximum of \$200 million, whereas the bill approved included \$300 million. St. Louis could be running out of time. The NFL and



GOODELL

its owners are expected to vote in January on relocation requests. Rams owner Stan Kroenke has expressed interest in moving the team to Los Angeles.

No agreements have been made to bring another team to St. Louis if the Rams leave.

If Nixon and his task force don't get the financial assistance from the NFL, their stadium deal might not break ground. That has some die-hard Rams fans upset but, seeing that football is big business with total revenue approaching \$8 billion in 2014, taxpayers may express a sign of relief if it doesn't go through.

Highways Ministries fundraiser to benefit the Orphan Justice Center

Highways Ministries is selling "Ten Keys to Raising Kids That Love God" for a suggested donation of \$18 to raise funds for the Orphan Justice Center, based in Grandview. "Ten Keys to Raising Kids That Love God" was written by Leilani Haywood, an award-winning writer and online editor for SpiritLed Woman.

The book is full of heart-warming stories woven with practical advice for raising Christian kids in a hostile, secular culture. The book includes a Bible study for parents and caregivers to create their own parenting goals. "This book will make an excellent tool to give parents insight, instruction and encouragement," say former Charisma editor Lee Grady and Grady.

Haywood, who also served as editor of Metro Voice in the past, was inspired to sell the book to raise funds for the Orphan Justice Center after hearing

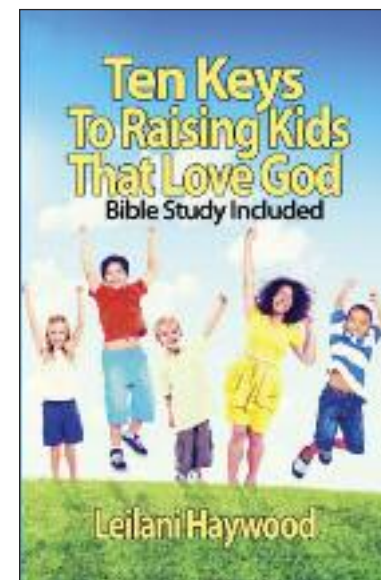
Josh Swain's testimony at World Revival Church of surviving an accident with a semi-truck. "Josh said that God showed him that He spared his life because of his daughter that he and his wife, Sabrina, had fostered and were now adopting." All net proceeds from the book will be donated to The Orphan Justice Center.

"We at Orphan Justice Center are very excited to have award-winning writer, Leilani Haywood and Highways Ministries stand with us as we fight for justice and walk out James 1:27 together," says Maria Singh, spokesperson for The Orphan Justice Center. "We know that not everyone is called to adopt but everyone can do something."

D'Lynn Watts, founder of Highways Ministries added, "As an adoptive family ourselves, getting behind Leilani Haywood's vision and heart to donate all the proceeds from her book, The Orphan Justice Center, was a no-brainer. Highways Ministries considers it an honor and a privilege to help orphans and widows or any one who the world



HAYWOOD



might consider underprivileged, in their times of need. Thanks to Leilani for having a desire to equip and empower families, as well as giving resources and financial help to the Orphan Justice Center."

Orphan Justice Center has a three-fold mission of facilitating adoption, rescue and fostering of children and working with distressed families.

"I'm excited to partner with Highways Ministries and the Orphan Justice Center for my book," Haywood says.

Thank you for voting us one of KC's favorite allergy centers!

**According to kcparent magazine.*

Dr. Pfuetze and staff are pleased to bring over 30+ years of care to patients with allergy and immunology issues.

Bruce Pfuetze, MD



College Park Family Care Center

Care with caring

11725 W. 112th St., 2nd Floor
Overland Park, KS 66210
(913) 469-5452
CollegeParkFamilyCare.com

Bill would open restrooms to both men and women

If one Missouri state senator is successful, businesses, churches and schools could be forced to allow the opposite sex use of their restrooms meant for either men or women. A bill filed by Senator Joe Keaveny (D-St. Louis) would stop what it declares is “discrimination” based upon “gender identity.”

The “Missouri Non-Discrimination Act” would ban discrimination including access to public accommodations and in the workplace. In essence, it would be a crime for a business or public entity such as a school to deny access a women’s restroom to a man who thinks he’s a woman—or as it has become popularly described, to “self-identify.”

“Nationally, the tide is turning on the Non-Discrimination Act,” said Keaveny. “It really doesn’t create any new protections; it just extends its existing protections for a significant portion of our population.”

Supporters say that in Missouri, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender in-



dividuals can be fired, evicted and denied access to public accommodations and services though there have been no documented incidents.

The Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Missouri have opposed similar legislation, saying it would create a new legally protected class and lead to more lawsuits against businesses.

The Springfield City Council voted in 2014 to extend a law preventing LGBT individuals from being discriminated against in the areas of housing, employment and public accommodations. Earlier this year, Springfield voters repealed that ordinance.

newsbriefs



Israel in top 10% for highest quality of life

JERUSALEM, Israel -- Despite all the trouble on Israel's doorstep -- civil war and ISIS in Syria, Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority running the West Bank, the country ranks as the 18th most desirable country in which to live in the world.

That's according to this year's United Nations Human Development Index (HDI). The annual report ranks 188 countries according to economic strength, education, health, life expectancy and gross national product per capita in determining the rating.

Norway topped the list, with the U.S. coming in at eight, Canada at nine, and the U.K. at 14. Israel was ahead of Japan at 20, France at 22, Spain at 26 and Italy at 27. In fact, Israel beat most European countries even while the European Union moves to isolate and boycott the Jewish state for its handling of Palestinian issues.

Israel is one of 49 countries considered to have "Very High Human Development." Israel has the highest fertility rate among those countries.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, Qatar ranked 32, Lebanon 67, Jordan 80 and Egypt 108 with Syria coming in at 134. The highest Muslim country to make the list was Qatar while the majority were in the bottom one-third of the rankings.

New York first in nation to sprinkle sodium warnings on restaurant menus

(WNS)--New York City enters a new era in nutritional warnings, as restaurants begin marking exceptionally salty menu items with an advisory symbol. On Dec. 1, chain eateries in the city began showcasing a miniature salt shaker inside a black hazard triangle next to menu items containing more than the nutritionist-recommended daily sodium limit of 2,300 milligrams, about one teaspoon. The average American consumes about 3,400 mg of salt per day, and public health advocates are cheering the measures as a smart step to make diners aware of the sodium content on their plates. The warning affects multiple-outlet venues like Applebee's, Chipotle, and Panera Bread, which account for about one-third of the city's restaurant traffic. According to the New York City Health Department, the sodium advisory symbol will appear on about one in 10 menu choices.

Fear of vaccines leads to Ukraine polio spike

(WNS)--In early December, the World Health Organization (WHO) did not mince words with Ukraine: Declare a state of emergency. WHO sounded the alarm after the first polio cases the country has seen in five years paralyzed two children, a 4-year-old and 10-month-old. “These cases have arisen as a result of a very low level of immunization in the country,” Igor Peregrinets, deputy minister of health in Ukraine, said in a statement. Ironically, health officials believe the polio vaccine, coupled with low immunization rates, is behind the latest outbreak.



The polio vaccines used in Ukraine contain a live but weakened virus. When a child is immunized, the virus replicates in the intestine and is excreted. Typically, the weakened virus can confer immunity to an unvaccinated child. But in rare cases, the weakened virus can mutate, grow stronger, and infect an unvaccinated child. In a population like Ukraine's, in which the vaccination rate is only 50 percent, the virus can circulate for a long time and mutate into a form that can paralyze and kill.

Conference to answer questions about creation

Does God exist? How can anyone believe in religion when science has neither a need nor a place for God? Is evolution happening today? If God is a God of love, why do we suffer and die?



CESSNA

Creation Ministries International is coming to Kansas City this month with answers to these important questions. It takes place at Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City. The conference begins Sunday, Jan. 24, at 9:30 a.m. with “Creation and the War of the Worldviews”. Then at 11 a.m., the track “How Big is God?” will be held.

Shane Cessna with Creation Ministries International and others will expose the bankruptcy of the evolutionary myth and provide evidence showing how weak the scientific evidence for evolution is.

This is an issue that affects everyone. Evolution teaches us there is no need for God, there is no spiritual realm, and there is no afterlife.

According to the theory, spirituality is just an evolutionary trick of the mind!

The Bible gives a very different picture about the nature of these things. At this presentation, you will learn how the scientific evidence, when properly understood, confirms the details of the biblical account. At the same time, we will answer many of the Big Questions.

For information, call 816-353-8053.

ARE YOU HUNGRY FOR
A MOVE OF GOD?
JOIN THE MOVEMENT!
HOLY GHOST ENVIRONMENT, GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT,
GOSPEL PREACHING, BIBLICAL TEACHING,
POWER CHURCH...

lifegate
CHURCH

LIFEGATEKC.ORG
1525 SOUTH NOLAND ROAD
INDEPENDENCE, MO 64055
816.503.9586


FIORELLA'S
JACK STACK
BARBECUE
AN EXPERIENCE
BEYOND YOUR
EXPECTATION

MARTIN CITY
135th & Holmes Rd.
(816) 942-9141
OVERLAND PARK
95th & Metcalf Ave.
(913) 385-7427
COUNTRY CLUB PLAZA
Wyandotte & Ward Pkwy
(816) 531-7427
FREIGHT HOUSE
22nd & Wyandotte
(816) 472-7427
SUMMITWOODS CROSSING
50 Hwy & NW Pryor Road
(816) 621-7427
Opening Spring 2015

facebook.com/jackstackbbq

twitter@jackstackbbq

Instagram@jackstackbbq

Tebow gets dumped by girlfriend

Former Miss USA cites abstinence as reason for breakup

Micaiah Bilger Lifenews.com

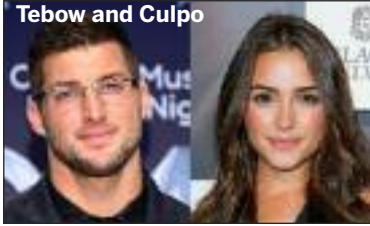
More often lately it seems that people who do the right thing are the ones facing criticism and rejection. Recently that person is pro-life athlete Tim Tebow.

CBS Tampa Bay reports that Tebow's girlfriend, the former Miss USA Olivia Culpo, broke up with him because he is saving sex until marriage.

"She had to break up with him because she just couldn't handle it," a source told the New York Daily News. Speaking of Tebow's vow to remain abstinent until marriage, the source continued, "She just can't deal with the sex thing. He's pretty adamant about it (abstaining), I guess."

News reports indicate that Tebow appeared to be very much in love with Culpo. They dated for about two months. He told her he is committed to saving sex for the woman who he mar-

Tebow and Culpo



ries, according to reports.

"He was really into her. He was sending her love letters and cute notes and professing his love for her," the source told the Daily News.

Tebow, a former NFL quarterback and Heisman winner, has been very vocal about his Christian faith. In 2009, he told reporters that he was a virgin and would remain so until marriage. Some celebrities mocked his commitment to abstinence, and one person even offered \$1 million to anyone who could offer proof that Tebow was lying. No one did.

Lutheran youth ministry reaches its funding goal to feed 500,000

by **Roger Drinnon**

ST. LOUIS — Thanks to nearly 300 pledges of support, the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Youth Ministry's "WeRaise" crowd-funding campaign received the extra \$25,000 required to help Synod youth package another 100,000 meals for the hungry during the next Youth Gathering July 16-20 in New Orleans. The additional support makes possible the overall goal of packing 500,000 total meals to help feed the hungry.

"The impact is humbling when everyone plays their part," said Amy Gray, media and publications project coordinator for LCMS Youth Ministry. "Two hundred and sixty-eight people, congregations and organizations contributed toward reaching this \$25,000 goal. What a beautiful picture of the body of Christ working together for something larger than our individual parts."

At the 2013 Youth Gathering in San Antonio, participants packaged more than 322,000 meals for distribution in and around the city through a partnership with Feeding Children Every-



A participant at the 2013 LCMS Youth Gathering places packaged meals into a box to be sent out to people who need food.

where, an organization that "empowers and mobilizes people to assemble healthy meals for hungry children."

Held every three years, the Gathering brings both youth and adults together for five days to spend time in

God's Word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across the Synod as thousands of teens will be empowered to grow spiritually in acts of Christ-centered mercy and service to others," said Gray.

newsbriefs

College president's letter strikes a chord

(WNS)--Since writing an open letter to college students telling them to toughen up, Oklahoma Wesleyan University president Everett Piper has been inundated with responses, most of them emphatic cries of, "Amen!" From all over the country, people are writing via social media and email to thank Piper for his letter, entitled "This is not a day care. It's a university!" which he posted on the school's website. The message on 1 Corinthians 13—which includes the famous Bible passage "Love is patient and kind"—made the student feel uncomfortable. Piper not only rejected the complaint, but also denounced the way modern culture is teaching young people to demand protection from discomfort.

Arise 2016

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

JANUARY 28-31, 2016

WORLD REVIVAL CHURCH OF KANSAS CITY

SEE, I AM DOING A NEW THING! NOW IT SPRINGS UP... ISAIAH 43:19



ARISE & BEGIN AGAIN!

Ladies of Metro Kansas City!

You are invited to join Kathy Gray and women from around the world for a girls' weekend full of inspiration and new beginnings.

God wants you to Begin Again! Forget your past and experience restoration of joy, hope and purpose. **ARISE** and Begin Again together in Kansas City!

Evening services with Pastors Steve and Kathy Gray are open to the public and will include Roy Fields (Run with Fire Ministries) leading worship.

Join Pastor Kathy Gray, along with her special guests Melanie and Roy Fields (Run with Fire Ministries), Pastor Tricia Reyes (The New Church of Jay, Waukegan, IL), Satara Brown-Glasco (World Revival Church), Mary Seidler (Warsaw, Poland), and Heather Eschenbaum (The House of Hope and Healing).



SPECIAL WORSHIP WITH ROY FIELDS

PRIVATE LUNCH WITH KATHY!

Women in ministry call 1.877.804.5433 or email info@wrckc.com to sign up!

Register today at arise.WorldRevivalChurch.com

World Revival Church • 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134
Use promocode "arise21" for a special discount.



2016 RESPECT LIFE GUIDE

What does it mean to be pro-life?

by **Paul Stark**

Every human being matters, and we ought to act accordingly

The media often use the label “anti-abortion” to describe pro-life advocates. It’s true that we oppose abortion—and infanticide, euthanasia and embryo-destructive research. But we are only against those things because we are for something else.

What we are for

What are we for? We are for the proposition that human life is good, that it is worth living, that it deserves respect and protection. We are for the proposition that every human being has an equal worth and dignity—that every human being has a right to live.

The pro-life position rejects all attempts to divide humanity into those who have rights and those who don’t. Our society now recognizes that past discrimination on the basis of race, gender, ethnicity and social status was deeply unjust.

We recognize that the worth of a human being does not depend on such characteristics.

Nor, however, does the worth of a human being depend on age, size, ability, dependency, stage of development or the desires and decisions of others. The big are not more valuable than the small. The strong do not have more rights than the weak. The independent do not matter more than the vulnerable and needy.

No, we have value and a right to life simply because we are human—not because of what we can do, but because of what (the kind of being) we are. That’s why everyone matters. Everyone counts.

What we oppose

It is because we support equal human dignity that we oppose the intentional killing of innocent human beings. And that means we oppose abortion, infanticide, euthanasia and embryo-destructive research.

Pro-lifers oppose abortion because it takes the

“Being pro-life is about more than just holding an ethical position. To be truly pro-life means to live and act accordingly.”

life of a human being before he or she is born. The scientific facts of embryology and developmental biology make clear that the unborn (the human embryo or fetus) is a distinct and living human organism, a full-fledged (though immature) member of the species *Homo sapiens*. Each of us was once an embryo and a fetus, just as we were once infants, toddlers and adolescents.

And all human beings, at all stages, have a right to life, whether or not they are “wanted” or “con-

venient.”

We oppose euthanasia and assisted suicide because killing is never the answer to the difficulties of life. All human beings should receive our compassion and care, irrespective of disease, disability or perceived “quality of life.”

We oppose embryonic stem cell research (but not adult or non-embryonic stem cell research) and human cloning because they require the destruction of human embryos. Human embryos are human beings in the embryonic phase of life.

And all human beings, regardless of appearance or location (e.g., a petri dish), ought to be treated with respect and not as mere raw material to use for the hypothetical benefit of others.

Living our conviction

But being pro-life is about more than just hold-



ing an ethical position. To be truly pro-life means to live and act accordingly.

It means treating other people with dignity and respect—even those with whom we disagree.

It means helping pregnant women in need and those who suffer from illness or disability.

It means recognizing the moral gravity and scale of abortion—the premier injustice and leading cause of death in American society today—and taking action to save lives. Educating

■ See PRO-LIFE page 12

“WHAT ARE WE DOING TO THEM?”

“Why are they doing this to us?” I will never forget when an individual with several disabilities posed this question to me. At that time in October 2013, I was working as a direct support professional in a 12-bed adult foster-care home. She asked me this because she had been watching the news and heard that the federal government was cutting food assistance benefits, which she and her housemates used to put food on the table. I was frustrated and disappointed about the situation with her.

I didn’t know how to respond to her question. Do I tell her politicians think she can live without the \$10 per month that they are cutting? Do I tell her the government is increasingly failing her? Looking back now, I don’t think I ever gave her a satisfactory answer. I will forever remember asking myself, “What are we doing to them?”

While pro-life advocates are right to



CHRIS EAKIN

onpoint

plead with people to “choose life”, some make the mistake of not answering the question that the slogan begs, “...and then what?” What happens after a mother who is scared to bring a child into the world gives birth? Will she have the necessary support to help her and her child flourish, or will her life and her child’s lives be excruciatingly difficult?

Does being pro-life mean more than being pro-birth?

In a survey by the Guttmacher Insti-

tute, a sizeable percentage of women who sought an abortion responded that they did so because of possible problems affecting the health of the fetus. These potential health problems could be many types of diagnoses, from cystic fibrosis to mental retardation to Down syndrome. In fact, it has been estimated that between 60 percent and 90 percent of prenatal Down syndrome diagnoses result in abortion.

Some of the individuals I loved the most in my direct support position had Down. Their affection for others was infectious; I can’t even count the number of requests for hugs I received. Their smiles were adorable and made each workday brighter. Their comments were hilarious and kept me on my toes. Yet, between 60 percent and 90 percent of prenatal Down syndrome diagnoses result in abortion. Imagine what the

■ See EAKIN page 12



Committed to an abortion free Missouri.
Standing for life in Missouri – on the sidewalk, at the
Capitol and in the local churches.

Concerned Women for America of Missouri

www.cwfa.org/states/missouri
314-608-0168 • cwaofmo@hotmail.com

Missouri Legislative update and a look ahead

■ sidenote

Action Requested of the Missouri Legislature

Missouri Right to Life urges passage of the following important pro-life legislation during the 2016 legislative session:

- Ban Dismemberment Abortions in which living unborn children are aborted by a procedure in which forceps are used to pull the baby out of the womb in pieces. This procedure is used in 95 percent of second trimester abortions nation-wide.
- Redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars to qualified health centers and state rural health agencies to ensure that tax dollars are going to agencies that uphold state laws and that women receive quality health care.
- Abortion clinic inspection bill that includes the following:
 1. Require at least one annual on-site inspection of abortion facilities.
 2. Require an accounting report for the disposition of all tissue from aborted babies.
 3. Require an accounting to the state from any agency contracted with Planned Parenthood as to the disposition of aborted baby bodies/parts or tissue received from Planned Parenthood.
 4. Prevent state-funded agencies and universities involved in research from receiving or purchasing aborted baby body, body parts, or fetal tissue from aborted babies from any source in or out of state.
 5. Specifically define "clinical privileges" so that any state agency or any institution receiving state monies can clearly understand the restrictions of the law.
 6. Increase penalty for selling or buying aborted baby bodies/body parts and include jurisdiction for the attorney general to prosecute.

Missouri Right to Life is working diligently to prevent your state tax dollars from being used for abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

And the Missouri Right to Life Political Action Committees (MRL PACs) have been the only organizations holding legislators accountable for their votes regarding public funding of abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research. Many legislators have lost their endorsements based on their votes to fund unethical research under the guise of economic development.

But the tide is changing with education on these issues, and pro-lifers have a huge group of legislators that stand in the gap to prevent this funding of abortion services, human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.

Missouri Right to Life has long said that marketing the bodies of aborted babies for research is a reality... and now, once again, we see that proof.

Following the release of the contro-



SUSAN KLEIN
Missouri Right to Life

viewpoint



versal videos that raised questions about whether Planned Parenthood, the largest provider of abortions in the U.S. was selling baby body parts for profit, Missouri lawmakers began holding investigation hearings.

The mothers (and babies) that enter a Planned Parenthood deserve to know the truth about the deceptions of "planned parenthood." Planned Parenthood does not care for these women nor their babies.

For the last two legislative sessions, Missouri Right to Life has called for at

■ See MISSOURI page 7

Kansas City 2015-16 Media Campaign

Google Paid Search
Terms such as signs of pregnancy, abortion, free abortion, abortion clinic, abortion pill, pregnancy symptoms are searched by our target audience.

- Search ads are crucial when a woman thinks she may be pregnant and desperate for answers from the internet.
- When competing with the abortion industry, women need to know that life-saving options are available.
- Women will be able to call direct to a PHC or make a web appointment.

Mobile Advertising
Geo-targeted mobile advertising targets our specific demographic of women. A woman would see a list of PHCs near her and have the option to "click to call" or "click for directions".

Vitae Foundation
 1731 Southridge Dr., Suite D, Jefferson City, MO 65109
 573.634.4316 ♦ VitaeFoundation.org

Every child deserves a loving, caring home. A family they can call their own.
A place where they belong. With people who will be there for them always.

Adopt Kansas Kids

www.adoptKSkids.org • 877-457-5430

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

Need a speaker?

INFG offers speakers with unique gifting, talent, and passion for your Sanctity of Human Life or Respect Life service, MOPS group, women's conference, counseling team or other needs.

| info@infg.org | 816-847-2911 | www.infg.org |

Abortion recovery for women, men, and families.

If Not For Grace

Ministries

Resource DIRECTORY

ADOPT KANSAS KIDS

3545 SW 5th St.
Topeka, KS 66601
877-457-5430
customercare@adoptkskids.org
www.adoptkskids.org

ADVICE & AID PREGNANCY CENTERS

P.O. Box 7123
Shawnee Mission, KS
Ruth Tisdale
913-962-0200
director@adviceandaid.com
www.adviceandaid.com

ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME

15017 27th Street, PO Box 727
Perry, Kansas 66073-0727
Michelle Kincaid
785-597-5235
office@alphachristianchildrenshome.com
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com

ALTERNATIVES CLINIC

307 W Washington St
Harrisonville MO
Linda Freeland
816-380-4885
director@lifechoicecenter.org
www.alternativesclinic.org

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES OF THE MIDWEST, INC.

8249 W. 95th St., Ste. 107
Overland Park, KS 66212
Susan K. Timmons, LSCSW
913-383-3337 x102
susan@cfskc.org
www.cfskc.org

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MISSOURI

P.O. Box 1352
St. Peters, MO 63376
Bev Ehlen
314-608-0168
director@missouri.cwfa.org
www.cwfa.org

IF NOT FOR GRACE

PO Box 836
Grain Valley, MO 64029
Lori Driggs
816-847-2911
info@infg.org
www.infg.org

KANSANS FOR LIFE

7808 Foster
Overland Park, Kansas 66204
Mary Kay Culp
913.642.LIFE (5433)
kansansforlife@aol.com, www.kfl.org

KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE

650 Minnesota Ave.
Kansas City, KS 66101
877-581-5437 or 913-371-2220
tklaus@kcsk.org, www.kcsk.org

THE LIGHT HOUSE

PO Box 22553
Kansas City, MO 64113
Dawn Shipman
816-361-2233
dawns.lighthouse@mbch.org
www.lighthousekc.org

MISSOURI BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

PO Box 22787
Kansas City, MO 64113
Dawn Hensley
816-795-8878
dawn.hensley@mbch.org
www.mbch.org

KFL TOPEKA RALLY & MARCH SET

In 2015, Kansas was the first state to ban dismemberment abortions before a Kansas judge stopped it, claiming such a law isn't allowed under the KS constitution. On Jan. 22, the annual Kansans For Life Rally and March will celebrate life and demonstrate to help change the Kansas judicial nomination process to the federal model, in an effort to protect life.

8:30 AM REGISTRATION - Location this year for registration/donuts/exhibit booths, as well as workshops, will be in the downstairs Capitol's Visitor Center inside the North Entrance.

9:00 - NOON LOBBY - Take a tour, watch KS House in action, and other activities to be announced at registration.

9:00 - 10:00 WORKSHOPS - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor's Ctr.,

basement level, North Capitol Entrance.

10:00 - 11:00 WORKSHOPS REPEATED

11:30 - 2:30 LUNCH - Available early for those not going to Mass; later for those who are. \$5 Free will offering.

12:30 - 12:45 MARCH from TPAC to S. Capitol steps.

12:45 - 1:15 RALLY FOR LIFE on the south Capitol steps featuring: Kansas Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, introduction of pro-life legislators, and more.

1:30 - 2:30 PM WORKSHOPS - Repeated.

2:30 - 3:30 PM WORKSHOPS - Repeated.

For late-breaking information and updates go to the Kansans for Life Facebook page; KFL web site - www.kfl.org; or Twitter: @kansansforlife. Emergency Numbers for KFL Personnel are (785) 383-8636 and (913) 406-4446.

MISSOURI

continued from page 6

least one required annual inspection of abortion facilities to be placed in statute. The inspection should not depend on the governor or the director of the Department of Health, whose diligence in oversight may be influenced by their position on abortion, but an annual inspection mandated by law.

During the 2016 session, Missouri Right to Life will call on our legislators to take up and pass this abortion clinic inspection bill with an expanded clause that requires information about how "whole babies" and "baby body parts" are discarded as well as disclosing any relationships between research

facilities and abortion facilities. It will also address the issues of licensing requirements for ambulatory surgical centers, physician hospital privileges and the connection of abortion facilities and public funded institutions.

Missouri Right to Life has welcomed these investigations of Planned Parenthood and has worked with the investigation committees. Now, Missouri Right to Life calls on the legislators to take action on these investigations. Continue inquiry... and take action!

It is time to provide consistent oversight of Planned Parenthood in Missouri and end the subsidizing of their reprehensible actions with federal tax dollars.

Alpha Christian Children's Home & School
www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com

WHAT WE DO:

1. Share Christ to offer hope and healing
2. Provide a Christian family safe haven
3. Help the kids get caught up in school

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

1. Pray
2. Volunteer
3. Refer children to us
4. Give money or food to help us serve kids at no charge

Find out more by calling
785-597-5235
 Located an Hour W of KC
 15017 27th Street
 PO Box 727
 Perry, Kansas 66073

Christian Family Services
"Helping Children and Families Find a Better Life"

Considering Adoption?

■ Learn your options from a trusted source
 ■ Supportive services for both birth parents and adoptive parents
 ■ Licensed and Hague accredited for those needing home studies-both domestic and international

Serving KS and MO for over 30 years

913-383-3337 ♦ www.cfskc.org
susan@cfskc.org

Families Make the Difference

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. When a child's family is not able to provide for that child, a foster or adoptive family can. You can make a difference by becoming a "family" for a hurting child. You can also make a difference by providing support for foster or adoptive families.

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

THE LIGHT HOUSE

MBCH CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

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

**A Action
C Changes
T Things!**

Missouri Right to Life Pro-Life Action Days
Tuesday, February 9, 2016
Tuesday, April 5, 2016
 Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda

We need you to ACT!

- Come to Jefferson City on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 and Tuesday, April 5, 2016, for Pro-Life Action Days to encourage your legislators to pass pro-life legislation.
- On February 9, registration begins at 11:00 a.m.
- On April 5, registration begins at 10:00 a.m.
- On both days, lobby your legislators and join the noon rally.

Priority Legislation

- Ban dismemberment abortions
- Tighten abortion clinic inspection requirements
- Redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars

Featured Speakers

- Sue Thayer, after 18 years as manager of a Planned Parenthood, is now a strong voice for life and for educating the public about the tragedy of abortion.
- Stacy Washington, "Stacy on the Right" as she is known to her radio listening audience, is unabashedly pro-life and boldly proclaims so!

Transportation available from many areas of the state.
 Contact the Missouri Right to Life State Office, 573.635.5110, or visit www.missourilife.org for transportation and further information regarding Pro-Life Action Days.

WEAR RED FOR LIFE!

DEFUND PLANNED PARENTHOOD
 Redirect Federal Family-Planning Dollars

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE
 P.O. Box 651
 Jefferson City MO 65102
www.missourilife.org

Kansas Pro-Life sees legislative success in 2015, looks to more in 2016

2015 was another year of accomplishment as Kansas became the first state in the nation to enact the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act.

The act bans a brutally inhumane procedure in which the unborn child is torn apart, piece by piece, with sharp metal tools while still inside the mother. Over 800 precious, innocent unborn children were destroyed with this method in Kansas in 2014. With overwhelming support from Kansans, Gov. Sam Brownback signed the Act in April and restaged the bill signing in 4 Kansas locations with big crowds in attendance.

However—and not unexpectedly—Johnson County abortionists challenged the law and secured a legal injunction preventing the ban from yet going into effect.

The extremist ruling came from a Topeka district judge, Larry Hendricks, who adopted the abortion attorneys' novel claims that a state right to abortion—broader than the right to abortion created by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Roe v. Wade*—was



KATHY OSTROWSKI
Kansas for Life
Legislative Director

onpoint

secretly residing in the 1859 Kansas Constitution!

Attorney General Derek Schmidt filed an appeal of that decision, and the Kansas Court of Appeals will rule on the matter on an expedited basis.

For Kansans, the potential that a

liberal-leaning appellate court and the state Supreme Court might actually uphold the absurd notion of a state right to abortion cannot be understated. If upheld, EVERY state pro-life-protective law would be overturned and Kansans would be forced to PAY for abortions. Much prayer is needed!

More Pro-Life news in 2015

“Over 800 precious, innocent unborn children were destroyed with this method in Kansas in 2014.”

■ Kansas abortionist Kris Neuhaus continues to battle the 2012 revocation of her medical license from the state Board of Healing Arts, which called her “incapable of successful rehabilitation.” Neuhaus' sole income for years was rubber-stamping approvals for late-term abortions for Wichita abortionist George Tiller. Her second appeal sits in the Topeka court of Judge Franklin Theis, who unbelievably allowed her first appeal. Abortions are now banned in Kansas at 22 weeks gestation due to the proven pain-capability of the unborn child at that age.

■ Gov. Brownback announced an investigation into the disposition of fetal remains at Kansas abortion clinics. A national scandal of trafficking in baby body parts was revealed by the undercover videos released from July-October by the Center for Medical Progress.

Several Congressional investigative hearings are under way and the U.S. Senate defunded Planned Parenthood for the first time ever. Pro-life legislation in Kansas will follow up the results of that investigation, including a law that makes permanent a court-upheld state budget provision effectively disqualifying Planned Parenthood from federal Title X



Gov. Sam Brownback at ceremonial signing of historic ban on dismemberment method abortions with bill sponsor, Sen. Garrett Love (R-Montezuma), standing directly behind.

health grants

■ Attorney General Schmidt issued an opinion against a medical form targeting the elderly and chronically ill that is being heavily pushed by the Kansas City Center for Practical Bioethics.

The opinion was requested by Rep. John Rubin (R-Shawnee) and verifies that in two distinct areas the “T-POPP” form contravenes current statutes that protect patients! Legisla-

tive hearings on this threat are planned to alert Kansans about this “T-POPP” document on special pink paper that “nudges” denial of life saving treatment.

As one can see from this brief update—liberal courts harm pro-life interests. Kansans for Life has prioritized reform of the Judicial Nomination Process. For more, see www.kfl.org.

Compelled by Christ to

Rescue & Restore

young lives

Show-Me serves as an alternative to state-based foster care offering Christ-centered:

- Homes and families
- Individualized education programs
- Professional counseling & therapeutic services
- Ongoing support for young people as they transition into adulthood



Show-Me Christian
Youth Home

Show-Me Christian Youth Home
660-347-5982 | www.showmehelpingkids.org

NFL player will headline March for Life in Washington D.C.

The March for Life 2016 is fast approaching, and the March For Life Education & Defense Fund is pleased to announce that Super Bowl champ and pro-life advocate Matt Birk will speak at this year's March for Life Rally on the National Mall January 22.

As a Center for the Baltimore Ravens, Birk is a 15 year veteran of the National Football League. He was recognized as the 2011 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year, which acknowledges off the field contributions to the community as well as on the field accomplishments. Named to the Pro Bowl six times, Birk's career culminated in February of 2013 in a Super Bowl win for the Baltimore Ravens.

Following the Raven's victory, Birk chose not to participate in the White House Super Bowl celebratory meeting with President Obama because of the president's support for Planned Parenthood, a decision that received significant media coverage. Birk and his wife, Adrianna, are both actively involved in the pro-life movement, including with



their local pregnancy center and past participation in pro-life marches. The couple have six children and currently live in Greenwich, Conn.

The March for Life in Washington, D.C., began as a small demonstration on January 22, 1974, the first anniversary of the now-infamous Supreme Court decisions in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* and rapidly grew to be the largest pro-life event in the world. The peaceful demonstration that has followed on this somber anniversary every year since is a witness to the truth concerning the greatest human rights violation of our time, abortion.



Because your mom chose life, you are able to read this. Life, the first unalienable right.

YWA of Missouri, standing for life from conception until natural death.

YWAofMO@hotmail.com

Resource DIRECTORY

MISSOURI BAPTIST CONVENTION

400 E. High Street
Jefferson City, MO 65101
800-736-6227
information@mobaptist.org
www.mobaptist.org

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE

Post Office Box 651
Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-635-5110
righttolife@missourilife.org
www.missourilife.org

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE, WESTERN REGION

9504 East 63rd Street Suite 103
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-353-4113
www.mrlwesternregion.org
mrl-wr@att.net

MOTHER'S REFUGE

14400 E. 42nd St. South, Suite 220
Independence, MO 64055
Robert Zornes
816-353-8070
office@mothersrefuge.org
www.mothersrefuge.org

PARKVILLE WOMEN'S CLINIC

6326 N Lucerne Ave.
Kansas City Mo 64151
Sonya Rice
816 746 4855
www.PWC4life.us
info@parkvillewomensclinic.com

SHOW-ME CHRISTIAN YOUTH HOME

24302 Mahin Rd.
La Monte, MO 65337
Chris Ruhnke
660-347-5982
info@showmekids.org
www.showmehelpingkids.org

TFI FAMILY SERVICES

5600 W. 95th St. Suite #318
Overland Park, KS 66207
April Williams
800-279-9914
recruitment@tfifamily.org
www.tfifamilyservices.org

VITAE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 791
1731 Southridge Drive, Suite D
Jefferson City MO 65109
800-393-5791
info@vitae.foundation.org
www.vitae.foundation.org

THE WOMEN'S CLINIC OF KANSAS CITY

815 N Noland Road, Suites 4 & 5
Independence, MO 64050
Deborah Neel
816.836.9000
ea@thewomensclinic.net
www.thewomensclinicfriends.com

YOUNG WOMEN FOR AMERICA MISSOURI

P.O. Box 1352
St. Peters, MO 63376
Amanda Sanders
ywa@cwfa.org
202-488-7000.

YOUTHVILLE

405 S. Clairborne Rd Suite #2
Olathe KS, 66062
Heather Weaver
800-593-1950
Gl@youthville.org
www.youthville.org

Vitae launches campaign to help women, save lives in KC

The Vitae Foundation launched an advertising campaign in the greater Kansas City area in December, which will continue for six months. The media campaign includes Google paid search and mobile advertising.

"We're thrilled to be able to help women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant and not sure where to turn," Vitae Chief Operating Officer Anne Carmichael stated. "These messaging strategies target specific age groups when they go on the computer or their phone to look for pregnancy and abortion-related information."

Search advertising is a method of placing online advertisements on web pages that show results from search engine queries. Search advertising is sold and delivered on the basis of keywords (i.e., abortion related words). The user (abortion-vulnerable woman) of a search engine (Google) enters keywords to make queries. A keyword



may consist of more than one word, like "symptoms of pregnancy." Once an ad is selected, the user is taken to a landing page where they are able to make a call to a Pregnancy Help Center (PHC) or schedule an online appointment.

Mobile advertising is a form of advertising via mobile (wireless) phones or other mobile devices. In addition to standard mobile display banners, a growing trend is to include rich media execution within the banner ads. This

includes banners that would expand to a larger size, offering advertisers a larger display to communicate their message. This feature is offered as a part of this campaign to allow for the user to interact with the ad to find the PHC nearest their location. Ads will appear on the mobile devices of women ages 15-17 years old. They will receive the creative "Are You Pregnant?" and women 18-24 years old will receive the creative "Thinking Abortion?". The ads will appear in areas where the demographic is heavily populated—schools, colleges, shopping malls.

There are six collaborating PHCs in the Greater KC area taking part in this campaign: Advice & Aid Pregnancy

Center, Alternatives Clinic, Rachael House, The Women's Clinic, Parkville Women's Clinic, Liberty Women's Clinic.

Funding for this campaign is made possible by the Meet Life Campaign, a program of the Missouri Knights of Columbus and the Vitae Foundation.

Vitae Foundation is a national non-profit organization which uses mass media campaigns to reach women facing unplanned pregnancies. Vitae pioneered the research that provides a results-driven approach in using media to address the abortion issue. Vitae's presence in the Kansas City media market has included ads on television, radio, Internet, outdoor billboards, and buses. Vitae ads also run on the Cardinal Radio Network and the Missouri Tiger Network during MU football and basketball games.

more information

For more information call
(573) 634-4316 or visit
vitae.foundation.org.

Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers: fighting the battle, one life at a time

How do you battle abortion one life at a time? Through the compassionate care of pregnancy resource centers like Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers in Overland Park and Shawnee.

Ministries like Advice & Aid are helping women daily, who are facing an unplanned pregnancy, with truth and grace so they can make a decision they can live with for the rest of their lives. Like Anna, a 28-year-old married woman and mother of a toddler who never imagined she would consider abortion until an unplanned pregnancy became her reality. This is her story

"In February, I realized I was pregnant. I felt like my whole world collapsed. It was the worst news at this moment in my life. I felt like it wasn't the right time because I had plans for my life. I didn't realize what God wanted.

I looked on line for abortion options. I found a clinic but the cost was too high and we didn't have that kind of money. So, I decided to keep searching and

found Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers.

I went to their website and began reading about abortion. I didn't see the part where it says they do not do abortions. My husband and I went the next day. I told the receptionist that I wanted information about abortion. I felt like my entire body was shaking because of the decision I was planning to take.

We met with a client advocate, told her our situation, and that we definitely wanted to have an abortion.

She asked us many questions, and slowly but surely we began to realize we were at a place that was not going to help me get what I wanted. The client advocate touched our hearts and helped us realize that the decision to abort was not the best option. She also helped us understand that though I felt like my life was falling apart right now, God had allowed this pregnancy to happen and he had a purpose for it even if I didn't understand it at this time.

That day I felt God's mercy over me.

That day, I simply arrived at the right place, at the right time, and I met with the right person. When we left that day, my husband and I cried as we repented and we couldn't stop giving God thanks for leading us to this place because **if we had not gone to Advice & Aid, I think**

we would have aborted our child."

Advice & Aid Pregnancy Centers offers confidential services and programs at no cost to those we serve. **For more information**, please contact us at 913-962-0200 or visit us at www.advice-andaid.com.



Loving Life

Mother's Refuge gives teens an opportunity to deliver their babies in a safe, loving home and prepares them for a life of independence and success.

phone 816.353.8070
to support life, moms and babies give at www.MothersRefuge.org
mailing address • office
14400 E 42nd St. S., Ste 220
Independence, MO 64055

Alternatives Clinic: Life-Saving Help in a Life-Changing Way

Alternatives Clinic is a nonprofit medical clinic and pregnancy resource center in Harrisonville providing services to Cass County and surrounding areas since 1992. The clinic is staffed by two part-time Registered Nurses as well as other support staff and volunteers. Alternatives Clinic provides a variety of confidential services at no cost to the individuals and families they serve such as: pregnancy testing; proof of pregnancy; limited obstetrical ultrasound services; information on sexually transmitted infections; confidential peer counseling and support; prenatal, parenting, and life skills classes; a clothing closet with maternity clothing, infant clothing, and supplies; a baby food pantry; referrals for social services and other resources; as well as financial assistance for those who qualify.

Kalina, an Alternatives Clinic client, stated "Alternatives Clinic



changed my life and helped me be able to provide a life for my child.

They gave me the knowledge and led me down the right supportive path to

be the best mom I could be."

An on-site Prenatal Clinic providing full service prenatal care is also available on Monday afternoons. The Prenatal Clinic is staffed by Dr. Tie-man, Dr. Mincher, and Dr. Sunny from Goppert-Trinity Family Care. The doctors take pregnancy Medicaid, private insurance, and self-pay patients. Prenatal Clinic patient, Adeline shared, "The doctors are absolutely amazing! I'm going to have a healthy baby thanks to them. The staff there is so helpful and polite. It's one of the best clinics I have found."

"The volunteers and supporters of [Alternatives Clinic] see the value of every life. Their commitment to mother and child is divine and makes a path for miracles."—Missouri State Senator, Ed Emery

If you see the value of every life and have an interest in volunteering, please contact Linda Freeland at 816-380-4885.



New Monitor for The Women's Clinic Makes Big Difference

We all know that when it comes to TV monitors, bigger is always better. A bigger monitor also can be lifesaving, especially if it vividly reveals the little arms, legs and heartbeat of a preborn baby in the womb of an uncertain new mom considering abortion.

Recently, our volunteer nurse sonographer saw a young woman's heart change before her eyes, due to a newly donated and installed 27-inch monitor in our Grandview ultrasound room. In her words:

"The patient thought she was 13 weeks pregnant, but according to the ultrasound, was actually 15 weeks into her pregnancy. I clearly could see a change of heart as I was doing the ultrasound."

Previously our patients had a very small ultrasound machine screen to look at and had a harder time seeing everything. With the larger screen the baby's arms, legs and heartbeat were all so much more vivid and clear to see. The young woman smiled as she watched the large image of her baby and I could see her growing excitement about becoming a mom.

I asked her what her decision would be now that she had seen her baby, and she said she was now deciding to parent! I have never experienced so quick a change in a patient's decision as I did with this girl. I thank God for this new larger screen."

The big screen literally saved a baby's life, thanks to the generosity of someone who saw a need and donated funds, a faithful staff member who installed the monitor and a volunteer nurse who lovingly performed the ultrasound. Everyone plays a part in saving lives at The Women's Clinic of Kansas City.

Contact The Women's Clinic today at 816-836-9000 or visit www.twcfriends.com for ways you can help save lives!

FOSTER FOSTER FOSTER
hope love care

TFI Family Services
tffamilyservices.org

CONSIDER FOSTERING TODAY

BE THE ONE
TO CHANGE A LIFE



The LIGHT House is 30!

For 30 years, The LIGHT House has given hope to young women facing untimely pregnancies. Offering a variety of services to girls in need, we strive to provide the most comprehensive, Christ-centered service in the Kansas City metro area. The word "LIGHT" in the name LIGHT House, is an acronym for Life Is Given Hope for Tomorrow, which is exactly what is seen in this young woman's life.

The Maternity Home provides residential services for young ladies aged 12-21 who need a safe place to stay while pregnant. A young woman may come to us at any time in her pregnancy and a full array of services is provided for her to help ensure a healthy delivery for both mother and child. These include life skills courses, case management services, parenting and nutrition classes, Bible studies and daily devotions, counseling and after-care support.

The Outreach Program provides services not only to our maternity home clients but also to young women and their small children who live in the community. This weekly gathering provides a time of fellowship, life skills courses, parenting classes, Bible study and case management.

By being involved in the Outreach Program, mothers are expected to learn parenting, nutrition, life and leadership skills to become self-sufficient.

The LIGHT House is also a full-service Adoption Agency with experienced, licensed staff that has facilitated hundreds of successful adoptions. We help connect birth mothers who delivered their babies in Missouri with potential Christian adoptive families. The adoption program provides completion of home studies, confidential counseling and education for the adoptive parents, as well as birth mother support.

All these services are conducted within the context of a Christian environment through Christ-centered care.

Nine years ago, a pregnant young girl with a life ravaged with hardship, came through the doors of The LIGHT House maternity home in Kansas City. She had no involvement with her biological parents and was fearful she would not be able to remain in relationship with her siblings. She already had one child that she was unable to care for and was going through the adoption process.

Few thought she would make it

■ See LIGHT HOUSE page 13

From Heart to Home
Infant Adoption Program

An adoption agency you can trust.

For over 120 years, adoption has been a core service throughout KCSL's history. Let us help fulfill your dream of having a child.

Kansas Children's Service League
877-581-5437 • www.kcsl.org

Reflections on a reconciliation weekend

"If Not For Grace" -- What is grace? How big is grace? How is grace given? Who qualifies to receive it? The Lord granted me new glimpses into what heavenly grace really is as I volunteered at If Not For Grace Ministries' Reconciliation Weekend.

As I looked at the parents grieving and facing very painful, but healing, questions (answered through scripture and prayer), I was moved in my heart by the heaviness and oppression that death from abortion had laid on them. Abortion had robbed these parents of being able to honor those children as real lives, who could have made a difference in this world. They were each uniquely created children who were precious to the Lord, and still are.

The thing is that we are also God's children – believers in Jesus Christ, the One and Only Lord of All. Our commitment to him is out of complete gratitude for what He has done already, even before our commitment to follow Him. There is no sin that He can't forgive. There is no evil that he cannot and will not overcome. Therefore,

Psalm 61: 2 "From the end of the earth I will cry to You, When my heart is overwhelmed; Lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

Jesus Christ, our Triune God, is our constant hope.

David Jeremiah, in a daily devotional (Turning Point Ministries) states it this way:

"In times of loss, it's necessary to grieve, process the pain, ask questions, and allow ourselves to cycle through natural human emotions. But all the while, we can cry out to the Lord. When overwhelmed, we can pray, 'Lead me to the rock that is higher I.'"

There is a place higher than where we are. The Lord is there, lovingly in control and grieving with us, yet heal-

ing us, when we seek Him with all our heart. His truths in scripture can be trusted. His purposes will be accomplished. His grace is free, through our debt being paid on the cross by Jesus. We aren't able to earn it. We have to admit our inability to battle evil and sin without Him. He will help us look forward, not back.

The Lord met those parents at Reconciliation Weekend. He is greater than all the darkness, heaviness, and attacks that abortion infuses into humanity. The Lord is our Healer. I am thankful that these parents chose to pursue Him. I am also thankful to have been a witness to God's grace working in our hearts and lives. He is faithful.

Psalm 116: 1-2 "I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice, and my pleas for mercy. Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live."

Clara Elliott is a retired school psychologist and soon-to-be grandmother! She has served as a Volunteer at If Not For Grace Ministries (INFG) for 2 years as a non-abortion-wounded



individual. She has functioned as a facilitator for both our Her Choice to Heal classes and Next Steps Bible studies and has filled the role as INFG's liaison to Lee's Summit Community Church in Lee's Summit.

If Not For Grace is always looking for volunteers both to help guide abortion-wounded individuals through their healing journeys and to work behind the scenes to help the process run smoothly. INFG holds quarterly topical

in-depth trainings to equip our volunteers to fulfill their specific callings.

i moreinformation

For more information about volunteering at INFG, please contact our Operations Manager, Richard, at rbitterman@infg.org and visit us at www.infg.org.

Be The ONE!

Youthville works to connect kids with foster families

The need for foster homes in Kansas is staggering. More than 6,000 children in the state are currently in foster care due to abuse or neglect; many are waiting right now for a safe and loving home to welcome them in.

Isaac and Erica Ulrich of Eudora are one couple who responded to this need three years ago.

"We've become attached to each and every child that has been in our home."

Isaac Ulrich

Initially, they were unsure of how many children they could handle, so they decided to take in only one or two at a time. Thanks to unending support from both their family and the Eudora community, they soon discovered they were well equipped for much more. They now have three adoptive children and are also caring for three foster children.

"We've become attached to each and every child that has been in our home," Isaac says.

"We have gained a family and helped many children along the way as well."

The help they refer to is providing



kids a safe and stable home environment, one filled with love and kindness. This kind of help may seem basic, but it is truly extraordinary in the life of a fos-

ter child. The Ulrichs also offer some extras when they can.

"We give them the opportunity to be involved in sports and extra activities

that they may not have been able to do otherwise," Isaac says.

The Ulrichs say their experience has been positive and encourage others to consider fostering to help meet the needs of these children in Kansas.

"Do not be nervous," Erica urges. "Children adapt easily and quickly to their surroundings. Have lots of patience because you never know what

their past was like."

Just like Isaac and Erica, you can BE THE ONE to help a child in need by becoming a foster parent; because foster kids deserve to know someone cares.

For more information about becoming a foster parent or how you can provide support to parents like the Ulrichs, call Youthville today at 800-593-1950 or visit youthville.org.

metro VOICE

As Metro Voice begins our 27th year of publishing, we thank the ministries, organizations and businesses for their sponsorship of our 2016 Respect Life Guide.



Alternatives Clinic

CALL: 816-380-4885

307 W Washington St.
Harrisonville, MO 64701

Providing compassionate support and assistance to individuals facing an unplanned pregnancy since 1992.

Our confidential services include:

- Free Pregnancy Testing
- Free Limited OB Ultrasound
- Confidential Peer Counseling
- Support for Family Members
- Community Referrals
- Prenatal Clinic
- Fetal Development Information
- Maternity and Baby Clothing
- Baby Food Pantry
- Parenting Classes



Unplanned Pregnancy Solutions

Medical

- Free pregnancy test & ultrasound
- Medical info & referrals
- Pregnancy options counseling

Education

- Parenting & life skills
- Sexual integrity
- Pregnancy & fetal development

Support Services

- Adoption referrals
- Post abortion counseling
- Grief counseling
- Community referrals
- Cribs, diapers, clothing, & supplies

The Women's Clinic of Kansas City

Call 816.836.9000 for more information!

TheWomensClinic.net
Independence: 815 N. Noland Rd. | Grandview: 11904 Blue Ridge Blvd.

Volunteer positions available!

PRO-LIFE

continued from page 5

ourselves, talking to others, persuading them.

Supporting pro-life educational and legislative efforts through organizations in your community.

Being pro-life, ultimately, is about loving others, especially the most vulnerable.

It is about loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

Helping the pregnant teen, the young single mom and supporting adoption and foster care and the families committed to those efforts.

And love isn't just a feeling. It is a commitment.

—Mr. Stark is communications associate for Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL), National Right to Life's state affiliate.

EAKIN

continued from page 5

world would be like with more people who have Down? But, as with everything in this present life, there are costs...

From a potential parent's perspective, if I'm being honest, if I knew my child was going to have a disability that would cause them to struggle throughout their rest of their life, that they would have a shortened lifespan, that they would be bullied at school because they were different...would I be eager to bring them into the world?

And how would I pay for their medical care? Would I be able to keep a job and care for them? What if taking care of them was too much for me and I had to place them in a home with people who have similar needs? Could I trust other people to look after my child? I imagine these are all questions parents who receive prenatal diagnoses for their

children ask themselves. Without community support, these parents' lives would change drastically. Fortunately, a system exists to assist individuals with disabilities and their families, which has the possibility to ease these pressures...but unfortunately, it is a system that is continually wearing thin.

As I look around from my current administrative position, the same smiling faces and infectious laughs give me a renewed sense of purpose every day. However, at the same time, I see just how difficult it is to keep a non-profit afloat in the midst of ongoing government funding cuts, ever-changing standards, and high staff turnover rates due to imbalances between compensation and responsibilities.

A field that has so much potential to make a positive difference in people's lives is becoming increasingly inadequate. And it's not because the caregivers don't care, but because we are still



pushing individuals with disabilities to the margins by directing our attention elsewhere.

The question "What are we doing to them?" still echoes in my head two years later.

So what does pro-life mean to me?

To me, being pro-life is about more than being pro-birth.

It means seeing the possibilities for the entirety of each person's life, from conception to death.

It means focussing on the individual and empowering her to be the best, most whole version of herself.

It means seeing the potential in every human being, from the unborn fetus to the developmentally disabled child or adult.

It means treating each person with

dignity and respect because God has created us all in his image.

It means including and enfolding all people, regardless of ability or any other characteristic, into the life of the community.

It means creating and sustaining just, adequately funded systems that provide support for and allow all people to flourish and be valued.

Admittedly, this is a lofty goal in a world marred by sin, but as Christ's followers we are called to build God's kingdom here while we wait for him to make all things new and set all things right. If we say we are pro-life, we must be consistently pro-life--from conception to life's final breath. We must follow our values and assume responsibility to care for, provide support for, and ensure the flourishing of all human beings. What more can we do for both the unborn and the marginalized to show that we are truly pro-life, not only pro-birth?

—Originally from Kansas, Chris is an administrative professional working for a West Michigan non-profit that serves adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Reprinted with permission from dojustice.crcna.org.



Kansans for Life

43rd Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade: 60 million U.S. Abortions

Topeka, Kansas Friday, Jan. 22

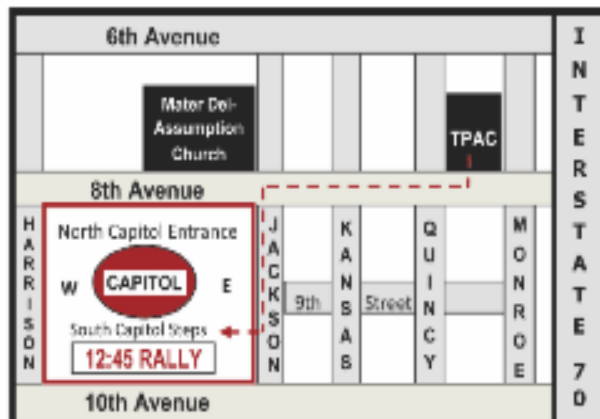


Rally, Learn, Pray & March for Life!

**STOP
DISMEMBERING
UNBORN
BABIES**

In 2015, we were the first state to ban dismemberment abortions before a Kansas judge stopped it, claiming such a law isn't allowed under the KS constitution. Come to TOPEKA Jan. 22 and help us change the Kansas judicial nomination process to the federal model in an effort to save those and other babies from liberal Kansas judges!

- 8:30 AM REGISTRATION** - Location this year for registration/donuts/exhibit booths, as well as workshops, will be in the downstairs Capitol's Visitor Center inside the North Entrance, NOT, as before, on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.
- 9:00 - NOON LOBBY** - Take a tour, watch KS House in action, and other activities to be announced. Info at registration.
- 9:00 - 10:00 WORKSHOPS** - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor's Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance.
Room 3 North: Titles to be announced.
Room 4 North: Titles to be announced.
- 10:00 - 11:00 WORKSHOPS REPEATED**
- 11:00 - 12:30 CATHOLIC MASS** - Location: Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC) —see map below.
- 11:30 - 2:30 LUNCH** - Available early for those not going to Mass; later for those who are. Free will offering. Suggested \$5.
- 12:30 - 12:45 MARCH FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**
- 12:45 - 1:15 RALLY FOR LIFE** on the south Capitol steps featuring:
Kansas Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer, introduction of pro-life legislators, and more.
- 1:30 - 2:30 PM WORKSHOPS** - Titles and locations will be the same as those in the morning.
- 2:30 - 3:30 PM WORKSHOPS REPEATED**



Capitol Entrance:
Enter on North side only. There is a drive for drop offs.

Parking:
On street: 10 hr. North & West of Capitol; 2 hr. spots more available. Feed the meter. They ticket.
Under capitol: (2 hrs maximum, or ticket)
Crosby Pkg. Garage: 8th Ave btw Kansas & Jackson;
Centre City Parking Garage: 9th & Kansas Avenue;
Park-N-Shop: Quincy btw 6th & 7th;
Coronado Parking Garage: Quincy btw 9th & 10th.

Emergency Numbers for KFL Personnel:
(785) 383-8636 and (913) 406-4446;

For late-breaking info and updates go to the KFL Facebook page: Kansans for Life; KFL web site: www.kfl.org; or TW: @kansansforlife

Missouri Baptists.
Partnering with you...
for *life*.



THE PATHWAY

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

HEADS UP KANSAS PRO-LIFERS! 14th ANNUAL KANSANS FOR LIFE Valentine Banquet Tuesday, Feb. 11 (3 days before Valentines!)



John Ensor serves as the President of Passion-Life, a global missions initiative dedicated to helping churches and mission workers disarm the powers of death with the gospel of life in countries like China that suffer the highest rates of abortion, infanticide, and gendercide.

Books by John Ensor include: The Great Work of the Gospel: How We Experience God's Grace; Doing Things Right in Matters of the Heart; Innocent Blood: Challenging the Powers of Death with the Gospel of Life; Answering the Call: Saving the Innocent, One Woman at a Time; Stand for Life: A Students Guide to Making the Case and Saving Lives, with Scott Klusendorf.

Special Speaker John Ensor Ritz-Charles

137th & Antioch, Overland Park

5 p.m. Silent Auction &
Social Time

6:30 Seating

7 p.m. Banquet & Program

Free-Will Offering

RSVP REQUIRED: by seat, small group or table of 10. Tables of 10, or smaller group can be reserved under one name now with number in party, but you must report names of all in party by Feb. 1 to insure seats. Join our free email alert list and/or become a KFL member for \$20 a year at www.kfl.org.

Sold-out Crowd Expected!
Reserve Your Seats Early!

RSVP by Feb. 1 at 913-642-5433 or kansansforlife@aol.com

LIGHT HOUSE

continued from page 10

through junior high school and it seemed that every aspect of her life was a struggle. Throughout her pregnancy, and after delivering a beautiful baby, this young girl found resources and support through The LIGHT House to aid in setting goals and making positive decisions. She stayed connected through The LIGHT House Outreach Program where she was provided with baby supplies and was involved in weekly Bible studies and parenting support.

Today, she is the mother of three very

loved and cared-for children and is in the process of getting married and buying a home. In less than eighteen months, she will graduate from college.

When told she was missed in The LIGHT House Outreach Program, she responded that she was now able to provide for her own needs and felt it would be better to free the resources of The LIGHT House to be used to help other young women who might have a greater need.

For info visit www.lighthousekc.org or call 816-361-2233. Mail donations to P.O. Box 22553, Kansas City, MO 64113. (The LIGHT House is an affiliate of MBCH Children and Family Ministries.)

Missouri Right to Life Western Region

Our Mission is to protect life from conception until natural death. We do this by education, legislation and activation.

9504 E. 63rd St. Suite 103

Kansas City, MO 64133

816-353-4113

www.mrlWesternRegion.org

January 22nd

March for Life Washington, DC

Prayer Vigil

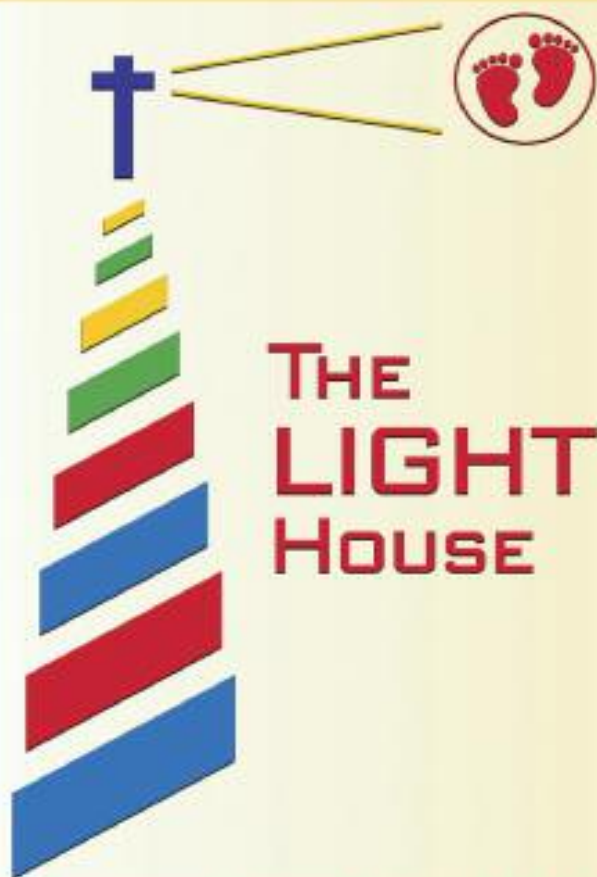
Federal Courthouse, KCMO

Noon to 1:00 pm

Annual May Golf Tourney

13th Annual Golf Tournament

Watch for details!



THE
LIGHT
HOUSE

UNPLANNED PREGNANCY?

THE LIGHT HOUSE OFFERS

- OUTREACH SERVICES
- RESIDENTIAL GROUP LIVING
- ADOPTION AGENCY
- SUPPORT
- PLANNING SERVICES
- PARENTING TRAINING

Where every human heart is cherished...
within the womb and within strong families

24/7 HOPE LINE: 816-916-4434

WWW.LIGHTHOUSEKC.ORG

For 30 years, The LIGHT House has
been providing Christ-centered maternity
care to young mothers and their babies.

CONFUSED?
OVERWHELMED?
AFRAID?



Kansas City's most complete guide to the events and concerts you want to see!

the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

Submit Your Events Online for FREE! Visit www.metrovoicenews.com

FREE LISTINGS in the Metro Voice Calendar!

Metro Voice, PO Box 1114
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
metrovoicelalendar@gmail.com

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

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



JAN 24 WINTER JAM AT THE SPRINT CENTER, 1407 GRAND BLVD., KCMO. FEATURING FOR KING & COUNTRY (PICTURED) MATTHEW WEST ALONG WITH CROWDER, RED, SIDEWALK PROPHETS, AND MANY MORE. \$10.00 ADMISSION AT THE DOOR. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 816-979-7100.

CONCERTS

THE DORDT COLLEGE CONCERT BAND AND JAZZ BAND. January 7, 2016, 7:00 PM. Blue Ridge Christian School, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO. The concert is part of a winter music tour with performances in Iowa and Missouri. Directed by Dr. Bradley Miedema (Concert Band) and Kevin Linder (Jazz Band), the ensembles will perform works by Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Gioachino Rossini, John B. Dykes, Cole Porter, George and Ira Gershwin, Duke Ellington, and more. The concert is free, with a freewill offering received to help defray tour expenses. 816-524-8744

PHIL AND PAM MORGAN GOSPEL JAMBOREE. January 14, 7:00 pm. Life Christian Center, 1650 E. Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO. 816-525-2568.

SWEET SPIRIT AND FRIENDS MUSIC OUTREACH. January 16, 6:00 pm (food) 7:00 pm (music). Moment of Truth Bible Baptist, 310 Randolph Rd., Claycomo, MO 64119. Sponsored by Sweet Spirit & Friends Ministries. We have a SURPRISE guest that night! Come on by and bring a friend.

WINTER JAM. January 24, 5:45 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. \$10 admission at the door. Featuring For King & Country, Matthew West along with Crowder, RED, Sidewalk

Prophets, NewSong, KB, Trip Lee, Lauren Daigle and evangelist Tony Nolan. 816-979-7100.

JULIANNA ZOBRIST. January 24, 7:00 pm. FireEscape Coffeehouse, 126 W. Main, Chanute, KS 66720. \$15. Doors open at 6:30 pm. All ages show. 620-431-5815.

BETHEL WORSHIP NIGHTS. February 3, 2:00 pm (breakout) & 7:00 pm (concert). Kansas City Music Hall, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. General admission \$25 Breakout tickets \$79. Featuring: Stefany Gretzinger, William Matthews, Kalley Heiligen-thal, Leeland, Cory Asbury, and Matt Stinton. 2:00 pm Bethel Breakouts Begins.

REND COLLECTIVE-AS FAMILY WE GO-USA TOUR. March 5, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. \$20 General admission and \$40 deluxe. www.echoconcerts.com.

TOBYMAC. March 19, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. 816-949-7100.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (CALL FOR GROUPS)

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

Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

HER CHOICE TO HEAL CLASS. Beginning January, 9 week class. If Not For Grace Ministries. Are you looking for peace after experiencing abortion. For more information contact Jama at jedlund@inf.org. www.inf.org.

CHRISTIAN BEGINNINGS IN JUDAISM. Monday's beginning January 4. Jewish Roots Institute, 8512 Stearns Ave., Overland Park, KS 66214. 913-888-7272.

FOUNDATION CONFERENCE. January 9 & 10, 3:00 pm-8:00 pm. Lone Jack Baptist Church, 13927 S. Sam Moore Rd., Lone Jack, MO 64070. Free conference. Speakers: Dr. Owen Strachan, Jared Wilson, Dr. Tom Johnston and Ken Smith. 816-786-2101.

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

DRIVING RISK AWARENESS FOR TEENS. January 10, 10:00-11:45 am. Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, Conference Room C, 5801 W. 115 St., Overland Park, KS 66211. Free. Learn about driving risks for teens and create a teen-parent driving agreement before your teen gets behind the wheel. The session is open to all 9th & 10th graders and their parents.

913-327-8000.

HAYESOD, THE FOUNDATION. January 10, 5:00-7:30 pm. \$30 individual, \$50 couple. Sponsored by Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation. What are the foundations of the Messianic Jewish faith? What does it mean that faith in Yeshua (Jesus) has Jewish roots? What are the differences between Messianic Judaism, Christianity, and non-Messianic Judaism? Contact Jim Templar. 913-383-8448.

GRIEF SHARE. January 13, 6:30 pm. Kansas City First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line, Kansas City, MO 64114. This winter, KC First Church of the Nazarene will be hosting GreifShare, a relationship-based curriculum for walking through seasons of grief after losing a loved one, on Wednesday nights at 6:30 pm. The group is free, but please call or e-mail to register so that we will have enough materials. kcfc@kcfc.org. 816-942-9022.

RALEIGH WASHINGTON & RACHEL WASHINGTON. January 16, 10:00 am & 1:30 pm. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 7029 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS. Dr. Washington serves as President and CEO of Promise Keepers. At 1:30 pm there will be a special ministry by Rachel to our youth, and College and Career. 913-383-8448.

ROMANTIC GETAWAY. January 17-18. Chateau Avalon, Kansas City, KS. Marriage teaching with Roger & Lauren Traver. MountainTopMarriages.org. 913-780-3423.

■ calendar continued on next page

Abiding Faith Baptist Church and Mission

Sundays: 9:00 am-Devotion • 9:30 am-Sunday School • 10:45 am-Worship | Wednesdays: 7:00 pm-Bible Study for Adults/Youth

(816) 427-2330 • 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd • Kansas City, MO • www.abidingfaithbcm.com

ARE YOU READY WITH ANSWERS?

Sunday January 24, 2016

9:30am Creation and the War of the Worldviews
How Big is God?

Shane Cessna - CMI speaker

Blue Ridge Bible Church

8524 Blue Ridge Blvd, Kansas City, MO 64138

CREATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Creation resources available
CREATION.com

CMI-US • PO BOX 350 • POWDER SPRINGS GA 30127 • (800-878-1041)



**JANUARY
17 & 18**

ROMANTIC GETAWAY MARRIAGE SEMINAR. CHATEAU AVALON, KANSAS CITY, KANSAS. MARRIAGE TEACHING WITH ROGER & LAUREEN TRAVER.

AVOID PROBATE. January 19, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center. 700 NE Langford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY COURSE. January 24, 2:00 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Dr., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Cost \$95 per person or per couple for materials. 816-630-5121.

CREATION AND THE WAR OF THE WORLDVIEWS. January 24, 9:30 am. Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Speaker Shane Cessna. Sponsored by Creation Ministries International. 816-353-8053.

STEVE BROCK. January 24, 10:30 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. A dynamic evangelist, a conference & seminar speaker, as well as an international recording artist. 816-246-7625.

SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. January 27, 9:30 am.

Grandview Assembly of God Building, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030. Praise and Worship by the Warriors Come Home. Speaker, Sister Marie Robinson of Joy Fellowship Assembly of God, for child reservations, please call Mary at 816-5402590.

ARISE 2016 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. January 28-31. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Dr., Kansas City, MO 64134. You are invited to join Kathy Gray and women from around the world for a girls' weekend full of inspiration and new beginnings. God wants you to Begin Again! 816-763-0708.

WOMEN OF FAITH LOVED FAREWELL TOUR. February 12-13. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106.

GENREAL KC 2016. February 26, 4:00 pm & February 27, 5:00 pm. Olathe Bible Church, 13700 W. 151st St., Olathe, KS 66062. GenReal KC is a multigenerational event for women to connect and grow.

MIDWEST CHRISITAN COLLEGE AND EDUCATION EXPO. March, 5, 9:30 - 2 p.m. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, KCMO. Visit with over 50 colleges from 17 states and 20 local homeschool groups and K-12 schools. Seminars throughout the day. 816-540-5517. www.metrovoicenews.com Spon. by Metro Voice Newspaper.

THE ART OF MARRIAGE CONFERENCE. February 12-13, 2016. Friday 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Saturday 9:00 am to 3:30 pm. Pisgah Baptist Church, Excelsior Springs, Missouri. Cost \$35 per couple. Video event weaves together expert teaching, real-life stories, humorous vignettes, and more to portray the challenges and the beauty of God's design for marriage. Six engaging video sessions are interspersed with projects for couples to complete in a Friday night-Saturday schedule. For more information or to register call the church office at 816-630-5121. Registration deadline February 1, 2016

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. January 9, 10:00 am-11:00 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. Free and open to the public. 816-246-7625

SHREK AUDITIONS. January 12 & 14, 5:30 pm. Northland Mission Church, 600 NW 110th St. Ter., Kansas City, MO 64155. Sponsored by Act 1 Fine Arts. Children ages 8-18 are invited to audition for our spring show: Shrek The Musical. Registration forms and audition information on our website. www.act1kc.com. 816-401-0040.

NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY. January 16. **PRAYER VIGIL FOR THE UNBORN AND FOR THE MARCHERS IN WASHINGTON D.C.** January 22, 12:00 pm. Illus Davis Plaza, 400 E. 9th St., Kansas City, MO 64141. We will assemble at Illus Davis Plaza, across the street from the Federal Courthouse. Mass services will be held at the Catholic Center at 20 W. Ninth St. at 10:30 for those who would like to attend prior to the Vigil. We will gather with Ecumenical groups of pastors and pro-life workers in prayer. The Vigil will begin at 12 noon and end at 1:00 pm. 816-353-4113.



**JAN
22**

MARCH FOR LIFE 2016, WASHINGTON DC AND VARIOUS LOCAL EVENTS.

RALLY, LEARN, PRAY & MARCH FOR LIFE! January 22. Capitol, Topeka, KS. Sponsored by Kansans for Life. Lobby, march, learn and rally for Life! 785-383-8636.

MARCH FOR LIFE 2016. January 22. Washington DC. www.MarchForLife.org.

8TH ANNUAL ST. MONICA MARDI GRAS FUNDRAISER. January 30, 5:00 pm. St. Monica Catholic Church, 1616 Paseo Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Funds will upgrade the church property and general improvements of the facility and programs focused on youth. Enjoy authentic Creole and Cajun style dishes. The live entertainment and DJ includes festive Zydeco music featuring the Ernest James Zydeco Band and old school rhythm and blues. 913-226-2085.

KANSANS FOR LIFE VALENTINE BANQUET. Feb. 11. The Ritz-Charles, 137th & Antioch, OPKS. 5:00 p.m. Silent Auction & Social Time. 6:30 p.m. Seating. 7:00 p.m. Banquet & Program. Speaker: John Ensor serves as the President of PassionLife. (913) 642-5433 or kansansforlife@aol.com

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO. March 5, 9:30 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church,

9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. 816-524-4522.

2016 LOBBY DAY. April 5. Capital, Jefferson City, MO. Sponsored by Missouri Right to Life. Hope to see many pro-lifers there. More info to come. 816-353-4113.

NORTHLAND K-12 OPEN HOUSE. March 7, 6:30 pm. Gladstone Community Center, 6901 N. Holmes St., Gladstone, MO 64118. Visit with K-12 Christian schools North of the River. Sponsored by Metro Voice Newspaper. www.metrovoicenews.com. 816-524-4522.

LIGHT HOUSE GALA. April 9, 6:00 pm-10:00 pm. Armacost Museum, 4200 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO 64030. All proceeds for to support the ministries of the LIGHT House. 816-898-1094.

A TASTE FOR LIFE. April 23. The Midland Theatre, Kansas City, MO. Benefits Rachel House.

FINE ARTS

THE 12 DAYS OF SCHTICKMAS! Through January 3. Martin City Melodrama, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 913-642-7576.

■ calendar continued on next page

Big to BIGGER.
NOW OPEN
530 N. 7Hwy • Blue Springs • 229-3108
(In front of Hobby Lobby)

Black Angus Burgers • Blue Plate Specials
Sandwiches • Big Salads • Breakfast All Day

The Big Biscuit
Eat Big, Live a Full Life.

Every Wed. Seniors
Get a 20% Discount!
Monday thru Saturday:
6:30 am to 2:30 pm
Sunday: 7:30 am to 2:30 pm

16506 East 40 Highway
Independence, MO
816-478-6958

FeedKCNow.org

“Where hunger ends,
HOPE begins.
Visit FeedKCNow.org”

CITY UNION MISSION
YOUR CITY YOUR MISSION

DAYTON MOORE
General Manager
Kansas City Royals

Heartland Habitat for Humanity®

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

Your \$25 will purchase:

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

Heartland Habitat for Humanity®

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



FEBRUARY 12&13 **UNDERGROUND. 7:30 PM. KAUFFMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS, 1601 BROADWAY BLVD., KANSAS CITY, MO 64108.**

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS. Through January 3. The Coterie Theatre, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

KINNOR PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA. January 3, 3:00 pm. Congregation Beth Torah, 6100 W. 127th St., Overland Park, KS 66209. Reserved Seating \$30. General Seating at door \$25. 816-510-4056.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA. January 9, 14, 16 at 7:30 pm; January 10, 17 at 2:00 pm. White Theatre, The Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8054.

THE BEAR'S HICCUPS. January 16 & January 18, 11:00 am & 2:00 pm. Puppetry Art Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. Tickets are \$5. Performed by puppeteer Anitra Steele, about the many ways to cure the hiccups. 816-833-9777.

CLASSICAL KIDS: GERSHWIN'S MAGIC KEY. January 24, 2:00 pm. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. Families will be captivated by more than 20 of Gershwin's most popular compositions from the great American Songbook, including "I Got Rhythm," "An American in Paris, Porgy and Bess,

plus Rhapsody in Blue. 816-471-0400.

HAIRSPRAY JR. February 11, 10:00 am School Day Performance. February 11, 7:00 pm; February 12, 7:00 pm; February 13, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; February 14, 2:00 pm. Bell Culture Events Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org.

UNDERGROUND. February 12-13, 7:30 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Revisit this passionate portrayal of the Underground Railroad, be inspired by the heroics of those who would not be slaves and the everyday people who would not stand for it either. 816-994-7222.

AMY GRANT WITH THE KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY. February 12-14. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. No. 1 hits such as "Baby, Baby," "Every Heartbeat," "That's What Love is For," "I Will Remember You," "El Shaddai" and others. 816-994-7222.

A FUNNY THING HAPPENED ON THE WAY TO THE FORUM. February 13, 18, 20, 25, 27 at 7:30 pm; February 14, 21, 28 at 2:00 pm. White Theatre, The Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8054.

SEVEN BRIDES FOR SEVEN BROTHERS. February 18, 7:00 pm; February 19, 10:00 am School Day Performance; February 19, 7:00 pm; February 20, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; February 21, 2:00 pm. Bell Cultural Events Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org.

LIFE IN A JAR: THE IRENA SENDLER PROJECT. March 5, 8:00 pm. White Theatre, The Jewish Community Center, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8054.

CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG. March 10, 10:00 am & March 11, 10:00 am School Day Performances; March 10, 7:00 pm; March 11, 7:00 pm; March 12, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; March 13, 2:00 pm. Goppert Theater, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64145. Sponsored by CYT. www.cytkc.org.

FAMILY OUTINGS

DA VINCI: THE EXHIBITION. Through May 1, 2016. Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Friday-Saturday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00-5:00 pm. Union Station, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Featuring more than 65 fully built life-size inventions, more than 20 fine art studies and dozens of



JAN 16 **THE JOY OF AFRICAN VIOLETS AT POWELL GARDENS. POWELL GARDENS, 1609 NW HWY. 50, KINGSVILLE, MO 64061. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 816-697-2600.**

stunning displays, guests will learn the complex beginnings and lifetime achievements of Da Vinci through his discoveries in art, engineering, flight, hydraulics, music, light and more.

DAY IN THE LIFE. January 10, 10:00 AM to 05:00 PM. National World War I Museum and Memorial, 100 W 26th St., Kansas City, Mo 64108. 816-888-8100

THE JOY OF AFRICAN VIOLETS AT POWELL GARDENS. January 16, 11:00 AM to 02:00 PM. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW Hwy. 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. (816) 697-2600

TROPICAL DAY. January 16, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132. Temperatures are rising at our indoor exhibits. Animals in Discovery Barn, Tropics and Helzberg Penguin Plaza will enjoy tropical enrichment items. 816-595-1234.

KANSAS CITY BOAT & SPORTSHOW. January 21-24. Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities, 301 W. 13th St. Kansas City, MO 64105. This annual 4-day event turns Bartle Hall into a one-stop marketplace for outdoor fun - the best place to see and buy everything you need for your outdoor adventures! 816-513-5000.

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS. January 22, 2:00 pm & January 23, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. A star-studded roster will have

fans on the edge of their seats to witness the ball handling wizardry, basketball artistry and one-of-a-kind family entertainment that thrills fans of all ages. 816-949-7100.

CHINESE NEW YEAR. January 31, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. All activities and performances are FREE and open to the public. Celebrate the Year of the Monkey and enjoy live performances with Chinese acrobats, dancers and musicians. Engage in art activities, games and demonstrations and savor the tastes of Chinese cuisine. Off-site parking and shuttle services will be available at Kaufman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., starting at 10:00 am. 816-751-1321.

KC REMODEL + GARDEN SHOW. February 12-February 14, 10am-9pm, Fri-Sat; 10am-6pm, Sun. American Royal Center, 1800 Genessee St., Kansas City, MO 64102. (816) 931-4686

THE 29TH ANNUAL SPRING FASHION SHOW & LUNCHEON. March 12. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, Independence, MO. (816) 461-3491.

SHENYUN PERFORMING ART SHOW. April 1-3, 7:20 pm. Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-994-7200.

■ calendar continued on next page

**FUTUREWARE**

BAILEY NETWORK

PAUL BAILEY

Computer Consulting
Repair
Networking
On Site
A+ Certification



706 NE Coronado St.
Lee's Summit, MO 64086
Phone: 816-246-7507
Email: paul@consultmark.net

Gateway, Dell, IBM, HP/Compaq, desktops & laptops

ALSO:
WEB
DESIGN &
DEVELOPMENT

BRUSHLESS AUTOMATIC WASH
featuring **ZERO SPOT RINSE**
OTTO CAR WASHES
8809 E 63rd St just east of I-435

Self-Service Bays
with **BUSTER BRUSH**
and **Detail Areas**
Open 24 Hours
Major Credit Cards Accepted
4 KC Metro & 2 Topeka Locations
6545 Troost just south of Meyer Blvd

UNLIMITED CAR WASHING
available at our **BLUE SPRINGS LOCATION**
www.ottocarwashes.com

920 E 23rd St just east of Holand
2163 NW 7 Hwy just north of I-70

**Living Waters**

Just a few miles away from the congested and rowdy crowds, Living Waters offers secluded float trips in Central Missouri. Less paddling, less dragging, none of the drunken stupor... this is a river experience that will set your retreat apart... families, church groups and scouts.

877-851-8158 (toll free) • www.john738.com

Let all guests be welcomed as Christ •

Conception Abbey

The Benedictine Monks of Conception Abbey welcome over 10,000 guests each year. Whether you come for a personal retreat, directed retreat, workshop, or just to get away we hope that after one visit, you'll never be a stranger to Conception Abbey.

The Abbey Guest Center
Conception Abbey
P.O. Box 501
37174 State Hwy V V
Conception, MO 64433
(660) 944-2809
guests@conception.edu
www.conceptionabbey.org



**life 88.5**

Kansas City's Home for Christian Music

peace
FAMILY
Music
Fun
Friendship
Listener Supported
Community
Joy
Relationship
New
Information
Traffic
Uplifting
LOVE
Encouragement
Weather
COMFORT

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood,

KS. For local mothers of children in early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, and for single moms, with both day and evening meeting times available at the Leawood campus. www.cor.org

Bringing Christian Excellence to all the World

BARCLAY COLLEGE ONLINE

- ❖ Biblical Studies
- ❖ Business Management
- ❖ Christian Ministry Leadership
- ❖ Psychology
- ❖ Associate Degree

Apply Online at barclaycollege.edu/apply

APPLY TODAY!

DistanceLearning@BarclayCollege.edu
800.862.0226 - www.BarclayCollege.edu - HAVILAND, KS

New Classes Begin Every Six Weeks

Bringing Excellence
To All The World

913-897-0120.

DIVORCECARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS. 6:00-7:30 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Blue Springs, MO. Help for those going through or having gone through divorce. 816-228-5300.

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

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

MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTERS 816-353-4113.

3RD SUNDAY - CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:00 pm. Beacon Free Baptist Church, 10825 E. 79th

Street, Raytown, MO 64138. Connect with others who share your journey, you are not alone. 816-353-7447.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 3:00-6:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-FW by appointment. www.healingroomsolathe.com 913-563-2413.

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

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

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

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NE Colbern Rd.,

Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne. 816-554-0929.

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

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. www.heartlandhealingrooms.org.

1ST TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN NIGHT. 6 - 8 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

For more Meetings visit www.metrovoicenews.com

Quality
Christian Talk Radio

92.3FM 760AM 101.5FM

BOTT RADIO NETWORK

BroadcastMinistries Find Stations Nationwide, Download Apps, Listen Live, Worldwide • bottradionet.com



(from left) Jim Daly: Focus On The Family, Chuck Swindoll: Insight For Living, John MacArthur: Grace To You, Jane Hunt: Hope In The Night, Alastair Begg: Truth For Life, Tony Evans: The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans, James MacDonald: Walk In The Word, David Jeremiah: Turning Point, Adrian Rogers: Love Worth Finding, Crawford Long: Legacy Moment, And More! Visit BBN Online for Program Schedule.

Let me make the *best* of your time.

Alan R. Jones, CPA

406 N. Foxridge Drive
Raymore, MO
816-331-2232
alanjonescpa@hotmail.com

Member AICPA



Ascension Lutheran Church

4900 Blue Ridge Blvd
Kansas City, MO
Phone: 358-1919

Join us for worship each week.
Sunday Morning Worship 8 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School and Bible Study 9:30 a.m.

The church is hosting walkers: 7:00 - 10:00 am, Monday through Friday.

We hope to see you!

Your degree.
Your ministry.
Your schedule.

KANSAS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE ONLINE

Visit www.kansaschristian.edu for information on how to earn your religion degree online on your schedule! Or email our recruiter directly with your questions. Mention code **MV2015** to receive a promotional enrollment credit!

Email: online@kansaschristian.edu
Call: 913-722-0272
Web: www.kansaschristian.edu
Tweet: @KCC_Online


Built in Kansas City. For Kansas City Families.

Kansas City Personalities
Mornings w/ Melony & Wayne
Afternoons w/ Don Godman
Local News, Weather & Traffic

Kansas City Difference Makers
Prayer Works
Drive Thru Difference
Christian Business Network

Life 88.5

Life885.com



entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

Star Wars for New Generation

The Force Awakens has all the charm and life lessons of the original

entertainment

by Paul Asay

The Emperor may be dead. The Empire gone. But the Dark Side is still in fine feather.

Some 30 years after Episode VI, it's using the form of the First Order, an Empire wannabe with a darker, vaguely more cultish sheen.

While not yet the galactic power that Emperor Palpatine's old outfit was, this regime has dreams, man. Instead of constructing all those flimsy Death Stars, it's decided to retrofit a whole planet into the most fearsome of weapons. It can still build and fly TIE fighters and massive destroyers as well as anyone, of course.

And while it doesn't have Darth Vader to choke wayward generals anymore, it does have a guy named Kylo Ren—a young, passionate Sith acolyte who thinks Vader walked on water.

But there are plenty of folks who'd rather not see the First Order sweep through the galaxy like the Empire's second coming. A resurgent Republic is none too pleased with the Order's incursions. The Resistance is actively pushing back. And, indeed, the Order is terrified that Luke Skywalker—who disappeared ages ago—could return and teach a new collection of Jedi the fine art of Forceful opposition.

POSITIVE ELEMENTS

One Stormtrooper—Finn, he comes to be called—takes a step away from his dark masters and it's a step that proves irreversible. One minute, he's refusing to kill innocent civilians. The next he's risking his neck for near-strangers and a cause he's been literally raised to war against. Even though his thoughts sometimes stray to self-preservation (which makes him a bit more like you and me), he proves time and again that he's no coward. And his bravery helps save, perhaps, a good chunk of the galaxy.

He's not alone, of course. BB-8 eventually finds himself in the company of a Jakku scavenger named Rey. She subsists by selling the semi-usable parts she finds on crashed space cruisers. Pretty much everyone on Jakku lives hand to mouth the very same way, which makes an actual running contraption like BB-8 incredibly valuable. But despite the pressure to sell the thing for parts, she refuses, even beating away folks who

would take the droid by force. Once she and Finn join forces (because you knew they would), she shows herself to be at least as brave and resourceful as he is. Who knows. This young lady might turn out to be the sort of savior the Resistance could really use.

We also see many familiar faces performing at their self-sacrificial best. Han and Chewbacca work to help the Resistance at every turn of the galactic arm. Leia's called General, not Princess these days, and she's back to planning strategies and inspiring troops when she could be, one would think, sitting somewhere safe eating Nabooian bonbons.

Two more things: Family has always been an improbably big part of the Star Wars universe, and we again see the stubborn love of family powerfully at work here. And the series mainstay of "It's never too late to do better" also reemerges. Kylo Ren is Vader's evil heir apparent. And he'd

like nothing more than to follow in the Sith's foul footsteps. But even he, perhaps, is not beyond salvation. (More on that later.)

SPIRITUAL CONTENT

The Force remains a force in the Star Wars universe, and it seems to have, at least temporarily, shoved aside those

odd midi-chlorians introduced in George Lucas' prequels. It becomes an explicitly spiritual presence here—something that weaves through every living thing in the universe. Even Han—such a skeptic in the original film—is a believer.

"The Force, Jedi, all of it," he tells Rey and Finn. "It's all true."

As such, Rey sees a mystical vision, blending her past, present and possible future into one frightening ball. Luke is rumored to have gone in search of the mythical first Jedi temple. There's talk of the Light guiding various characters. And Ren is seen asking, as if of a relic, Darth Vader's heat-warped mask for guidance. "Forgive me," he tells the helmet. "I feel it again. The call of the Light."

It's an interesting moment, given Ren's commitment to the darkness. And I'll also note—without excusing or excising the issue in any way—that as spiritually squishy as the Force may be, the concept does allow the Star Wars movies to embrace a really important truth: There's good and evil in this universe, and it's defined by something beyond ourselves.

CONCLUSION

When Kylo Ren confronts aged Re-



film411

STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS

STARS: Daisy Ridley as Rey; John Boyega as Finn; Adam Driver as Kylo Ren; Oscar Isaac as Poe Dameron; Harrison Ford as Han Solo; Carrie Fisher as Leia; Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker; Peter Mayew as Chewbacca

DIRECTOR: J. Abrams (Star Trek Into Darkness, Super 8, Star Trek, Mission: Impossible III)

sis-
tance leader Lor San Tekka, Ren takes the opportunity to bait the guy.

"Look how old you've become," he says.

"Something far worse has happened to you," San Tekka says. And then he offers a thread of hope to the now-masked villain. "The First Order came from the Dark Side," he says. "You did not."

I like that.

It illustrates the biblical point that while we all do evil deeds, we are not ir-

redeemably evil. As dark as our souls are, there's the hope of light that's freely given to each of us—the possibility of redemption.

Of course, we have to embrace that hope for it to come about. We have to accept that possibility. Just as Rey and Finn choose to accept that there's an-

■ See MOVIE page 19

RED BRIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH

4901 E. Red Bridge Road
KCMO 64137
(corner of Red Bridge & Grandview Roads)
816-761-1194 www.redbridgebaptist.org

- Savior-Sensitive!
- Conservative in Theology!
- Wholesome in Ministry!
- Traditional in Worship!
- Expository Preaching!
- Missions-Minded! • Emphasizing the Great Hymns of the Faith!
- Full AWANA Program (including JV & Varsity!)

Red Bridge Baptist Church – For those desiring a substantial church life!

Greater Pentecostal Temple

SERVICES

Wednesday
Intercessory Prayer 5:00 PM
Evangelistic (Vespers) Service 6:30 PM
Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM
Youth Department Meeting 7:00 PM

Sunday
Intercessory Prayer 8:00 AM
Sunday School
Relationship Class 9:00 AM
Praise & Worship 10:00 AM

Bishop Marvin E. Donaldson
Pastor

864 Splitlog Avenue • Kansas City, Kansas 66101 • (913) 371-4667

The LIGHT House

Working to ensure every human heart is cherished... within the womb and within strong families

Pregnant? Scared? Need Support? We Can Help!

24/7 Hope Line:
816-916-4434
lighthousekc.org

BOYS TOWN
Nebraska, Iowa

"WE JOINED THE TOWN AND GAVE MICHAEL HIS FIRST REAL HOME."

Family-Teaching Couples Help Kids Picture a Better Life

Boys Town Offers:

- Extensive training and support
- \$50,400/year plus excellent benefits package
- Rent free, utilities paid, and company vehicle
- Nationally recognized program
- The opportunity to change the lives of youth
- Earn college credit while you work

For more information visit boystown.org/careers or contact btrecruiter@boystown.org today!

Join the TOWN

How young is too young for Star Wars?

by **Michael Foust**

CHICAGO—I was 5 when the first "Star Wars" movie was released, eight when "The Empire Strikes Back" came out and 11 when "Return of the Jedi" hit theaters. My parents let me watch those latter two films on the big screen, but kept me home for the first one.

Now, some three decades later, I am asking myself the question a lot of parents this month are raising: Should I take my children to see the newest film in the franchise, "The Force Awakens"? And ... will they have nightmares for a year if I do let them go?

If you want the spoiler-free answer—or at least this traditional parent's take on it—then keep reading.

I watched "The Force Awakens" with a critical eye on opening day, and after talking with a few other parents in the theater lobby, came to this conclusion: I would not take a 3- or 4-year-old kid to see it.

I might take a 7-year-old to watch it. I would take a 10-year-old to see it—that is, if the kid is discerning. My oldest children are 7 and 3 (nearly 4). I know this film would terrify my almost-4-year-old son, and there are a

few scenes that potentially could give my 7-year-old son some bad dreams. But I am considering taking him to it, with the understanding that I need to shield his eyes in at least two specific scenes (both involving Kylo Ren).

Of course, every child is different, and you may have a 6-year-old who is mature enough to view it with no problem.

But it is rated PG-13 for a reason. Comparing its violence and "scary" content to the other films, it is less violent and less scary than "Revenge of the Sith" (PG-13) and at least as violent and scary as "Return of the Jedi" (PG, but likely would have garnered a PG-13 if that rating had existed). If your child handled "Return of the Jedi" with no problem—even the spooky Emperor-Luke-Darth battle at the end—then you're probably fine. But if not, then you may want to keep the kids home.

"The Force Awakens" is more violent and more scary than the first "Star Wars" film and "The Empire Strikes Back."

Similar to the original trilogy, the violence in "The Force Awakens" is mostly bloodless, and it's largely absent



any coarse language (I counted two h—s and one d—ns, all used by Finn). And it's (obviously) also void of sexual content, with not even a kiss on the lips.

I'd love to provide more details, but I did promise a spoiler-free overview.

If I do end up taking my 7-year-old son, then we will talk not just about Han and Leia and Chewbacca, but we'll also discuss the "Star Wars" worldview, and how it's a make-believe God-less universe that may be entertaining and fun to watch, but definitely is not to be emulated. We also may discuss how it borrows from false worldviews, including Eastern mysticism and Buddhism, and how a Force that "surrounds every living thing" may make for a good movie, but biblically is pure hogwash.

After all, a worldview that deviates from Christ, Truth and the Bible is far, far scarier than anything he'll see in the theater.

MOVIE

continued from page 18

Finn choose to accept that there's another way to do things—a way practically inconceivable to those of the First Order—we have our own choice to make.

Star Wars is many things to many people, and most of them are right about it.

To some it's all hinky spirituality. To others, it's laser fights and space freighters.

Still others think of it as a love story or a Western or a galactic war zone. But it can also be a starting point to talk about courage, friendship, faith and family.

J.J. Abrams' take on George Lucas'



monumental cultural myth returns to the spirit of the original trilogy. It's PG-13, as was Episode III: Revenge of the Sith, but despite the literally astronomical body count here, it's not as bleak as

that 2005 feature.

It's not just the Force awakening in Episode VII. It's the franchise's charm. And maybe its life lessons, too.

Christianity Today names 2015 Book of the Year

Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel
Russell Moore (B&H)

CT says it embodies their goal of the pursuit of truthfulness and loveliness.

"Moore takes on the 'almost-gospel,' a form of cultural Christianity that has existed comfortably in America since its inception. With the cultural winds now changing, however, he commends Christians toward strangeness, toward living in joyful distinction from mainstream society. Onward pointedly challenges Christians to

embrace the full gospel as pilgrims in a secularizing society." —Chris Horst, vice president of development at HOPE International, co-author of Mission Drift

"Vigorously engaged and engaging, Onward explores what it means for believers to be both courageously orthodox and prophetically beautiful in our witness for Christ. When we are, says Moore, we rise to see 'even our most passionate critics not as an argument to be vaporized but as a neighbor to be evangelized.' This is meaty, challenging, exciting stuff—a perfect fit for our culturally divisive times." —Patricia Ray-



■ See BOOK page 20

Now Enrolling for 2016

Heart of America Ministries

7600 Blue Ridge Blvd. • Kansas City (Raytown area)
Phone: 816-356-6380 • Since 1983

BIBLE COLLEGE AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Classes Start January 19

- Associate, Bachelor, Masters and Doctorate Degrees
- Majors: Theology, Divinity, Scriptural Psychology, Church Administration and Christian Education • Resident or Online
- Spousal discount • Reasonable costs • Accredited by: International Association of Bible Colleges and Seminaries

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Classes Start January 19

- Pre-School Thru 12th Grade • Non-Denominational
- Individualized Instruction • Self-paced Christian Curriculum
- Diagnostic Testing to Determine Students' Individual Performance Level • Safe, Supervised Learning Atmosphere
- Computer Enhanced Learning • Family Discounts
- High Academic Results • State and International Conventions
- Accredited Studies

Call 816-356-6380 for a information packet
or visit www.heartofamericaministries.com

7600 Blue Ridge Blvd. • Kansas City, Missouri
President: Dr. Carroll C. McCarroll

Bacon
FINANCIAL ADVISORS
An Independent Firm

*Building Relationships
on trust and clear communication*

Call today for a Free Confidential Consultation

www.BaconFA.com

600 SW Jefferson, Suite 208 • Lee's Summit, MO 64063
816.246.8450

Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC

Family Owned & Operated!

Dairy Queen

Orange Julius®

Fan Appreciation Day

Saturday, Jan. 23

1/2 Off everything, while supplies last.
All three stores are participating!

1900 SW 7 Hwy in Blue Springs
(1/2 miles south of 40 Hwy) 228-1711

14420 E. 40 Hwy
(Noland Rd. in Independence) 478-8060

11904 Shawnee Mission Parkway, Shawnee, KS
Ph. 913-962-5151. Come see us!

2016 Kicks off with great concert lineup

Wow, it's a new year already? Can't believe how quickly 2015 moved along, but here's to 2016!

It's beginning to look a lot like tradition around here with the big Winter Jam coming like a storm every January, and this year is no different. Continuing to bring quality Christian artists to their fans, along with a great evening starting at just \$10, Winter Jam 2016 will be offering up the likes of hard rockers RED, multi-award winning For King & Country, Matthew West, Crowder, New-song and Sidewalk Prophets to name a few.

The concert will also include relative newcomer, Lauren Daigle. Hailing from Lafayette, La., Daigle has won the New Artist of the Year at the 2015 GMA Dove Awards, as well as garnering the Song of the Year Award for "How Can It Be".

Her recent release, also titled *How Can It Be*, has been nominated for a



D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice
music critic

musicscene

2016 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album.

Also joining the lineup is rock and radio stalwarts Stars Go Dim. Formed by a few members of the hard-rock band Pillar before Pillar disassembled, Stars Go Dim was the winner of the 2009 Channel One News "Hear It Now Artist of the Year" Award, and have been floating relatively independently for



quite a few years. Touring with mainstream acts like John Mayer, Chris Daughtry and The Goo Goo Dolls, SGD has been a consistent act to see, though relatively unknown.

These guys are worth seeing, espe-



cially for the ten dollar price!

Later in the year, but still early, Tenth Avenue North plan to continue their All The Earth Is Holy Ground

tour. Stopping in Joplin on March 3rd, TAN will be touring with hit rockers



Hawk Nelson and I Am They.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 at the door, with discounts to groups of ten or more. Doors open at 6:30, and the show begins at 7pm. Following their hit release, *Cathedrals*, this is definitely a show to see.



facebook.com/metro voice news



**Raleigh Washington
& his daughter
Rachel Washington**
Saturday, January 16
10 A.M. & 1:30 P.M.



Dr. Raleigh Washington serves as President and CEO of Promise Keepers, the very powerful men's ministry, and its affiliated ministry Road to Jerusalem, which was formed to bring awareness of the Messianic Jewish awakening to the worldwide Body of Messiah. His daughter Rachel, an accomplished vocalist, will accompany him, and they will present what they call a "tag team message" during the 10 A.M. Shabbat service. Rachel will do a bit of music ministry as well.

At 1:30 P.M., there will be special ministry by Rachel to our young people — youth, and College and Career. We would like parents of youth to please register, as well as College and Career adults, who are interested in this exciting presentation. At service, please do so on the sheet on the back table, or email admin@OrHaOlam.com.

The third hour of prayer, which we usually have on the 3rd Shabbat of the month, for January will be switched to the 4th Shabbat.

No charge, open to the public; an offering will be received with gratitude.

Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation

K'hee-lah M'shee-kheet Or HaOlam קהילת משיחית אור העולם

(The perfect solution for interfaith marriages!)

Meeting at 7029 W 74th St, Overland Park, KS (just east of Metcalf Ave)

Rabbi Shmuel Wolkenfeld - rabbi@orhaolam.com - orhaolam.com - 913-383-8448

BOOK

continued from page 19

bon, co-author of *Undivided: A Muslim Daughter, a Christian Mother, Their Path to Peace*

"Moore provides a primer on how our commitments to Christ and his kingdom (as opposed to our political, social, and cultural agendas) should shape not only how we live our lives, but also what our lives should say to a watching, listening world. Combining the beauty of what he calls the 'true gospel' with a biblical orthodoxy that will inescapably mark Christians as 'strange,' Moore holds forth on the charged issues defining the 21st century. His colorful style will occasionally take readers aback—but ultimately keep them pressing on to a satisfying end." —Harold Smith, president and CEO of Christianity Today

Award of Merit

Spiritual Friendship: Finding Love in the Church as a Celibate, Gay Christian
Wesley Hill (Brazos)

"Spiritual Friendship is challenging and important while remaining deeply



personal, intimate, and hopeful. In a time when we face a crisis of loneliness—Mother Teresa called it 'the greatest disease in the West'—Hill casts a powerful vision of Christian friendship as alluring as it is faithful. Weaving together theology, church history, and his own experience as a celibate gay Christian, the book clarifies how our contemporary concept of friendship has been formed (and malformed). Hill does an excellent job giving voice to the profound and often silent isolation in which many of us live—whether married or single. He offers a uniquely articulate, sensitive, compassionate, respectful, and orthodox voice." —Tish Harrison Warren, Anglican priest, campus minister at University of Texas–Austin

"Hill tackles not only the currently pressing topic of what hope Christianity has to offer those experiencing themselves as gay or lesbian, but also the deeper topic of friendship in an expressive-individualist age—something that's relevant to everyone, regardless of sex-

ual orientation. The book makes an acute diagnosis of our atomized lives in a world that imagines sex as the only source of real intimacy, and marriage as the only setting for real commitment. It retrieves elements of the historic church tradition relating to friendship and commitment. And all this is presented in sensitive, evocative language, with a reverence for literature, language, and art that makes it a delight to read. Hill's account has a raw, even wrenching, honesty that's essential to authentic Christian testimony in our broken world." —Andy Crouch, executive editor, Christianity Today magazine

"In this well-versed yet vulnerable book, Hill urges readers to reconsider the centrality of friendship—not only for the flourishing of celibate gay Christians such as himself, but also for the flourishing of the church, which bears witness to bonds that are thicker than blood, even thicker than marital vows. In a time of individualization and loneliness, we need reminders like this that we belong to each other and for each other." —Katelyn Beaty, managing editor, Christianity Today magazine

POSITIVE, ENCOURAGING
KLOVE
97.3

KNOWLEDGE TO FUEL YOUR LIFE
Play online at **KLOVERACING.com**

KLOVERADIO **KLOVEKANSASCITY** **KLOVEKANSASCITY**

Families Make the Difference

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

In Missouri a foster parent

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

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

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

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

health & wellness

...know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God...



VAUGHN LAWRENCE

Owner, Spiritual Health

designed for health

What I learned this year

As we reflect on 2015, I have really learned a lot and wanted to share a little from my heart. My goal is to encourage you toward a new year full of hope and healing! Here are some key aspects related to health I wanted to share, at both the physical and spiritual level. May it touch you in some way to bring you into

greater promise for the future.

1. I learned that diet change isn't enough. Ouch. That's tough to hear, considering that simple diet changes are tough for so many of us today in a culture of convenience, junk foods, processed foods, fast food and grocery stores. Having worked with thousands of people, I have seen diet changes make a profound impact on the lives of many people. Choosing God's foods of Genesis 1:29 (fruits, veggies, nuts, seeds and the like) and eliminating processed foods is beneficial, and it is ALWAYS the first step to better health. We are either working with God's design or working against God's design based on the foods we eat. This is a vital truth we must learn for better health. When diet change isn't enough, the reason is...

2. CLEANSING is the key to health! Changing our diet, and stopping the

bombardment of processed foods, is a good first step. However, it won't fully cleanse the body, especially in chronic health situations. God is an amazing designer and you are designed with TENS OF THOUSANDS OF MILES of tubes; cardiovascular vessels, lymphatic vessels, bile ducts and other piping. When the pipes get clogged, acidosis sets in, and degeneration starts. We first call this headaches, stomachaches, back pain, acid reflux, acne and rashes, and as it develops, we call it multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, diabetes and cancer. These are varying levels of a vessel, de-



signed by an amazing God, which has been overtaken by toxicity and congestion.

3. We should have no fear of sickness and disease. What an amazing concept. Do we believe the medical system of petro-chemical drugs, chemotherapy, radiation, surgery, a diagnosis with no cure, life-long drug therapy with no alternatives and hopelessness? Why do we believe what "experts" tell us? The medical system breeds on fear and we take toxic drugs and therapies hook, line and sinker, while the system makes us sicker and drains our pocketbooks. The truth is that God is a healer. He hasn't changed, WE HAVE! We must choose health and life, through God's creation and design. Our body is so amazing, we should be immune to disease! How many people would actually believe this? Imagine a culture of people living into their 100's and "full of years" as the Bible calls it. What has happened? We have chosen poorly. However, God is always waiting for our return with open arms!

At some point, we must see the reality of what is happening in our world. We must realize that we have turned from God's design and created a culture of poor health. It is affecting us and sadly, our children even worse. As Christians, we have been mostly deceived into believing what we eat or how we treat our body doesn't matter. I am telling you IT MATTERS!

The journey toward divine health isn't easy. There is no magic pill or easy button. It takes hard work. Following God isn't easy in a world sold out to pleasure, convenience and dullness.

Yet I give you this promise, with confidence because I know my God! You are designed for divine health, free of sickness and disease. ANY sickness can be reversed if we follow the principles of God's design. I never said it would be easy, but WITH GOD, ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE! Don't believe in any diagnosis you have received, but believe in the living God for 2016! Opt out of a man-made medical system of drugs that keep you sick, and choose the healing powers of God's creation.

Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers. "3 John 2"

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

Dentistry For the Family

Eugene F. Anderson, D.D.S.

13010 Fuller Ave.

Grandview, MO 64030

816-966-0202

www.efadds.com

8:00 - 5:00 • Closed Fridays

Serving the S. Metro area for 32 years.



We listen...and treat you like family.

"Do to others as you would have them do to you" — Luke 6:31



Pleasant Hill Chiropractic

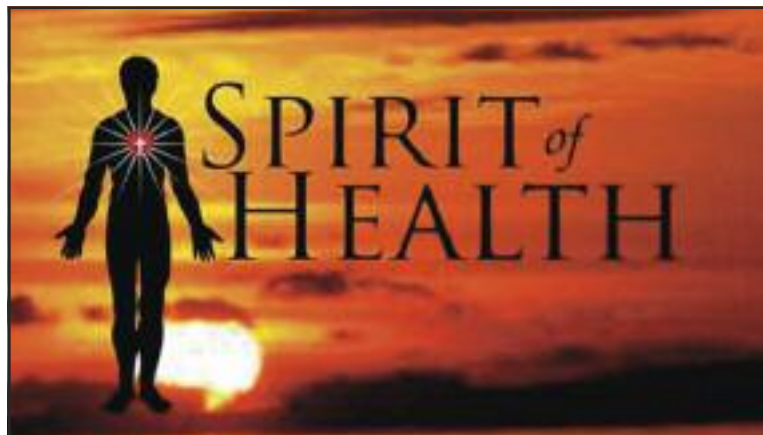


Dr. Corey Piva

EXPERIENCED • CARING • EFFECTIVE

Chiropractic • Acupuncture • Laser Therapy
• Nutritional Supplements • Massage Therapy
• Sports Injuries • Computerized X-Ray
• Spinal Decompression • Reflexology

816-540-8932
1805 N. 7 Highway.
Pleasant Hill, MO
pleasanthillchiropractic.net



A NEW KIND OF HEALTH STORE

Our store offers you a family friendly experience where you can find the lowest prices on your health supplements in Kansas City, even comparable to the internet.

We believe God created all things perfectly and we want to honor His creation, all our products are as natural and close to the way He created them.

Please join us for a cup of complimentary tea and browse through our selection of bulk herbs, teas, superfoods, healthy snacks and whole food supplements.

Located one block east of Interstate 49 on Main Street in Grandview, MO. We can't wait to meet you!

**10% Off
ENTIRE
purchase!
Mention Ad.**



Healing by Design Series (A-Z through every disease condition from a Biblical viewpoint) — Mondays, 11am — 12 Noon. On-going

Herbal Remedies Series — Thursdays, 11am — on-going
Tea Time with Vaughn — First Saturday of each month

816-492-5648

5901 Main St., Grandview

www.spiritofhealthkc.com

STORE HOURS:

10 am — 7 pm Monday — Friday

10 am — 4 pm Saturday

Why Wise Families Plan

To learn why visit www.lewislivingtrust.com

FREE Estate Planning Seminar

Avoid Probate • Maximize Your Tax Protection
• Preserve Family Harmony



Bill Lewis

**NO COST
NO OBLIGATION**

**Thursday, Jan. 7
Tuesday, Jan. 19**



For reservations call: 816-524-3200
LewisLivingTrust.com • 700 NE Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit

opinion

dwright@metrovoicenews.com

SHARE YOUR OPINION WITH US. IT'S EASY!

dwright@metrovoicenews.com • twitter.com/metrovoice

facebook.com/metrovoicenews

Who are the Christians that are supporting Trump?



RAY NOTHSTINE
Associate Editor at
the Acton Institute
and Managing Editor
of Religion & Liberty

ANALYSIS

Growing popularity of Trump with evangelicals and Catholics confuses political class

New polling shows Donald Trump continuing to surge among the Republican field and even independents and conservative democrats. His strong showing among Christians is a surprise to some and annoyance to others. As a matter of fact, he currently leads among conservative Christians.

"I love Evangelicals," said Trump, but there are doubters.

A scathing op-ed in The New York Times on Trump and his Christian support concluded with this assessment: "I don't see someone interested in serving God, I see someone interested in being God."

If the disconnect between Republican Party leaders and much of the base is evident, it may exist among Christian leaders and the average Christian voter

"Franklin Graham offered what many believe is Trump's ultimate appeal — his outsider status, and ability to articulate general contempt for Washington."

too. Immediately following the televised Republican debate in Cleveland, Trump shot up among Evangelicals in Iowa, which is the first opportunity for candidates to get a head start in their delegate count.

"Many of the candidates running for the Republican nomination are impressive, but Marco Rubio reminds me more of Jack Kennedy every day," said Richard Land, president of Southern Evangelical Seminary, "Whatever charisma is, he's got it."

While a "non-starter" for Evangelical insiders, just like many Washington insiders, Trump has legions outside the fold.

In December, Trump met with dozens of African-American pastors, who shared their surprise that what they heard from Trump personally was not at all what the media was portraying him to be. Many stood with him afterwards and offered their support.

Franklin Graham offered what many believe is Trump's ultimate appeal — his outsider status, and ability to articulate general contempt for

Washington.

"He's shaking up the Republican Party and the political process overall. And it needs shaking up," declared Graham.

The Daily Beast published a piece in August titled, "Why Evangelicals Worship Trump." The piece chronicles some



Friends from all over: Billy Graham (seated center) poses with a number of people including Melania and Donald Trump (back left), Sarah and Todd Palin (right) and Rupert Murdoch (bottom right). Trump was invited to sit at the table with Graham during the banquet honoring the preacher.

of Trump's quieter support of Evangelical ministries, including Samaritan's Purse, and Billy Graham affiliated ministries. Trump spoke to raucous applause at Liberty University in 2012, and reportedly took time visiting campus leaders and students, instead of merely jetting in and out on his plane after his talk.

"I think long before anyone thought he would seriously run for president, he was making outreaches to Evangelicals and Catholics who are involved in the political process," exclaims Johnnie Moore, a former media relations manager and campus pastor at Liberty University.

Jerry Falwell, Jr. went so far as to call Trump "one of the greatest visionaries of our time."

Trump has made similar outreach to

Christian leaders such as Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council and Ralph Reed.

"Trump is the result of a Republican leadership here in Washington D.C. that is playing footsies with Barack Obama instead of fisticuffs," says Perkins. "People are tired of that."

Others question the support he is getting. Carmen Fowler LaBerge, president of the Presbyterian Lay Committee, argued that Trump's Evangelical followers are likely the type who have embraced a bastardized version of the Gospel that has more to do with positive thinking and American capitalism than the teachings of Jesus.

"Trump's 'evangelical' supporters are the Christmas-church-going, Protestant work-ethic, Manifest Destiny believing,

■ See DONALD TRUMP on next page

metro VOICE

PUBLISHERS

Dwight & Anita Widaman

MANAGING EDITOR



Dwight Widaman

dwright@metrovoicenews.com

COMMUNITY EVENTS EDITOR



Anita Widaman

Metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com

EDITORIAL SUPPORT

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

Metro Voice © 2016, is an award-winning newspaper published monthly by Widaman Communications, Inc. MV is available primarily by mailed, bulk and subscription distribution to the congregations of 700 churches, colleges, bookstores, libraries, businesses and other locations. Complimentary distribution is available as a service to the community. Individual subscriptions are available for a donation of \$25 per year. Postage is First Class. Written materials submitted to MV become property of Widaman Communications. The content of this publication, including all stories, advertising or other graphic symbols, may not be reproduced in any way, shape or form for commercial purposes or added to any web site without the express permission of Widaman Communications. Advertising in MV is open to anyone wishing to reach the Christian community. MV reserves the right to refuse any advertising deemed unsuitable.

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



MAILING ADDRESS

P.O. Box 1114
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

OFFICES

816.524.4522 | Fax: 816.282.0010
email: dwright@metrovoicenews.com
Calendar:
metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com
Web: metrovoicenews.com
facebook.com/metrovoicenews
twitter.com/metrovoice

"FACTS" AND "FEAR" IN FAITH IN 2016!



DR. DAN ERICKSON
Chief Servant
Leader of the
People Matter
Ministries

myopinion

I have a sign on my office wall that reads, "Faith Does Not Make Things Easy, it Makes Them Possible."

I have been taught all of my life that faith is the evidence of things not yet seen. I would say that I believe God can do anything. And I do believe it. But I have not actually lived that way for much of my life. How about you?

I have allowed "facts" and fear to rob me of faith. Anyone can believe. Demons believe. But it is the focus of my faith that makes all the difference. My faith must be in God Himself.

Before I go on, let me share a clarifying word about "facts." I am not advising denial of reality, but am pushing against the idea that God cannot transcend reality. The Bible has many examples of people who limited God with a balance-sheet mentality:

- The feeding of the 5,000 ("But we've only got a couple of loaves and a few fish. ...").

- Food in the wastelands of Sinai ("We're going to die of hunger ... oh, what's this manna stuff?").

- Water in the wastelands of Sinai ("We're going to die of thirst ... Hey he just struck the rock with his staff and it's a gusher!")

Knowing, believing and living are very different things. Where are you putting your faith? Is it in a "what" or a "who?"

When I was nine, my dad and mom felt the call to become missionaries to Native Americans. They left their middle class world and moved five kids to

Pyramid Lake, my childhood home because of parents who were not content to live by "facts." Their life echoes in eternity.



the austerity of an Indian reservation in rural, dusty Nevada. They were told by some "fact-and-fear" people that the move would cost them their family. My folks also lacked "official" pastoral credentials. Dad only had a third-grade education, but my parents knew that God had called them and was able. They believed all things were possible to those who loved God and were called according to His purpose.

An encouraging side note: All of their kids have had lifelong devotion to the Lord.

The work among Native Americans seemed impossible at times. But my parents never allowed their faith to be limited by the facts. They worked among a people who had few re-

sources, but believed God and saw Him do mighty things. Mom and dad's faith was tested daily, but they did not allow the impossible to determine the possible. God used them to see many come to Christ and to build two churches.

Much of the time we let the facts and our fears limit what is possible with God. If we can do it, pay for it and create it, we don't need God.

So what is God asking you to believe Him for in 2016? Are you limiting Him by the facts or your fears? Are you willing to pay the price of letting go of what you can see (facts) and what you feel (fear) so that you can embrace faith?

Imagine His possibilities!

MILLENNIALS

continued from page 1

Many from my generation didn't grow up in church, and even those who did are leaving the church by the thousands, discarding God as easily as an old phone.

Why is my age group falling away from God? What can the church do to bring them back?

To find answers, I took to the streets, hoping to hear firsthand what my peers thought of church. First stop was the Country Club Plaza, where I found a few millennials relaxing in Mill Creek Park.

"I was raised Catholic," one girl said. "We went to church every Sunday, but it was never anything pushed on us; it was just something we did. I've definitely grown out of it."

Nothing turned her away, but nothing compelled her to keep going.

And she wasn't the only one. In my interviews around the Kansas City area, I heard the same story over and over:

"My parents were Southern Baptist, but I'm atheist."

"My parents were Catholic, but I don't really believe in anything."

"My parents took us to church at Christmas, but now I'm exploring Wicca."

"I was raised in church, but now I only go when I'm back home."

Their stories boiled down to the same element: they had tastes of Christianity as kids, and now they were done with it.

What surprised me most about my conversations was that those I interviewed weren't hostile towards God or church. They simply saw no use for it. They didn't see how God held any sway on their everyday life.

"I'd rather be out in nature and with friends," said the girl from the Plaza. "I get more out of that than I ever got out

of church."

Her friend said the same: "My family and my friends are my religion. That's who I go to for advice and support."

Church lacked any relevance to real life. It was boring at best, judgmental at worst.

So how can churches connect with millennials? To find out, I drew upon research from National Christian Foundation Heartland's summer interns, Nathan High, Joe High and Calvin Beck. They had spent their summer interviewing 17 Kansas City pastors and church leaders to find out what local churches were doing to reach millennials. After months of talking with millennials, interviewing churches and pouring over research studies, our interns saw seven trends emerge among churches that were effective in reaching millennials:

1. Authenticity. My generation doesn't play church. They're tired of hypocrisy, and they want vulnerability.

"I'm not saying you have to air all [your] dirty laundry out in front of everybody, but... there's gotta be a sense of realness," one millennial said.

Millennials know they're messed up. They don't want anything

watered down or sugar-coated. They want real answers for real life, and they're drawn to churches that encourage authenticity.

2. Relationship. I've heard it said of my generation, "They don't want a preacher in front of them; they want a mentor beside them." Millennials want real relationships, the safety net of love that makes authenticity possible. Churches successful in reaching millennials have learned to be a place millennials can come and feel connected, knowing people care about what they're going through.

3. Tangible ministry results. Millennials don't care about buildings and programs. They want to see lives



Young millennials hang out at Black Dog Coffee

changed.

"[Church] can't just be a country club where you come and hang out," said one millennial. "Don't try to entertain people; try to bring them into something."

Millennials want a church that focuses on changing lives and helping the city. Social justice issues are extremely important to them. If a church is apathetic, they don't want it, but if it's effective and revolutionary, they can't get enough of it.

4. Young Leadership. "A lead pastor generally attracts people that are 5 to 10 years younger than them," said Jim Gum from Jacob's Well. And the research backs up his statement. Most of the Kansas City churches that said they were doing well at reaching millennials had a lead pastor under the age of 40. Brian Wright from Cedar Ridge Christian Church said the best thing he did to reach millennials was to hire a millennial leader. Young leadership attracts millennials because they feel they can relate to someone their age who shares their vision.

5. Involvement. Millennials are starved for action and meaning in life. They

crave adventure and new experiences. You can meet their need by involving them in your church leadership. Trust them enough to challenge them, and then walk alongside them as they grow. This benefits not just them but your church as well, since they can offer a fresh perspective and new ideas on reaching the younger generation.

6. Location. Young adults live in the heart of the city, the Midtown-Westport area, because they're drawn to a downtown scene filled with unique restaurants, stores and coffee shops, as well as to work opportunities. So they flock to churches close to downtown like Redeemer Fellowship, Jacob's Well and New Life City Church. While these churches clearly have more to offer than their locations, each church's leaders recognized that location had a big part in determining who attended their church. Conversely, suburban churches had the smallest number of millennials. Millennials saw suburban churches as not being passionate about the same things as them, and they had a hard time relating to leaders.

7. Size. The interns' research showed

that millennials fell at opposite ends of the size spectrum. Big churches drew millennials through resources, programs and the offer of connecting with other millennials. (We go where our peers go.) On the other hand, smaller churches drew millennials through an intimate atmosphere of genuine community. However, the medium-sized churches struggled to reach millennials because they weren't big enough to have the programs or millennial crowds, and yet they didn't have the personal feel of a small church.

Millennials are a broken generation. A third of them have completely forsaken God ("Just a third?" one millennial said to me. "Those are the honest third.") The other two-thirds are struggling to find him. What is your church doing to reach them? Reaching millennials will most definitely mean risk—being vulnerable, admitting faults, making time for new relationships and opening up your heart to the young adults in your life. Whatever it takes, please fight for my generation. Don't let them pass through life without meeting Christ.

DONALD TRUMP

continued from page 22

can-do capitalists. They are in every denomination and none. They think of themselves as Christians but they see no real need to have every aspect of their lives aligned with an arcane morality. Trump is tapping into the spirit and power of positive thinking that pervades the teachings of modern cultural evangelists like Oprah Winfrey and Joel Osteen," she wrote.

Many Christians are mystified about the support for a man who seems to have attended church little in recent times and referred to communion as the "little wine" and the "little cracker." Trump has said he is Presbyterian and a member of Marble Collegiate Church.

But regardless of his church attendance or missteps, supporters and observers say they are overshadowed by his authenticity, the establishment backlash and what is perceived by many as failure in Washington. As Peggy Noonan argues in the Wall Street Journal, Trump's appeal extends far beyond the Republi-



Donald Trump (middle) meets the press with prominent black pastors after a meeting in New York.

can Party base or politics.

"Now look: when Trump talks about how he doesn't really ask God for forgiveness except for when he partakes in communion," wrote David Brody of the Brody File, "that obviously is not the Evangelical textbook answer. But at least they appreciate his honesty and with politicians nowadays that is a valued commodity."

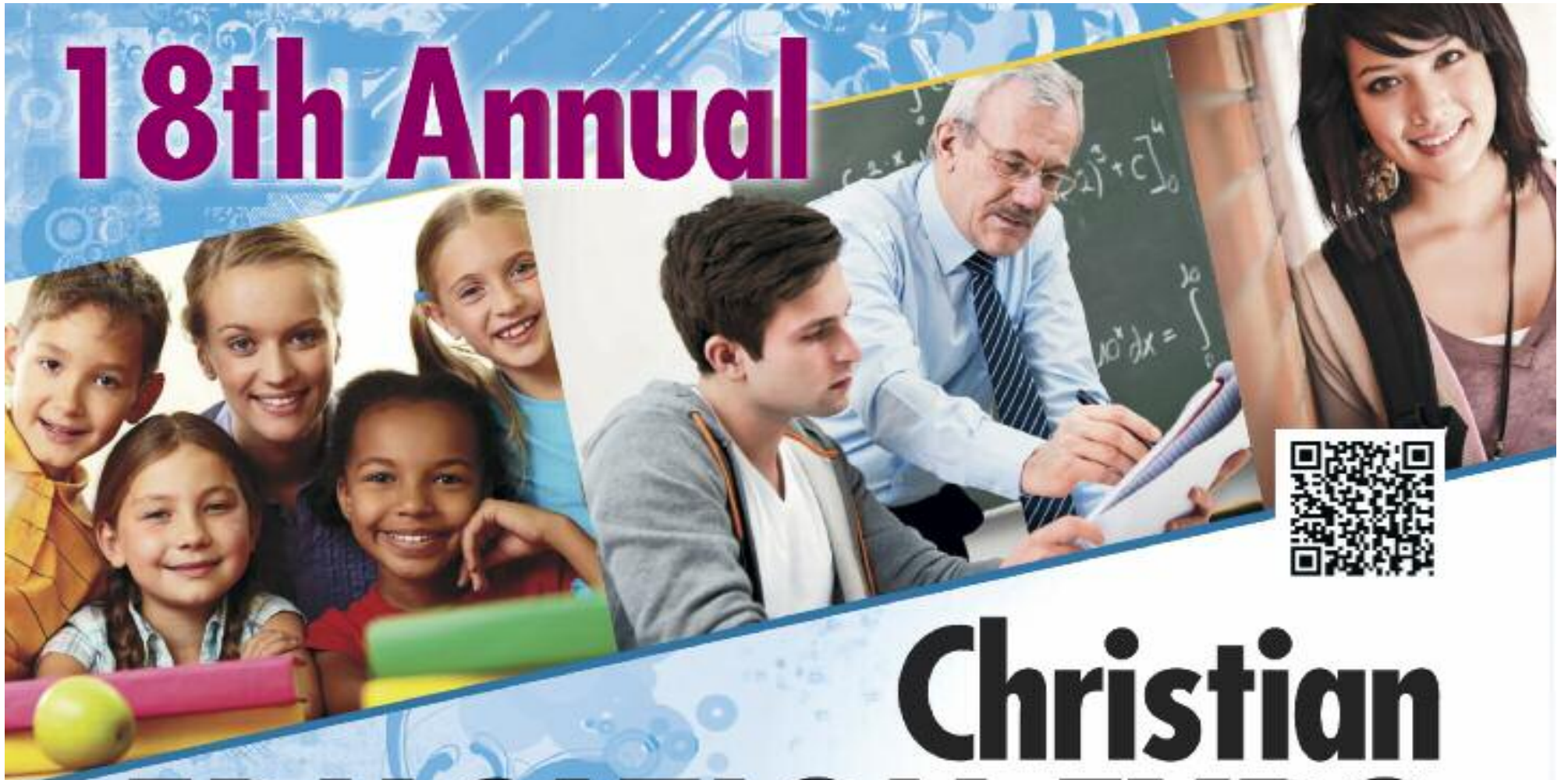
"Remember, evangelicals hold true to their 'biblical absolutes,' so to see a person like Trump let it rip and tell it like it is becomes a somewhat endearing quality to some evangelicals," says Brody. "Trump takes hits for his boldness, and evangelicals take hits from society for their biblical boldness, too."

Maybe that is the most important place where they connect.


OTTO SERVICE
 YOUR HONDA & ACURA EXPERTS
 FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
 SERVICING HONDA & ACURA AUTOMOBILES SINCE 1977
 New Customers receive \$15 off their
 first visit (oil changes excluded).
 816.358.4454
 WWW.OTTOSERVICEKC.COM
 9301 BLUE RIDGE BLVD.
 KANSAS CITY, MO, 64138
 Find us on Facebook
 After Hours Drop Off



18th Annual



Christian EDUCATION EXPO

Saturday, March 5 • 9:30am – 2pm

At Colonial Presbyterian Church • 9500 Wornall, KCMO
Just north of I-435 at 95th and Wornall Rd. in South Kansas City

**20 K–12 Schools, Homeschool
50 Colleges from 17 States!**

Plus, FREE SEMINARS

- K-12 Options: Parent Panel Discussion • Homeschooling 101
- Preparing for the College ACT and more!
- Finding the Most Financial Aid With FAFSA

816-524-4522

#K12KCEXPO #KCCollegeExpo
MetroVoiceNews.com

**metro
VOICE**

**Bott Radio
Network**

Life 92.7

MEDIA PARTNERS

**Air1
RADIO**

K-LOVE
POSITIVE & ENCOURAGING

**KRWI 1030
the Light**

New for 2016!

Northland K-12 Open House

Visit with Local K-12 Private Schools!

Monday, March 7, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Gladstone Community Center