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FAITH AND FAMILY DAY ON JULY 9



Concerts & Events | PAGE 12

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CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

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FREE-TAKE ONE!

Do you live in a 'miserable' city?

KC suburbs fair well

by Dwight Widaman

What makes a city miserable? Do you live in one of the most unhappy places in Missouri or Kansas? The website RoadSnacks organized information from the Census and dug deep into what they consider the most unhappy/miserable cities.

Recent polls reported in the news say that a third of Americans say they are truly happy. With an economy that continues to struggle and



news media that seems to focus only on the negatives, it may be no wonder.

So along comes this ranking that tries to make sense of it all. After analyzing the largest cities, the website created a list of most miserable cities starting with THE most miserable

■ See CITY RANKINGS page 21



ROYALS GENERAL MANAGER DAYTON MOORE
EXCITED ABOUT FAITH & FAMILY DAY ON JULY 9

FAITH AND FAMILY RETURNS TO THE K!

Dayton Moore, general manager of the Kansas City Royals, has received national acclaim and numerous awards since rebuilding a struggling small-market team into a World Series champion.

However, what excites Moore as much as success on the field is seeing hundreds of people make

life-changing decision during the annual Faith & Family Day at Kauffman Stadium.

"This event is crucial, is vital to our city," he said. "I encourage you to make this the greatest event in the history of anything we've done here in Kansas City."

This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, July 9, shortly following the Royals' 3:15 p.m. game against the Seattle Mariners. It will feature testimonies by players, perform-

ances by Casting Crowns and KJ-52 and remarks by Scott Dawson of Safe at Home. As in the past, Metro Voice is a cosponsor.

The objective of Safe at Home is to combine "America's favorite pastime with the greatest story ever told".

■ See ROYALS page 21



Communist powerhouse will eclipse U.S. in number of believers

by Chad Dou and Mark Ellis

Is China a "Christian" nation?

Within 15 years, China should become the country with the most Christians in the world, according to a study.

Fenggang Yang, of Purdue University, predicts that China will reach 224 million Christians by 2030, as quoted in the UK Financial Times.

"By my calculations, China is destined to become the largest Christian country in the world very soon," said Yang, an expert in sociology and author of Religion in China: Survival and Revival under Communist Rule, in the UK Telegraph. "It is going to be less than a generation. Not many people are prepared for this dramatic change."

The explosion of Christianity in China will upend the traditional Christian powerhouses of the world. In 2010, the U.S. had around 159 million Protestants, and many observers say congregations are in decline.

As part of a possible passing of the baton, China is now sending missionaries — especially to North Korea.

"The number of Christians is ex-



tremely underestimated (in China) intentionally because the increase of religion would reflect negatively on government officials," said Yang.

Currently, there are about 100 million Christians in the world's most populous nation, which eclipses the 86.7 million-strong membership of the ruling Communist party, according to the Financial Times.

Jin Hongxin, 40, is not interested in the political or mis-
sionological implications of Chinese growth. She's just proud to attend the mega-church Liushi in Wenzhou, the city many out-

side observers call China's Jerusalem due to its flourishing Christian churches.

"It is a wonderful thing to be a follower of Jesus Christ. It gives us great confidence," she said at an Easter service, as reported by the Telegraph. "If everyone in China believed in Jesus, then we would have no more need for police stations. There would be no more bad people and therefore no more crime."

China's churches started experiencing astronomical growth after the conclusion of the Cultural Revolution in 1976. A successor to Chairman Mao,

■ See CHINA page 23



Many of China's Christians are forced to worship in the safety of their homes.

newsbriefs



China denies violations

(WNS)--Chinese officials are defending their human rights record and lashing out at a U.S. commission that accused the country's communist government of continuing to commit "severe religious freedom violations." The latest annual report from the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) called for China to be re-designated a "country of particular concern." "During the past year, as in recent years, the central and/or provincial governments continued to forcibly remove crosses and bulldoze churches; implement a discriminatory and at times violent crackdown on Uighur Muslims and Tibetan Buddhists and their rights; and harass, imprison, or

otherwise detain Falun Gong practitioners, human rights defenders, and others," US-CIRF said of China.

Christian colleges targeted for gender views

(WNS)--Amid pressure from the nation's largest LGBT advocacy group, the U.S. Department of Education publicly released a list of Christian schools seeking Title IX exemptions over their views on transgenderism (gender confusion). In December, the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) issued a report calling for "greater transparency" for religious schools seeking exemptions "under the guise of religious liberty." On April 29, the Obama administration published the results of the request—placing the spotlight on each college and university seeking to hold true to a biblical worldview on gender and sexuality.



More efforts to come in Missouri fight against human trafficking

The Missouri state legislature in the session that ended in May passed two measures meant to fight human trafficking, but that fight won't stop there.

Representative Elijah Haahr (R-Springfield) chaired a task force that identified several things Missouri can do to fight trafficking, which has been a growing problem in the state.

The legislature passed measures that let trafficking victims participate in a state program to conceal their addresses, in order to hide from their abductors; and passed measures that criminalized advertising sex with trafficked victims.

Haahr says another effort will be more budgetary.

"One of the problems with bringing somebody out of the trafficking industry is that it takes, most people say, two years of them being completely taken care of before they're ready to re-enter the work force, become a normal citizen like we are, because they've had such a difficult journey," said Haahr.



Representative Elijah Haahr (photo courtesy; Tim Bommel, Missouri House Communications).

"That's very expensive and very hard to do."

So, Haahr says, there will be an effort to free up money in the state budget to go to homes that support victims.

Haahr says legislation could also be considered to expunge prior prostitution convictions for trafficking victims, to help them find employment after escaping.

"A lot of times if you have a trafficking victim that comes out of that, if they have four or five prostitution convictions there's no way for them to go get employment or get on with their life. We're looking at what other states have done for potential solutions on that as well," said Haahr.

Another recommendation is that the national trafficking hotline be posted at workplaces — something Haahr says most states already recommend or require. Filing of bills for the next session of the General Assembly begins December 1.

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Missouri governor disagrees with 'concept' of voter IDs

Law would require ID to vote, much like people show them to board planes

Americans must show a photo ID to do a host of things, such as boarding a plane, after being stopped for having a brake light out, getting a library card, picking up tickets for a play at will call and the list goes on and on. Kansas had such a law, but it was recently found unconstitutional by a court. And now, a proposal requiring individuals to do something as simple as presenting an ID to vote is in the hands of Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon.

The Missouri bill would set up the system for requiring voters to show a photo

ID at the polls. It would allow those who lack one to sign a document swearing, under penalty of perjury, that they don't have one at all — in which case they would be allowed to vote, and the state would pay the costs to get them one.

Strangely, Nixon has told reporters he doesn't support requiring a photo ID to vote.

"It's not a concept I look at, 'How can I make this work?' It is a concept I disagree with," said Nixon. "Voter ID — everybody knows that I think you should make it eas-



Governor Jay Nixon (photo courtesy; Tim Bommel, Missouri House Communications)

ier for people to vote, and I just have a hard time with people thinking you're going to move a democracy forward by making it more difficult for people vote, especially people who don't drive."

A separate measure asks voters whether Missouri's Constitution should be changed to allow the photo ID requirement. If voters reject that change, the bill creating the voter photo ID system will not go into effect.

Nixon must decide whether that will be voted on in August or November. He hasn't decided which ballot he'll put it on but says he wants it to be when the most people are expected at the polls, so the greatest number of voters possible will have a say.

Nixon flew to Israel in March where, at each airport, he and the rest of the trade delegation of business leaders were required to present a photo ID to board the planes and re-enter the country.

Jeff Addadi

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Why VBS matters

by **Kenneth Conely**

The minds of our kids are so easily distracted by social media, games and Netflix these days. Is there any value in something seemingly as old-fashioned as vacation bible school? When you plan for months and then pour your heart and soul into a week's worth of VBS, you've might sometimes ask yourself, "Is it worth the effort?"

At last year's VBS at my church, I was assigned to work with 5-year-olds, so I started out on Monday morning with nine well-behaved students. But because there was an abundance of 4-year-olds, my class was quickly adjusted.

Five of my 5-year-olds were "promoted" to the kindergarten room, leaving me four of my original students, but then I received 10 more 4-year-olds.

As the week went on, we picked up two more students. Three of the younger boys were pretty rambunctious, and they required constant attention.

With only one other teacher (and an additional one, at times), this did not make for the perfect teaching situation. However, we did have fun, and the kids learned a lot about the Bible and how Jesus takes care of us in all that we do. But there were still times that I asked myself, "Why am I here?"

The Reason for VBS

VBS is the biggest and best evangelistic outreach event in the life of most churches. Good curriculum is designed so that each day's activities will help girls and boys learn more about God and Jesus. Through Bible stories, VBS encourages children to understand the Bible and apply those Bible truths to their lives, making God's Word both real and meaningful. But VBS also provides many unexpected benefits.

Unexpected Benefits

During VBS, lots of workers are needed, probably more than any other single event at church. Through this one event, teachers and students get to see the church functioning as the body of Christ that it was meant to be. All participants have a different job; all do their job; and in working together, the lives of children are changed.

Men Volunteer

At our church, men who are retired or work alternate shifts are eager to volunteer. This has proven to be a positive thing, especially for our school-aged boys, many of whom do not have positive male role models. Whether teaching, leading crafts, or overseeing recreation, men seem to make an impact on the lives of kids at VBS.

This year, men even organized and ran our teacher's lounge (where teachers enjoy



"snacks" at the same time as their kids, but in a separate location).

New Leaders Discovered

Adults and youth who have never held a leadership role will volunteer for VBS because it is a short-term commitment, and it allows them to work with children on a trial basis. Many excellent Sunday School teachers and leaders of other children's ministries have been discovered through VBS.

New Prospects Discovered

VBS provides an outlet for meeting new children and families in your community, whether they be unchurched, looking for a new church home, or already church members elsewhere. Every year, it seems that new families are added to our church at the conclusion of VBS. However, follow-up is essential to keep these "jewels" from slipping through your fingers.

People need to know they are needed and feel welcome when they return to your church for other functions.

The Ultimate VBS Benefit

Last year, surveys revealed that over four million children and adult workers participated in VBS across the nation. Hundreds of thousands of children professed faith in Christ. So you see, VBS is not only "worth it," it is essential to the life of a functioning, growing church and community. I came to know and serve Jesus Christ as my personal Savior as a 12-year-old at VBS, so it is extremely important to me.

My prayer is that as long as there are children and summer vacations, there will be VBS and the freedom to attend.

And I thank God for allowing me to do the kind of work I do and partner with Him to change the lives of children now and forever.

"Let the little children come to Me, and don't stop them, because the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you: Whoever does not welcome the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."

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Target stocks stumble amid boycott

by **Stoyan Zaimov**

Target's shares are plunging in an "increasingly volatile consumer environment," though the retail giant is denying that the boycott against its transgender bathroom policies is playing a big part.

"Shares of the company were off 7.6 percent at \$68 in mid-May and have been on a rollercoaster ride since down from over \$84 per share before the boycott. Sales at stores open at least a year rose 1.2 percent in the quarter ended April 30, short of Target's 1.5 percent to 2.5 percent annual target," The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday, noting that this is the first such decline in two years, since Brian Cornell took over as CEO.

Cornell said that "an increasingly volatile consumer environment" is to blame for consumers pulling back on spending in the first quarter, and noted that other retail giants, including Macy's and Nordstrom, also reported losses.

Cornell insisted that the over 1.2 million-strong boycott of Target over its new bathroom policies, organized by the American Family Association, is not playing a part in the decline.

"You've heard us talk over the years about our commitment to diversity and inclusion," Cornell told Forbes, which also reported on the declining shares.

Target's CEO admitted that a few stores have indeed faced protests over the bathroom policy, which allows employees and customers who are men according to their birth sex to use women's bathrooms, in a bid to be more inclusive.

He said that while some of those stores did take a hit in sales, as a whole he claimed that the boycott has not affected the retail giant.

"To date we have not seen a material or measurable impact on our business.



Just a handful of stores across the country have seen some activity and have been impacted," he said.

Reuters reported that Target's net income fell to \$632 million from \$635

million a year earlier, with the retail giant expecting second-quarter comparable sales to be flat down to 2 percent, though it was confident it would meet its earnings outlook of \$1 to \$1.20 per share before special items.

A number of other reports have also pointed out that Target is struggling, with Business Insider stating that data supplied by YouGov BrandIndex, measuring consumer perceptions of major brands, has shown that consumers considering shopping from Target have dropped to 36 percent, a 6 percentage point difference from before the boycott began.

"Consumer perception of the brand has also dropped sharply. It's at its lowest point in two years," the report noted.

Earlier in May, the Family Policy Institute of Washington additionally observed that Target's stock fell from from \$84.10 per share on April 19 to roughly \$79.36 in the days surrounding the AFA petition, explaining that a loss of \$4.74 per share "would represent a corporate loss of over \$2.5 billion," if constant.

AFA and other conservative groups have warned that open bathroom policies leave children exposed to potential predators.

"Target's policy is exactly how sexual predators get access to their victims. And with Target publicly boasting that men can enter women's bathrooms, where do you think predators are going to go?" the AFA's petition asks.

Cornell has said that the company will not be reversing its policy, but insisted that it is highly focused on safety.

"Our focus on safety is unwavering. And we want to make sure we provide a welcoming environment for all of our guests," he told CNBC's "Squawk Box".

newsbriefs



Women face the draft after lawmaker's protest amendment backfires

(WNS)—Before the end of May, the House of Representatives likely will take up the next National Defense Authorization Act and with it a controversial proposal to require women to register for the draft. The author of the amendment said he expected—even hoped—it would get shot down in committee. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., drafted the measure as a kind of protest. He wanted to prod lawmakers into taking congressional action to override the Obama administration's recent decision to remove the combat exclusion for women in the military. "It's our families who

we represent who are affected by this, and we should give them a say," Hunter said.

"This should not be a unilateral decision made by the commander-in-chief. This should be our decision."

Families sue government for redefining Title IX

(WNS)—Fifty-one families from the Chicago suburbs are saying "enough" to the Obama administration forcing schools to let boys and girls who identify as the opposite sex use the restrooms of their choice. The families, represented by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) and the Thomas More Society, filed a suit against the U.S. Department of Education in federal court May 4. The lawsuit claims the department is "continuing to trample students' privacy and other constitutional and statutory rights" in its enforcement of Title IX, a law that prohibits gender discrimination in federally funded schools. In April 2014, the Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights (OCR) ruled Title IX protections cover discrimination on the basis of gender identity as well as biological sex. Since then, schools around the country have faced threats of having their federal funding revoked if they don't meet the demands of transgender students.



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GRAHAM: NO HOPE FOR EITHER PARTY

Evangelist spoke to large crowds in Kansas and Missouri capitols

Evangelist Franklin Graham is urging Christians to vote this election year, even if it's not the "perfect" candidate.

Graham spoke to large crowds on the steps of the capitols in Topeka, where 4,600 people gathered, and Jefferson City which saw upwards of 1,000 on a stormy day. Those stops were part of his 50-capitol Decision America Tour.

"I have no hope for the Democrat Party... I have no hope for the Repub-

"We are more concerned about political correctness than about God's truth and righteousness."

Franklin Graham

lican Party," Graham said. "The only hope for our nation today is Almighty God. The most important thing we can do as Christians is pray. It is our only hope."

Graham says believers should vote for candidates who at least consider their concerns. He says bringing God back into politics is an absolute necessity.

Between 1,000 and 8,000 people have met Graham at each stop on the tour, whose purpose is to encourage Christians to pray and stand up for their faith.

"We are more concerned about political correctness than about God's truth and righteousness," he continued.

"America is being stripped of its biblical heritage and God-inspired foundations.

Graham said secularism and communism "are one and the same."

"Secularism is godless. Secularism is taking over our country. Every level of government is secular. It has crept in

The crowd listens in the rain at the Missouri capitol.



and taken root," he said.

"The people who do this call themselves 'progressives.' Look at what they stand for and believe. They want to make us a godless country and a

godless society," he continued. "If we take God out, He will leave. He blessed us more than any nation on earth, but his hand is being removed and the only thing we can do is pray...and go vote."

Sunny skies greeted Graham at the Kansas capitol.



Sisters Ruth Williams, Ann DeWitt and Arrie Williams joined the Topeka crowd in praying fervently for America.

Event attracts hundreds to honor Holocaust survivors

Day of Remembrance was first such KC event

by **Lori (Roberts) Wilson**

Kansas City Day of Remembrance began with Holocaust education in many forms. It ended with an echo, as someone whistled the Israeli national anthem after hundreds of participants had already headed home.

Steel-gray skies failed to deter the over 600 people walking outside for the March of Remembrance. The May 1 event linked the first-time Kansas City march with at least 20 cities in the United States and at least 50 cities in Germany and other parts of the world. The event was aimed at "honoring Holocaust survivors and their families in the Kansas City area," said Dwight Widaman. Metro Voice owners and publishers Dwight and Anita Widaman served as co-chairs of Kansas City Day of Remembrance.

The event, held at the Overland Park Convention Center, was carefully planned to remember this dark period in our world history and honor its survivors and descendants. An overview of the Holocaust was presented by Amy Stewart and her daughter, Josie Boutté. Josie recently completed her freshman year at Fort Osage High School. Kersten Haack spoke of the aftermath and re-

Elhanan Glazer, former Israel Knesset member



covery from the Holocaust in German society, as a third-generation citizen. Farah Marvil, director of operations with Hope For Ishmael, expressed her modern-day commitment to peace with Israel from a Palestinian perspective.

Music also was an important part of the program. International recording artist Oxana Eliahu, a Jewish woman born in Leningrad, Russia, and who later lived in Israel for 20 years, presented Hebrew-themed music backed by the Sh'ma Band. Music was also performed by a string quartet, with Anne-Marie Brown and Anthony DeMarco on violin, Neil French on viola and Lawrence Figg on cello. They presented instrumental music while the words,

■ See REMEMBRANCE page 6





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HARVARD PROFESSORS SUGGESTS TREATING CHRISTIANS LIKE NAZIS

Harvard Law Professor Mark Tushnet claimed in a recent blog post that Americans with a biblical worldview and others leaning toward the political Right have ended up on the wrong side of history and should be dealt with similar to the way Adolf Hitler's Nazi Germans were treated after losing World War II.

The progressive professor suggested to his readers that there is still a question that begs an answer — one that ponders “how to deal with the losers” of the culture wars.

“My own judgment is that taking a hard line — ‘You lost, live with it’ — is better than trying to accommodate the losers,” Tushnet asserted, according to The Washington Times.

He then attempted to portray Christians and conservatives in his argument as standing in the same category as modern-day slave owners and racists during the civil war of the 1860s, opponents of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s — and even the German fascists carrying out Hitler's extermination of the Jewish People throughout Europe during the 1930s and 1940s.

“Trying to be nice to the losers didn't work well after the Civil War, nor after Brown,” contended Tushnet, who was referring to the landmark Brown v. Board of Education ruling on racial segregation that was delivered by the Supreme Court of the United States. “And taking a hard line seemed to work reasonably well in Germany and Japan after 1945.”

According to Tushnet, liberals in America should aggressively move to take advantage of the current state of the judicial system of the U.S., which was offset to the Left after the recent passing of the conservative-leaning U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

Because the void left by the biblically minded justice was not filled with another strong champion of

conservative ideals, the Leftist scholar maintains that there would not be a considerable backlash in the nation's highest court if legislators push for the passage of laws that punish conservatives who oppose today's liberal agenda on social issues.

This rationale given to forward Leftist ideals in the courtroom is blamed by one conservative leader as being the reason why many controversial laws have recently been forced on a disagreeing American public — with minimal resistance.

“Liberals aggressively sought in the courts an unlimited abortion license, a redefinition of marriage, and now for transgender bathroom policies throughout the nation,” Heritage Foundation Senior Research Fellow Ryan T. Anderson explained.

Anderson goes on to point out that the far-Left-leaning agenda spreading through the judicial system goes against the very tenets of democracy upon which America was founded — taking the American public out of the decision-making process.

“Liberals haven't been bashful to use the courts to reshape social policy when they couldn't win at the polls,” he continued.

Also addressed by Anderson was the analogy provided by Tushnet that put Christians in the same category with Nazis when it comes to handling today's social issues — a comparison he maintains is ill-founded.

“Ah, yes, if the ‘losers’ of the American ‘culture wars’ are the functional equivalent of racists and Nazis, then Tushnet's argument works wonderfully,” Anderson concluded. But if all faiths including “Orthodox Jews, Roman Catholics, Evangelical Christians, Latter-Day Saints, faithful Muslims, and other Americans who believe that marriage is the union of a man and woman are decent members of society, maybe Tushnet should reconsider his hostility.”



Mark Tushnet

Nation's 500 Top Evangelical leaders to Meet With and Question Presumptive Nominee Trump

Donald Trump has agreed to meet privately with some of the nation's most prominent Evangelical leaders — a meeting seen as critical to garnering support from social conservatives, Fox News has learned.

“Our goal is to be able to have a conversation that could lead to a better understanding of what Donald Trump has to offer to the country,” said Family Research Council President Tony Perkins.

Perkins is one of the key conservative leaders spearheading the gathering — set for June 21 in New York City. Perkins, along with Bill Dallas of United in Purpose, worked with Dr. Ben Carson to arrange the meeting.

As many as 500 conservative leaders from around the nation are expected to attend the invitation-only event.

The meeting was convened by a who's who among Evangelicals — including Southern Baptist Convention



DOBSON

President Ronnie Floyd, James Dobson, Ralph Reed, Penny Nance, Bob McEwen, Tim Wildmon of the American Family Association, Kelly Shackelford of First Liberty, and mega-church pastors Jack Graham and Ed Young.

“I want to be actively supportive of a candidate who can help turn this nation around,” Perkins said. “With Trump — I'm not there yet. I hope to be there — but I'm not there right now.”

Perkins said Trump will not be delivering a speech. He will be there to answer questions. There will be no straw poll. There will be no endorsement from the conservative leaders.

“There is no preconceived outcome here,” he told me. “I'm hoping we can have a conversation that could lead to helping conservative leaders make a decision about what to do in this election.”

The meeting comes as a small, but vocal number of Christian leaders is urging people of faith to stay at home on Election Day.

And that's why Tony Perkins is worried.

“Our goal is to be able to have a conversation that could lead to a better understanding of what Trump has to offer



to the country,” he said. “If we don't try, the outcome is not going to be good.”

Specifically, the leaders want to hear detailed plans on potential Supreme Court nominees and the vetting process. They also want to hear about Trump's policies regarding religious liberty, pro-life issues and possible vice presidential candidates.

“A vice presidential pick is going to be very crucial,” Perkins said. “Mr. Trump doesn't have a track record — so I am going to rely very heavily on who he is going to pick as a running mate.”

Floyd, the president of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, said he just wants to do the right thing.

“The vast majority of Southern Baptists are very much where I am today — we're trying to figure this out,” he said. “We're trying to navigate through these waters that are very uncertain and very difficult.”

Floyd had strong words for Christian leaders who are suggesting voters should simply stay home.

“We cannot change what exists or even alter it or adjust it sitting on the sidelines and prognosticating about the

situation,” he said. “We have a biblical responsibility, but we also have a responsibility as citizens of the United States to express the privileges afforded to us — that men and women have died on the battlefield to give us — and I'm not walking away from that.”

Floyd said the conversation with Trump is a way for Christians to share their hearts with him.

“None of us have endorsed Mr. Trump, nor have we condemned Mr. Trump,” he said. “This is about the possibility of being able to appoint the next four Supreme Court justices. This is about the dignity of human life from the womb to the tomb. This is about religious freedom. I'm not about to sit at home and not express something. I'm accountable to God and I believe I'm accountable to my fellow Americans.”

But at the same time, he acknowledged that some people of faith are struggling to come to terms with some of Mr. Trump's past statements — statements that are contrary to biblical teachings.

“Could you vote for him? That's the question at hand,” Floyd said.

“I want to be actively supportive of a candidate who can help turn this nation around,” Perkins told me. “With Trump — I'm not there yet. I hope to be there — but I'm not there right now.”

—Tony Perkins

REMEMBRANCE

continued from page 5

bearing bittersweet, yet hopeful messages from Jewish songwriters, were projected on screens for the audience to read.

Sometimes, however, words are unnecessary. Dance can portray experiences and express deep emotions such as despair and fear — raw emotions experienced by those who suffered and died during the Holocaust, as well as the joy experienced by those who survived. This ballet portraying the Holocaust and liberation of its survivors was an original work commissioned for the Kansas City Day of Remembrance. Featuring music from Schlindler's List, it was presented by Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre and choreographed by director Liz Dimmel.

The ballet nearly left the keynote speaker speechless. Elhanan Glazer, a descendant of two

Holocaust survivors, was so affected by the program that he said in an interview, “I could hardly speak when it was my turn to do so. The ballet dramatized the reality exactly. I felt the support and empathy,” he said in his keynote address as well as in his comments to Fox 4 News,

Glazer expressed his appreciation to event participants and the Kansas City area, saying, “Thank you for blessing Israel. Thank you for praying for Israel.”

Glazer later personally thanked Mike Schmid, co-director of Kansas City Day of Remembrance, and presented Schmid with an official Knesset member pen. “Elhanan has become very special to us,” Schmid said. “We love and honor him, and he has blessed our work. It is humbling to serve in helping so many others from our community in giving this expression of honor to the victims of the Holocaust. Like many others, I have been changed because of it. Well done, Kansas City!”



Six hundred marchers joined the March of Remembrance as it left the Overland Park Convention Center

Mike's co-director and wife, Jan, agreed that Kansas City had united in a special way for this first-time Holocaust remembrance, “I was over-

whelmed with joy from all of the volunteers who helped during the Day of Remembrance,” she reported.

The event closed with the singing of the Israeli national anthem, HaTikva (The Hope), uniting the audience in the blessing of Israel as promised by God in Genesis 12. But that did not come until after the cast of the ballet company distributed roses to Holocaust survivors and descendants of survivors who attended the evening. As the dancers made their way to the hands that were raised, a hush fell over the room but then turned into applause of gratitude and support for those survivors and descendants that had attended.

As the Day of Remembrance attendees left the lobby and headed for home, volunteers packed up the day's material needs and the whistled tune of HaTikva echoed through the lobby and into the future, underscoring the “never again” message of the day.



GET OUT OF TOWN WITHOUT HAVING TO GO TOO FAR

There are plenty of options for day trips

While the Kansas City metropolitan area offers entertainment to suit every age and taste, there's nothing like a road trip for a fresh perspective and new adventures. These four towns are well worth exploring and located within an hour's drive of Kansas City.



HISTORY AND HAUNTS – ATCHISON

Named one of the nation's most haunted places, Atchison is a hilly city in northeast Kansas. Ask about a haunted tour on the Atchison Trolley, or visit the Victorian Evah C. Cray Historical Home Museum, filled with period furnishings, where ghosts have tinkered with media room videotape and speakers.

The spirit of Atchison's favorite daughter, Amelia Earhart, lives on at the 1860 Amelia Earhart Birthplace, located atop a gorgeous bluff near the Missouri River, and in artist Stan Herd's "crop portrait" of the aviator at Amelia



Earhart Earthworks at Warnock Lake. You'll also find a stone marker in the adjacent International Forest of Friendship, with etched portraits of the Columbia space shuttle crew.

Atchison offers a lovely and spirited step back in time.

HEALING WATER AND CULINARY THERAPY – EXCELSIOR SPRINGS

Excelsior Springs has been known for its healing natural springs since the late 1800s. Enjoy a relaxing mineral bath soak at the Art Deco Excelsior Springs Hall of Waters & Cultural Museum, or on a day pass at the romantic 19th-century restored Elms Resort and Spa. Then satisfy your stomach with a classic diner burger at Ray's Lunch & Diner or a creamy Portobello pasta dish from the upscale Ventana Gourmet Grill.

Splurge on a decadent red velvet cake truffle or pecan turtle at Ooey Goey



Chocolates and other delights at Willow Spring Mercantile.

Indulgence doesn't get much better than this.

SHOP AND LEARN – LAWRENCE

The University of Kansas is Lawrence, Kansas's centerpiece. On campus, see World Trade Center debris and a stained glass flag window while learning about government at the Robert J. Dole Institute of Politics.

Visit animal dioramas from the 1893 Chicago World's Fair and a massive mosasaur skeleton at the Natural History Museum and Renaissance art or modern photography at The Spencer Museum of Art.

Across town, learn about American Indian history at Haskell Indian Nations University and Cultural Center. Then shop Massachusetts Street, from cinnamon bun candles at Waxman Candles,

TOWN AND COUNTRY – WESTON

Rolling hills and the lovely Weston Bend State Park border Weston, where a 22-block neighborhood appears on the National Historical Register. At Weston Red Barn Farm, kids will enjoy a day at the farm for learning and fun. In summer and fall, farm activities offer additional options.

Sample award-winning food and enjoy patio dining at Avalon Café, The Vineyards Restaurant or O'Malley's/Weston Brewing Co. Find natural-fiber women's clothing at Missouri Bluffs Boutique, and Western-inspired items at Back Roads Art, Hawk's Nest Western Décor, or Buffalo Ranch Rustic Home Furnishings.

This small, historic town provides hours of options.

For more ideas on day trips around Kansas City, visit KCDestinations.com.



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Metro area packed with activites for the entire family

by **Stephanie Boothe** | Metro Voice

Summer vacation doesn't mean families have to plan spectacular trips to the beach or a grand tour of roller coasters. Families can plan spectacular summer breaks right here at home with the added benefit to the wallet. After all, what's really the most important part of summer-time activities? Spending time with the family, right?

Before I offer my list of top-10 activities, let me tell you a little about my family.

I have a 6-year-old who is easily entertained but also easily distracted and prone to get bored quickly. I have a 4-month-old who just discovered his voice, his right foot and his left hand. I have been married to my best friend, the most amazing husband and father for 11 years.

And me, well there's a reason my husband says our 6-year-old gets her personality from my side of the family.



Face painting is a must at local festivals. The artists are always friendly, and designs have gotten much more colorful and complex over the years.



Take a tour of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and teach your children to appreciate art from an early age. Go hunting for shapes to make it interactive and educational.

Taking all these personalities into consideration can make a day on the town a little bit of a challenge.

10 Feed the fish. At Blue Springs Lake, part of the Fleming Park amenities through Jackson County Parks and Recreation, you can purchase a handful of fish food for a little bit of pocket change. It's entertaining to watch the fish swim over top of one another to get to the morsel you've just thrown out there. And once your out of fish food, you can watch all the boats go by or pick up a rod and reel and try to catch some fish of your own – a particularly heart-warming activity for this farm girl turned city dweller.

9 Visit the Shatto Dairy. While my family has never done this, it's definitely on our bucket list. We used to drive by the dairy all the time on our way out of town to visit my family.

Tours, \$5 a person, of the dairy are available by appointment and last about 90 minutes. The tour also includes a chance to taste some of their products. The Dairy also offers many special events throughout the year. It's a little outside the city, so it makes for a great day trip. For more information, visit <http://www.shattomilk.com/>.

8 Go to the drive in. For \$7 a person, you and your family can enjoy a night under the stars – watching new-release films and feeling like you've gone back in time a little. Not enough money for the snack bar? That's OK. Many family will bring their own food with them. You can either sit outside in lawn chairs or watch the movie from your car.

7 Free movies. Speaking of movies, there a lot of chances to watch movies on the side of a building. The Independence Square of-

fers free family movies on the side of the Pharoah Theatre once a month during the summer. The movies are always family-friendly. Crown Center also offers free movies.

6 Enjoy the arts. Kansas City is home to a vibrant arts community. At the helm are two art museums that offer plenty of entertainment for all ages. My daughter and I recently enjoyed a field trip to the Nelson-Atkins, where I could appreciate the history of the pieces and the students were tasked with pointing out shapes in the pieces. This was a great way to engage my daughter in the arts and provide a learning experience.

5 Check out Crown Center. Crown Center always has a family-friendly activities. Last summer, we enjoyed an interactive reading exhibit. Stories like "Chikka Chikka Boom Boom" and "If You Give a Mouse a Cookie" came to life through various stations. And of course Crown Center is also home to Legoland and the Sea Life aquarium. Kaleidoscope and the Crayola Store are always family favorites for us. For families with older children, Crown Center also offers a free concert series. In fact, my first concert was one of the free concerts offered by Crown Center back in the 1990s.

4 Festivals abound. From Old Shawnee days to the Vaile Mansion Strawberry Festival, organizations all over the metro will start setting up vendor tents for the annual festivals. The Strawberry Festival is one of our favorite summer events. Not only do visitors get to spend the day looking at crafts and antiques, but there is also live music and tours of the infamous Victorian home. And don't forget the strawberries. Strawberry sundaes and strawberry shortcake will surely hit the spot.

3 Get some home-grown produce. Every community offers a farmers market with fresh pro-

duce. But Kansas City is also home to the mother of all farmers market down in the River Market area. Peaches, tomatoes, you name it and you can find it at the River Market. There are bounce houses and mini trains for the kids. I was particularly excited to see I could get bubble tea. And once you're done with the river market, try taking the new light rail to another destination in the city. Or grab a bit to eat at one of the many unique restaurants down there. For the history buffs, visit the Steamboat Arabia Museum.

2 Go to the beach. OK, so it may not have the big waves that crash onto Daytona Beach, but many of the area lakes offer the main features – sand, sun and swimming. Fleming Park and Smithville Lake, for example, offer public swimming options. Or if you don't care so much about the sand, try spending a day at your local pool. Most cities have turned their public pools into aquatic centers so there is much more to do than swim and jump off the diving boards. Lazy rivers and water slides are almost standard in aquatic centers these days.

1 Go to the zoo. Spending the day seeing animals in their natural habitat is both fun and educational and a great way to see a little bit of wonderment in your child's eyes. Watching the polar bear swim is, by it-

Several area lakes offer public swim opportunities.



self, worth the cost of admission. There is a carousel and a train and hours and hours of good family bonding.

NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR GETAWAY!

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

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Some lesser-known Ozark attractions perfect for families

St. Louis and Kansas City are traditional destinations for families of each city looking for great vacations just a few hours from home on opposite ends of the state.

While they offer big-city opportunity they also offer big city prices! Many families are discovering southern Missouri—the Ozarks—is a vacation gem. Missouri's third largest city, Springfield, is actively marketing all that southwest Missouri has to offer. Combined with Branson and the area's abundant lakes, an Ozarks vacation will fit the needs of

most any family looking for value, variety and memories.

Part big city, part hometown hospitality, Springfield is a unique place, and because of it, has plenty of unique things to do. Perfect for families, for city vacations or outdoor getaways, or some combination of both, you'll find everything you can imagine, except a dull moment. And all at affordable prices.

There is plenty in Springfield to entertain anyone - individuals and families alike. Attractions include Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World, Wilson's Creek National

Battlefield, Fantastic Caverns, Springfield Cardinals Double-A Baseball, Dickerson Park Zoo, Discovery Center, Jordan Valley Ice Park, "Birthplace of Route 66" and much more.

Springfield is the region's shopping hub, including Battlefield Mall with 170 shops and major department store anchors. Specialty shops, urban style boutiques and antique malls abound. Bass Pro's flagship store has something for everyone - whether they're an outdoor enthusiast or

Your kids will enjoy the Air and Military Museum of the Ozarks.



not - boasting a variety of outdoor gear and clothing for men and women.

But if you are looking for something unique, the area has many interesting

and affordable attractions and activities from zoos to trails.

Check out these great family activities in the Ozarks region:

Air & Military Museum of the Ozarks
Baker Observatory - MSU
Battle of Carthage State Historic Site
Battle of Springfield Driving Tour
Bennett Spring State Park
Busiek State Forest and Wildlife Area
Cape Fair Marina
Civil War Library at Wilson's Creek
National Battlefield
Stained Glass Theater
Wild Animal Safari

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TAKE THE STRESS AND HASSLES OUT OF TRAVELING

Lately, the lines have been long at some airports and stress levels have been really high. Well, there are some ways to help make the process a little better for you and your family.

"One thing that is very important is that you need to arrive at your airport gate two hours prior to departure," said Senora Kelly, owner of Paradise Travel Services travel agency. "You never know if there will be any problems, delays, long lines or cancellations."

Kelly says boarding starts 30 minutes prior to departure and once the doors of the plane are shut, even if you make it to the gate before the plane takes off, they can not and will not open the doors.

"Once everyone is on the plane if there are any seats not filled, your seat can be given to someone flying stand by," she said.



Kelly says becoming TSA pre approved takes some of the stress out of going through security at most airports. A five year expedited screening program costs just \$85.00.

■ See AIRPORT page 21

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Find deals online for local vacation savings

by **Diane Schultz**

When you're on a strict vacation budget like we are, every penny counts. The more ways there are to save, the better, in my opinion. I've discovered some new ways to save money on your Ozark vacation, so I thought I'd share them with you.

The Ozarks consists, in Missouri of the Lake of the Ozarks, Springfield and Branson and areas in between. As Missouri's third-largest city, Springfield boasts many big-city attractions, and being so close to the entertainment of Branson, makes for a great double-hitter that's easy to fit into any budget.

National discount websites

On the Discount Web Site you'll see Half Off Deals, which has deals for dining and shows. The sites listed below offer deals on dining, shows and attractions.

Groupon is the granddaddy of all the discount sites. Not only do they offer deals on dining, shows and attractions, they offer occasional hotel discounts called Groupon Getaways with Expedia.

LivingSocial is another national discount site. They send out daily emails like Groupon, but they also send emails for deals in other categories once a week. LivingSocial is unique in that if you pur-

chase a deal and advertise that you've done so via your favorite social media sites (by posting a link to the deal), if three friends purchase the same deal you did, your deal is free. That's a way to really save some money!

When you register at these web sites, be sure to select Springfield, Missouri. Branson and Springfield deals are listed together on the Springfield page.

Local discount web sites

I have a lot of the local TV/radio sites bookmarked, but most of their deals are also offered through HalfOffDeals.com. There are some local discount web sites that are not affiliated with HalfOffDeals, and I have summarized them below.

417 Magazine Deal of the Day - These deals are offered by 417 Magazine. You get an email will only when they're offering a deal.

102.9 KHOZ Bids for Bargains - No emails are offered here. You will have to bookmark the web site and keep checking back.

Here's a few tips. A word of warning—read the fine print on the offer before you purchase it. If the deal expires before your Ozarks trip, it wouldn't be worth your while to make the purchase. Most of the dining deals are two certificates for the price of one, but some restaurants won't let you use more than one certificate at a time.

That's fine if you were planning to go to that restaurant more than once, but if you weren't, then it's not worthwhile to purchase that dining deal, in my opinion.

Be sure to allow plenty of time for the certificates to be mailed to you so that you can have them in time for your trip. If you have the company's zip code, you can go to the U.S. Postal Service website to see how long it will take for your certificates to reach you.

If you've purchased certificates for shows, call the show box office once you've received your vouchers and make your reservations for the show time and date you want to attend. You will need to tell them that you have radio station vouchers. You will take your vouchers to the box office and turn them in to pick up your tickets, so don't lose them!



With Groupon and LivingSocial, they will email a link to your deal and you will print it out. There may be a date you have to print your deal voucher by, so don't wait too long.

When looking for hotels, make sure to check out the Myer Hotels group.

They're a Christian local family-owned company with numerous hotels in Branson, and they've been named Branson's best for several years. They even have a coupon in the Metro Voice.

I hope these tips are helpful to you in budgeting for your vacation.

“Be sure to allow plenty of time for the certificates to be mailed to you so that you can have them in time for your trip.”

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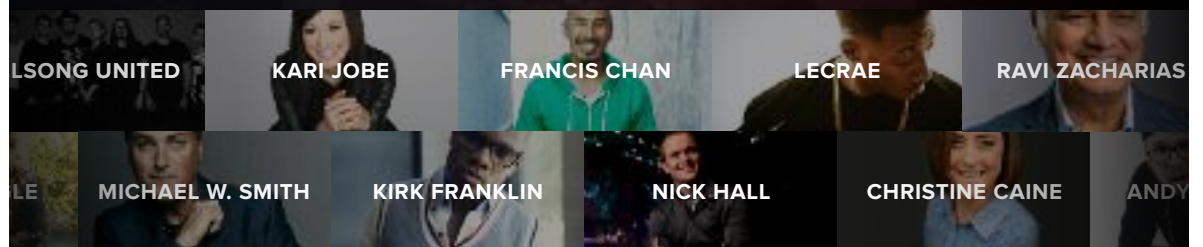
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PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of each month for following month's issue.

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



JUNE 4 RIVER FEST - WE THE PEOPLE AWAKENING. JUNE 4. LABENITE PARK, 291 N., SUGAR CREEK, MO. FEATURING 9TH HOUR (PICTURED) AND BIG C. ORGANIZED BY GOD'S LOVE MINISTRIES. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 816-695-0621.

CONCERTS

RIVER FEST - WE THE PEOPLE AWAKENING. June 4. Labenite Park, 291 N., Sugar Creek, MO. Featuring 9th Hour & Big C. Organized by God's Love Ministries. 816-695-0621.

THE LESTERS. HYMN SING AND CONCERT. June 4, 3 p.m. FCC of Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson Street, Kearney, MO 64060

DAVID SMART. June 5. Harrisonville United Methodist Church, 2600 E. Mechanic St., Harrisonville, MO. 816-380-3424.

CARMAN. June 9, 7:00 pm. Joplin Family Worship Center, 5290 E. 7th St., Joplin, MO 64801. General admission \$10. 417-623-6134.

RESOUND FEST 2016. June 10-11. Miracle Hills Ranch, 35556 W. 200th Ave., Bethany, MO 64424. Groups include: Building 429, Tenth Avenue North, Lauren Daigle, Seventh Time Down, Stars Go Dim, Flood the Stone and Break the Fall. Weekend of music, speakers, activities and more! 660-425-2277.

THE OSWALD BROTHERS BAND. June 25, 7:00 pm. Ottawa Municipal Auditorium, 301 S. Hickory, Ottawa, KS 66067. Sponsored by Grace Community Fellowship Church. \$5.00 at the door! A night of fun, family, and faith! VIP tickets are available. 913-220-0609.

THE LEFEVRE QUARTET. July 8, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jeffer-

son St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

SOUTHERN RAISED BAND. July 15, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

TRUMAN'S RIDGE. July 22, 6:00 pm. Blue Spring Assembly, 2501 NE Duncan Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64029. Pot luck dinner at 6:00 pm, (everyone is encouraged to bring 2 or 3 dishes to share). Concert immediately following. 816-847-0200.

HILLSONG UNLIMITED. July 27, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, Kansas City, MO. 888-929-7849.

NEWSBOYS & HAWK NELSON. August 18. 2503 W. 16th St., Sedalia, MO 65301. 800-422-FAIR (3247).

GAITHER VOCAL BAND. September 8, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 10500 E. State Rte 350, Raytown, MO 64138.

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. For additional information, email pegcla@msn.com.

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

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

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

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

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

27TH ANNUAL WINNING WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY. June 1-July, 6:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. 9 week class on Wednesday nights at Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene. 816-796-5879.

IF NOT FOR GRACE RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. June 3-5. A three-day, two-night retreat held at a beautiful bed and breakfast,

where abortion wounded women and men will experience unconditional love, grace and forgiveness. Through the support of trained facilitators, individuals and married couples will be able to reconcile with God, themselves, others, and their lost children. info@infgr.org.

LOVE WORTH FIGHTING FOR. June 4, 6:00 pm. Light of the World, 3301 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka, KS. Featuring Kirk Cameron and special musical guest Warren Barfield. 785-271-1010.

■ calendar continued on next page

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6-8**
CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS PARENT PRACTICUM. 9:00 A.M. AT THE LENEXA CHRISTIAN CENTER, 17500 W. 87TH ST., LENEXA, MO 66219

CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION 2016. June 4 at Blue Ridge Church, Kansas City, MO. June 12-25 at Genesis Bible Church, Hannibal, MO. Christian Youth in Action (CYIA) is a short-term, summer ministry (and mission trip) dedicated to the training and development of committed Christians (ages 14-18) who want to be equipped to reach children for Christ. Jr. CYIA is specialized training for ages 12-13. www.cefonline.com/CYIA 816-358-1138.

THE ROAD CHURCH SPECIAL SERVICE. June 5, 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m., Blue Springs 8 Movie Theater, 1901 NW 7 Highway, Blue Springs, MO 816-228-7620.

THE FOSTER CARE GAP. Introduction to Foster Parenting. June 6, 6 p.m. Wornall Road Baptist Church, 400 W Meyer Blvd., Meeting Room 1, KCMO. Information. Spon. by Healthy Families Cornerstones. 855-SRV-KIDS

CLASSICAL CONVERSATIONS PARENT PRACTICUM. June 6-8, 9:00 am. Lenexa Christian Center, 17500 W. 87th St., Lenexa, MO 66219. The event is FREE for parents. Home-schooling parents for three days of encouragement and inspiration as we seek to understand the classical model of education and learn how

to apply it in Christian Homeschooling.

DEEP SEA ADVENTURE. June 6-8, 6:30 pm. First Church of Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 through 6th grade! Through ocean-themed games, crafts, and Bible stories, children will learn about the deep love of Jesus for each of them! Pre-register at <http://kcfc.org/vbs-2016>! 816-942-9022.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. June 6-10, 7:00 pm. House of Refuge Family Worship Center, 10816 Hillcrest Rd., Kansas City, MO 64134. Come out! All ages are WELCOME!! REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED NIGHTLY! MOVIE NIGHT WILL CLIMAX THE EVENT ON JUNE 10. 816-806-4127.

TRANSFORMATION CONFERENCE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS. June 6-7. Bell Cultural Events Center, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by Renew a Nation. A two day event engage, equip, and empower Christian educators, leaders with a biblical worldview.

THE ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE. June 8, 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Jewish Community Campus, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Keynote pres-

entation from 9:45 am-11:45 am. Expo sponsored by JFS Jet Express, Catch-A-Ride and Americans for Older Driver Safety. 913-327-8000.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. June 8-11, 6:00 pm. Independence First United Methodist Church, 400 W. Maple Ave, Independence, MO 64050. Wednesday through Friday 6:00-8:30 pm. Dinner will be served at 6:00 pm. VBS will begin at 6:30 pm. Saturday 2:00-4:00 pm is Family Fun Day and Carnival. Lunch will be served. 816-254-6900.

VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. June 11, 9:00 am. Crown Pointe Church, Lee's Summit, MO. If Not for Grace Ministries, an abortion recovery ministry. For more information or RSVP contact Richard at rbitterman@inf.org.

HER CHOICE TO HEAL. June 13. If Not For Grace provides services for women, men and families struggling from the effect of an abortion. Contact Jama at 816-847-2911 or jedlund@inf.org. For more information visit inf.org.

VBS: "DOWN ON THE FARM" June 13-16, 9:00-11:45 am. Holy Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. Ages 4 (must be four by Sept. 1, 2016) through 6th grade. Registration info at <https://holycross-elca.nm-se-cure.com/vbs2016> or contact AmyViets@Holycross-elca.org.

EXPEDITION NORWAY VBS. June 13-16, 6:00 pm. Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Hwy., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Pack your suitcase for Norway! Daily life in Norway with the kids in your community, while helping them discover God's eternal love for the world. 816-228-1979.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. June 13-16, 6:00-8:00 pm. Hillside Christian Church, 900 NE Vision Rd., Kansas City, MO. "Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love". Children ages 2 through 5th grade. 816-453-2623.

MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE STATEWIDE MEETING. June 18, 10:00 am. Pleus Hall, 1208 E. McCarty St., Jefferson City, MO. Guest speaker will be James Harris. Lunch will be pro-

vided. 573-635-5110.

LEE STROBEL. June 18, 5:00 pm & June 19, 9:30 am & 11:00 am. Lenexa Baptist Church, 15320 W. 87th St. Pkwy., Lenexa, KS 66219. Lee Strobel is a former atheist and reporter for the Chicago Tribune who found God through a vigorous pursuit of searching answers to his questions about God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ. 913-599-6447.

FIERCE MEN'S CONFERENCE. June 18-20, 9:00 am. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Dr., Kansas City, MO 64134. Guest speakers include: Cliff Graham and Mike Alsteil (Know the Covering Ministries), Dustin Smith (Integrity Artist/Songwriter), Steve Gray (Senior Pastor of World Revival). For a power packed men's weekend covering: rising up to a new position in God, becoming mighty warriors of valor, key principles on leading your family, reflecting the biblical model of true masculinity.

IT'S ONLY FOEVER. June 20-23. Faith Ministries Community Church, 12222 Blue Ridge Ext. Grandview, MO 64030. Register at FMIN.ORG/EVENTS.

CAVE QUEST-VBS. June 26-30, 6:30 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. 5 Night VBS (Sunday through Thursday) Kindergarten through 6th Grade. (Grade you are going into). All kids are welcome to join in this action packed week-long VBS! 816-796-5879.

AVOID PROBATE. July 5, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center. 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

CROSSROADS RODEO BIBLE CAMP. July 8-11 & July 12-16. Leavenworth Co. Fairgrounds, Tonganoxie, KS. Grades 5-8: July 8-11; Grades 9-12: July 12-16. Camp activities, meals & snacks, skill building, music, Bible study, rodeo participation. Register at CrossroadsCowboyChurch.net. Facebook: Crossroads Rodeo Bible Camp. For info: C3RBC@yahoo.com.

CROSS TRAINING: VBS 2016. July 11-15, 9:00 am. Countryside Baptist Church, 14150 W. 175th St., Olathe, KS 66221. Children ages 4-12 will enjoy this free event, but must register. Welcome to Countryside VBS 2016: Cross Training! Preparing for the Olympics in Brazil, join us as we train to be a part. Make fun crafts, see entertaining skills, taste great food, most impor-

tantly, focus on the best news in the world: the gospel. Hope you can join us! 913-653-9717.

SUMMER ART CAMP SESSION I. ART THAT POPS - POP ART MOVEMENT. July 11-15. Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7230 Quivira Road, Shawnee KS. \$125 (\$50 deposit/\$75 due on first day) For children going into grades 3-5 (913) 268-6300

NATIONAL PRAYER SUMMIT. July 14-July 17, 8:00 am. Sheraton Pentagon City, 900 S. Orme St., Arlington, VA 22204. Speakers include: Dutch Sheets, Bishop Harry Jackson, Lea Carawan, Dr. David Butts, Shirley Dobson, Dave Kubal, Jason Hershey, Pierre Bynum, Lisa Crump and many others. 800-444-8828.

TOGETHER 2016. July 16. Washington DC. Speakers: Dr. Ravi Zacharias, Francis Chan, Hillsong United, Nick Hall, Josh McDowell, Dr. Ronnie Floyd, Casting Crowns, Luis Palau, Kirk Franklin, Jeremy Camp, Sammy Rodriguez and many more.

SUMMER ART CAMP SESSION II. MY IMPRESSIONS - IMPRESSIONIST MOVEMENT. July 18-22, Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7230 Quivira Road, Shawnee KS. Personal projects, Daily Journaling, 1 Large Collaborative Piece. (913) 268-6300.

EXODUS CRY ABOLITION SUMMIT. August 11-13, 2016, 1:00 PM. Westside Family Church, 8500 Woodsonia Dr., Lenexa, KS. Encounter the Lord's heart for justice and learn how you can fight sex trafficking in your community. SPEAKERS: Benjamin Nolot, John Eldredge, Naomi Zacharias, Dr. Dan Allender, Rebecca Bender and others. (816) 398-7490 COMMUNITY AVOID PROBATE. July 21, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center. 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

MEMORIAL DAY WEEK TRAIL RIDE.

Through June 5. Golden Hills Trail Rides & Resort, 19546 Golden Drive, Raymondville, MO 65555. Sponsored by Heartland Christian Cowboys Cowgirls Gathering. Come for one day or join us for the entire week. www.heartlandcowboygathering.com 417-457-6222.

HEART OF AMERICA MINISTRIES NOW ENROLLING FOR SUMMER CAMP PROGRAM.

■ calendar continued on next page

MOTHER'S REFUGE BENEFIT SALE!

set up and donation drop off

JUNE 13-14
MON/TUE
8AM-6PM

benefit sale

JUNE 15-18
W/TH/F 8AM-6PM
SAT 8AM-1PM

VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED!

We are in need of volunteers to help during the set-up days and to help run the sale. We also need donations! Anything EXCEPT used car seats and cribs (due to state regulations) and please no out-of-date tv's and computers. Donations can be dropped off at the church on the drop off dates listed. We are unable to accept donations before the listed dates. All donations tax deductible.

For more info call 816-353-8070

Sale held at Nativity of Mary Catholic Church - 10010 E. 40 Hwy, Independence, MO. Church is located about 5 blocks west of Cool Crest, Gates BBQ and W's restaurant on Hwy 40.

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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

June 1-July 29. Mornings Summer School, Afternoons Summer Camp activities. To enroll or for a free packet of information call: 816-356-6380.

2016 WALK FOR LIFE. June 4, 8:30-10:30 am. Foxhill Medical Building, 4601 W. 109th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. Sponsored by Advice & Aid Pregnancy Center. 913-962-0200.

30 YEAR CHURCH ANNIVERSARY. June 5, 10:30 am. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free and open to the public. Dr. George Westlake, Jr., special guest speaker. Call 816-246-7625 or visit therockls.com for more information.

AVONDALE BOOK CLUB. June 11, 10:00 am. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Rd., Kansas City, MO 64117. Discuss The Kindness Diaries: One Man's Quest to Ignite Goodwill and Transform Lives Around the World by Leon Logothetis. 816-452-3518.

IF NOT FOR GRACE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. June 11, 9:00-10:30 am. info@infq.org.

MOTHER'S REFUGE DONATION DROP-OFF & SET-UP. June 13-14, 8:00 am-6:00 pm. Nativity of Mary Catholic Church, 10010 E. 40 Hwy., Independence, MO. Volunteers & Donations needed. Anything EXCEPT used car seats & cribs (due to state regulations) and please no out of date TV's and computers. Donations can be dropped off at the church on the drop off dates/times listed. All donated items are eligible for tax receipts. For more information or to volunteer, susan@mothersrefuge.org or 816-353-8070.

MOTHER'S REFUGE BENEFIT SALE. June 15-17, 8:00 am-6:00 pm & June 18, 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Nativity of Mary Catholic Church, 10010 E. 40 Hwy., Independence, MO. Please come and shop. Benefit homeless shelter for pregnant young teenagers. For more information or to volunteer, susan@mothersrefuge.org or 816-353-8070.

OUTPACE POVERTY. June 18, 8:00 am. Berkley Riverfront Park, 1298 River Front Rd., Kansas City, MO 64120. Sponsored by Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Join us for Kansas City's only 5K that raises awareness and funds to reduce poverty in our community. 816-659-8226.

SUMMERFEST KC 2016. June 18, 2:00-8:00



JUNE 15-18 MOTHER'S REFUGE BENEFIT SALE. JUNE 15-17, 8 A.M. TO 6 P.M. AND JUNE 18, 8 A.M. TO 1 P.M. NATIVITY OF MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH, INDEP., MO.

pm. Blue Ridge Baptist Church, 9320 E. 35th St., Independence, MO. Free food. Fundraiser for food pantry. Live music, 50+ vendors, silent auction, plenty of giveaways, bounce house, children's carnival games, and just lots of FUN! 816-353-8140.

CONVOY OF HOPE KANSAS CITY COMMUNITY EVENT. June 18, 10:00 am. Sheffield Family Life Center, 5700 Winner Rd., Kansas City, MO 64127. This is a collaborative effort to bring hope to a city through free groceries health screenings, job services, family portraits, prayer, activities for children and more. 816-241-5433.

3RD ANNUAL LIFE CHOICE CENTER GOLF TOURNAMENT. June 25, 8:30 am. The Rock at Country Creek Golf Course, 21601 E. State Rte. P, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. 816-887-5100.

NEIGHBORHOOD COOKOUT. July 3, 10:30 am. Break Pointe Community Church, 10001 W. 88th St., Overland Park, KS 66212. Join us for worship at 10:30 am followed by our Neighborhood Cookout!

AVONDALE BOOK CLUB. July 9, 10:00 am. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Rd., Kansas City, MO 64117. Discuss All the Light we Cannot See by Anthony Doerr. 816-452-3518.

PLEXPOD. July 30, 7:00 pm. Nosh Nocte, 738

N. 31st St., Kansas City, KS 66102. Nosh Nocte KC will be a sophisticated adventure through 5 courses of food, wine and coffee, from 7-10 pm (doors open at 6:15 pm with live music) on Saturday, July 30th. A Live Auction, Raffle and so on will be there to benefit homeless, at risk youth reached by Hillcrest Transitional Housing. 816-588-0349.

100TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT & CELEBRATION. September 17. First Baptist Church North Kansas City, 2205 Iron St, North Kansas City, MO. General Admission \$25. Featuring Phil Keaggy, Cindy Morgan and Randy Stonehill. 816-842-1175.

FINE ARTS

UNCONVENTIONAL CLAY: ENGAGED IN CHANGE. Through June 12. Nelson Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-751-1278.

BIG RIVER. June 2-26. Musical Theater Heritage At Crown Center, 2450 Grand, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-221-6987.

THE 13TH DAY. June 2 & 3, 7 p.m. or June 4, 1 p.m. Mid-America Nazarene University Bell Cultural Events Center, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS. Based on the book of Esther. Come observe how this orphan girl rises to become an intercessor for her people during the reign of King Xerxes of Persia. Advance tickets are \$10

each and may be purchased by calling Greenleaf Performing Arts at 913-397-7071. www.greenleafstudio.org

LITTLE RED HEN'S GARDEN. June 11. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. Little Red asks her friends to help her make a garden. Will they? 816-833-9777.

SLEEPING BEAUTY, KIDS. June 14-16, 7:30 pm. The Barn Players Community Theatre, 6219 Martway, Mission, KS 66202. \$5. The Barn Kids, grades 3-7. 913-432-9100.

TWELFTH NIGHT. June 14-July 13. Southmoreland Park, Kansas City, MO. Tuesday-Sunday at 8:00 pm. Festival admission is donation only. The play explores love, loss and reunion along with ambition, madness and gender reversal - all with lots of humor. 816-531-7728.

MADAGASCAR A MUSICAL ADVENTURE. June 14-August 7. Coterie Theatre Crown Center, 2450 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108. A new musical of the much-loved madcap journey from New York's Central Park Zoo to the beaches of Madagascar. 816-474-6552.

SOJO SUMMERFEST! June 17-18. Corporate Woods, Overland Park, KS. Sponsored by Overland Park South Rotary Club. There is no charge for general admission into the event. We do ask everyone who attends to generously support our selected charities and to make a suggested donation of a few dollars while enjoying SoJo Summerfest (formerly known as Jazz in the Woods)! Come join us for a night filled with local music, local food, and local brews benefiting local charities!

THE DROWSY CHAPERONE. June 17-25. Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee KS. 913-236-1237.

TEEN CAMP BROADWAY, A TRIBUTE TO THE

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA. June 18-25. Northland Mission Auditorium, 600 NW 110th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64155. Presented by Act One.

BEETHOVEN, June 26, 3:00 pm. Congregation Beth Torah, 6100 W. 127th St., Overland Park, KS 66209. Join Kinnor Philharmonic in bringing canned good to the concert. 816-510-4056.

THE GOONIES. July 8, 9:00 pm. WeekEnders Crown Center, 2405 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Free admission. Movie starting at approximately 9:00 pm. 816-274-8444.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. July 13-19. Starlight Theatre, 4600 Starlight Rd., Kansas City, MO 64132. 816-363-STAR

FAMILY OUTINGS

OLD SHAWNEE DAYS. June 2-5, 6:00-10:00. Shawnee Town, 11501 W 57th St., Shawnee, KS. Free. Join friends and neighbors for a weekend of fun and entertainment the whole family can enjoy with music, a carnival, contests, games, parade, crafts, shopping, food and so much more. 913-631-6545.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL. June 4, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Vaile Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty St., Independence, MO 64050. A hundred craft antique dealers will be set up around the Mansion. The Vaile Society will be selling Strawberry treats! 816-325-7430.

STORYTIME: DOUGHNUT DAY. June 4, 10:30 am-12:00 pm. National World War I Museum and Memorial, 100 W. 26th St., Kansas City, MO 64108. Free with RSVP. Did you know that volunteers in World War I helped make doughnuts one of the nation's favorite foods? Join us for this family-friendly sweet treat of a program as we read *Paulie Pastrami Achieves World Peace*

■ calendar continued on next page

FIERCE

→ MEN'S CONFERENCE

SATURDAY JUNE 18, 2016 • 9am

WORLD REVIVAL CHURCH

Join

- Pastor Steve Gray (World Revival Church)
- Cliff Graham (former Army officer and author of the "Lion of War" book series)
- Mike Alsteil (Know the Covering Ministries)
- Dustin Smith (Integrity Artist & Worship Leader)

For men only! At 7 pm there will be a special evening of worship, warfare and exhortation featuring Dustin Smith and Eric Nuzum Thomason along with others.

Don't miss this powerful weekend. Step into God's power and authority with us.

Conference Schedule

9:00am - Worship	12:00pm - Lunch
9:30am - Welcome	1:00pm - Mike Alsteil
10:00am - Dustin Smith	2:00pm - Cliff Graham
11:00am - Steve Gray	7:00pm - Evening Service

Register today at fierce.worldrevivalchurch.com

World Revival Church's View High Campus • 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134 • 816.763.0708 • worldrevivalchurch.com

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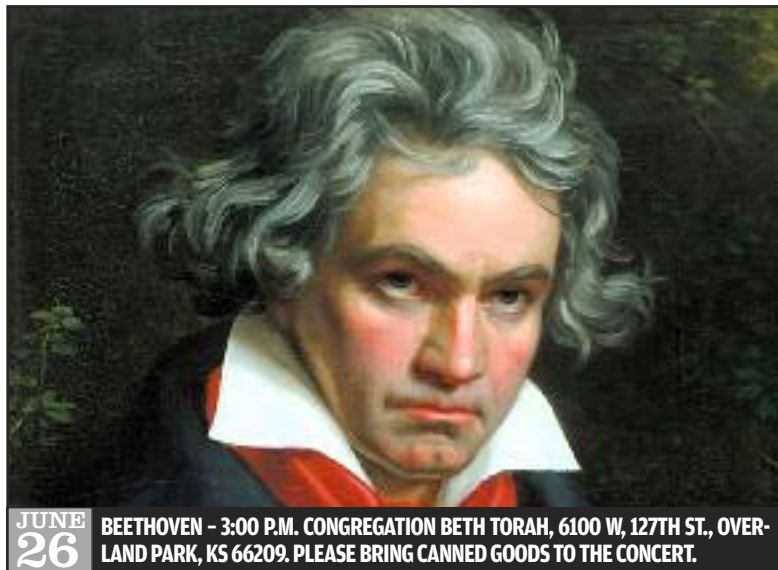
Thursday, June 2

Tuesday, June 21



For reservations call: 816-524-3200

LewisLivingTrust.com • 700 NE Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit



JUNE 26 **BEETHOVEN – 3:00 P.M. CONGREGATION BETH TORAH, 6100 W, 127TH ST., OVERLAND PARK, KS 66209. PLEASE BRING CANNED GOODS TO THE CONCERT.**

and learn the real WWI story behind the doughnut. 816-888-8100.

FROZEN SING-A-LONG. June 7. Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. It's a Sing-A-Long! 913-236-1237.

JOHNSON COUNTY MUSEUM'S SUMMER ARTS SERIES, CHENILLE STEM STITCHERY. June 10, 10:00 am. Johnson County Museum, 6305 Lackman Rd., Shawnee, KS. The cost for each one-hour program is \$3 per person, including adults, and museum members are free. Stand-alone programs for ages 5-12 accompanied by an adult. Young participants can create art inspired by various artworks during a Summer Art Series being presented during June and July by the Johnson County Museum.

DOG-N-JOG. June 12, 7:00-10:30 am. Country Club Plaza, 4750 Broadway St., Kansas City, MO 64112. Benefiting The Humane Society of Greater Kansas City. 913-596-1000.

JOHN BROWN JAMBOREE & MUSIC FESTIVAL. June 15-19. John Brown Memorial Park. 10th & Main, Osawatimie, KS. Family friendly activities including 3 on 3 Basketball Tourna-

ment, a Car and Bike Show, Cutest Baby Contest, the Jamb-O-Lympics, carnival and outdoor music concert in the evening. 913-755-2146.

FIESTA KANSAS CITY. June 19, 5:00-11:00 pm; June 20, 12:00 pm-11:00 pm; June 21, 12:00 pm-11:00 pm. Crown Center Plaza, 2450 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO. Free admission until 4:00 pm. \$10 per person and \$20 for a 3-day Fiesta KC Pass. Fiesta features delicious food, ice cold beverages, superb entertainment & a host of vendors making it the premiere Fiesta in the Greater Kansas City area celebrate Latino-style!

CINDERELLA. June 21. Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. 913-236-1237.

WATERFEST. June 24-26. Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. Three day event features arts, crafts, live entertainment, and water games for the kids, classic car-hot rod and truck show, parade, 5K Run and much more. 816-630-6161.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

DIVORCECARE/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 - MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. A different activity each week - story time, play time, Mom's bible studies and fellowship, or special outing. A great way to connect with other moms and young children. Contact amyviets@holycross-elca.org for more info.

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

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-6:00 pm. Hope City, 5101 E. 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@inf.org

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7:00 pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NW 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.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-8:30 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.

1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOR MID-AMERICA. 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, Overland Park, KS. Presentation followed by Q&A; Answers to your questions regarding Science and the Bible; "Creation Safaris" (Res. Req'd); www.csama.org (includes link to FB page) 816-246-4517.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm., Life Springs Church, Neos Youth Center, 206 N. Webster St., Suite 112, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim: fibrohopeandhealing@yahoo.com or 337-852-5052.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - GRIEF SHARE. 7-8:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Ministries, 425 NW RD Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

2ND TUESDAY - EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MIDWEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, Hampton Inn, 900 NW S. Outer Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

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

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - MOPS. 9:00 am. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. 913-649-0900.

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

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

■ 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

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JUNE 20-23, 2016

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WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 3:00 pm, Gusto! Coffee, 3390 SW Fascination Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. 816-767-1100.

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-1:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching environment for older adults with mental and/or physical limitation. 816-228-5300.

WEDNESDAY - AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 601 E. Oak St., Pleasant Hill, MO (please use North basement entrance off Myrtle Street). Are you troubled by someone else's drinking? 816-540-6179

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

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

WEDNESDAY - DELIVERANCE - BREAKING CURSES WORKSHOP. 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park, KS. 913-403-9644. Call Tues. - Fri. after 1 p.m.

2ND WEDNESDAY - LEE'S SUMMIT WOMEN'S PRAYER CONNECTION. 9:00 - 10:30 am. In a comfortable setting, we get to know each other better and take time to pray (silently or audibly) for our nation, families, Lee's Summit Women's Connection, and our national organization. Call Millie Mathews for meeting location: 816-537-9898.

2ND WEDNESDAY - COFFEE CONNECT. 6:30 pm. IHOPU, 12901 S. US Highway, Grandview, MO 64030. An informal gathering with believers from different spheres of influence. www.ihopekc.org/josephcompany. (816) 763-0243.

4TH WEDNESDAY - SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. 9:30 a.m. Grandview Assembly of God Church, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO. Contact Mary Boston 816-804-5166.



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WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - FREEDOM CLASSES. 6:30-8:00pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist, 1600 N. 291 Hwy, Liberty, MO. Meet in the west wing. 816-781-5959.

WEDNESDAY - FREE INDEED ADDICTION RECOVERY. 6:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock entrance. Meet in room B-222. For information call 816-778-1156 or www.firstbaptistraytown.com.

THURSDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 2:00-8:30 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-TW by appointment. www.healingroomsofolathe.com 913-563-2413.

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

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

2ND THURSDAY - HOMESCHOOLING 101. 7:00 pm. Country Meadows Baptist Church, 4901 S. Lee's Summit Rd., Kansas City, MO 64136. Families for Home Education offers this free class for families considering home education in Missouri. MO law and record-keeping requirements are presented, as well as curriculum ideas and area homeschooling activities. 877-696-6343.

2ND THURSDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 6:00 pm. Awaken Whole Life Center 7th Floor, 1901 NW Blue Parkway, Unity Village, MO. Contact Jennifer at staystrongtogether@gmail.com or 816-977-7469.

2ND THURSDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUP-

PORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm. Country-side Christian Church, 6101 Nall Ave., Mission, KS. Contact Yvonne info@fibrocoalition.org or call 913-384-4673.

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY - MOPS. 9:00-11:15 am. (Mothers of Preschoolers) Overland Park First Assembly of God, 7700 W 75th Street, OP, KS. A relaxed time of fellowship, encouragement, and support for mothers of children from infants to kindergarten. Childcare provided. Brunch served. RSVP appreciated. 913-432-3281 or opagmops@gmail.com

2ND & 4TH THURSDAY - ARCHDIOCESAN CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP. 7:30 pm. Catholic Life Center, Cure of Ars Parish, 9360 Mission Rd., Leawood, KS. Fellowship follows. 913-649-2026.

3RD THURSDAY - GLUTEN FREE GROUP. 7pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, Fireplace Room, 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

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

FRIDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY MEETINGS. 7:00 pm. New Hope Church of the Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak Trafficway, Kansas City, MO 64116. 12 steps program for all life's hurts, hang-ups and habits. 816-452-8442.

FRIDAY - REFORMERS UNANIMOUS. 7PM. Fellowship Baptist Church, 901 E. 23rd St., Independence, MO. Faith based addictions program (any and all addictions). 816-252-3268.

2ND FRIDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETING. 3:00-4:30 pm. Lawrence Public Library, 707 Vermont St., meeting room C., Lawrence, KS. Contact: Rachel at rachelfibro@gmail.com. 785-979-5393. (11 a.m.-7 p.m.)

2ND AND 4TH FRIDAY - MOPS. 9:30 am. Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7230 Quivira Rd., Shawnee, KS 66216. Support group for Moms of preschool aged children. Offers creative activities, social events and learning opportunities. 913-268-6300.

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Dolly Parton movie explores faith, family and good music

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If you're looking for an enjoyable faith-based drama full of heart, love and good music, then you will love Dolly Parton's *Coat of Many Colors*.

Coat of Many Colors tells the story of Parton's big family growing up poor in rural Tennessee, specifically in the summer of 1955, when Parton's mother tragically lost a baby, and the toll that took on Parton and her family. Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles gives an

film411

COAT OF MANY COLORS

STARS: Alyvia Alyn Lind, Jennifer Nettles, Avie Lee Parton, Ricky Schroder, Gerald McRaney, Carson Meyer
WRITERS: Stephen Herek
DIRECTOR: Stephen Herek

emotional and profound performance as Parton's mother, with her father played skillfully by Ricky Schroder. Adorable and talented young actress Alyvia Alyn Lind plays the precocious

young Parton. The heartwarming film is the first in a series of family-oriented projects Parton signed on to make with NBC based on her life and work. The next one will center around her iconic hit "Jolene."

Here the classic and inspiring story of how Parton was able to overcome many of the own difficulties and frustrations in her life and continue on to become one of the most well-



known country singers of all time. Her story is a powerful and inspiring one, and it makes for an incredible drama, as seen in this made for television film. Alyvia Alyn Lind does a magnificent job in her starring role as Dolly Parton and she helps deliver a sense of authenticity to the film. With the entire production

being overseen by Dolly Parton and with her consultation to create

an authentic retelling of the true story, it is not a film to miss!

Inspired by Dolly Parton's life growing up in East Tennessee, the movie was released to DVD in May, after its extremely successful original airing on NBC. The program was the No. 1 movie on broadcast television, according to its reported viewership, in six years, with more than 15.9 million total viewers.

The DVD comes with special features, including deleted scenes and a featurette from Parton about the journey of how the song came to life on film and the story behind the tune itself.

Why re-reading the Christian classics is important

Be mindful that few new books will last

by Aaron Armstrong

One Bible verse no one can disagree with is Ecclesiastes 12:12—"Of making many books there is no end." With more than 800 books being released every day, it's kind of... well, insane, to think that there's an audience for even a tenth of these books. So how would a reader even come close to reading most of what interested them?

And more importantly, how do we make sure the really great books of the past aren't totally left behind? Here are three suggestions (and one lesson) to help:

FOLLOW THE FOOTNOTES IN THE NEWER BOOKS

If you're reading a lot of newer books, pay attention to the footnotes and/or endnotes. Start reading the sources read by your modern favorites. For example,

if you read a lot of John Piper, you should read Jonathan Edwards. If you really enjoy Tim Keller, read C.S. Lewis. Actually, if you read most any modern Reformed-ish guy, read Spurgeon (then read Calvin, and then Augustine), and so on. Following the footnotes—following who influences the people you read—will give you a healthy starting point on what to read (if you don't already know where to begin).

GET IN THE ROUTINE OF ROTATING YOUR READING

C.S. Lewis offered some terrific advice we should take seriously. In *God in the Dock*, he wrote, "It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between. If that is too much for you, you should at least read one old one to every three new ones (201).

Okay, maybe you don't need to get too caught up on the numbers, but Lewis' point is well taken: don't just fill up on new books. Try to read at least one older book between every few new ones. I probably read a lot more newer titles simply because of book reviews. But even so, it's not impossible to maintain a healthy balance.

BE MINDFUL THAT FEW NEW BOOKS WILL LAST

I'm not fan of chronological snobbery on either side, and I know this final point sounds horribly critical, but bear with me. In the last six years, I've read roughly 645 books. Of those, maybe a handful have felt like they have any lasting importance, and of those, at least two have been written by Tim Keller. But far too many are so grounded in their particular time and context (which isn't necessarily a bad thing) that they'll be utterly incomprehensible within 10

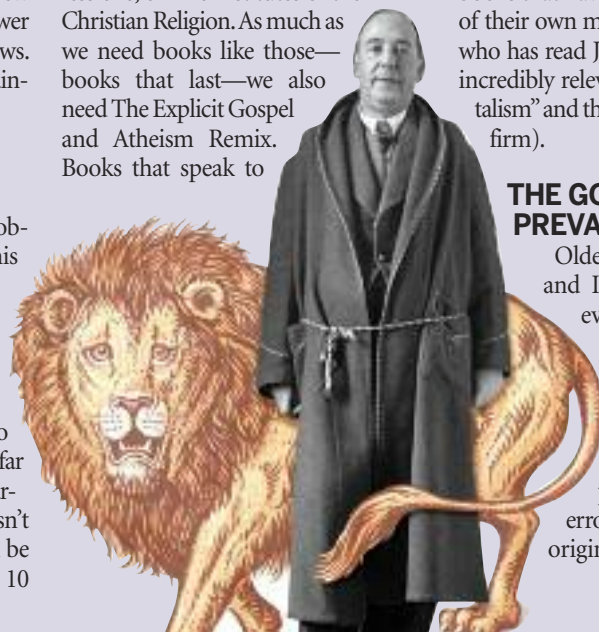
years.

This isn't uncommon, though—in fact, it's been the case throughout history. Not every book can be *The Confessions*, or *The Institutes of the Christian Religion*. As much as we need books like those—books that last—we also need *The Explicit Gospel* and *Atheism Remix*. Books that speak to

our time and specific circumstances. We just need to remember that that's probably all they're going to be. Books for a moment, even as we recognize that the books that have lasted were also books of their own moments, too (as anyone who has read J.I. Packer's first and still incredibly relevant book "Fundamentalism" and the Word of God can confirm).

THE GOSPEL ALWAYS PREVAILS

Older books are wonderful and I thank God for them every time I read a really great one. And what keeps me reading them consistently is that they remind me that the gospel always prevails. Theological error is extraordinarily unoriginal. The problems that



■ See BOOK page 18

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Do you want to build a snowman?

2016 season of Movies in the Park begins on June 7 with sing-a-long version of “Frozen”

On June 7, a “sing-a-long” version of a recent animated Disney favorite kicks off a schedule of family-friendly films planned for the Movies in the Park program this summer at the Johnson County Park & Recreation District’s The Theatre in the Park.

Eight films will be shown on a 40-foot screen on the theatre stage on specified summer nights when musical productions are not scheduled. Begin-

ning June 7, films will screen every other Tuesday during the theatre’s regular season, and then move to Saturday nights once the theater’s summer season ends on Aug. 6.

Films will begin between 8:30 and 8:45 p.m., depending on sunset, and the cost is only \$1 per person. Gates open on movie nights at 7:30 p.m.

To kick off this year’s program, a sing-along version of “Frozen,” with on-

screen lyrics with a magical bouncing snowflake to follow along, will be shown on June 7, and the 2015 version of “Cinderella” will be shown on June 21.

Other movie nights in the series include: a July 5 showing of “Minions;” a July 19 showing of “Inside Out;” an Aug. 2 showing of “ET;” an Aug. 13 showing of “Up;” an Aug. 20 showing of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off;” and an Aug. 27 showing of “Tangled.”

With the sole exception of “Ferris Bueller’s Day Off;” which is Rated PG-13, all of this year’s films are rated PG. For more about this year’s film lineup,

including ratings information, go to www.theatreinthepark.org/movies.”



BOOK

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exist today are the same problems that existed 150 years ago, which are the same problems which existed 500 years ago, which are the same problems that exists 1500 years ago. And in a strange way, that gives me hope because we really do know how the story ends (and not just in the larger, consummated new creation sense, either).

Error will always be defeated. The gospel will always prevail. And when you’re feeling low and tired of the fight, sometimes it’s the words of those who came before you that give you the strength to persevere.

— By Aaron Armstrong,
BloggingTheologically.com

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Twenty One Pilots confounds secular critics, shows Gen-Y & Z a way to faith

by **Michael Ashcraft**
Mark Ellis

Top ten Christian band Twenty One Pilots declared its musical manifesto three years ago in the song “Car Radio,” “I will try with every rhyme to come across like I am dying to let you know you need to try to think.”

Twenty One Pilots’ hit “Stressed Out” is currently played on secular radio stations across the country and in Europe, and the duo is selling out concerts at every venue. Even though they are open about their faith, the band continues to sneak like a hacker through the world’s default gospel-rejection mechanism.

While the dialectic voice confuses secular reporters, the message of salvation carries through to their listeners.

“When I first listened to their music I was like, I’m not alone. I thought I was the only one,” wrote Mattie on a fan site in August 2015. “Twenty One Pilots really did save my life in more ways than one.”

Twenty One Pilots is a genre-melding duo composed of vocalist Tyler Joseph and drummer Josh Dun, both



27-year-olds from Ohio. They attended Five 14 Church (as in Matthew 5:14 — “You are the light of the world”) in New Albany, just outside Columbus. Josh now lives in Los Angeles.

The band was formed when Tyler ditched basketball in the eleventh grade to become a musician. He tore through learning piano to bass and ukulele.

“I had identity issues. I didn’t like being the guy who played sports,” he says in a YouTube interview. “So I set

up a microphone and a little studio. My mom’s trying to do the dishes and she hears her son screaming his head off down in the basement trying to record vocals, and she’s gotta be thinking, ‘What the heck is going on with him?’ So they were really confused.”

Tyler’s crazy dream is today paying big dividends, not just in terms of downloads and crowds, but also in terms of souls.

Their angst-riddled lyrics are resonating with Gen-Y’ers and Gen-Z’ers,

■ See **TWENTY ONE** page 19

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■ TWENTY ONE

continued from page 18

showing them a way to hope and faith.

While “Stressed Out” is an innocuous ditty about young adults yearning for the carefree days of childhood, other songs on their two albums – Vessel and Blurryface – pack plenty of gospel punch.

The duo signed with a secular label (Fueled by Ramen) and gets played mostly on non-Christian radio. But make no mistake. Though subtle at times, they are unequivocally Christian.

In the “Holding on to You” video, Tyler escapes the clutches of zombies. “I’m taking over my body, back into control. It seems a lot like flesh is all I got. Not any more, flesh out the door. I must’ve forgot, you can’t trust me... You should take my life. You should take my soul.”

Sinners who consider suicide when lonely at night are encouraged to “fight it. Take the pain, ignite it. Tie a noose around your mind loose enough to breathe fine. Tie it to a tree, and tell it, ‘You belong to me. This noose is just a leash. You must obey me.’”

The language is just the type of poetry this generation relates to, but it’s also unadulterated Bible message. The song hails from Jer. 17:9: “The heart is deceitful about all things and desperately wicked. Who can understand it?”

Tyler is giving a modern voice to Pauline doctrine. The song echoes the Roman longing for freedom from fleshly desires, and Tyler breathes new



life into Paul’s paradox that death to sin is life in Christ and freedom from sin is obedience to Christ.

In “Heavydirtysoul,” Tyler says, “Death inspires me like a dog inspires a rabbit. Can you save my heavy dirty soul?”

And in “Car Radio,” the singer exposes how sinners deaden internal pain with meaningless lyrics put to a catchy tune.

“There are things we can do, but from the things that work there are only two. And from the two that we choose to do, peace will win and fear will lose,” Tyler sings.

“There’s faith and there’s sleep. We need to pick one please because faith is to be awake, and to be awake is for us to think, and for us to think is to be alive. And I will try with every rhyme to come across like I am dying to let you know you need to try to think.”

Not every Christian is going to appreciate the poetry. After all, it’s not ex-

actly praise and worship.

“Josh and Tyler’s music has really had a positive influence on the way I view myself and my depression,” Carlynn wrote on a fan site in 2013. “I’ve never heard songs about mental illness before that are obviously trying to make a change in the listener’s life, and listening to their songs make me feel empowered, not more sad. Their music also made me realize I’m not alone.”

Interviews with secular media can be misleading when it comes to Twenty One Pilots. Tyler tells reporters that his songs are born from true insecurities, and they take him at face value.

The dark makeup on his hands and neck on his current concert tour, Tyler says, represents the oppressive insecurities he feels. More likely, it represents sin as part of the Blurryface persona he’s adopted as his Romans 7 alter ego.

“We’re always questioning things,” Josh told Rolling Stone. “But it’s safe to say that we’re both Christians.”

Of the two, Josh came from a stricter Christian household – and he rebelled more as a teenager. “My parents almost sent me to a military school,” he told Rolling Stone. “They didn’t know what to do with me, and I was always in detention. I never got into drugs or alcohol, but I would yell at my parents and just treat them terribly. Everything was an argument. Looking back, they were trying their best.”

A turnaround in his relationship with his parents came when he moved out and he shared some time with his dad. “I said to my dad, ‘Are you disappointed that I’m working a minimum-wage job and I didn’t go to college?’ I’ll never forget his response.

He said, ‘It’s not about how much money you make or what your job is, but it’s more about your character. For that, I’m proud of you.’ It gave me motivation.”

Twenty One Pilots built their fan base by hawking tickets at a Chick-fil-A in the Polaris Mall food court in Columbus, Ohio. Their songs – a catchy mix of rap, reggae, pop and ukelele – confounded radio station formats and originally didn’t get much airtime.

This year, Blurryface reached #3 in album sales nationwide, and the group nearly sold out two concerts at Madison Square Garden.

Critics are scratching their heads about the band mates. Some have wanted to see a similitude with Eminem’s struggle with demons. But Eminem’s “Demon Inside” is darker and finds no hope.

When a YouTube interviewer probed if Tyler was being overly self-critical when he called himself “messed up,” the young star dipped deep into the reasoning in the Book of Romans.

“I know I’m messed up. I think to myself I should be able to control myself,” Tyler responded.

“I look at a lamp and I decide that I’m going to stand up and not hit that lamp. Why can’t I make decisions like that about everything in life. I’m not going to get angry at my brother. I want to be the best brother. Why can’t I do what I want to do? That’s messed up. Something is broken in the way we live. It’s proof that something is not right.”

The heavy reliance on the Bible was apparently lost on the interviewer. That’s okay because the message is connecting with the youth.

“I’ve never heard songs about mental illness before that are obviously trying to make a change in the listener’s life, and listening to their songs make me feel empowered, not more sad. Their music also made me realize I’m not alone.”

LECRAE PULLS NO PUNCHES IN BOOK ABOUT UPBRINGING

Lecrae has enjoyed a slow build as one of Christian music’s select number of artists that could be considered a household name. His plan—first speaking into the body of believers, then touching the lives of unbelievers, to now, reaching even more minds and hearts with his book, Unashamed.

This 150-plus page foray into the world of print gives readers an inside and personal look into the life of the hip hop leader in sales, exposure, and influence across all genre lines. The often private and guarded emcee really opens up in Unashamed and paints beautiful picture through a dialogue

that almost reads like a movie script.

Lecrae pulls no punches with exposing the harsh realities of his upbringing and masterfully addresses the struggles of being able to maintain his faith and sanity while prayerfully calculating future steps.

Born to a single mother, where his family was often relegated to living on the streets, Lecrae chronicles his experiences with poverty, inner city gangs, drug culture, violence, abuse, and his own depression. Each story creates con-

text for every song he’s written such as, “Outsiders,” “Gravity,” and “Fear,” which come to life through inspirational recollection.

This offering the artist’s emotional response to critics and the critical who have accused him of “selling out,” turning from God, or changing his music. From the depths of the gutter to the top of the charts, Unashamed proves Lecrae is living through and by the Word, and his mission from the start.

— Reviewed by Justin Sarachik



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THE SUMMER IS WARMING UP WITH MUSIC



D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice
music critic

musicscene

If you missed Winter Jam earlier this year, and missed the premier of "This Is Winter Jam" in theaters, you can now experience this opportunity, albeit on a smaller scale. "This Is Winter Jam" will be released to DVD June 7. From Word Films, the DVD will feature performances from Skillet, for KING & COUNTRY, Jeremy Camp, Francesca Battistelli, NewSong, Building 429 and Family Force 5.

The film, directed by Nathan Cor-



rona, shows why the tour has been going so strong for over two decades. Going back to the original concert in South Carolina in 1995, with a desire to spread to the Gospel "This Is Winter Jam," follows the history to where the tour is hitting major arenas in more than 50 cities across the country each year.

The film also provides interviews with tour artists, both past and present, fans and crew members.

"This Is Winter Jam" also showcases an exclusive look at "Jam Church," the intimate backstage worship service held each Sunday.

"Beyond the incredible performances from the biggest names in Christian

music, this film gives current and new fans a compelling glimpse into the lives of the artists backstage, along with the heart and steadfast mission of the tour." - Rod Riley, President & CEO, Word Entertainment.

For more information, visit wordfilms.com or turningpointpr.com.

Skillet has announced details about its newest release, slated for August 5. The album, titled Unleashed is available now for pre-order on iTunes, Google Play, and Amazon. The first single, "Feel Invincible," is currently streaming on YouTube, but can also be downloaded with the pre-order of the album.

Casting Crowns has also announced a new album, slated for September 16. The multi-platinum selling and GRAMMY® winning group will be releasing their eighth studio album, 15th release overall, titled The Very Next Thing.

"We are all in different stages of 'next.' There's a next step from where you are right now. We all feel like there's a stage that we have to reach to move on to what



is next" singer Mark Hall says of the new album title, "but God has you right here right now for your 'next,' and all of these songs touch on that idea."

Chris Tomlin, Newsboys, Passion, Big Daddy Weave, Blanca, The Afters, Building 429 and Jordan Feliz have all been announced as performers 2016 K-LOVE Fan Awards. Presenters for the show will be KING & COUNTRY, Steven Curtis Chapman, World Series Champions Kansas City Royals' GM Dayton Moore,

Chicago White Sox First Baseman Adam LaRoche, Matt Maher, Casting Crowns' Mark Hall, comedian Michael Jr., University of North Carolina Head Women's Basketball Coach Sylvia Hatchell and War Room's Alex Kendrick. The 2016 K-LOVE Fan Awards will premiere live from Nashville's Grand Ole Opry on June 5, hosted by Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Matthew West.

Fans can also get involved in the K-LOVE Fan Awards Ultimate Fan Experience Weekend, which will include the New Faces Showcase, Songwriters Showcase and a Sunday Worship Service with Casting Crowns and Passion. To vote among the latest nominees, visit klovefanawards.com/vote, and for a full list of events for the weekend, visit klovefanawards.com/schedule-events.

Switchfoot and Relient K have announced a joint fall tour, they are calling the Looking For America Tour. In support of Switchfoot's upcoming album Where The Light Shines Through (slated for July 8 release) and Relient K's Air For Free (July 22). Switchfoot and Relient K will be performing at the Uptown Theater in Kansas City on Tuesday, September 20, 7:00 PM. Presale tickets and VIP upgrade options are available through switchfoot.com

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musicreview

Urban Rescue struggles with music fatigue

This summer, the term "superhero movie fatigue" is being bandied about by those who talk about movies, be they professional movie critics or arm-chair reviewers, to talk about that theoretical moment when masse audiences will finally tune out and stop going to superhero movies en masse. With wave after wave of these films hitting the multiplexes each summer, will there be a sea-change moment when audiences move on to the next kind of film because of a

hyped, yet sub-par and overly-familiar movie?

The California based Urban Rescue, the first signee on Rend Collective's new "Rend Family Records," might represent a test case for "worship music fatigue" in the Christian Music world. Their first full-length major label release, Wild Heart is an interesting case study on where the general direction of the genre of worship music is heading, and

what audiences will go along with before demanding something else.

That's not to say that Wild Heart is a sub-par album by any means, it's just that most of the album sounds like what worship music circa 2016 is expected to sound like. It contains many good moments of honest and well-crafted songwriting, it's just that there is an unfortunate "sameness" to much of the



■ See MUSIC page 21

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From left: Jim Daly, Focus On The Family; Chuck Swindoll, Insight For Living; John MacArthur, Grow In His Word; June Hunt, Hope In The Night; Alister Begg, Walk For Life; Tony Evans, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans; James MacDonald, Walk In The Word; David Jeremiah, Turning Point; Adrian Rogers, Live With Faith; Crawford Loritts, Legacy Ministries; And More! Visit BOTTOnline.com for Program Schedule

■ sidenote

Churches and individuals can get involved with Faith & Family Day in several ways.

TRAIN TO COUNSEL

Counselors of all ages are needed. Two training sessions are scheduled:

Lenexa Baptist Church
15320 W. 87th St., Lenexa, KS
7 p.m. on July 7

Abundant Life (CORE Building)
414 SW Persels Rd.,
Lee's Summit, MO
7 p.m. on July 8

PURCHASE GROUP TICKETS

Groups of 20 or more will receive ticket discounts and one copy of Dayton Moore's book *More than a Season*, which was updated after the World Series. Purchase tickets by:

1) Go online and visit
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2) Email groupsales@kcroyals.com

3) Call (816) 504-4040, ext. 4

More information is available at
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th-family or www.safeathomemini-
stries.com.

■ MUSIC

continued from page 21

music in its sonic blueprint and songwriting structures. The nice moments are plentiful throughout the beginning of the album. With hints of Britpop artists like Keane, Coldplay, Bastille and Snow Patrol, "Alive In You" starts off the album with a nice gang vocal and a pleasant melody that ebbs and flows with intensity.

Second song "Never Stop" features a neat, swirly keyboard line and a bouncy beat, and the third song and title track has a nifty synthesizer and vocal melody entwining throughout the track.

The album's best moment, "Song Of My Father," is a slow-builder that features the album's best lyrical turn, spinning a cool reverse-image of God The Father singing to His people, "I hear your melody / I hear your symphony / there is nothing louder than the song of my father."

Wild Heart needs a lot more of the creative juices that birthed "Song Of My Father;" the rest of the album is a bit of a "paint-by-numbers" affair until "Kaleidoscope" mixes up the flow with its dancy beat. Ending number "Up From The Ashes," with its spoken word / rapped interludes, is an interesting mash-up of styles, and it mostly works well.

With some nice individual moments of creativity alongside a few more dull ones, Wild Heart shows Urban Rescue is a band that has it in them to create a truly unique work of praise the next few times around, worthy of the song that the Lord is singing to His people.

- Review by Alex Caldwell

■ ROYALS

continued from page 1

Moore takes that message to heart, enjoying the team's success without losing sight of what ultimately matters in life.

"The fact that we won the World Series is great," Moore said. "The fact that the attendance numbers at Kauffman Stadium have exploded to an all-time record, that's wonderful. Our TV ratings are the best in all of baseball, in all markets. That's spectacular. We have World Series rings, we have trophies and the world applauds what we have accomplished.

"But what I'm most proud of as general manager of the Royals is this great game, this game that naturally was put inside me, my DNA, the passion to do this the right way. We have seen families



united, the joy that it has brought people, the letters and emails that we have received from families that were broken, families that were suffering from hurt and heartache, the generation gap is bridged, the function has begun to be put together because of the success of our team. And that's special."

Moore reflects on how he and the organization have grown since he took over a floundering franchise a decade ago.

■ CITY RANKINGS

continued from page 1

community listed at the top.

For Missouri, Wellston was the most miserable and in Kansas it was Kansas City.

How do you decide if a city is miserable?

Now while the criteria used did not include spiritual health (which is a great determining factor), it isn't a stretch to assume that happier people might not worry about money, are relatively stress free, and have a stable home life.

The Census's American Community Survey 2010-2014 report for the criteria, flipped the list, and it spit out the answer. Like magic.

The organization threw a lot of criteria at this one in order to get the best, most complete results possible:

Level of education
Average commute times
Unemployment rates
Cost of living
Percent of married couples
Percent of home owners
Poverty rate

An interesting anecdote about the rankings. It appears that the more married couples and more home-ownership a community has, the more happy its inhabitants seem to be. It could be that those are two of the most stable components of modern civilization and are seen as the best environment for raising a family.

After they decided on the criteria, RoadSnacks gath-

Most “miserable” ranked at 1														
KANSAS														
	Rank	Population	Home owner %	Married Adults %										
Kansas City	1	147,598	50.6	40.7	Lenexa	66	49,573	58.8	55.5	Grandview	33	24,860	50.1	42.5
Osawatomie	2	4,403	59.9	36.3	Overland Park	71	178,945	60.9	55.5	Harrisonville	34	10,019	54.7	44.4
Lawrence	5	90,194	42.2	35.0	Louisburg	72	4,313	63.9	61.0	Warrensburg	51	19,548	38.4	35.2
Atchison	7	10,920	59.4	37.4	Spring Hill	74	5,618	72.0	62.8	Richmond	55	5,702	45.7	45.8
Topeka	12	127,660	50.9	43.6	Gardner	76	20,128	65.6	61.1	Independence	58	117,160	57.9	45.9
Wichita	16	385,518	54.2	47.7	Roeland Park	78	6,799	69.3	42.6	Belton	72	23,197	58.5	49.9
Leavenworth	22	35,738	44.2	47.5	Olathe	80	129,913	68.6	59.1	Excel Springs	77	11,391	59.1	46.3
De Soto	23	5,888	51.6	51.6	Shawnee	86	63,597	69.2	57.7	Oak Grove	100	7,747	57.0	52.7
Merriam	37	11,191	51.2	45.9	Prairie Village	99	21,730	75.8	56.9	Raytown	101	29,520	62.5	46.1
Edwardsville	42	4,367	66.2	48.6	Basehor	100	4,831	76.6	62.7	Gladstone	113	26,032	63.0	48.7
Mission	52	9,451	46.3	41.6	Leawood	103	32,842	90.4	69.7	Pleasant Hill	118	8,173	64.0	56.6
Bonner Springs	53	7,420	61.7	53.6	Mission Hills	105	3,555	95.5	72.0	Liberty	126	29,806	70.5	53.4
Garden City	54	26,924	58.8	51.8	MISSOURI									
Oswego	55	2,018	66.3	53.0		Rank	Population	Home owner %	Married Adults %					
Tonganoxie	59	4,802	53.1	58.9	Wellston	1	2,010	20.6	12.1	Grain Valley	128	13,037	59.3	54.7
Paola	62	5,589	61.1	57.2	Branson	22	10,942	20.2	44.5	Blue Springs	133	53,053	65.4	54.8
Lansing	65	11,535	72.2	47.8	Springfield	23	162,333	42.6	37.4	Greenwood	146	5,322	87.7	61.5
					Riverside	25	3,023	26.2	36.9	Parkville	148	5,811	66.8	56.8
					Kansas City	28	465,005	47.4	40	Lee's Summit	153	92,813	71.6	59.2
										Smithville	154	8,791	78.7	61.6
										Kearney	156	8,845	66.9	58.4
										Raymore	163	19,576	78.4	59.0
										Ladue	180	8,549	92.2	69.0



Are people in KCK really this unhappy?

ered the data for the 180 places in Missouri with over 2,000 people and 105 places in Kansas.

They then ranked each place from one to 180 for each of the seven criteria with a score of one being the most miserable (Any ties were given to the larger place).

Next, they averaged the seven rankings into a Index for each place with the lowest overall Miserable Index "earning" the title "Most Miserable City In ..."

Metro Voice took the rankings and created a list of communities surrounding Kansas City with some Kansas and Missouri thrown in for comparison.

Where does your city rank?

■ AIRPORT

continued from page 10

You only need your passport, birth certificate with drivers license as a form of proof of citizenship with a photo ID.

"The best thing about this program is that with this registration there will be no need to remove shoes, belts, light jackets, laptops or 3-1-1-complaint liquids according to the TSA website," Kelly says.

This makes going through security so much quicker, easier and less stress. For more information and to register go to <https://www.tsa.gov/tsa-precheck>

Mobile Passport Control

You may not know that there was a pilot program in August, 2014 to create an app allows you to download your passport info to your smart-



KCI's security lines on a good day often block entrance doors

phone. This will make reentry back into the U.S. much easier and faster. The app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store.

According to the <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/mobile-passport-control> website this process should reduce the traveler's time spent with the CBP officer—helping to improve service levels and decrease wait times. More information can be found at this site.

Another way to save airport time

is the Automatic Passport Control (APC). With this process travelers use self-service kiosks to submit their Customs declaration form and biographic information.

Visit the <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/automated-passport-control-apc> website for more information on how to experience shorter wait times, less

congestion, and faster processing.

According to Kelly, all of these processes are just ways to make your trip through the airport for both domestic and international travel more enjoyable and less of a hassle.

For more travel information, you can reach the agency at 816-765-7020 or by email at paradisecruises@hotmail.com.

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NEW BATHROOM POLICY A OVERREACH OF REASON...AND TITLE IX



JULIE ROYS

Speaker, freelance journalist and host of a radio program called *Up For Debate*. She also blogs at www.julieroy.com.

myopinion

Why no school can be forced to follow the transgender bathroom edict

No school has to allow transgender students in the bathrooms of the opposite sex, regardless of what the federal government says. That's according to Matt Sharp, legal counsel with the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF).

Sharp said President Obama's sweeping directive telling schools they must allow transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choice "violates the clear meaning of Title IX. It also violates Congressional authority, and state authority on this issue. And it violates students' rights to privacy."

Though the president is threatening to withhold federal funding from any school that does not comply with his directive, Sharp said the administration must win its case in court before it can pull funding. However, to date, the administration has lost every court case challenging its transgender directives, except one.



The administration is attempting to use Title IX as a basis for forcing schools to allow boys in girls' bathrooms and vice-versa. The bottom line is that Title IX explicitly allows schools to "provide separate toilet, locker room, and shower facilities on the basis of sex."

So President Obama's recent directive, and former ones by the Education Department, clearly contradict the law. Yet, the administration has been trying to reinterpret this law to say something it clearly does not for the past two years.

In April of 2014, the Department of Education issued a document claiming that Title IX's sex discrimination prohibition

"extends to claims of discrimination based on gender identity or failure to conform to stereotypical notions of masculinity or femininity." It then threatened schools with loss of federal

administration has lost virtually every time. According to Sharp, there have been six cases in both state and federal courts, which have looked at whether Title IX extends to gender identity. All but one held that it does not.

The one exception involved a transgender teen who sued the Gloucester County School Board in northeast Virginia for denying her access to the boys' bathroom. A federal

appeals court ruled that the Obama administration should be shown deference on its interpretation of Title IX. However, the court did not order the school

■ See **BATHROOM POLICY** page 23

"There have been six cases in both state and federal courts, which have looked at whether Title IX extends to gender identity. All but one held that it does not."

funds if they did not conform to the administration's creative interpretation of the law.

However, when these directives have been challenged in court, the Obama

Still on a journey to being a good father

viewpoint

by **Felton Bishop**

I had a void in my life when I was born. Although my mother was there and gave me all the affection and love I could want, something was missing. Rather, someone was missing. It was not apparent to me right away, because I had many people in my daily life who fulfilled my basic needs. As I grew, however, I realized that I did not have a dad around.

Eventually, my mother explained that my father served in the military and was stationed in Panama, where I was born. I was the son of a young woman who entered into a romance with an American who never intended to get serious. As it turns out,

he already had a family.

As a young boy, I felt loved and protected by God. He was always a part of my upbringing as my mother took me to church and taught me right from wrong. I believed God created me, and I felt his presence in my life taking care of me. Even with this knowledge of God, I still struggled inside with this haunting question: Who am I? I spent a lot of time trying to figure out the answer.

My relationship with God blossomed at age 8. This is when I decided to accept Christ into my heart one Sunday afternoon at a kid's service at Berean Baptist Church in North Carolina. The interesting thing is that my family attended another church regularly, and I had one of the best Sunday school teachers ever. Mrs. Ransaw gave

"I became a father myself and He gave me the tremendous opportunity to train my own son in the way that he should go with Christ"



Felton with wife Tamara and son Seth

me confidence that I could serve the Lord and become whoever I wanted to be. My mother read the Bible with us at home, but it was Mrs. Ransaw who helped me understand it. God was my Father, and He never let me down. Even when I struggled to follow him



In Panama, my mother Violeta B. Walker visits with a friend while holding me.

wholeheartedly during my teen years, the Lord did not forsake me.

However, even though I had faith in God and had made a decision to follow Christ, I still felt a void in my life. Inner sadness, struggles with anger and poor

■ See **A FATHER'S JOURNEY** page 23

■ A FATHER'S JOURNEY

continued from page 22

judgment would arise, even though I was a Christian. I was perplexed. I thought the pain of not having a father around was gone. Those feelings would come to the surface subtly, and the only way that I knew to handle them was to

get alone with my thoughts.

God used my mother to tell me it would all work out, but I was learning this was going to be a struggle throughout my life. God began to reveal His plan and purpose for my life; He wanted me a father figure to anyone He would place in my path. Eventually He led me to become a teacher and mentor to

young boys. Additionally, I became a father myself, and He gave me the tremendous opportunity to train my own son in the way that he should go with Christ. I am learning that blessing come through the journey as we learn to rely on Him and his unconditional love.

The biggest growth in my spiritual life as a man has come through the relationships that I have built with other like-minded believers. When I began attending Lee's Summit Community Church, I found a home and got connected. Immediately, God used Pastor Doug Brown and others to demonstrate that men are called to play many roles, and none more important than being a godly husband and father. As I became more involved in the church, I heard about TGIW (Teaching God's Infinite

Wisdom) which is a mid-week Bible study to help men grow in their relationship with Christ. Through this ministry, I met men just like me who were in the middle of their own struggles. Not only did they help me, but I was able to minister to their needs.

Another ministry that impacted me greatly is called "Champion Warriors" which was created by Brian "The Bold" Orr. One of the most impactful parts of Champion Warriors is a father/son weekend where the fathers can pour their life into their sons, and help bring healing to anyone experiencing a father wound. This time of affirmation, studying God's word, physical activity and study materials help young Christians grow into warriors. God has put men in my life for accountability, friendship and encouragement. I've reached a

■ sidenote

To learn more about the following ministries, please contact them at:

Greg Griffin | TGIW
816-885-1306
ggriff60@gmail.com
TWITTER: @TGIWdude

CHAMPION WARRIORS
champion.warriors@earthlink.net
Brian, the Bold
816-728-6502

point in my life now where I could meet my biological father and be just fine. God can heal all wounds, and I continue learning as I go.

■ BATHROOM POLICY

continued from page 22

district to allow the female student to use the male restroom, but instead, sent the case back to the lower court to decide.

So, the issue is far from settled, Sharp says. And, there's no certainty that Obama's decree will withstand the legal challenges it is sure to prompt.

"I think there's still a lot left to be determined on this issue," Sharp said. "And, if you look at what the majority of the courts have held, the clear meaning of what Title IX says, and what a lot of even state attorneys are weighing in on this issue — it's that Title IX means biological sex, not gender identity."

Sharp anticipates that school districts and parents will continue to challenge the Obama administration's directives in court. One such case is the lawsuit the ADF recently filed against the Department of Education and a suburban Chicago public high school on the behalf of 160 suburban-Chicago parents and students. The lawsuit challenges the decision by the Department of Education and Palatine-based Township High School District 211 to allow a transgender student into the girls' locker room. The group contends that the decision "trample(d) students' privacy" rights and created an "intimidating environment." It also claims that the Department of Education's inclusion of gender identity under Title IX is unlawful.

The District 211 case will be decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 7th Circuit, a court that Sharp calls "very strong on privacy issues and also on calling the federal government to account" when it oversteps its authority.

"Regardless of what any judge thinks on LGBT issues, they ought to look at this and see this as an overreach of the federal government," Sharp said. "You can't have an administration going around and completely rewriting the laws on a whim without going through Congress or proper channels."

Eventually, Sharp anticipates that the issue will reach the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS). And, given the court's ruling on several recent cases, he thinks the court will strike down the Obama administration's mandates concerning transgender students in school bathrooms. In all three of the Obamacare cases, SCOTUS maintained that the administration may not override existing laws by presidential fiat or creative interpretation, which is precisely what it is trying to do with its transgender directives.

So, rather than capitulating to an overzealous presidential administration, Sharp encourages states, schools and citizens to fight Obama's decree. The law and legal precedent is on your side, not to mention common sense and your children's right to privacy.

— Julie Roys is a speaker, freelance journalist and blogger at www.julieroy.com. She also is the host of a national radio program on the Moody Radio Network called, *Up For Debate*

■ CHINA

continued from page 1

Deng Xiaoping, reformed politics, liberalized the economy, and opened China to foreign countries.

Then in 1985, a clause was included in the new constitution that promised freedom of belief to Chinese. But the "neutrality" of the party did not cover public meetings.

In that light, a printing company was set up in Nanjing, financed by charity, and has become the largest Bible publisher in the whole, according to Financial Times.

However, evangelistic campaigns in public are not permitted, and churches are subject to supervision from government agencies. There have also been a number of churches demolished and prominent crosses removed in many cities across China.

In 2014, a government campaign was launched that demolished Protestant churches in Whenzhou. Before the demolition, the water, electricity, transportation and even phone coverage were cut off in the entire area by government officials, according to Financial Times.

Yang thinks some in the Communist



party overestimated the political threat from the church. Christianity has brought positive changes to China, he said. "Christianity has been overestimated as a way too severe threat," Yang said.

Others see China like the United States in the 1980s when materialism and a booming market economy brought prosperity and contributed to a sense of angst as people drifted from God.

So far, Christianity has brought a sense of belonging and hope to China. In a published Chinese report based on a survey of religious affairs, 69 percent of the Christians started believing because they or a family member suffered illness, according to China's Academy of Social Science.

Christianity — once thought of as a

byproduct of colonial invasion and the "opiate of the masses" — is now gradually accepted by not only the uneducated and destitute ones but also by those who are more prosperous. According to Financial Times, a survey shows that half of the most affluent people in China publicly believe in religion, and 18% are followers of Jesus Christ.

The expansion of Christianity in China is foreseeable and inevitable, Yang said. Even during the 10 years of the Cultural Revolution during which churches were forced underground, Christianity grew yearly by 15 percent, according to statistical estimates.

"But immense influence is sure to be made — to China, and the whole world — no matter if people are prepared or not," Yang said.

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VOLUNTEERS WANTED: Are you looking for a way to get involved in your community? We have the perfect answer! Metro Voice seeks volunteers in several areas including a writer that can organize and compile community church news, a booth attendant to represent us at concerts and events (we provide the tickets for you and a guest) and someone to help us make phone contact with Christian-owned businesses. If interested call 816-524-4522.

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Saturday, July 9
vs. Seattle Mariners

Game time: 3:15pm
Post-game program: shortly
following game

The Kansas City Royals will host their annual Faith & Family Day at The K presented by Hobby Lobby on Saturday, July 9 after they take on the Seattle Mariners. The post-game event* will be hosted by Scott Dawson of Safe at Home with special appearances from Royals players and/or executives. The event will conclude with a performance by Casting Crowns!

Your ticket to the game includes admission to the post-game program.

- Faith & Family program begins approximately 30 minutes after game
- Post-game host, Scott Dawson
 - Special performance by Casting Crowns

*Event details are subject to change

ROYALS.COM/FAITH

FAITH & FAMILY DAY

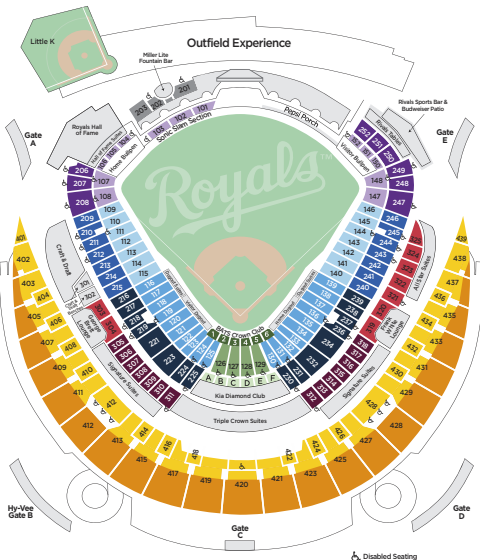
HOBBY LOBBY



New for 2016! Groups of 20 or more will receive a discounted ticket and a softcover copy of Dayton Moore’s book, *More Than A Season*. Each member of your group will receive a copy of the updated edition (released in 2016) of the book, which can be picked up on the day of the game inside of Gate B, next to the spiral ramp, prior to the 2nd inning. Additionally, 150 random copies will be signed by Dayton Moore!

For pricing information on how to order 20 or more tickets and the book offer, please contact the Royals Group Sales Department at **816-504-4040, option 4**, or email **groupsales@royals.com**.

Please note: Books are only included with group orders of 20 or more tickets and are not included if tickets are purchased online.



PRICING

SEATING CATEGORY	INDIVIDUAL PRICE	GROUP PRICE* (20 OR MORE)
Field Plaza	\$60	\$58
Outfield Plaza	\$52	\$52
Hy-Vee Box	\$42	\$43
Hy-Vee View	\$27	\$31

To purchase individual tickets (orders of less than 20), visit **royals.com/faith**.

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*Each ticket includes book