



Skylar Kaylyn at
Smithville Christian
Family Day
July 30

Concerts & Events | PAGE 14



There are lots
of options
close to KC
for getting
away just
for the day

PAGE
12

Sixty seconds to change the world

Israeli inventions
improving quality of
life for billions



Tel Aviv has more tech start-ups
than Silicon Valley. Here, the first
3-D printed car.

Leading Israeli entrepreneurs had
60 seconds to pitch their business
ideas this summer. What they came
up with may change the world.

It's not surprising, though. Israel
comes in second, behind the U.S., in
yearly tech startups and inventions.
Israel's 8 million people and its in-
ventions even outpace China which
has one billion citizens and the
combined effort of the 1.7 billion
people in Muslim countries-com-
bined!

Tech Crunch, a top tech com-
pany, went to Tel Aviv, Israel, to scout
out the best Israeli minds in the busi-
ness. They hosted a competition in

■ See ENTREPRENEURS page 22

FAITH, LOVE, AND HOPE

A year after the shootings at Charleston's Mother Emanuel Church, one woman continues to call for racial unity

Alana Simmons didn't intend to speak to Dylann Roof at his bond hearing, two days after he shot and killed nine members of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, S.C. But as others began to speak forgiveness, she felt the need to tell about the legacy of love her grandfather, Rev. Daniel Simmons, 74, left behind. The experience changed the direction of her life.

Now, a year after the June 17 massacre, Simmons heads a growing non-profit organization that promotes acts of forgiveness and gives voice to the message that love is stronger than hate.

"The families [at the bond hearing] were forgiving him for all the terror he had caused," Simmons recalled. "I had this humbling epiphany of how love conquers all, so when I got the chance to speak, I said, 'Although my grandfather died in the hands of hate, he lived in love and preached love, so his legacy will be love. And hate won't win.'"

Cameras were rolling, but Simmons thought they were there to video-conference the hearing. She didn't know they were broadcasting live. Those

watching the proceedings quickly picked up on her words and created a hashtag that went viral.

Tech savvy and well aware of the power social media could wield for both good and bad, Simmons, 25 at the time, used the impromptu platform in the interview that followed to issue a challenge: "Use the hashtag. Go and show someone who is different than you an act of love. If you really want to help, post that to a social media account. Everyone has one. Use yours for good." At the very least, get the imagery out there

■ See SHOOTINGS page 22

Story by
Dick
Peterson



Alana
Simmons

PLAY BALL!

Casting Crowns
headlines Faith and
Family Day at
Kauffman Stadium
this year



SPECIAL EVENT GUIDE BEGINS ON PAGE 6!

Is Trump truly a changed man after accepting Christ?

Black pastor says his attitude changed on Donald Trump after meeting with 1,000 Christian leaders but others still doubt

Conservative evangelical bishop E.W. Jackson says that his attitude about Donald Trump changed as a result of the June meeting between Trump and hundreds of America's top Christian leaders in New York City.

Jackson, who is the founder of the

nonprofit S.T.A.N.D., said in a conference call during the meeting that he can now back the presumptive Republican nominee instead of just preferring him over presumptive Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton.

"What I am hoping we will see is the



Bishop E.W. Jackson



Donald Trump



Dr. James Dobson

evangelical community unify around Donald Trump, because we just don't have any choice," Jackson said. "I hope that there will be a strong enough statement coming out of this ... so that evangelicals around the country start to feel a bit of comfort."

One of the first statements from a respected source may be that of Dr. James Dobson, who in an interview with POLITICO, said Trump has accepted Christ as his personal savior.

Dobson, a Christian psychologist and founder of Focus on the Family, said he knows

"the person who led [Trump] to Christ."

"I don't know when it was, but it has not been long," Dobson said in an interview with Pennsylvania megachurch pastor Michael Anthony following that meeting in New York. "I believe he really made a commitment, but he's a baby Christian."

Trump's born-again experience may already be having an affect on his actions, both personally and politically. He recently fired campaign manager Corey Lewandowski, who had orchestrated the tone of the campaign that turned many middle-of-the-road voters off. While Trump is in a virtual dead heat nationally, he currently is ahead or tied in states that previously voted Democrat in 2012, including Ohio.

Evangelicals are a key part of the Republican base that Trump will need to

turn out in the general election. In the primaries, many evangelical voters preferred Ted Cruz or Ben Carson.

"I've been a Christian, and I love Christianity and evangelicals have been so incredibly supportive," Trump said in the private session with leaders at the meeting, according to audio obtained by POLITICO.

Of the meeting, Dobson — who was previously critical of Trump — said, "I

certainly liked what I saw today."

As Trump responded to questions from a number of prominent evangelical leaders, he

vowed to appoint only pro-life Supreme Court justices and protect the religious freedoms of Christians and religious groups. He also addressed questions on race, poverty and job growth.

"Look, I think my attitude has been changed by this meeting," Jackson added. "You all know that I have been sitting here expressing some skepticism. For me, it is 'I am against Hillary, therefore I am for Donald Trump.' I think coming out of this meeting there are going to be a lot of people saying 'I am not only against Hillary but I am for Donald Trump now and I feel like I got reasons to support him.'"

In talking with other pastors and attendees of the meeting, Jackson said that the consensus is that Trump has "moved the needle" when it comes to support from evangelicals.

"People who came and weren't sure they could vote for him walked out, I think, feeling like 'I can vote for Donald Trump in good conscience, and I don't have to feel like I am betraying myself to vote for him,'" Jackson said. "He made some progress today."

Jackson said he was especially thrilled to hear Donald Trump address questions of poverty and violence, issues that are close to his heart and the the focus of many African-American pastors serving in America's cities and poor rural areas.

Fox News contributor and Trump antagonist, Todd Starnes, who was one of the few journalists to attend the rally, tweeted that the meeting was "basically a campaign rally."

However, Jackson and other pastors at the rally didn't feel that way.

"If it had been just a Donald Trump rally, then he would have given his speeches and moved on. It really was more of a conversation, because when

newsbriefs

Few Syrian Christians get asylum in U.S., despite genocide declaration

(WNS)—Two months after the Obama administration called out militant terror group Islamic State (ISIS) for committing genocide against Christians in Iraq and Syria, refugee data show those finding a safe haven in the United States are not the ones suffering the most persecution. Last year, President Barack Obama set the goal of bringing 10,000 Syrian refugees to the United States in fiscal year 2016. So far, the State Department is on track to fall well short of that number, with only about 2,700 successfully resettled. State Department figures show 499 Syrian refugees have resettled in America in May, but not a single one was a Christian or member of another religious minority group targeted for genocide, according to CNSNews reports. "For me, that has got to change," said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., at a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee hearing. "I mean that is unconscionable." Of the 2,705 Syrian refugees who came to the United States this fiscal year, 97 percent are Sunni Muslims, and zero percent Christian.

Calls for democracy ring at Tiananmen events

(WNS)—Twenty-seven years after Chinese soldiers cracked down on student protests at Tiananmen Square, mainland China continues to actively squelch any mention of the massacre and arrest sensitive figures on the June 4 anniversary. But in Hong Kong and Taiwan, where events are held annually, the tone is changing as the years go by. Today's students were not yet born when the tank rolled down Chang'an Blvd., and they don't see how the events of so long ago affect their lives today. On June 4, 1989, the Chinese government sent troops to attack student protesters who had gathered at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, calling for greater reform in China.

Fallujah fallout



(WNS)—The first residents from Fallujah to greet humanitarian aid workers were mostly in tears. "They were absolutely traumatized, absolutely fearful," said Jeremy Courtney, president of the Preemptive Love Coalition. As the Iraqi army and the Iraqi government's affiliate militias fight to take back the city, captured by ISIS in January 2014, Preemptive Love became the first and so far only non-governmental organization to penetrate the militarized zone. Starting June 2 the group delivered by truck 150,000 pounds of food and water, enough to support 1,500 needy families who have been caught in the fighting. As Iraqi forces pressed their campaign against the Islamic militants, entering the Fallujah city limits on June 8, the UN quickly revised its estimate of the number of civilians trapped there—from 50,000 to more than 90,000.

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Singer invites Topeka church to protest concerts

Kirk Franklin has invited the Topeka-based Westboro Church to picket one of his concerts after accusing the group of being godless for protesting the funerals of Orlando ISIS terror attack victims.

"So a church from Kansas called Westboro is planning on picketing the funerals of two men killed in the Orlando massacre. ... Let me address," Franklin tweeted to his one million followers. "Whoever your pastor is, he is the dumbest, most hateful ignorant man to ever lead ANY church. There is NO word of Godliness in this act ... and a continuing issue of why the world sees us as hateful and judgment."

"You fill it with hate and disease. PLEASE PLEASE respond! Please show up to one of my concerts protesting, PLEASE! We love Jesus, but ... Just please come. This is a sad day for the faith I love. ... Read the ENTIRE Bible, and let those parents bury their children. #WackChurch,"



Kirk Franklin performs during the Annual NAACP Image Awards.

he added in follow-up tweets.

The Westboro Church protest group, which isn't affiliated with any

denomination, is known for protesting outside churches that provide counseling for people who are divorced, American soldiers' funerals, and even reality TV stars from "Duck Dynasty."

Franklin's invitation was met with a response from the group in a hateful YouTube video.

"Make no mistake. God sent the shooter," Ben Phelps says in the video. "He appointed this thing. He sent you a message."

The Westboro church also responded to Franklin on Twitter, asking: "which one of these Bible words that our elder Ben speaks is 'hateful' or 'ignorant' please, @kirkfranklin?"

Franklin decided to continue the conversation.

"He's not exegetical. He isolates the text and doesn't include the heart and character of Christ," Franklin responded. "His anger was ALWAYS against leaders. Not the sheep."



An excited crowd gathered on June 1 to witness the ribbon cutting of Hope Faith Ministries' newly renovated Women's Transitional House. Doing the honors and joining Councilman Jermain Reed and members of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce were architect Jim Pettijohn, Carol Cartmill of COR, HFM President Matt Miller, retiring Board Member, Wendell Lady, TIP Coordinator, Jeff Lee and the four transitional interns who completed the construction work on the house.

Women's transitional house opened

Hope Faith Ministries has opened their new Women's Transitional House at 1100 East 8th Street in Kansas City. The program moves individuals who qualify through a step-by-step process, preparing them for purpose-filled, independent lives. Elfreda, an active participant in HFM's Transitional Internship Program, is excited about moving into her new home. "It's a dream come true!" she said.

Located next to HFM's Paseo West Community Garden, the new Women's Transitional House includes a fully equipped kitchen to provide nutrition and cooking classes. This teaching kitchen and the fact that HFM participants in the Transitional Internship Program did the remodeling work on the house as part of their skill-building and rehabilitation programming, combine to make this open house a unique and special celebration for our community.

A FORMER SATANIC HIGH PRIEST AND
WARLOCK WHO IS NOW SAVED AND SERVES
AS A CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST WILL BE
MINISTERING IN A

3 DAY CONVENTION Evangelist John Ramirez

John was mentored personally by David Wilkerson for 3 years. An author and speaker, John was raised in an impoverished Bronx Ghetto and grew up hating his dad because of his disregard of his family. John eventually found acceptance in new "family" of witches, and warlocks. For 25 years he served his then master Satan with total devotion. He became a follower of Santeria, and Palo Mayombe, a Palero high priest Tata and warlock. He plunged deeply into the occult and was taught how to hate and cast spells even over regions.

God then saved him and called him into the ministry. John is now traveling over America and internationally preaching the Gospel. John has appeared on many TV networks such as the 700 Club, TBN, Church Channel, and Word Channel.

He has written several books including "Out of the Devil's Caldron" and "Unmasking the Devil". His books, DVDs and CDs will be available at the convention.

These Powerful Services Will Be Held:
Friday, July 22, 7pm
Saturday, July 23, 7pm
Sunday, July 24, 11am and 7pm

All services free. No admission fee. Doors open one hour before each service. Child care not provided so that our workers may attend.

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METRO VOICE NEWS



Carly Fiorina was a candidate in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, where she was a formidable voice for the unborn. She was the only presidential candidate invited to speak at the March for Life, the largest pro-life gathering in the country. Fiorina says "I ran in California as a proud pro-life conservative, and you don't do that unless you really mean it."

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What most Americans think about Christians and religious freedom

A new survey shows Americans agree there is intolerance towards Christianity but also think Christians whine too much about it. The survey, from Nashville-based Lifeway Research, indicates that 63 percent of respondents say Christians face increasing intolerance, up from 50 percent in 2013.

Also, 60 percent say religious liberty is on the decline, compared with 54 percent in 2013.

Lifeway researchers interviewed 1,000 Americans and compared it to their survey from September 2013.

"More Americans worry the U.S. has a hostile environment for religious liberty," Ed Stetzer, executive director of Lifeway Research, said.

However, the survey also showed that 43 percent say American Christians complain too much about how they are treated, compared with 34 percent in 2013.



That viewpoint creates a complicated challenge for many believers: how to help friends and the public at large understand their religious liberty concerns while avoiding coming across as disgruntled whiners.

Dr. Barry Corey, president of Biola University in La Mirada, California, recently wrote the book *Love Kindness* to encourage Christians to focus on kindness in

their daily interactions with a society that doesn't always agree with their beliefs.

It's an approach that more Christian leaders are adopting in a time when so much of the country understands so little about the evangelical Christian faith.

Corey, one of the leaders in the effort to oppose California's anti-Christian college bill SB 1146, wrote the book before state lawmakers introduced the measure, which would force Christian colleges to remove Bible courses from core curriculum offerings and prevent them from requiring weekly chapel attendance. The bill would also strip financial aid from students attending Christian colleges that refuse. Corey noted the book applies to the battle over the proposed legislation.

"We want to lead with grace and kindness," he said.

newsbriefs

California Senate passes bill: Christian colleges must drop Bible classes from non-ministry degrees

(WNS)--A bill pending in the California legislature seeks to strip faith-based colleges and universities of the centuries-old tradition of interweaving academics with religious doctrine. SB 1146, which passed the Senate, would force Christian schools to relinquish their fidelity to Scripture as a distinguishing characteristic of their institutions or risk lawsuits. The bill prohibits schools from requiring chapel attendance and bible courses in degrees outside of ministry. The state's Equity in Higher Education Act (EHEA) prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion. The new bill removes its exemption for faith-based schools. State Sen. Ricardo Lara, a Democrat, authored the bill and called the exemption a "loophole" and a "license to discriminate." If passed, only seminaries would be eligible for the exemption.

Southern Baptists vote to remove Confederate flag, ask members do same

(WNS)--The Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the nation's largest Protestant denomination, overwhelmingly approved a resolution on June 14 calling on their 15.3 million members to stop displaying the Confederate flag. SBC president Ronnie Floyd urged delegates to the denomination's annual convention in St. Louis to think about the issue from a spiritual perspective. "I believe the issue of racism is from Satan and his demonic forces of hell," he said. "It is an assault on the gospel of Jesus Christ." Former SBC president James Merritt helped draft the denomination's resolution and said it had nothing to do with political correctness, as some critics claimed. "This flag is a stumbling block to many African-American souls to our witness," he said. "And I rise to say that all the Confederate flags in the world are not worth one soul of any race."

Historic agreement reached to renovate the reputed tomb of Jesus



(WNS)--For the first time in more than 200 years, renovations began June 6 on what is traditionally believed to be the tomb of Jesus Christ. The site has not been touched since 1810 due to the rivalry among the site's guardians: the Roman Catholic, Greek Orthodox, and Armenian churches. The contentions between the groups are almost as ancient as the tomb itself, said Seth Schwartz, associate director of the Institute for Israel and Jewish Studies at Columbia University. The renovations are expected to take eight to 12 months, during which time religious pilgrims will be able to continue visiting the site.

Kansans for Life

A message to the 3rd Congressional District:

U.S. Rep. Kevin Yoder has a 100% pro-life rating!

In a local radio ad, committed pro-life U.S. House member Kevin Yoder of Kansas is being incorrectly described as not voting to defund Planned Parenthood. This is an attack by a political newcomer who wants Yoder's seat.

President of National Right to Life (NRLC), Carol Tobias, said:

"No member of Congress did anything contrary to pro-life interests by voting in favor of the omnibus appropriations bill (H.R. 2029) in December. The bill preserved existing pro-life laws, such as the Hyde Amendment, and contrary to some claims, it contained no earmark, line item, or specific appropriation for Planned Parenthood."

National Right to Life took no position on the appropriations bill, which passed the U.S. House on December 18, 2015, by a vote of 316-113, then the Senate, and was enacted into law.

Most Planned Parenthood funding comes through federal programs such as Medicaid, and to prevent this **would require enactment of a new pro-life law.** The 2015 appropriations bill was ill-suited to serve as a vehicle because it's subject to filibuster, requiring a 60 vote majority to overcome that pro-lifers simply don't have in the Senate yet!

Instead, the National Right to Life Committee, and the Family Research Council, and other groups, advocated enactment of another kind of bill to bar funding for Planned Parenthood as part of the budget "reconciliation" bill (H.R. 3762), which **importantly** was **not subject to filibuster.**

The House gave preliminary approval to the new pro-life budget "reconciliation" bill **which included language defunding Planned Parenthood**, on October 23, 2015, and it in the Senate since, again, it was not subject to filibuster, and thus only required 51 votes to pass. This was the vote that Nat'l Right to Life "scored" and required pro-life lawmakers to vote for, and indeed Rep. Yoder did precisely that.

Rep. Yoder voted as NRLC & Family Research Council asked!

As expected, President Obama vetoed H.R. 3762 — just as he would have vetoed any appropriations bill or other type of bill that limited funding for Planned Parenthood. However, the filibuster-avoiding path blazed by H.R. 3762 can be employed to enact a prohibition on funding for Planned Parenthood, once there is a president willing to sign it.

For more info see the Kansans for Life website: www.kfl.org.

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Kurt

- ✓ As Chairman of the Missouri Senate's Committee on the Sanctity of Life, Kurt has led the fight to defund Planned Parenthood, stopped abortions in Columbia, and secured record funding for alternatives to abortion programs.
- ✓ Kurt has voted to protect the religious freedoms of business owners and religious student groups on Missouri college campuses and sponsored legislation to protect the conscience rights of pastors and religious organizations.
- ✓ Kurt has consistently stood up for home school families, defending the right of parents to educate their children free of government interference and the right of homeschooled kids to participate in extracurricular activities.

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Safe at Home important opportunity not to be missed



SCOTT DAWSON

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

mythoughts

Safe at Home, an evangelistic event after a Faith and Family Day baseball game, has allowed me to combine what

I must do with what I want to do. As an evangelist I must share the Gospel of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever I can. As a father of a son who loved playing baseball I want to attend baseball games. For the past 15 years I have been privileged to partner with professional baseball teams and local churches to combine baseball and the Gospel.

All of us know people that we want to have a personal relationship with Christ but find it difficult to get them to a place or conversation where they hear the message of Christ. These individuals may not currently be interested in

visiting my church but would be willing to come to a baseball game and event with me. My desire is to see churches use Safe at Home as a unique tool for their members to do evangelism.

We know the Gospel and baseball create a powerful combination. We love hearing stories of impact after events. One pastor told us... "Family and Faith Night" at Kauffman stadium is something I'll always remember. I was blessed and honored to help lead a young boy named Bryan to Christ. As my heart overflowed with joy and excitement, God used me to encourage and pray for

Bryan. The next day as I reflected on what had taken place, I knew that it was a major moment in ministry for me. It was really in my heart to meet with Bryan again and I knew God could and would manifest. In less than 24 hours I came in contact with Bryan again and had the opportunity to meet his father and grandmother. We exchange contact information and a week or so later Bryan was baptized, he is now on his journey to building a relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Another pastor wrote and said "I wanted to thank you for Scott Dawson's evangelistic outreach to our city. We had the privilege of baptizing two souls last summer because of the outreach at Kauffman Stadium at Faith and Family Day. A young man who was attending with his mother trusted Christ at the event and I was able to follow up with them because your event counselor sent me the altar results after the event. He and his mother are still attending our church to this day and growing in Christ."

As we approach our fifth season of partnering with the Royals, the Metro Voice and churches around Kansas City, we pray that Safe at Home never gets routine but that we see this year have the most impact for Christ yet. With the days left before this year's Faith and Family game, let's seriously use this opportunity to invite the people we have been praying for to attend Safe at Home.

EVENT ROSTER

- **3:15 P.M. ROYALS GAME**
- **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING GAME:**
 - 1) Welcome message from K-LOVE
 - 2) Special performance by live entertainer, Bello
 - 3) Testimonies from select Royals personnel and message from Scott Dawson
 - 4) Live concert by contemporary Christian band Casting Crowns



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ROYALS
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Four statues stand in the Outfield Experience at Kauffman Stadium. Which one is NOT one of these statues?

a) Dick Howser
b) Frank White
c) Ewing and Muriel Kauffman
d) Hal McRae

The Royals recorded their last triple play in 2006 against?

a) Tampa Bay
b) Minnesota
c) Detroit
d) Baltimore

Which of the following Royals was NOT a Rookie of the Year?

a) Angel Berroa
b) Bob Hamelin
c) Johnny Damon
d) Carlos Beltran

Which Royal was the only player to appear in all 162 games last season?

a) Alex Gordon
b) Eric Hosmer
c) Chris Getz
d) Billy Butler

Who led the team in complete games last season?

a) Jeremy Guthrie
b) Ervin Santana
c) James Shields
d) Wade Davis

Which of the following years was Frank White NOT a Gold Glove winner?

a) 1976
b) 1977
c) 1978
d) 1979

Which team did we acquire Alcides Escobar from?

a) Atlanta Braves
b) Milwaukee Brewers
c) Toronto Blue Jays
d) Tampa Bay Rays

Which country was Yordano Ventura born in?

a) Dominican Republic
b) Honduras
c) Venezuela
d) United States

The most home runs hit by a Royal in a single season is 36. Who was it that set this record?

a) Jermaine Dye
b) Mike Sweeney
c) Steve Balboni
d) John Mayberry

What is the highest amount of wins the Royals have recorded in a single season?

a) 96
b) 111
c) 102
d) 92

Answers on Page 10

CASTING CROWNS CONTINUES AS CHRISTIAN MUSIC’S #1 BAND

This is first time for group to appear at Faith and Family Day

by Dwight Widaman

Metro Voice is honored to welcome Casting Crowns to the 2016 Faith and Family Day at the Kansas City Royals. The multi-platinum selling and GRAMMY winning group is no stranger to Kansas City with their stops here regularly packing out even the largest venues.

The group this month announced the release of its new studio album, *The Very Next Thing*, for September 16, 2016 (Beach Street/Reunion). This marks the group's 15th release and eighth studio album since the label debut and record setting release in 2003. With more than nine million records sold, the band currently holds the position as Billboard's top-selling act in Christian music since 2007.

Casting Crowns began in, serves in and continues to be rooted in the local church. It is at the local level that they are walking along with people in ministry and where the inspiration for albums are formed.

"Because we have the honor of walking with people in our churches, we get to see what people are going through - the issues that are impacting everyone now," shares front man Mark Hall. "It is in these situations that ideas are born for what we all need to hear right here right now."

"*The Very Next Thing*" is full of intimate songs as well as upbeat, fresh sounding tracks that will meet the listener with lyrics that impact with a strong message song after song.

Hall shares the inspiration behind the new album and title. "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 - but God has you right here right now for your 'next,' and all of these songs touch on that idea."

Supporting the upcoming release, the group will be hitting the road this fall for "*The Very Next Thing*" tour presented by Compassion International and Museum of the Bible. The 39 city tour will feature label mate Matt Maher and special guest newcomer Hannah Kerr. Casting Crowns continues to impact fans with their powerful lyrics and live show as they have performed for more than six million fans. In addition more than 85,000 child sponsorships have resulted through Casting Crowns live shows.

Casting Crowns has achieved sales milestones, including one RIAA 2x multi-Platinum album, four RIAA Platinum albums, two RIAA Platinum DVDs, seven RIAA Gold albums, four Gold DVDs, one RIAA Platinum certified single and five RIAA Gold certified digital singles. The band currently holds the position as Billboard's top-selling act in Christian music since 2007. Casting Crowns has also been honored with four American Music Awards (out of



seven total nominations), a GRAMMY Award for its 2005 album *Lifesong*, and six GRAMMY nominations. In addition, the group has garnered 17 GMA Dove Awards and two Billboard Music

Awards from 11 total Billboard Music Award nominations. Casting Crowns' seven band members all remain active in student ministry in the Atlanta area and tour according to their local church

commitments. Serving his 25 plus years in youth ministry, lead singer/songwriter Mark Hall maintains his role as the student pastor at Eagle's Landing First Baptist Church in Atlanta.



**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**.

To purchase group tickets (orders of 20 or more tickets), contact the Royals Group Sales Department at **816-504-4040, Option 4**, or email **groupsales@royals.com**.

*Each ticket includes book

Season-long fun and values

Hy-Vee Value Monday: Get \$10 Hy-Vee View Level tickets for Monday home games (excluding 6/27, and 8/29).

INK Student Nights & Local Music Showcase: Select Outfield Plaza and Hy-Vee View tickets are available for youths 14 years of age and under who are accompanied by an adult and all high school and college students with valid IDs for only \$10 on Wednesday home games. In addition, all Student Night/Local Music Showcases include pre-game food and beverage specials at the Boulevard Grill concession area, as well as a pre-game concert at the Outfield Experience stage by one of KC's best local acts, presented by INK Magazine. Seating is subject to availability. More details at royals.com/studentnight.



GordoNation: Cheer on Alex Gordon in his special fan section! Each Thursday home game fans can purchase a \$35 ticket that includes a Charlie Hustle brand "GordoNation" T-shirt, a Gordon Big Head, and a seat in the sections closest to Alex in left field. Get your tickets at royals.com/themetickets.

Summer Fireworks: Following Friday night home games during May through August, fans are invited to stay seated and watch a spectacular fireworks show, presented by Hy-Vee & Pepsi.

Buck Nights: Now on Thursdays! Every Thursday home game enjoy hot dogs and peanuts for just \$1 each!

Family FunDay Sundays: Every Sunday home game will feature interactive kids entertainment, face painters and caricature or balloon artists in the Outfield Experience. The Royals will also offer a pre-game autograph opportunity with select players each Family FunDay Sunday, presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors. In addition, all fans ages 14 and under can run the bases after the game for the Skippy Fun Run (conditions permitting). Visit www.royals.com/sundays.



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JULY
7/7 GordoNation
7/22 Mizzou Night | FOX Sports Kansas City/Rally House
7/23 Oklahoma City Thunder Night
7/25 Christmas in July

AUGUST
8/6 Huskers Night | FOX Sports Kansas City/Rally House
8/7 Arts Day at The K 8/11 GordoNation
8/18 GordoNation
8/21 KU Day | FOX Sports Kansas City/Rally House
Classic Car Show
8/31 Irish Heritage Night

SEPTEMBER
9/2 Zombie Night 9/14 Bark at the Park | Boehringer Ingelheim
9/15 GordoNation 9/18 Star Wars Day
9/29 GordoNation

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These ministries are provided by MBCH Children and Family Ministries throughout Missouri and/or The LIGHT House in the Kansas City Metro area.

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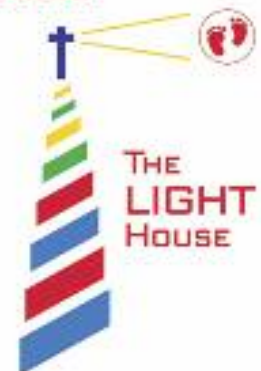
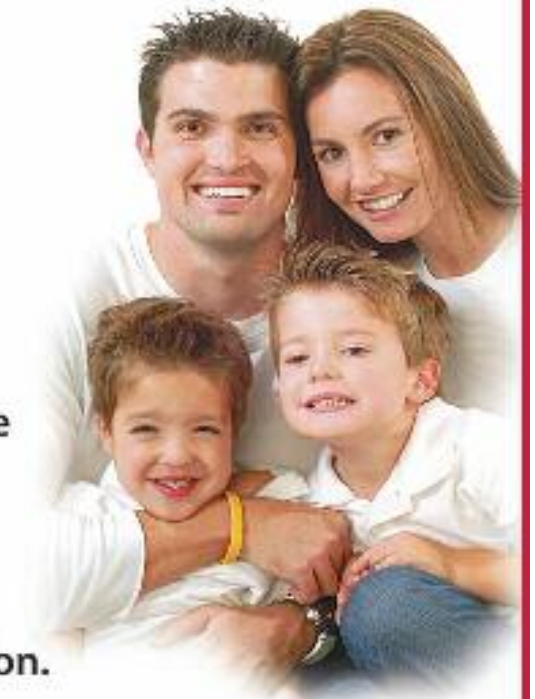
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Answers to Royals Trivia

- d) Hal McRae
 a) Tampa Bay
 c) Johnny Damon
 d) Billy Butler
 a) Jeremy Guthrie
 a) 1976
 b) Milwaukee Brewers
 a) Dominican Republic
 c) Steve Balboni
 c) 102

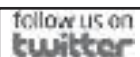
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THE STORY OF GLORY



RON HANDLEY
Founder, president
of Character that
Counts and
co-leader/speaker
at TGIW

viewpoint

For any athlete, glory is a great motivator. One of the many reasons I enjoyed sports and athletics as a teenager was the recognition. I remember waiting anxiously for the local newspaper to arrive late in the day and hoping the write-up, box score and statistics would include my contributions to my team's winning effort from the day before. If the article included a photo of me in action, even better. The people in my church, along with neighbors, friends and other family members, were eager to hear my accomplishments and these news clippings set the stage for those conversations. When I think about this 40+ years later, I realize I enjoyed the recognition and glory immensely.

During the past two seasons, the Kansas City Royals have experienced a great deal of glory as the defending two-time American League champions in 2014 and 2015, and as the World Series champions in 2015. For a player or coach, the glory is complete when you slide the championship ring onto your finger and bask in the celebration of ac-

complishment. I was at Kauffman Stadium on April 5, 2016, when the ring ceremony took place in front of a sellout crowd, and there were chills running up and down my spine as each player was introduced to the fans. It was a glorious occasion.

Over the past several months, I have been studying the word "Glory" and wrestling with the following questions about glory: What does it really mean? Why do people crave it? And when people receive glory for their accomplishments, does it really satisfy the soul long-term?

"Glory" by definition means, "adoring praise, honor or distinction bestowed; to exult in triumph; rejoicing proudly." There is a sense of wonder and elation attached to glory. According to Scripture, mankind was created by a loving God to experience glory to the fullest extent with Him. The creation story as found in Genesis 1 and 2 proclaims God's glory. Genesis 1:26-28 says we were made in the image and likeness of God. Mankind is God's most amazing creation and when He created man, He stated, "It is VERY good."

In 2009, a group of scientists and researchers from Japan wanted to try and determine if "being created in God's

image" is more literal than we think. Their findings discovered "that the human body literally glows, emitting a visible light in extremely small quantities at levels that rise and fall with the day." The scientists utilized extraordinarily sensitive cameras capable of detecting single photons (in layman's terms, "photons" are tiny microscopic particles of light, far too small to see individually). These cameras would be able to detect and record photons.

Five healthy male volunteers in their 20s were photographed bare-chested in front of the cameras in completely dark, airtight rooms for 20 minutes every three hours for three straight days. The researchers found the body glow in the faces of the men rose and fell during the daytime hours, with the lowest point at

10:00 a.m. and its peak at 4:00 p.m., with it gradually dropping thereafter. The visible light differs from infrared radiation—an invisible form of light—that comes from body heat. These photon findings revealed light coming out of our face linked to our body clock in perfect sync with our metabolic rhythms. While our faint light pales in comparison to God's glory, we were created in the image and likeness of God's magnifi-

"'Glory' by definition means adoring praise, honor or distinction bestowed; to exult in triumph; rejoicing proudly.' There is a sense of wonder and elation attached to glory."

cent radiance and light. God didn't miss a single detail when He created mankind. We truly are made in His image.

Humans were designed initially with eternal glory in mind and it is part of our make-up to want to experience glory. The problem is through the sin of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, we lost everything including glory. We lost our goodness, we lost perfection...everything was lost. The gravity of sin left mankind in a huge predicament. The Bible confirms this problem in Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned all fall short of the glory of God." The Bible also states "there is no one righteous, not even one...all have strayed....and the very best we can bring to God is comparable to a filthy rag."

While championship rings, trophies, money, status and earthly possessions may bring happiness for a while, only a relationship with Christ will satisfy the soul forever. We desperately need God's help who provided it in the most remarkable way through His only Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus came to earth as a

perfect, holy sacrifice to pay the full penalty of our sins, by shedding His blood, going to the cross and dying for us so we could now be fully reconciled to God and His Glory (read John 3:16 and Colossians 2:14-15).

Through Christ's death and resurrection, we will one day be fully glorified if we personally accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (Romans 10:9-10). Jesus Himself said it in John 14:6, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life and no one comes to the Father, except through Me." He is the only way to Glory! Thus, the story of glory can be simply summarized this way (NOTE: The "it" in these four statements refers to "glory").

- 1) We had it all.
- 2) We lost it all.
- 3) HE (Jesus) did it all.
- 4) We get it all.

In conclusion, just think how HAPPY you would be if you lost everything you had and then got it all back again!! This is the story of glory!!

Rod Handley is Founder & President of Character that Counts and Co-Leader/Speaker at TGIW.



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Putting/Chipping Contest 11:45

Shotgun Start 12:30p

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**Sept.
29**

DAY TRIP!

OUR PICKS FOR 3 GREAT DAY TRIPS FOR THE FAMILY

by **Anita Widaman, Co-PubliSehr**

Museum makes books come to life

My daughter returned from college with way too much to fit into her bedroom. After paring down items to go to the Lay Clergy Thrift Store in Pleasant Hill, garage sale, and the trash, I found one item she had decided to keep on her bookshelf and it made me smile. It was the Laura Ingalls Wilder set of books her father had given her.

To get acquainted with Wilder's story in Little House on the Prairie, you don't need the set of books. We are fortunate to be able to journey to the Laura Ingalls Wilder Historical Home and Museum near Mansfield, Mo. There you'll find the home where Laura, at the age of 65, began writing her books. It is a day trip that is a multi-generational activity.

"The grandmother who read the book in the 70s can bring her daughter who experienced the books in the 90s,

along with the granddaughter who is currently reading the book," the museum's lead docent, Vicki Johnston, told me. "Coming to the Wilder home is an activity they can do together, where all three can understand and connect."

The homestead welcomes 30,000 visitors each year and requires around 2 ½ hours to tour Laura's garden, farmhouse, rock house, and the museum. If you've been there before, you'll now notice a new museum that opened in March of 2016 and showcases Pa's fiddle. This year the Laura Ingalls Wilder Fiddle Off will be September 17, which brings 30-plus contestants from several states to compete in many divisions.

The homestead is open March through November 15, plus one weekend in December for "Christmas with Laura."

Don't miss her amazing life displayed at the museum. Visit www.lauraingallswilderhome.com.

All aboard!

If you travel in Europe, you likely use trains to get from point A to point B. On a family trip several years ago, we certainly enjoyed our trip from Paris to London. If you are from the Midwest (or the majority of the United States), you drive! But America once, before the advent of the

highway system, had an extensive system of passenger rails that carried the masses on long trips. That might be why Americans still seem fascinated with trains.

This is exactly what you experience when you visit Baldwin City and enjoy the Kansas Belle. Upon entering the train car, you are transported back to the 1940s, enjoying big band music.

"It is a novelty to ride on a train," Bruce Eveland, manager of the Kansas Belle, told me. "Very few Americans have had the experience of enjoying dining as they ride."

Bruce said that people of all ages enjoy the Kansas Belle, which began op-



eration in 2013. "Kids are fascinated by trains. Conversely, people in their 90s have come for a birthday celebration. Grandpa wants to ride the train again after 50 years," he said.

It is an activity for the entire family and various options include a family friendly murder mystery, WWII USO show, or melodrama. The Saturday night

■ See DAY TRIP page 13

Perfect day trip

by **Joe Whitson**

I know what it's like to want nothing more than to just grab your backpack, jump in your car, and find some far away locale to spend a few quality days in the wilderness, but never feeling like you have the time to do it. You have a full (or more than full) time job. You're bogged down with school. You're a working parent. It would be great if we were all professional adventurers and could spend every day in the great outdoors, but the reality is that too often, even a weekend is more time than we can spare. Do not despair, for I bring you hope! The day trip.

The lowly day trip, often dismissed as the least of adventures, has for too long been undervalued. A well-planned and ambitious day trip is more than a consolation prize; it's an adventure unto itself. In order to help you make your day trip the amazing experience that it should be, I've come up with seven tips for planning the perfect day trip.

1. PLAN YOUR ROUTE

I love just following the wind as much as the next person and sometimes, not having a plan can lead you to amazing discoveries. That being said, many times you end up nowhere. Do some research before you leave. Where do you want to go? How long will it take? What is the most scenic route? Are there places you want to stop along the way? Even if the plan changes, knowing a little about what you're going to do cuts down on decisions the day of.

2. GET UP EARLY

Did you know by 8 a.m., the day is already a third over? Don't sleep your trip away! Get up with the sun or, even better, get up before the sun so that all that city driving is done in the dark and you can catch the sunrise somewhere awesome along the way. This is especially important in the winter when you may only get eight or so hours of daylight.

3. DON'T BE AFRAID OF A LONG DRIVE

There's that waterfall you've wanted to check out or that hidden beach, but it's five hours away and wow, ten hours of driving is way too long for a day trip, right? Wrong. Follow the above steps and book it to your destination. You'll be surprised at how much time you still have left. Or make the ride the destination, hopping from place to place and reaching the end at golden hour. The ride back always seems faster than the ride there.

4. PACK A LUNCH AND GO OUT FOR DINNER

There are places in this world where restaurants are few and far between, so be prepared and bring your lunch. This will help maximize

■ See TIPS page 21



First Lady Laura Bush enjoys the museum

More destinations from Kansas City

by **Midwest Parent Educators**

Day trips can turn any boring summer week into something special! From popular favorites to some lesser-known destinations, we've got some excellent ideas from area homeschool moms:

Day trips in Kansas

■ Kansas Children's Discovery Center in Topeka.

This interactive children's museum offers a range of programs, field trips and hands-on fun through 9 indoor exhibits and 4.5 wood acres of hiking trails, obstacle courses and bike paths.

Distance: About 1 hour from downtown Kansas City.

■ Amelia Earhart Birthplace Museum in Atchison.

Visit the cottage where Amelia Earhart lived and learn more about this famous aviator, who considered Atchison her home.

Distance: About one hour from downtown Kansas City.

■ The Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan.

Enjoy breathtaking views and histories of tallgrass prairie in North America, one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. The Flint Hills Discovery Center offers a multimedia immersive experience, summer camps,



and permanent as well as temporary exhibits.

Distance: About two hours from downtown Kansas City.

■ Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center in Hutchinson.

Launch your summer's space exploration adventures with this museum, which features tours through four galleries, as well as shows in three CosmoSphere theaters. The center also offers summers camps for grades 2-12.

Distance: About 3.5 hours from downtown Kansas City.

■ Salt mine in Hutchinson.

Don't miss this under-world experience in Hutchinson! The salt mine is one of the world's largest deposits, covering 27,000 square miles.

Distance: About 3.5 hours from downtown Kansas City.

■ Nicodemus, a black pioneer town (45 miles northwest of Hays).

Discover the only remaining western community established by ex-slaves after the Civil War. The Nicodemus



TRAIN

continued from page 12

dinner train is a five-course meal catered by the 23rd Street Brewery in Lawrence. The Sunday dinner is a three-course dinner that tends to be more family friendly, with a children's menu and rates.

The train leaves Saturday evening or Sunday afternoon on a three-hour journey over 22 miles of rails, where you enjoy beautiful Kansas scenery, the sunset or falling snow, depending on the season.

Although the Kansas Belle is a destination in itself, there are surrounding historical sites including nearby Baker University. There you can visit the Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel, which was moved from Sproxtton, England, and the Quayle Bible Collection, a collection of rare bibles and illuminated manuscripts. Also close by is the Black Jack Battlefield, referred to as the first armed battle of the Civil War. All aboard!

For info visit www.kansasbelle.com.

Crystal Bridges combines art and nature in Bentonville, Ark.

Everyone once in a while you need to "get out of Dodge!" If you find yourself in need of natural and man-made beauty, enjoy the easy drive to the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Ark. The museum was funded and built by the Walton Family Foundation and opened in 2013, nestled among two spring-fed ponds surrounded by 120 acres of beautiful Ozark landscape. It's a work of art itself, having been designed by Moshe Safdie who also designed the Kaufmann Center in Kansas City. The 3.5 miles of walking trails surrounding it allows you to unwind and enjoy God's creation either on foot or bicycle.



Inside you'll enjoy masterpieces from the colonial era to the present, and all the work is by American artists. A few of the must-see pieces include

Gilbert Stuart's "George Washington", Mary Cassatt's "The Reader", Norman Rockwell's "Rosie the Riveter", and Andy Warhol's fun depiction of "Dolly Parton". The museum, which opened in 2011, is free.

This summer, July through September, the special exhibit is American Made: Treasures from the American Folk Art Museum. It includes 115 plus items that were hand-made by those living when our nation was young. The exhibit includes everyday items such as quilts, signs, weather vanes, etc., that shows creativity, skills and ingenuity. The special exhibit is free to those 18 and under and \$10 for adults.

In my family, food is always important on a road trip. The museum's Eleven Restaurant is a great place to grab a cup of coffee, lunch, or dinner and promotes "modern American comfort food with an emphasis on traditions that hail from the 'High South' region...the Ozarks." A special stop for many locals, plus visitors like Dwight and me, is Crepes by Paulette just off the Bentonville's downtown square. It took some convincing once Dwight saw the long line but, he agreed, it was well worth the wait. If you enjoy farmers markets, be sure to plan your visit to include the downtown farmers market that runs through October.

video presentations and a walking tour map and guide for visitors.

Distance: About 4.5 hours from downtown Kansas City.

Community Center offers pamphlets,

Day trips in Missouri

■ Missouri Town in Lee's Summit. The "Missouri Town 1855" living his-

■ See DAY TRIP page 22

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CONCERTS

THE LEGACY FIVE. July 8, 7:00 pm. Calvary Baptist Church, 606 Ridgeway Ave., Columbia, MO. A love offering (\$12.00 per adult suggested) will be received. 573-449-3144.

C DAVID SMITH. July 8, 7:00 pm. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W 80th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-381-6022.

THE LEFEBRE QUARTET. July 8, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

CASTING CROWNS. July 9, Post Game. Kauffman Stadium, One Royal Way, Kansas City, MO 64129. Post game events for Faith and Family Day. 816-504-4040.

SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER. July 12, 6:00 pm. Church on the Hill, 402 Morgan Dr., Stockton, MO. 417-809-8704.

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

DAVID SMART, GUITARIST IN CONCERT. July 16, 7:00 pm. Leawood Baptist Church, 83rd and State Line Rd., Leawood, KS. No admission charge; a free-will offering will be taken. Come in out of the heat and be refreshed, renewed, and encouraged as David plays many of Christian music's favorite songs on guitar. 913-649-0100.

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, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. 888-929-7849.

SMITHVILLE CHRISTIAN FAMILY DAY. July 30, 10:00 am. Smithville Downtown Square on Main St., Smithville, MO. 12 Christian bands performing



JULY 9

CASTING CROWNS AT THE KANSAS CITY ROYALS FAITH AND FAMILY DAY. POST-GAME PERFORMANCE. KAUFFMAN STADIUM, KANSAS CITY, MO. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 816-540-4040.

includes: Daniel Trublu Gray & the Trublu Band, Chick'n Dumplings with a side of Biscuit, Salvation X, Cole DeRuse, Bearing Armor, Dave Panico, Alex Sons, AZ*U*R, Lester Estelle, Sr. & Friends, Skylar Kaylyn, 9th Hour, and Break the Fall. 317-501-1225.

POSITIVE HITS TOUR. August 3, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. Danny Gokey, Passion featuring Kristian Stanfill, Capital Kings, and Hollyn. 876-353-1994.

NEWSBOYS & HAWK NELSON. August 18. Missouri State Fair, 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. 816-353-1994

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

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

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

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

913-334-1009.

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

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

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



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

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

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

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

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION. July 7, 8, & 9. Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Rd., Herndon, VA 20171. The National Right to Life Convention is the essential pro-life educational and training event of the year. During this three-day event, national experts on life issues gather in one place to equip the pro-life grassroots with the knowledge and skills they need to advance our cause. nrlconvention.com

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.

OCEAN COMMOTION VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. July 10-14, 6:30 pm. Faith United Methodist Church, 1950 SW Eagles Parkway, Grain Valley, MO. 64029. VBS for children Pre-K through 5th grade. 816-847-0008.

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

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

FREE LUNCH AND LEARN. Tuesdays 12:00-1:00 at Grace Christian Fellowship Church 7230 Quivira Rd Shawnee. Bring your own lunch or reserve one here for a \$5 donation and rsvp to luncheon-

■ calendar continued on next page

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dlearn@gcfc.net Speakers: July 12th Eliza Cantlay - "Decluttering Your Space", July 19th Calista Baker - "How To Create A Blog"

CONSTITUTION 101 AND WHAT DOES IT MATTER TO ME? Beginning July 13. Free Weekly Class on Wednesdays at 7:00 Presented by Pastor Phil Ellsworth at Grace Christian Fellowship Church 7230 Quivira Rd., Shawnee, KS

CHILDREN ON THE FRONTLINES. July 14-16. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Annual Children on the Frontlines Conference - This year titled: Holy Spirit is my Friend - for more information or to register online go to: ChildrenontheFrontlines.com or ChristTriumphant.org. 816-524-6120.

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.

THE ART OF MARRIAGE. July 15, 6:00 pm-9:30 pm. July 16, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Graceway Church, 5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO. Your marriage and the marriages around you are colored by personalities, passions, and experiences. Making marriage work is a divinely inspired art form. For four decades, FamilyLife® has been helping couples understand God's plan for relationships. 816-365-1070.

RESPITE SUPPORT EDUCATION TOOLS (REST) TRAINING. July 16, 1:00 pm. Carousel Adult Day Center, 7219 E. 17th St., Kansas City, MO 64128. Registration Cost: \$20 + free participant guide. This 4 hour REST Training prepares you to become a REST Companion. Receive education on tools to provide respite for caregivers in a supervised setting. 816-600-1672.

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.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. July 16 & 17, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Road, Kansas City, MO 64117 is excited to offer an incredible VBS week-end filled with excitement and unforgettable adventure! Two full days of activities include rock wall climbing, Euro Bungee, games, lunch and Bible studies. Ages - 7 to 12. Free. Space is limited so sign up early. Registration is Required. More info., and a link to the registration form is at: www.AvondaleMethodist.org. 816-452-3518

MY IMPRESSIONS - IMPRESSIONIST MOVEMENT. July 18-22. Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7230 Quivira Rd., Shawnee, KS. 3 personal projects, daily journaling, large collaborative piece. 913-268-6300.

INTEGRITY RESOURCE CENTER LUNCHEON. July 21, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. Richard travels internationally speaking on spiritual leadership in the home, church, and marketplace as well as on spiritual awakening, experiencing God, and the Christian life. Richard regularly ministers to Christian CEO's, church, and family leaders. integrityresources.org

1ST COVE EVANGELIST JOHN RAMIREZ. July 22 & 23, 7:00 pm and July 24, 11:00 am & 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley Ave., Overland Park, KS 66203. www.FirstLoveKC.org and 913-403-9644.

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

AGLOW MEETING AND PICNIC FOLLOWING SPEAKER, ROB CASTEEL. July 23, 9:30 am. Grandview Assembly of God, 12400 Grandview, MO 64030. Sponsored by South Kansas City Aglow. 816-540-2590.

WALK THIS WAY: SUMMER BIBLE EXPERIENCE. July 24-28, 5:45 pm-8:00 pm. FBCNKC, 2205 Iron St., North Kansas City, MO 64116. No Cost. Be a part of the fun, mess, food, games and

music as we learn more about Jesus this summer. Children who completed Pre-K through 5th grade in May. 816-842-1175.

WALKING IN THE PROPHETIC. July 30, 9:00 am. Libby Center, 601 NW Libby Lane, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Sponsored by World Revival. In this one-day training seminar, you will be equipped to walk in the supernatural. Learn some of the secrets of those who operated with an open ear to heaven. 816-763-0708.

DEEP SEA ADVENTURE!! VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL. August 3-5, 6:30 - 8 pm. St. Paul's Church of the Nazarene, 8500 E 80th Ter., Kansas City, MO, Children ages 3 years (potty-trained) - 6th grade are invited to attend. There will be a closing program for the children and their families Sunday, August 7. For more information call: Christy at 816-806-1263.

EXODUS CRY ABOLITION SUMMIT. August 11-13, 1:00 pm. Westside Family Church, 8500 Woodsonia Dr., Lenexa, KS 66227. Encounter the Lord's heart for justice and learn how you can fight sex trafficking in our community. Speakers: Benjamin Nolot, John Eldredge, Naomi Zacharias, Dr. Dan Allender, Rebecca Bender, and others. Worship Leaders: Misty Edwards, Jon Thurlow, Jaye Thomas, Jonas Park, and Brenton Dowdy. 816-398-7490.

HOW TO HOMESCHOOL WORKSHOP. August 13, 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Antioch Library, 8700

Shawnee Mission Pkwy., Merriam, KS 66202. Sponsored by Midwest Parent Educators. All parents interested in homeschooling are welcome (no need to register). Learn from experienced homeschool veterans as they share from personal experience, answer your questions and encourage you in your journey. No childcare is available. 913-599-0311.

CHRISTIAN MAGICIANS TRAINING CONFERENCE. Aug. 19-20, 4:00 pm. First Baptist Church of Shawnee, 11400 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66203. This is a FREE training conference teaching faith based skills and object lesson utilizing Magic, Clowning, Puppets, Skits, Balloons, Face Painting and much more! Don't miss this unique and fun opportunity to learn how to witness effectively in your community. 913-236-8808.

THE MOST REWARDING CHALLENGE: AN INTRODUCTION TO FOSTER PARENTING. August 25, 6:00-7:00 pm. FosterAdopt Connect HQ, 18600 E. 37th Terr., Independence, MO 64057. Nearly 3,000 kids in Northwest Missouri have been traumatized by abuse and neglect. Every one of them needs a caring and nurturing home. Find out how you can help kids in your own back yard by becoming a foster parent.

TRUTH CONFERENCE. August 27, 8:00 am. Lenexa Christian Center, 17500 W. 87th St. Pkwy., Lenexa, KS 66219. Speakers include: Josh McDow-

■ calendar continued on next page

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ell, Phil Stacey, Charlie Campbell, Eric Hovand, Gene Calderon, Willie Harath, Carey Waldie, Helmut Welk, Rick McGough, and more.

MOUNTAIN TOP MARRIAGE OZARK MOUNTAIN RETREAT. September 2-5. Honeysuckle Inn & Conference Center, 3598 Shepherd of the Hill Expressway, Branson, MO. Teachers - Roger and Laureen Traver. www.mountaintopmarriages.org and 719-471-9072.

2016 MIDWEST REGIONAL CHURCH ADMINISTRATION CONFERENCE. September 22 & 23. Lenexa Baptist Church, 15320 W. 87th St., Pkwy., Lenexa, KS 66219. 3E is a two day event that will Educate church leaders and administrators on relevant topics in church administration. It will better equip participants to lead their ministry with competency and integrity. Finally, the event will encourage you in your calling as leaders and administrators. 816-382-3050.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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!

FREEDOM CELEBRATION. July 3, 9:30 am-11:00 am. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. A celebration of our freedom in our country and in God. We'll sing some of our favorite patriotic songs and observe all of our favorite traditions, including the recognition of our armed forces as well as our civil servants. We encourage our veterans and active duty military to wear your uniforms to Freedom Celebration as we will recognize you for your courageous service. 816-353-1994.

KINGDOM INITIATIVE. July 4, 12:00 pm-12:15 pm. Kansas State Capital Building, 300 SW 10th St., Topeka, KS 66612. Kingdom Initiative is about reclaiming our Nation as one Nation under God. July 4th we'll gather across the nation, joining hands around each State Capital building and pray. 816-804-4652.



JULY 24

BLOOD DRIVE. FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M. AT CROSSROADS CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 5855 RENNER RD., SHAWNEE, KS

FAITH AND FAMILY DAY. July 9, 3:15. Kauffman Stadium, One Royal Way, Kansas City, MO 64129. Post game events include Scott Dawson, Casting Crowns, and Royal players. 816-504-4040.

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.

NEW LOCATION. July 9, 10 A.M. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 9898 W 95th St, Overland Park KS (between Antioch & Hwy 69) First Shabbat Service will be on July 9, 10 A.M. Every-

one welcome. 913-383-8448, orhaolam.com

COMMUNITY CALL TO PRAYER AT THE MISSOURI CAPITAL. July 10, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm. Missouri State Capital, 201 W Capital Ave., Jefferson City, MO 65101. A nondenominational, nonpolitical event.

JERRY & KAYE MEINERS 22ND ANNUAL PRO-LIFE GOLF CLASSIC. Monday, July 18. Shadow Glen Golf Club, 26000 Shadow Glen St, Olathe, KS 66061. 12:00 Noon Shotgun Start. Lunch served at 11:00am. Dinner Immediately Following Tournament. Registration begins at 11:00 a.m. Bene-

fits Vitae Foundation. vitaefoundation.org

BACK2SCHOOL SUPPLY/HEALTHFAIR. July 23, 12:00 pm. House of Refuge Impact Youth Center, 10816 Hillcrest Rd., Kansas City, MO 64134. Sponsored by House of Refuge Impact Youth Center. Parents will bring their kids from all over the Metropolitan area, and from all grade levels to receive free clothes, food and school supplies, free haircuts, and free health screenings. We are doing this community event in order to give to those, who need help preparing to enroll their child or children in school for the new 2016-2017 school year. 816-806-4127.

REPURPOSED AND RECHARGED WOMEN'S EXPO. July 23, 1:00-4:00. \$3 Donation at the door. Meet up with the girls for inspiration. 27+ Booths. Free spinal screenings, appetizers, creative demonstrations, free 5 min massages, repurposing ideas 7230 Quivira Rd. Shawnee (913)268-6300

BLOOD DRIVE. July 24, 2:00 pm-6:00 pm. Crossroads Christian Church, 5855 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217.

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.

CHARITY GOLF TOURAMENT. August 1, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Country Club of Leawood, 12700 Overbrook Rd., Leawood, KS 66212. www.mission-southside.org or 913-530-4387.

R(UN) FOR ONE 5K. August 20, 8:00 am. NE 31st St., Topeka, KS 66617. Sponsored by Lifeline Children's Services. Join us for a 5K to support (Un)adopted, a ministry of Lifeline Children's Services. There's food and fun for the whole family so register today. 785-783-4577.

VITAE FOUNDATION BANQUET. September 9, 7:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. Special guest Carly Fiorina.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH NORTH KANSAS CITY 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. 1-816-842-1175.

14TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT. September 29. Creekmoor Golf Course, Raymore, MO. Sponsored by Teaching God's Infinite Wisdom. 816-525-6339.

■ calendar continued on next page

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FINE ARTS

TWELFTH NIGHT. Through 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.

Through 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.

LUXURY: TREASURES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

July 9-October 2. Nelson Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO. Ranging from elaborate gold jewelry to bronze statuettes and finely wrought silver drinking vessels, this exhibition showcases some of the extraordinary artistic achievement of Roman craftsmen. 816-751-1278.

COMEDY SHOW WITH PUPPET.

July 9. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. 816-833-9777.

MARY POPPINS. July 9-24. The Jewish Community Center's White Theatre, 5801 W 115th St., Overland Park, KS. July 29-31 & August 3-6. Theatre in the Park, 7900 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS.

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



JULY 16 JULY 23 OVERNIGHT FISHING

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT. July 15-23. Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. 913-236-1237.

SLEEPING BEAUTY KIDS. July 15, 16, and 17; 7:30 pm. Kansas City's Barn Players, 6219 Martway, Mission, KS. \$5.00 each. Presented by The Barn Kids. 913-432-9100.

BIG FISH. July 22, 7:30 pm & July 23, 1:30 pm & 7:30 pm. The Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO. Big Fish centers on the charismatic Edward Bloom, a traveling salesman who lives life to its fullest ... and then some! 913-393-3141.

FAMILY OUTINGS

JURASSIC GARDEN: A PREHISTORIC ADVENTURE.

Through October 3, 9:00 am. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW U.S. Hwy. 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. Travel back millions of years to explore the lost world of dinosaur replicas, designed by Missouri artist Guy Darrough, a well known fossil collector and fossil preparation expert. The exhibit is open daily through October 3, 2016. 816-697-2600.

RED, WHITE & ZOO. July 2-4, 8:00 am-5:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132. In honor of our Independence Day, active and retired military individuals receive FREE ad-

mission to the Kansas City Zoo. Families of active and retired military individuals will receive \$1 off regular Kansas City Zoo admission.

RAYMORE'S SPIRIT OF AMERICA CELEBRATION.

July 4. Recreation Park, 1021 S. Madison St., Raymore, MO 64083. We will have a car show, refreshments, entertainment and much more before the sun sets and we light up the sky with a unique fireworks display.

SMITHVILLE LAKE DAM FIREWORKS DISPLAY.

July 4, Dusk. Smithville Lake & Campground, MO Hwy DD and Litton Way, Smithville, MO 64089. Fireworks display to honor our great nation.

MINIONS. July 5. Theatre in the Park, 7710 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. 913-236-1237.

WEEKENDER. The Goonies, July 15, 9:00 pm; Clueless, July 15, 9:00 pm; The Avengers, July 22, 9:00 pm; Trouble with the Curve, July 29, 9:00 pm; and Up, August 5, 9:00 pm. Crown Center, 2405 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO. 816-274-8444. Movies starting at approximately 9:00 pm. Free admission. 816-274-8444.

29TH ANNUAL BINGHAM-WAGGONER ANTIQUE & CRAFT FAIR.

July 9, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO 64050. Admission to the fair is free, The Spirit of Independence Community Band will play at noon. Mansion tours will be available from 10:00 am until 3:30 pm at the regular fee. 100 antique dealers and crafters, concession

stands. 816-461-3491.

SUMMER DUSK 2016. July 16, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Concourse Park in the Colonnade Building St. John and Gladstone Blvd. (John F. Kennedy Memorial). Free Sunset Concert Series. Northeast Arts KC Presents Trifflemore & Rex Hobart (Scottish Folk & Americana Double-Bill). Bring lawn chairs, blankets and cooler! Family friendly. For more information, visit NORTHEASTARTSKC.ORG

OVERNIGHT FISHING OPPORTUNITY.

July 16. The Heritage Park, 16050 Pflumm Rd., Olathe, KS; and July 23. Shawnee Mission Park, 7900 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. After 11:00 pm, the specific park will be open strictly for fishing only and park police officers will be on duty throughout the night. Call concerning fishing permits. 913-888-4713.

KANSAS CITY'S BIG PICNIC. July 17, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. This year, celebrate the traditions of ancient Rome with a Banquet on Blanket. Sample local truck offerings or bring your own picnic and enjoy an afternoon of FREE activities and entertainment stretching from the Donald J. Hall Sculpture Park. 816-751-1278.

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entertainment

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Important life lessons learned from Finding Dory

entertainment

by **Michael Faust**

Kids once learned lessons about life through books. That's still the case for many children, but for the rest of them, movies have helped fill the gap.

That can be a scary thought when you consider what Hollywood is putting in theaters, but for families who watched *Finding Dory* — which set an opening-weekend box office record for an animated movie — it's a good thing.

The Disney/Pixar flick is full of positive life lessons for both children and adults, as I discovered when I took my 8-year-old son to it on opening night. As we drove home, he and I discussed what we could take away from a film that, yes, was both entertaining and hilarious but that also had a great message.

Here are four lessons for families:

1. Disabilities are mere speedbumps.

Dory suffers from a short-term memory loss, and three of her friends — a whale shark (near-sighted), a beluga whale (seemingly no echo location ability) and an octopus (only seven arms) — have what amount to disabilities.

On the surface this appears as nothing more than a clever plot twist for jokes, but it's more than that. Dory's parents agonize as they cry and wonder: How will she make it in life? Dory, of course, struggles with self-doubt, thinking she won't ever achieve her goal. Yet everyone is cheering for her.

In the end, she does find her parents,



who are beaming with pride and excitement as they realize she found them by herself. No, it wasn't easy, but Dory overcomes her disability and proved everyone wrong — and kids of all ages and abilities can learn from it.

2. Have a heart — and guard your words.

Sure, we laugh as Dory forgets something every three seconds, and that's perfectly fine because it's a cartoon fish. But as her friend Marlin learns, even a fish with a short-term memory loss can remember harmful words.

Marlin belittles Dory at one point and he soon regrets it, but by then the harm is done. (Although they do become friends again.)

The weekend after my son and I

watched *Finding Dory*, we went to a restaurant where he noticed a woman with a mental disability at an adjoining table. He had lots of questions, and most of the answers involved God, but at some point that day I did toss *Finding Dory* in there. It's a great film for introducing kids to a complex topic.

3. Support your children.

Yes, Dory's achievement was incredible, but don't miss how much her parents loved and helped her every step during her childhood.

"We will never forget you Dory," her mom reassures her during one discouraging moment, when Dory had forgotten something important.

Although Dory gets swept away at sea early in the movie, she begins to remember things her parents told her to keep her safe, even if she doesn't always know the source. By the end of the film, we realize it has been years since Dory had last seen her parents, but the lessons they had taught her — and the love they had showed her — had kept her alive. What an amazing reminder to parents that

those mundane day-to-day moments will eventually have an impact.

4. Life is precious.

Who would have thought that Disney and Pixar would give us a blockbuster movie with a pro-life message? Of course, the film's message is not technically about abortion, but when you realize that our modern-day medical community promotes prenatal screening tests so as to identify birth defects, then the message of *Finding*

film411

FINDING DORY

STARS: Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Ed O'Neill, Kaitlin Olson, Hayden Rolence, Ty Burrell, Diane Keaton
WRITERS: Andrew Stanton, Angus MacLane

Dory does indeed cross into the pro-life debate.

The majority of babies with Down Syndrome and Spina Bifida in the U.S. are aborted. In other countries, young babies with cleft palate lips are often abandoned.

Finding Dory teaches us that all lives — even the lives of those who look and act different — are worthwhile.

MOVIE Contributor Michael Foust has covered the Christian film industry for a decade and has been a full-time editor and writer for 20 years. He blogs at MichaelFoust.com.

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Love conquers all in long-awaited sequel

Reunions can be so awkward.

Take, for instance, the newest fracas between humanity and the aliens from the recently resurged Independence Day franchise. There hasn't been this much bad blood—some red, some slimy—since Hatfield-McCoy family camp. Last time these two species met, lives were lost. Landmarks were broken. It took all the bravery, trickery, inspiring speeches and 90s catchphrases we could muster to defeat our unwanted extraterrestrial visitors.

But, hey, time heals all wounds, and 20 years is a long time. Sure, maybe the aliens didn't make the best first impression, but there's always room for second chances, right?

Plus, it's not like this group of aliens is coming with a strictly kill, conquer, destroy ethos like the intergalactic visitors in 1996 did. These new visitors have a much more clearly defined goal. It's simple, really: They just want Earth's molten core, their version of unleaded gas. A quick fill-up and they'll be on their way. And it's not like we use our core for anything, right? Well, except for magnetic polarity and life and stuff.

But besides that, it's totally useless.

But we earthlings really treasure our molten core. You might say it's a core value of ours. If the aliens were in the mood to listen, we could point them to



film411

Independence Day: Resurgence

STARS: Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum, Jessie T. Usher, Bill Pullman, Maika Monroe, Sela Ward, William Fichtner, Judd Hirsch

DIRECTOR: Roland Emmerich

take, say, the core of Mercury. That planet doesn't seem to have much use for it. But clearly, the aliens are having none of it.

Perhaps the destruction of all life on the surface just gives that core-stealing a little extra vavoom.

Thankfully, it's not like we've been twiddling our thumbs since the last alien invasion. We've built some pretty

impressive guns since then.

So when a strange, interdimensional spaceship zaps into our solar system and hovers over the moon, we aim, fire, and BLAMMO! Alien ship blasted into itty bits. Wow, that wasn't nearly as hard as the last time, was it? Now humanity can raise a collective root beer in a toast to our solar system supremacy and—

Whoops! Wrong aliens. Hope they weren't, like, friendly aliens or something.

Alas, the nasty aliens were a day or two behind, once again coordinating their new assault—er, visit with July 4, aka Independence Day, aka the 20th anniversary of humanity's victory over them. Because while these aggressive alien interlopers may not know our languages or understand our culture or

■ See MOVIE page 20

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MOTHER'S REFUGE

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Still time to pack your summer reading list

by **James Emery White**

Every year, I offer five titles as a suggested summer reading list.

These are books that I have either read over the past year or plan to read myself over the summer. Most are brand new.

A few, here and there, may be older works that I'm only now discovering myself.

They are a blend of history, fiction, biography and more. July has just begun so there's plenty of time to get your summer reading on!

SPQR: A History of Ancient Rome.

By Mary Beard

I first ran across this book while browsing in a Waterstone's off of Trafalgar Square in London. I couldn't put it



down. It's one of the best single-volume histories of Rome you'll own that offers more than a few twists and turns. As the jacket invites: "Beard narrates the unprecedented rise of a civilization that even two thousand years later still

■ See BOOK page 21

MOVIE

continued from page 19

have any regard for us at all, they do have a tremendous sense of ironic timing.

"It wasn't luck last time" that saved the human race, former President Whitmore says, in full-on inspirational speech mode. "It was our resolve." And there's certainly a lot of resolve on display here. Backed against the proverbial wall by fearsome, pitiless aliens, humanity fights back, putting every bit of courage and gumption it has on the line to show these unwelcome visitors the door.

American flyboys Jake and Dillon are particularly instrumental in the pushback, patching up their own differences to more effectively fight this fearsome foe. President Whitmore might be aging less than gracefully, but he still has enough moxie to be an inspirational leader and risk his own life

for the cause.

He apparently passed on his unselfish genes to his daughter, Patricia, a fine fighter pilot in her own right who uses her skills to protect the earth (and who has a fierce desire to protect her father, too). And one mustn't forget scientists David Levinson, Dr. Brakish Okun and others, who think like the Dickens to outwit their galactic adversaries.

Indeed, despite the mass chaos and destruction that the aliens unleash again upon humanity, nearly everyone on the planet seems to pull together in this time of crisis. Nothing like a little alien invasion to bring out the best in people.

Independence Day: Resurgence is the Apatosaurus of the cinematic world: big, loud and dumb. And like an Apatosaurus, it's a film that many families might want to keep a healthy distance from as well, given its profanity, occasional sexual innuendo and stag-

gering (if not unexpected or particularly graphic) disregard for human life.

But buried underneath all the crashed spaceships, broken buildings and problematic content, there are also some good, simple, inspiring messages to unearth.

While Resurgence leans heavily on its 21st-century bag of CGI tricks, its underlying tone feels positively old-fashioned—like a John Wayne Western or a Gary Cooper war flick where courage, creativity and resiliency are shown to be enormously positive and, perhaps, uniquely human virtues.

Armed with those character traits, even hopelessly overmatched humans can survive and even win against an overwhelming foe, as long as they don't lose their hope and faith. In Independence Day: Resurgence, love of country, of home, of others—conquers all, even if aliens destroy much of humanity before we get that happy ending.

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From left: Jim Daly, Focus On The Family; Chuck Swindoll, Insight For Living; John MacArthur, Grace To You; June Hunt, Hope In The Night; Alister Begg, Truth For Life; Tony Evans, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans; James MacDonald, Walk In The Word; David Jeremiah, Turning Point; Adrian Rogers, In The Heart of the Matter; Crawford Loritts, Legacy Ministries; And More! Visit BOTT Online for Program Schedule

BOOKS

continued from page 20

shapes many of our most fundamental assumptions about power, citizenship, responsibility, political violence, empire, luxury, and beauty.” (SPQR is the abbreviation for “The Senate and People of Rome”)

All the Light We Cannot See.

By Anthony Doerr.

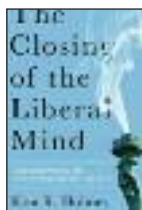
I came to this novel a little late – as in, after it won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. It deserved them both. It doesn’t matter whether its subject doesn’t seem like your cup of tea (a blind French girl, a German boy, leading parallel lives in World War II). This is beautiful writing that can’t be put down. It’s said it took the author ten years to write it. I believe it. Every sentence is a jewel.

The Closing of the Liberal Mind: How Groupthink and Intolerance Define the Left.

By Kim R Holmes.

This book first caught my eye

through a review in the Wall Street Journal. The title of the review was “Progressivism’s Macroaggressions” with the following subtitle: “The goal of post-modern progressives isn’t universal truth, but power, which is presented in the guise of equality and social justice.” Now that’s a tweet. Holmes is a former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State and currently a Distinguished Fellow at The Heritage Foundation. The gist



of the book is that liberalism is becoming its opposite – illiberalism; abandoning the precepts of open-mindedness and respect for individual rights, liberties, and the rule of law upon which the country was founded. This is an important book, as it details a very disturbing ideology that is increasingly dominating our culture.

When Breath Becomes Air.

By Paul Kalanithi.

At the age of 36, on the verge of completing a decade’s worth of training as a neurosurgeon, Paul Kalanithi was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. One day he was a doctor treating the dying, and the next he was a patient struggling to live. When Breath Becomes Air is his story and chronicles his move toward



The Faith of Christopher Hitchens: The Restless Soul of the World’s Most Notorious Atheist.

By Larry Alex Taunton.



Christopher Hitchens, called one of the “Four Horsemen” of the New Atheism, was a complex and fascinating figure. Taunton, a Christian and a friend, writes of his faith with some surprising insights and conclusions.

James Emery White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, NC, and the ranked adjunctive professor of theology and culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. His book, *The Rise of the Nones: Understanding and Reaching the Religiously Unaffiliated*, is available on Amazon.

faith in the process. A review in the New York Times said, “Finishing this book and then forgetting about it is simply not an option.” He died in March 2015.

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TIPS

continued from page 12

those precious daylight hours and allow you to eat at some beautiful picnic ground or scenic lookout. When the sun sets, go find some unique local joint to wind down for dinner before the long drive home.

5. DRESS FOR SUCCESS

There is no bad weather, only bad clothing. I think that’s all I need to say here.

6. RECRUIT FRIENDS

We all like a solo trip once in a while (unless, you know, you’re one of those extroverts), but long hours in the car and one of a kind hikes are just more fun when shared with friends. This is a great opportunity to bring all those friends who can never come camping because they are “too busy.” Most people have a single free day once in a while.

7. DITCH THE PLAN

Alright, now that I’ve told you to be



a good Boy Scout and be prepared, I’m going to remind you that sometimes you need to throw the plan out the window and grab opportunities as they present themselves. Be flexible. That waterfall will still be there for the next day trip, but that small town cheese curd festival only happens once a year and is something you don’t want to miss.

SHOOTINGS

continued from page 1

that black and white, rich and poor, Christian and atheist can stand together, she said.

At the funeral of Mother Emanuel, senior pastor, and state Rep. Clementa Pinckney, Simmons met President Barack Obama, who asked her what he could do.

"So I told him the same thing, and I gave him our T-shirt with our logo, a black hand and a white hand making a heart with the words 'Hate Won't Win' in the middle," she said.

Obama told her he had some Twitter followers and offered to help spread the word. Simmons was skeptical until her brother showed her a tweet from the president's account, including a picture of the T-shirt, the hashtag, and this note: "inspired by the grace shown in Charleston and the Simmons family."

Suddenly, Simmons had 20,000 new followers, and everyone wanted a T-shirt.

Simmons and her family weren't selling the shirts at the time, but it wasn't long before they were. They used the proceeds to start a non-profit created to give back to communities and families affected by hate crimes, discrimination, and bullying.

Since its inception, the Hate Won't Win Movement has encouraged building relationships to bridge differences within commu-



nities, focusing on the fields of education, politics, media, family and community, and religion.

Simmons noted differences among races, religions, social class, and political viewpoints remain in the wake of the Civil Rights movement.

"From civil rights came just that—the rights," she said. "We can fight for our rights and we can have those rights, which of course we should have as humans, but if we want to stop these systematic differences, it's not going to come from fighting, but by fostering relationships."

Speaking for her own generation, Simmons said the issue of race is not as emotional as for her father's and grandfather's generations. Because of that, her contemporaries are better equipped to leave conflicts in the past. She believes the Civil Rights movement should be remembered, but the grievances of the past should not become hindrances to reconciling differences.

"It's not black people who are going to save all black people," she said. "It's going to include white people too. There's no way we can make change by ourselves. There has to be a collaborative effort, and this generation is willing to collaborate. We have the same goal in mind—to be colorless. There was a time when just walking into a room was a problem. Now it is a problem when we see disparity, when we see somebody getting privilege."

Simmons has spread her message of forgiveness and reconciliation from the social media platform she birthed to speaking engagements across the country and on national television.

"Every time I'm interviewed, I pray," Simmons said. "I don't want the words to be my own." Instead, she wants to testify to the faith of the Mother Emanuel victims and their families, proclaiming no one has the power to shake that faith.

"We're that rooted," she said.

DAY TRIP

continued from page 13

tory museum spans 65 acres in Fleming Park, in eastern Jackson County. Complete with 25 period-appropriate structures, the museum is home to educational workshops, such as blacksmithing, baking pies on the hearth, and making lye soap.

Distance: About half an hour from downtown Kansas City.

■ Pony Express Museum in St. Joseph.

Relive the experience of the



Pony Express riders as they braved dust storms, icy mountains, rugged terrain and other pitfalls to deliver mail around the United States. Browse exhibits such as the blacksmith and wheelwright shop, 1860s coin collection, and more.

Distance: About one hour from Kansas City.

■ Oliver Anderson House in Lexington.

This beautiful house is part of the Battle of Lexington State Historic Site and exemplifies some of the large mansions built in Missouri during the Civil War period. The house was a strategic stronghold during the Battle of Lexington, when it changed hands between the Confederate and Union troops three times in one day: Sept. 18, 1861.

Distance: About one hour from downtown Kansas City.

ENTREPRENEURS

continued from page 1

which they gave entrepreneurs 60 seconds to pitch their businesses before judges in hopes they land possible future investments.

Ten entrepreneurs out of a pool of 150 applicants were chosen to present their ideas before an audience of nearly 900 attendees.

The winners were Arbe Robotics, 6over6 Vision, and Fieldin.

Kobi Marenko, CEO of Arbe Robotics, took home first place with his innovations in drone technology. He developed a new sensor that allows drones and other objects to see and avoid things in their path.

"Here is a groundbreaking radar, the first made for drones," Marenko told The Jerusalem Post. "It can see obstacles 200 meters away, in 360 degrees, and offers us the ability to see cables of electricity, cranes, trees, things that are not mapped."

"With this technology, Amazon can deliver goods inside a crowded city without being afraid of

crashes," he said.

6over6 Vision won second place with its innovation for detecting and measuring vision problems straight from a smart phone. This company developed an app that uses imaging to measure how near- or far-sighted someone is.

Even more, the app can detect a stigmatism before the user even steps in an optometrist's office. The app could help improve the eyesight of hundreds of millions of people in third world countries and beyond.

Fieldin came in third place with its new agriculture technology. It created a platform that analyzes how pesticides are impacting plants. The program tells the farmer if he is damaging his own crops or the environment by spraying too many chemicals on his plants.

Former President Shimon Peres said this validates Israel as a start-up nation.

"I know entrepreneurs that dream with courage," Peres said. "Leave your mind open and don't be afraid to dream. And that is what we have to do in the whole Middle East."

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TRUMP

continued from page 2

he came to the larger meeting, for example, he made no comments and he just sat down," Jackson explained. "Mike Huckabee began to ask him questions. He spent time responding to those questions and then there were questions from the audience as well. They asked questions that Christians are interested in knowing, so it's not like saying a stump speech."

Jackson didn't support Trump during the Republican nominating contests. In a December op-ed he wrote, "it is my considered opinion as a minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for 38 years, that no pastor should be endorsing Donald Trump, at least not at this stage."

Since Matthew 6:33 says, "seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness," he added, "we should seek first the candidate who represents the kingdom of God and his righteousness."

Before speaking to the larger group of about ,000 pastors, Trump met and

conversed with at least 25 evangelical leaders who are serving on his evangelical executive advisory council. The members of the council laid out their concerns to the candidate.

Pastor Jack Graham, the former president of the Southern Baptist Convention and a member of Trump's advisory council, also came out of the meeting feeling like he is ready to "champion" Trump.

"It was a very positive meeting. It didn't feel like a sales pitch," Graham said afterwards. "It didn't feel like a political campaign [rally] as much as it did a conversation between friends."

In a radio interview on his program, Dobson elaborated on Trump's salvation experience and how Christians should view it in light of our own.

"If God gets a hold of Trump, it won't be the first time people didn't believe it. It won't be the first time that a terrible person who lived completely against Christ, came to know him," Dobson said. "Saul, who became Paul, is a great example."

Dobson told the New York Times he

can't know Trump's heart but if he is a true believer, "there will eventually be fruit. In the meantime, it's not surprising to see people be skeptical. They were with Saul/Paul until they could begin to see his change in behavior. If you are a Christian, pray for Trump. Read 1 Timothy 2:1-5. It's not a suggestion. It's a command to do so for all who really

know Christ. In fact, anyone who doesn't believe they weren't a terrible person, a sinner, before accepting Christ, doesn't really understand the Gospel. One sin is all it takes to make one a sinner, in need of forgiveness."

Dobson ended his program by asking listeners to pray for Trump.

"...whether he really accepted Christ

or not, he needs it. Let's not make excuses for him, but let's also not belittle what God can do through a man."

"I think there's hope for him," Dr. Dobson told the New York Times. "And I think there's hope for us."

—Reporting by Sam Smith, CP, with additional attribution to POLITICO and Focus on the Family.

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