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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Community Church

See inside back cover!

60% say America is no longer a Christian nation

by Gregory Tomlin



(Christian Examiner) – A new joint study from the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) and the Brookings Institution shows that less than half of Americans view their country as a Christian nation.

The non-partisan study, which examines the issues underpinning the 2016 presidential election – immigration, changing cultural practices, attitudes toward authoritarianism, and terrorism – also sheds light on American attitudes toward Islam and perceptions of discrimination against Christians.

NATIONAL IDENTITY

According to the study, fewer than half of the survey participants (41%) said they believe the U.S. is and always has been a "Christian nation." Another 42% claimed the country was at one time Christian, but isn't any longer. Taken together, 83% of Americans per-

■ Please see NATION page 4

ARK ENCOUNTER

Extended hours help theme park accommodate the crowds for the first "40 days and nights"



WILLIAMSTOWN, Ky. – The Ark Encounter, a life-size version of Noah's Ark in Northern Kentucky, welcomed more than 8,300 VIP guests and 150 media representatives to the ribbon-cutting July 5, prior to the grand opening

for the public on July 7.

The Ark Encounter, a one-of-a-kind historically themed attraction, was built according to the biblical dimensions in Genesis 6; it stands seven stories high and is 510 feet in length. It is the largest

freestanding, timber-frame structure in the world, located on 800 beautiful acres in Williamstown, Kentucky, south of Cincinnati, Ohio.

The massive project is the vision of Ken Ham, founder,

■ Please see ARK page 3

U.S. senator gives trio of powerful speeches on race

Tim Scott shares his solutions to racial strife

The U.S. Senate's only black Republican said that ending racial discord starts with breaking bread together.

"I have experienced what's possible when the family talks," Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., said July 14. "I think this is incredibly important that while our problems appear in black and white, our solutions are black and white."

This marked Scott's third speech in a week in response to the multiple racially charged shootings across the nation, including the killing of eight police officers within one week. In his final address, Scott said while the government can do more, ultimately it cannot force Americans to resolve their differences. He said ending racial strife in America has no



simple solution, but listening to one another is a good start.

On July 11, Scott spoke on the importance of supporting police officers during this time. And on July 13, Scott shared his

own encounters with police in a deeply personal and painful account of how he's been profiled because of the color of his skin, even as a U.S. senator.

Scott revealed law enforcement offi-

cers have pulled him over seven times during the span of one year as an elected member of Congress: "Was I speeding sometimes? Sure. But the vast

Scott, who has been pulled over seven times within one year, says he does not know many African-American men who do not have a similar story to tell, regardless of income level or profession.

majority of the time, I was pulled over for nothing more than driving a new car in the wrong neighborhood or some other reason just as trivial."

■ Please see RACE page 2

'I saw myself surrounded with flames'

Plane Crash Survivor's Miraculous Tale of Faith

by **Stephanie Riggs**

On July 19, 1989, Helen Young Hayes boarded United Airlines flight 232 in Denver, bound for Chicago. That flight never made it. It suffered catastrophic failure of its tail-mounted engine and crashed in Sioux City, Iowa.

Miraculously, Hayes survived. Now she's publically sharing her remarkable story of faith.

"I remember every minute of it as vividly as if it were last week!" Hayes told CBN News.

The harrowing experience tested the faith of the successful money manager seated in row 9, seat B.

Armed with faith, she prayed the impossible: that God literally guide the pilots' hands as they attempted to land a DC-10 with no hydraulic assistance – something that had never been done before.

"Just as I figured out

that something was wrong, the captain came on again and he said, 'Ladies and gentlemen, we will not be making it to Chicago after all. We have sustained tail damage to our plane. We are going to attempt an emergency landing in Sioux City, Iowa, in 35 minutes and I'm not gonna kid you folks -- it's gonna be rough,' she recalled.

"The plane was just careening about. I looked up and as I was being thrown around in my seat I saw myself surrounded with flames and for that moment, for the first time, I was afraid," she continued.

"And I thought, 'Dear God, don't let me be burned,' and then the flames passed and suddenly we were somersaulting over and tumbling upside down and then we slid to a stop. All I could hear was the sound of crackling and sizzling and burning," she recalled.

"I could hear passengers moaning and I was hanging upside down and I thought, 'Well, what do I do now?' because this is not what we had rehearsed. This is not what I expected," she said.

Hayes, one of 185 people who survived, said she knew she was on that

flight for a reason.

"I was on the plane because, unbeknownst to me, the pilot's hands needed guidance and so a prayer was put in me that I just prayed," she told CBN News.

So, what exactly did she pray?

"The first thing that came to mind was the pilots' hands," she said. "I closed my eyes and I just prayed for pilots and I asked the Lord to give them guidance and wisdom and show them what to do. And I believe my prayer was answered that day."

"For the first time in aviation history the plane -- a plane that was not steerable and had no elevators, so it doesn't have the ability to go up and down and it does not have breaks and landing gear -- a completely unsteerable plane was brought to the runway," she continued.

"And while they expected that no one would survive, 185 people lived! I know that's why I was on the plane," she concluded.

So, where did Hayes get her faith?

"I had grown up believing in the salvation of Jesus through my mother and attending our local Catholic church," Hayes told CBN News.

"But there's part of me that always wondered ever since I was a little girl what I believe in prove to be real to me when I needed (it) the most," she said. "And when I am sitting at the edge of

The July, 1989 crash of United Airlines flight 232 in Sioux City, Ia claimed the lives of many and haunts the memories of survivor Helen Young Hayes.



eternity, will I be afraid and will God be real to me?"

"And so what was decided for me on July 19, 1989, was, yes, all of that is more real than anything else," Hayes said.

It was her relationship with Jesus that really helped her through life's storms – to live a life bigger than she ever could have imagined.

"I think it's really from knowing who the person of Jesus Christ is and we learn about Him through Scripture, through what He said to what He did," Hayes explained.

"We learn about Him in community.

We learn about Him through the lives and experiences of other people and then by just spending time with Him.

Undaunted by her brush with death 17 years earlier, Hayes has since racked up a million airline miles.

"I have hit the million-mile mark!" she exclaimed. "I have looked death in the eye and sat and glanced over the edge of eternity and I have to say, I believe that death is nothing to fear because I know that this life will just usher in the next life... the real life. It's graduation day. Yes, it's graduation day!"

RACE

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He later told of a time when a U.S. Capitol Police officer stopped him, assuming Scott was impersonating a member of Congress. Scott said a guard told him, "The pin, I know. You, I don't. Show me your ID."

"Later that evening, I received a phone call from his supervisor apologizing for that behavior," Scott said. "That is at least the third phone call that I've received from a supervisor or the chief of police since I've been in the Senate."

Scott added he does not know many African-American men who do not have a similar story to tell, regardless of

income level or profession.

His speeches stem from the recent police killings of two black men in Louisiana and Minnesota, both caught on video. During a peaceful protest in Dallas the following week, a gunman opened fire on police, killing five officers and wounding seven others. The shooter also wounded two civilians.

Scott's colleagues praised his mes-

sages.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. said that Scott is an outstanding speaker. "We've all been listening."

McConnell's counterpart agreed. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., remarked after Scott's speech that he is tremendously impressed with his positive outlook despite troubling

experiences, and praised his empathy as Americans grieve.

Scott proposed several ideas to help restore the trust between the African-American community and police officers. He said more officers need to wear body cameras so the American people can see the whole story. But he also advocated a police shooting tracking system and said officers need better de-escalation training.

But Scott said real healing starts when families join together over a meal to have hard conversations.

"I'll continue to reach out to all my colleagues and my friends who may not look like me, who may have a different philosophy than I do, so that I can understand their hopes, their dreams, and their frustrations," Scott said. "Because listening is important and as we look around at our nation, it appears to me that we haven't done nearly enough listening to each other."

One of Scott's best friends in the Senate, Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., said he's been asking people all week if their family has ever had a family of a different race over to their house for dinner: "I was shocked by how many said no."

Together, Scott and Lankford are issuing a new challenge they call "Sunday Solutions," asking families of different races to share a meal together and hear each other's stories.

"We need one family from one race with another family from another race together. Not at a restaurant, but at somebody's house having conversations around the dinner table," Lankford told me. "That's where we start to make repairs."

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newsbriefs

Christian dating site agrees to gay matchmaking

(WNS)--ChristianMingle, a dating website targeting Christian singles, has agreed to open its matchmaking service to clients seeking same-sex relationships. The agreement came as part of a settlement in a lawsuit filed by two gay men who claimed the company's focus on heterosexual relationships discriminated against them. Conservatives denounced the decision as a strike against religious liberty and an unnecessary interference in private business. "Early on in their quest to legalize homosexual marriage, advocates assured us that it would not infringe on the rights of others, especially people of faith," Carrie Gordon Earll, vice president of public policy at Focus on the Family, said. "From dating sites and adoption agencies to small businesses, it's clear today that people of faith are being forced to compromise or risk financial ruin."

African-American teens embracing abstinence

(WNS)--African-American teens are having less sex, according to recent analysis of data collected by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The percentage of African-American teens who report they have never had sex rose from 18.5 in 1991 to 51.5 percent in 2015. The jump was even steeper for males. In 1991, barely 1 in 10 were not sexually active; in 2015 it was more than 4 in 10. The results are "astounding," according to experts. While the overall number of American teens who report they have never had



sex also increased in the last 25 years, the increase for African-American male teens is nearly 10 times greater—a 28 percent increase for American teens and a 246 percent increase for African-American male teens since 1991. "The increase is both unprecedented and enormously greater than any other ethnicity," said the abstinence advocacy group Ascend, formerly known as the National Abstinence Education Association.

Complaints against Dallas police at a low

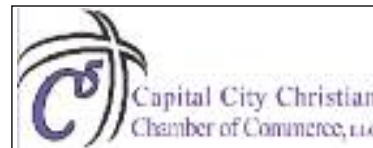
(WNS)--In the hours before at least one sniper shot and killed five Dallas police officers during a stunning ambush the night of July 7, demonstrators marched peacefully and mingled cordially with officers patrolling the downtown streets. It was one of several demonstrations in cities across the country, where hundreds gathered to protest the recent shooting deaths of two black men by white police officers in Louisiana and Minnesota. Earlier in the evening, the Dallas Police Department tweeted a photo of a demonstrator smiling with police in a crowded park. The protester carried a sign reading: "No Justice, No Peace," but he looked at ease with the officers on duty. It was one of the tragic ironies of the horror that followed: Shootings by police officers in Dallas have dropped by 40 percent in the last year. And complaints of excessive force dropped to a nearly 20-year low. (In 2009, the department recorded 147 complaints. Near the end of last year, it reported 13.)



Downtown Topeka to be focus of C5Alive "POWER" luncheon

This month's Christian Chamber of Commerce C5Alive "POWER" luncheon will be held at HHB BBQ downtown with Vince Frye & Edie Smith giving an update on all the changes in the Downtown Topeka area.

The cost is \$10 for C5 members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$12 at the door. Non-members and other guests pay \$15. C5 luncheons are open to the public



and everyone is welcome to attend, organizers said. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

The C5Alive luncheon is sponsored by Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5). C5

sponsors luncheons on the second Thursday of every month, which are held at different locations around the city. Next month it will be held Sep. 8 at Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Park, featuring College Ministries.

C5 members may sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. For more information go to www.C5Alive.org; C5 can also be found on Facebook: www.facebook.com/C5Alive.



ARK

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president and CEO of Answers in Genesis and the popular Creation Museum, which is located about a 45 minute drive north of the Ark Encounter.

During a press conference, Ham addressed a packed crowd, speaking to the importance of this family-oriented, historically authentic and environmentally friendly attraction.

"In a world that is becoming increasingly secularized and biased, it's time for Christians to do something of this size and this magnitude," said Ham.

The Ark Encounter is strategically located off I-75, a one-day drive from nearly two-thirds of the U.S. population. An independent feasibility study by America's Research Group (ARG) estimates between 1.4 million and 2.2 million individuals will visit within the first year. This same group predicted the Creation Museum would receive 400,000 visitors in its first year and 404,000 actually came within that timeframe.

Ham noted that with the Ark Encounter, "the research indicates a large percentage—maybe 40 percent or more—will be non-Christians. People from all over the world have heard of Noah's Ark." Ham added, "I believe you're going to find all sorts of people from all walks of life with all sorts of religious backgrounds who are going to come here. And even if they don't share our biblical view, they

can't help but be impressed by the structure, craftsmanship and by the attention to detail of the world-class exhibits inside. And who knows? Maybe they'll be challenged to even talk about the Bible."

During the official ribbon cutting ceremony in front of a portion of the 43,000 supporting donor families from across all 50 states, Kentucky's Lt. Governor Jenean Hampton, representing the Commonwealth's Governor Matt Bevin, welcomed the crowd.

"We are so blessed that this great, great attraction was built here in Kentucky," said Hampton. "It's just an honor to have this here. We hope to see millions come to Kentucky to see the Ark Encounter."

The Ark Encounter was built to answer the most-asked questions about the account of Noah and to present the gospel of Christ. Ham reminded the crowd that this theme park is not just about entertainment, but also to present the Christian message.

"The Ark is a reminder," said Ham. "To remind generations of the truth of God's Word. It's our way of presenting this to the world."

In addition to the full-scale Noah's Ark with three decks of world-class exhibits in over 120,000 square feet, the Ark Experience theme park includes the Ararat Ridge Zoo, daily animal shows, zip lines, live entertainment, a 1,500-seat themed restaurant and fair-trade shopping.

To accommodate the crowds expected

within the first few weeks, the Ark will welcome visitors within the first "40 days and nights" from 9 a.m. to midnight, after which hours of operation will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are available at ArkEncounter.com and at on-site ticket offices. Admission is \$40 for adults, \$31 for seniors and \$28 for children; parking is \$10. There will be other ticket options, including combo tickets for the Ark and its sister attraction, the Creation Museum, plus a seven-day unlimited ticket to the Ark and Creation Museum.

The Creation Museum in Petersburg, 40 miles from the Ark Encounter, has been visited by over 2.6 million guests since opening in 2007 and has proved to be a major family attraction in the Midwest.

OPPOSITION

The Ark Encounter managed to open in spite of much opposition. A group of



Then, an effort was made to deny them the state tax breaks enjoyed by other attractions, because of "separation of church and state" issues. Ham's group won the court battle. The ruling concluded "the Commonwealth's exclusion of AIG from participating in the program for the reasons stated—i.e., on the basis of

Outside the ark, under the shadow of the giant "ship," Ark Encounter is extended with a petting zoo of live animals, camel and donkey rides, a 1,500-seat restaurant and, eventually, a network of zip lines spanning the 800-acre site.

Inside, Ham has packed Ark Encounter with multiple ways to tell the story of how God preserved creation, dividing the structure into three decks that variously feature animatronic creatures as well as members of Noah's family, their living area, cages and other spaces that could support live animals if necessary, themed exhibits, state-of-the-art videos, a blacksmith shop, a giant rainbow mural depicting a divine promise to Noah, and much more.

Ark Encounter also devotes a good deal of attention to making the case for a literal reading of Noah's story, with exhibits illustrating the evils of the pre-flood pagan world, demonstrating the engineering skills of ancient mankind, and suggesting how the family actually could have built the ark over the course of a century and loaded it up, two-by-two, for the rain-sotted 40 days and 40 nights described in the Bible.

Ham is unapologetically interpreting Noah's ark with a full-scale paean to Biblical literalism. This includes Ham's belief in a "young Earth," which means including dinosaurs inside the ark.

For more information about the Ark Encounter, visit www.arkencounter.com.



An exhibit on the Ark



Left to right: Answers in Genesis Co-founder Mike Zovath, Lt. Governor of Kentucky Jenean Hampton, Ken Ham, Answers in Genesis Co-founder Mark Looy welcome guests at the ribbon-cutting July 5.

atheists managed to get the permit denied for the first piece of property selected—thankfully, an even better parcel of land then became available. Also a group called the Tri-State Freethinkers made an effort to rent billboards with the message "Genocide and Incest Park: Celebrating 2,000 years of myths."

AIG's religious beliefs, purpose, mission, message, or conduct, is a violation of AIG's rights under the First Amendment to the federal Constitution." The judge also affirmed AIG's right to use a religious preference in its hiring, specifically noting that "Title VII includes exceptions" for which AIG qualifies.

Russia Bans Evangelism

by **John Potter | Military Chaplain**

Forget military aggression. Russia just made it illegal to talk about Jesus outside of a church!

Russia recently passed a set of anti-terrorism laws known as the Yarovaya package, which places broad limitations on missionary work, including preaching, teaching, and any activity designed to recruit people into a religious group. When it became a public law on July 20, it rolled back 19 years of religious freedom.

While Christians have enjoyed great freedom since the Iron Curtain collapsed, these laws are Russia's most restrictive measures in post-Soviet history. The new laws contain several heavy restrictions on missionary activity and evangelism. The changes include laws against sharing your faith in homes, online, in writing, or any public space except a recognized church building.

As it now stands, Yarovaya requires missionaries to have permits, makes house churches illegal, and limits religious activity to the premises of registered church buildings. The rules are

so tight that Christians in Russia cannot email their friends an invitation to church under the new surveillance and anti-terrorism laws. Anyone who disobeys could be fined up to \$780 and organizations could be fined more than \$15,000. Foreign visitors who violate the law can be detained and ultimately face deportation.

Russia's Baptist Council of Churches wrote an open letter calling Yarovaya, "the most draconian anti-religion bill to be proposed in Russia since Nikita Khrushchev promised to eliminate Christianity in the Soviet Union."

As fellow believers, we should all be appalled and upset with the Yarovaya laws. When religious freedom is swept away with the stroke of a pen, it affects the entire church. Now is the time for Christians across the globe to seek the Lord and pray that God will intercede for our brothers and sisters in Russia. Ask that God will unite Russian Christians and that this time of trial can be used to strengthen and grow the church.



Christian tour looking for a church to host a concert

A Christian hip-hop music tour titled "The Good News Tour", featuring Canadian Christian recording artist Dru Bex, is seeking Kansas City-area churches or venues in which to perform.

Since entering into the ministry of music, Dru Bex has toured North America with one simple but focused message— "I want people to know who God is to me and who he wants to be to the person listening to my music" says Dru Bex.

Now Dru Bex is back with his debut solo album "The Good Album" gaining popularity on his first major headlining



tour "The Good News Tour". Concert attendees can expect an electrifying show with new music from Dru Bex, fused with the Gospel

Exceed Talent Agency, which represents the group, says it is looking for churches, ministries and/or organizations that are as passionate as they are in sharpening the Church as well as ministering to new believers in a powerful way.

If your church or group is interested in hosting them in the Kansas City area on, or around, Sept. 4, call (515) 681-4006.

i moreinformation

info@exceedtalentagency.com

NATION

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ceive that the faith has played some role in U.S. history.

Not surprisingly, there are vast differences of opinion on Christianity's role in American history along party lines. Democrats are much more likely to reject the role of Christianity in U.S. public life.

"Forty-four percent of Republicans say the U.S. has always been and continues to be a Christian nation, while a majority (51%) say America was once a Christian nation but is no longer. Only five percent of Republicans say the U.S. has never been a Christian nation. In contrast, four in ten (40%) Democrats believe the U.S. is currently a Christian nation, while only about one-third (36%) believe the U.S. was formerly a Christian country but is not today. More than one in five (22%) Democrats say the U.S. has never been a Christian nation," the study said.

Also not surprising is that perceptions about the role of Christianity in U.S. public life differ based on denominational affiliation. For example, white evangelical Protestants are "most apt to believe that the U.S. has lost its Christian identity, and this belief has increased significantly over the past four years."

Four years ago, the number of white evangelical Protestants who believed the country was a Christian nation was 45%, and the number who believed it was at one time a Christian nation, but is no longer, was 48%. Today, fewer (37%) believe America is a Christian nation while 59% believe it was, but is no longer in the Christian camp.

Other groups, including white mainline Protestants, black Protestants and Catholics (both Hispanic and white), who don't necessarily share evangelical's biblical eschatology and gloomy outlook about the decline of Christian culture, are generally more likely to view America as a Christian nation.

Age also plays a factor in perceptions about America's Christian history. The older the survey respondent, the more likely the individual was to label America a "Christian nation." Of those 65 and older, nearly half (49%) said they believed America was a Christian country, while another 39% said they believed it once was but is no longer. The numbers fall steadily until bottoming out in the age 18-29 category, where only 32% believe America is inherently Christian.

Importantly, the study does not define the term "Christian nation," so it isn't clear if it means that the country was founded upon Christianity and Christian

principles, or was (and currently is) a nation predominately comprised of Christians.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST CHRISTIANS

The downward trend in the association of the Christian religion with America also pairs with increasing perceptions that Christians are now a focal point for discrimination in the U.S. Nearly half of survey respondents (49%) said they believed discrimination against Christians has become a "big problem" in the country.

And while there were few statistical differences on perceptions of discrimination by race and ethnicity, there is by social class among white Americans. The less-well-off financially a respondent was, the more likely they were to see that discrimination is a problem for Christians.

"More than six in ten (62%) white working-class Americans believe discrimination against Christians is now as big a problem as discrimination against other groups. Only 38% of white college-educated Americans agree, while 62% disagree," the study noted.

The study also broke down perceptions of discrimination by political party and by religious or denominational affiliation. As can be expected – and was illustrated in the campaigns of figures like Gov. Mike Huckabee, Texas Sen. Ted Cruz and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio – nearly three-quarters (74%) of Republicans see a rising tide of discrimination against Christians. The figure was even higher (77%) among white evangelical Protestants, as well as among supporters of New York billionaire and Republican nominee Donald Trump (also 77%) – a figure easily explained by Trump's frequent talks about discrimination against Christians in the U.S. and Christian refugees abroad.

Only 34% of Democrats believe Christians suffer any discrimination in the U.S.

ISLAM AND AMERICAN VALUES

The majority of Americans are still not

comfortable with the integration of large numbers of Muslims into American society because nearly six in ten (57%) believe Islamic values and teachings are incompatible with the ideals and cultural norms of American life.

Among white Americans, six in ten (61%) said they believed Islam is at odds with American life, but that number declines based on the rate of educational attainment among the respondents. According to the survey, 68% of white "working-class Americans see Islam as having an irreconcilable conflict with American values, while only 53% of college-educated whites feel the same way.

"Perspectives about Islam's compatibility with American way of life also vary significantly by party affiliation. Nearly eight in ten (79%) Republicans believe the values of Islam are at odds with the American way of life, a view shared by a majority (54%) of independents and less than half (42%) of Democrats. A majority (55%) of Democrats say Islam does not conflict with American values. More than eight in ten (83%) Trump supporters embrace the idea that Islam is opposed to American values," the study claimed.

"White Christian groups are the most likely of all major religious groups to express doubt about Islam's compatibility with American values, though non-white Christian groups also express considerable skepticism. Three-quarters (74%) of white evangelical Protestants and more than six in ten white mainline Protestants (66%) and white Catholics (63%) say the values of Islam conflict with American values and way of life, as do a majority of Hispanic Catholics (54%). Only about four in ten religiously unaffiliated Americans (43%), black Protestants (43%), and members of non-Christian religions (41%) echo this sentiment."

The PRRI/Brookings Institution survey measured the attitudes of more than 2,600 American adults over the age of 18 during a two month period (April-May).

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No Arguments

Dear Dave,

My dad and I have been having arguments over real estate and money. My wife and I are 33, and we have a rental property. We were trying to decide whether or not to sell the rental in order to pay down on our home. My dad has been very vocal about what he thinks we should do, and it's starting to cause problems in our relationship. The two homes are our only debt, and we make \$110,000 a year. We owe \$132,000 on our residence and \$80,000 on the rental. We could sell the rental for around \$160,000. What do you think we should do?

Ricky

Dear Ricky,

I wouldn't sell the rental today, but it's definitely a strong consideration in the future. You wouldn't realize enough from its sale to pay off it and your home at this point, so work aggressively toward paying down the mortgage on your home. Then, when you get far enough down that the sale of the rental would pay it off, go for it if that's what you both want. You're doing really well financially for a couple your age in San Diego.

Now, let's talk about something else for a moment. I would love for you to listen to your dad for advice, but I would not be arguing with him about what you are going to do with your money. You're a man. I don't know if you just used the incorrect word there for how the discussion went down, but if not, I wanted to correct that as a boundary issue in your family.

Keep up the good work, Ricky!
—Dave

Staying away from scams

Dear Dave,

I've always wanted to work from

home. How can I separate the scams online and on television from the real jobs where I can make money?

Randy

Dear Randy,

The vast majority of things you see in late-night infomercials and online—except of course for legitimate job hunter sites—are scams. I'm talking about the business-in-a-box kind of stuff and everything else. And I know you've seen the postings online that go something like, "My sister-in-law makes \$50 an hour from home, and you can, too!" These scammers are the worst of the worst. Don't waste a second of your time on that garbage.

My biggest worry is that you're looking at your career the wrong way. Just making money shouldn't be the measuring stick of success in your professional life. Whether you're going to start a home business or work in an office for someone else, your work should engage you in doing something you know about and love.

You spend too many hours of your life at work to be miserable in what you do. Shuffling day after day through a job you don't like—even one with a big paycheck attached—is also a bad idea. Sooner or later the fact that you don't like your work is going to catch up with you on the job and at home.

Think of something you love to do, then get creative and find a way to make money at it. It may mean turning a hobby into a part-time gig nights and weekends for starters. Who knows, with a lot of hard work and a little creativity, you could be your own boss in no time!

—Dave

Planning for college

Dear Dave,



DAVE RAMSEY
Financial author, radio host, television personality, and motivational speaker

davesays

We have two daughters, and we've started thinking about financial planning for college. What are the differences between an Education Savings Account and a 529 plan?

John

Dear John,

I'm glad you're thinking ahead and planning for the future. Here's a quick overview of the two.

The Education Savings Account (ESA) is limited to \$2,000 per year, per child. It has complete flexibility, meaning you can invest it in whatever you like and you can move it—roll it over—to another one if you don't like that mutual fund, as an example. I use that example because I recommend using good growth stock mutual funds and that you do this for the first \$2,000 invested per year.

There are several types of 529 plans, and there's only one that I would recommend. It's the kind that has complete flexibility, where you control the investments. Some states have 529 plans that are prepaid tuition, and I never recommend those. You don't want the state managing anything for you, because you won't get anywhere near the returns you'd get if you managed it yourself. Other types of 529s lock you into a certain kind of investment the whole time, or they move the investment based on the age of your kid. I don't want anybody doing that crap. I want you controlling your money.

Most of the 529s vary somewhat from state to state, but the majority have flexibility that allows you to control the investment while contributing up to \$10,000 a year. Both those and the ESAs grow completely tax-free on the growth as long as they're used for higher education. They can also be transferred to a sibling if the kid doesn't go to school, so a little brother or sister can use the money. If they get scholarships, make sure you keep up with the value of these. You'll be allowed to withdraw that amount and refund yourself for the scholarship amount without penalty or taxes on the amount withdrawn.

In short, both the ESA and 529 are fine ways to save for college. Just make sure if you're doing a 529 that you choose the kind you control from top to bottom!

—Dave

What causes overspending?

Dear Dave,

In your opinion, what causes over-

spending?
Kristin

Dear Kristin,

Overspending is, 100 percent of the time, a choice. It's a decision. Most of the time it's linked to immaturity, although there can be other issues at play.

People who habitually overspend are saying that they're unwilling to act like a mature adult, and delay pleasure in order to win with money. This kind of thing is made even worse, because we live in a culture fueled by extreme debt marketing. And when things like credit card offers are constantly in the face of immature people, those two things can combine to make a real mess.

Good question, Kristin!

—Dave

Just be honest

Dear Dave,

I took a new job less than a month ago. Just the other day, I was recruited by a huge company for the same position that pays twice what I'm making now. I didn't apply for the job that was offered; they came directly to me. I didn't sign a contract or promise to work a certain length of time with my current employer, but they're good people and I want to do the right thing and handle things well. Do you have any advice?

Jeff

Dear Jeff,

In situations like this I always try to put on the other person's shoes. Let's pretend you own the company and you just hired a young guy. A few weeks later, someone comes in out of the blue and offered him double what he's currently making. I can tell you what would happen here. I'd tell him to take it. I mean, I would. And as an employer I'm certainly not going to double his income that quickly.

I think you take the job. Just walk into your leader's or supervisor's office and tell the truth. Lay it all out there, and let them know that while you feel awful about the situation, you had no intention or misleading

them or causing problems, but you simply can't pass up the opportunity. Be sure to show an extreme amount of gratitude, and promise to do everything possible to make the transition as easy as possible.

Truthfully, if an organization cares about its team members, and one of those has the ability to double their income and they're not breaking a promise in the process, this type of scenario is perfectly reasonable. It may be a little uncomfortable for you—and inconvenient for them for a while—but they can't realistically expect you to pass up the opportunity to double your salary.

You're a good man, Jeff.

Congratulations!

—Dave

Settlements for medical bills

Dear Dave,

Will hospitals take a settlement on past due medical bills, or is this a rare occurrence?

Kristin

Dear Kristin,

It's not all that rare for hospitals to accept a settlement on past due bills. Most businesses will accept a settlement on past due accounts, and many hospitals will accept a deeply discounted settlement because they've usually gotten a big chunk of their money up front from the insurance company.

Let's say you had a \$1,000 bill with a hospital you honestly haven't been able to pay for several months, or even two or three years. If you go to them and offer \$300 or \$400 as a settlement, there's a good chance you'll have a deal. Just make sure you get the agreement in writing before you hand anyone a check.

Remember, you have a moral and legal obligation to pay your debts in full if at all possible. But if you truly can't afford to pay, an agreed upon settlement between two parties can be an honorable and acceptable compromise.

—Dave

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Christians and Politics: Serving Two Masters?



ERWIN
LUTZER

Author, Pastor
Emeritus of
Moody Church

myopinion

Dr. Erwin Lutzer served as the pastor of Moody Church in Chicago for over 36 years. As a prolific speaker and author, he gained the respect of millions of Christians in the U.S. and around the world. In 2004 the question of Christians involving themselves in politics was asked. His answer is as appropriate today as it was then.

"First, we must keep in mind that no one party is entirely good or entirely bad," he replied. "The fact is that we live in a fallen world, and thus will always be led by sinners at all levels of government. I am concerned when people say, 'Well, I won't vote because I can't support either person.' Of course you should vote, even if your choices are limited!"

Second, Lutzer said, we each have to be clear about what government can and cannot do. While working towards good government, good laws and good judges, we cannot be naive in thinking that government can rescue us from the abyss of moral and spiritual failure. "When will we learn

that the best news this nation needs will not come from Washington, but from the lips and lives of followers of Jesus Christ?"

Lutzer also says that God might be calling each of us to be involved at a different level of public service. Some might run for office; others might help a party financially, or help get out the vote. "I can't tell you how much time and energy you should give to politics, for God leads us differently. Each of us has to ask: Lord, what will You have me do?"

How Should Christians View Politics?

We've gathered some of his answers here as a resource for you.

Q: Some people say that politics is dirty, and so, no Christian should run for office...

A: I disagree. Of course the name of the political game is compromise, but it is not wrong to compromise on matters such as budgets, appointments and programs. In politics, you have to be satisfied with half a loaf; which might be better than just crumbs. However, a Christian politician should not compromise those timeless moral principles taught in the Bible.

Q: To what extent should a single issue, such as abortion, affect our vote?

A: That is a big one. Whatever a candidate says about other matters, what he or she believes about the killing of unborn infants has to be



high on our list of priorities.

Q: Do you think it's possible for Christians to put too much emphasis on politics?

A: Yes. I think the fate of America rests more with the people of God than with who gets voted into office. Government can't take the place of the church.

Q: Do you think it's possible to put too little emphasis on politics?

A: Yes. There are those who say that we should just live the Christian life, pray, preach the Gospel, and not become involved in politics. But the fact is that we live in this world and should take an active interest in its welfare, which is what God asked His people Israel to do when they lived in Babylon. For us, that at least means voting and taking others with us to the polling booth.

Q: A last question: What do you see

on the horizon, politically speaking?

A: We don't know what God has in mind; for it is He who raises up leaders and brings them down. I'm struck by the fact that we have had some radical shifts in philosophy and leadership in the last few decades and somehow America is still here... we don't have the freedoms we once had and each day we are losing the culture war, but we are still here preaching the Gospel.

The bottom line: whoever gets elected as President is important, but it is possible for the Kingdom of God to become strong even as the kingdom of man declines. God's program for His people is not tied to the next election; Christianity has survived in countries where there was no freedom of religion. We are to be faithful no matter who is elected.

The Unnecessary Divide



CLINT
DECKER

President and
Evangelist with
Great
Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

— The clashes between police and black protestors have riveted the nation. Young black men have lost their lives at the hands of police and police have lost their lives in retaliation. As a result charges of racism have been thrown back and forth by supporters and opponents. The word that comes to mind when I ponder all this is — division, and how unnecessary it is.

What good do protestors accomplish by cursing, yelling, throwing rocks, physical assaults and death threats? Yes, they get the attention of the public, news media and lawmakers.

However, in the face of such lawlessness their cause has become blurred due to their egregious actions. Furthermore, the character they have brought to the table to attain their goals has become marred.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was adamant about his use of peaceful means for change. He once stated, "Violence as a way of achieving racial justice is both impractical and immoral. I am not unmindful of the fact that violence often brings about momentary results. Nations have frequently won their independence in battle. But in spite of temporary victories, violence never brings permanent peace." Yes, his protests did have clashes with police but he did not provoke it with rude and crude means. He maintained class and calmness in the face of unjust circumstances.

There is indeed a tragedy of epic proportions among the young black men of our American inner cities. The situation they face should alarm all Americans no matter their color. For



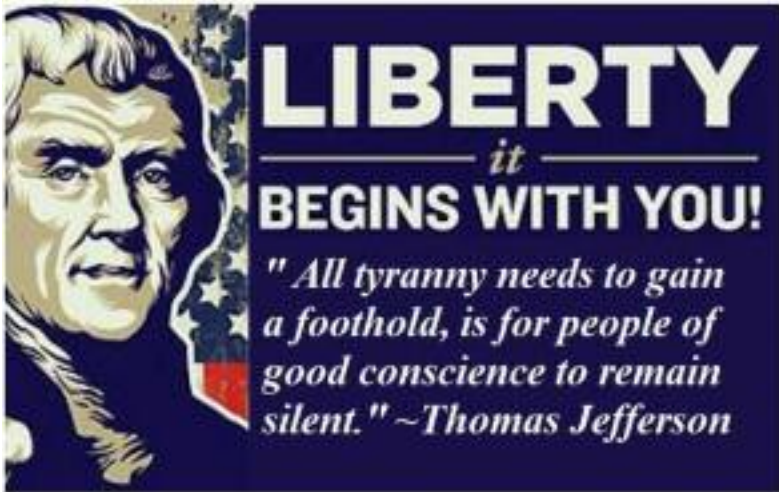
an inner city black baby to grow up and graduate from high school is against many odds, then adding college, finding a career, getting married and having a family is even more rare. Unfortunately, going to prison or getting shot from gang violence or police is all too common.

Does retaliating against police or the system help these young men? I believe the answer starts with Jesus. Through His suffering, death and resurrection overcame all the forces hell could assail at Him. He said, "The thief

comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. I am the good shepherd" (John 10:10).

If protestors sought out inner city pastors and churches and together they cried out to God against the evil and injustices in their communities, what a difference that would make! Through Jesus division can turn to unity, evil to good and hate to love

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



Top 10 reasons to participate in local and national elections

1. Voting publically recognizes that we submit to the authority of the political system in our nation as established by God. Romans 13:1-7
2. Voting recognizes the equality of all people and their right to speak and be heard. James 2:1
3. Voting is one way we can obey God's command to seek the good of those around us and our nation as a whole. Philippians 2:3
4. Voting shows that we care deeply about who our leaders are as we are urged to offer prayer and intercession on their behalf. 1 Timothy 2:1,2
5. Voting is a simple yet significant way we can do something about politics in our nation. "All this is required for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing," Edmund Burke. Psalms 34:14
6. Voting makes a difference in the same way a grain of salt makes a difference and that is how we are to influence our society for good. Matthew 5:13
7. Voting is a privilege not to be taken for granted. Those of us who reap the benefits of living in a democracy should play a part in upholding democracy.
8. Not voting is a form of voting, as it will influence the outcome. We need to take responsibility for our actions, as well as our lack of actions. 1 Peter 1:13
9. Voting is part of our stewardship to use all the resources we have been given in ways that honor God; to waste a vote is to squander a gift.
10. Voting is Biblical. Jesus commands us to fulfill our responsibility to the civil authority. Matthew 22:21.

Source: Adapted from Let Freedom Ring, Inc.

Kansas: An Unsung Hero For Economic Growth

By Rex Sinquefeld | Forbes

During this news cycle, the Midwestern governor occupying the greatest media bandwidth is the one just selected for a spot on the GOP ticket. We can certainly expect to see Indiana Governor Mike Pence's name all over the news for the next four months, but it's also worth taking a look at how other Midwestern governors are making a real impact, and at the state level.

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback's 2013 tax reform is to thank for the state's economic growth and low unemployment rate. Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

Now in the third year of his bold tax experiment, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback can see the ways in which reducing (and, in many cases, eliminating) the state income tax is yielding incremental, positive effects for Kansans.

Significantly, every year since the tax cuts were implemented, Kansas has surpassed the state record for new business formations. When we consider that startups have decreased nationwide since the Great Recession of 2008, this achievement is particularly remarkable. What's more, the Kansas unemployment rate stands at 3.7% – the lowest the state has seen since 2001, and well below the national average of 5.5%.

Why the incremental success in Kansas? We certainly can't attribute these victories to the state's core industries; due to economic turmoil felt nationwide, Kansas too has seen dips in farm incomes (owing to consistently low crop prices and steep declines in cattle prices), a fall in commodity prices and exports, sluggish movement in oil and natural-gas markets, and declining manufacturing. Without these four industries buoying Kansas' economy, we must look to other factors: namely, the income tax cut that continues to make a real difference, particularly for small businesses and working families.

Governor Brownback put his faith in the private sector to grow the Kansas



Kansas Governor Sam Brownback's 2013 tax reform is to thank for the state's economic growth and low unemployment rate.

Photographer: David Paul Morris/Bloomberg

economy, rather than the government. By eliminating the income tax for small business, the Brownback administration effectively put money back in families' pockets and provided promising new businesses with an environment primed for growth. Following the major tax reform in 2013, individual income taxes for individuals, families and small business went down by 30% on average. Seventy-one percent of the savings went to individuals and families, who could then save or spend as they chose. Twenty-nine percent of the savings went to small businesses, allowing them to make larger investments in equipment, space and staff.

Prior to tax reform, Kansas possessed the second-highest individual income tax in the region; today, it is the region's second-lowest, bested only by Colorado. This is meaningful not just for small businesses and middle- to upper-class families, but also for Kansans of fewer means. Kansas now offers the highest Earned Income Tax Credit in the region. Plus, the Brownback administration increased the standard deduction for "head of household" filings in order to help single-parent households.

Importantly, 388,000 of the lowest-income Kansans have been removed from the tax rolls, leaving them with zero tax liability.

Equally important from a regional perspective is that fact that Kansas is gaining ground over neighboring Missouri when it comes to gains in net adjusted gross income. In 2013, the same year that the Brownback tax cuts took effect, Kansas experienced a positive reversal in migration of wealth between the two bordering states. Kansas enjoys a nearly \$85 million advantage in income gains from Missouri. This is a major reversal. Consider the data between 1995 and 2009, which shows more than \$263 million leaving Kansas for Missouri. A longitudinal examination of this trend will bear out whether the flow of money correlates with the institution of Brownback's tax policy, but the current evidence is certainly compelling. While other state economies struggle under the weight of current economic uncertainties, the incremental successes in Kansas make a solid case for pro-growth reform through income tax cuts.

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Five prayers for the school year



**REBECCA
BARLOW
JORDAN**

Best-selling author and speaker who loves to share God's encouragement

mythoughts

One of the best ways you can prepare your children this year as they go back to school is through prayer. And praying Scripture over them is one of the most powerful ways to pray. Here are five back to school prayers you can pray for your kids and grandkids:

Prayers for Peace (Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Romans 5:1). Lord, I pray that my kids (grandkids) will experience the peace of God this year that exceeds all understanding. I pray they will not worry about things they cannot control, but that You will guard their hearts and minds and keep them trusting in You. I pray they will not only enjoy the peace of God, but peace with God. I pray they will develop a spirit of gratitude and thanksgiving as they look to You daily for their needs. I pray that You will give them the capacity for joy that bubbles up from Your peace.

Prayers for Protection (2 Thessalonians 3:3; Psalm 46:1; John 17:15; Psalm 91). Lord, I pray Your emotional, physical, and spiritual protection over my kids (grandkids). Keep evil far from them, and help them to trust You as their refuge and strength. I pray You will guard their minds from harmful instruction, and grant them discernment to recognize truth. I pray You will make them strong and courageous in the presence of danger, recognizing that You have overcome and will set right all injustice and wrong one day. Help them to find rest in Your shadow, as they live in the spiritual shelter You provide for them. Let them know that the only safe place is in Jesus,



and that their home on earth is only temporary.

Prayers for Purity (Psalm 51:10; Mathew 5:8; 1 Timothy 1:5; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Psalm 19:14). Lord, I pray that You will create in my kids (grandkids) a clean heart and that You would constantly renew a right spirit within them, keeping their thoughts and actions pure and motivated by love. Guard them from temptation, and let them know You are always faithful to give them a way out and help to endure. May the words of their mouths and the meditations of their hearts always please you and edify others.

Prayers for Passion (Psalm 42:1; Matthew 22:37-39; John 13:34-35). Lord, I pray that my kids (grandkids) will develop a passion for the things of God. I pray they will hunger and thirst for You and Your Word and will love You with all of their heart, soul, and mind. Give them compassionate and generous hearts to love others as much as You love them. I pray they will always work and study with excellence, but that You will help them desire a servant spirit of greatness, rather than a worldly lust for success. I pray they will fall in love with Jesus over and over again.

Prayers for Perspective (Galatians 2:20; Matthew 28:18-20; Philippians 1:21; Colossians 3:1-2; Ephesians 3:17-

20). Lord, I pray that my kids (grandkids) will develop an eternal perspective and purpose, not an earthly one. Help them to see life—and every challenge—through Your eyes, eager and unafraid to share with others the good news of Jesus wherever they go. I pray that they will set their minds on things above, not just what's going on here, and that they will be rooted and grounded in Your love. I pray they will come to understand the extent of Your own love for them—that it surpasses all the head knowledge they will acquire in school. I pray they will be filled up with You from morning 'til night.

Other Prayers for Your Kids. These are only sample prayers, and hopefully easy ones to remember. They are by no means exhaustive. Find your own Scripture promise or principle and pray those things daily for your kids or grandkids. But don't confine your praying to the first few weeks of school. Your children and grandchildren need your prayers all year long—as long as you or they live. It's the best protection You can give Your children or grandchildren! When we pray Scripture, God listens! And we can always know those prayers are in His will.

Rebecca Barlow Jordan is a best-selling inspirational author and speaker who loves to share God's encouragement with others. She has authored or co-authored numerous books, including the Courage for the Chicken Hearted series and the Daily in Your Presence series. She has also published articles in numerous publications and has sold hundreds of greeting cards. She blogs at www.rebeccabarlowjordan.com.

TRM to host Back to School Fair

BACK TO SCHOOL!

It's time to prepare for back to school and that means the annual Topeka Rescue Mission Back to School Distribution. Backpacks, colored pencils, pencil boxes, composition books are just a few of the items children will need this year. The average cost to purchase the school supplies needed for just one child is about \$100. For a family already struggling to make ends meet financially, this is a big hurdle. The parents are very grateful for the help they receive as it relieves the extra pressure they are feeling to prepare for getting the children ready to return to school. The Mission partnered with Topeka North Outreach (TNO) in 2015 to help just over 700 children with backpacks and school supplies. It was a big success and we enjoyed working alongside TNO serving those in need.

On August 9th, we will provide backpacks and school supplies for the children in the Dare to Dream Mentoring and Dare to Grow programs at Hi-Crest NET. On August 10th, we will provide a new outfit & shoes, backpack and school supplies for the children residing at the Hope Center.

Again this year we will be partnering with TNO to provide backpacks and school supplies to others in need from the community. This school supplies distribution will take place August 13th from 9am-12pm at the Oakland NET Center (1001 NE Michigan Ave). School supply packs will be put together August 11th & 12th at the Oakland NET Center. Volunteers are needed for all 3 days and can sign up by calling Volunteer Services at (785) 354-1744 ext. 393.

Following is the list of school supplies

needed. We ask that all supplies be donated by August 8th and be brought to the Distribution Center (401 NW Norris). Please consider volunteering or donating supplies to help put a smile on a child's face by knowing they will head to school better prepared to take on the new school year.

If you or someone you know needs help with supplies you can sign up at the TRM Distribution Center (401 NW Norris) before August 8th on Monday through Friday, 9am- 3pm, or online at www.topekanorthoutreach.org. Pre-registration is required for the August 13th event.

School Supplies Needed:

New Clothing: Sizes 5 Toddler – Adult 2XL for Boys, Girls, Men & Women

Backpacks
Spiral Notebooks 70 pgs. (College Rule)
Notebook Filler Paper (Wide and College)
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Pencil Boxes
Pencil Pouch
Pencils (#2)
Pen (Black or Blue)
Big Pink Eraser
3 Ring Binder (1 or 1&1/2 inch) NO ZIPPERS
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Back-to-school made simple

by **Stephanie Boothe**

When my daughter first started daycare, she was terrified of being cared for by someone who wasn't family. It was a rough transition. Our family turned to prayer to help her feel safe. And now, almost three years later, I say a prayer every morning in the car with my now-first grader. We ask God to watch out for her – to give her confidence in the tasks



presented, to help her to be nice to her friends and listen to her teachers.

I'm happy this is a tradition we continue as she's growing. Not just because prayer is such a vital part to our Christian walk, but I think it's a daily reminder to her - as she prepares for first grade and all the years to come - that God is with us every minute of every day.

Too bad a prayer alone isn't enough to get her ready for school. Getting a child ready to go back to school, though, doesn't have to be stressful. It just takes a little advanced planning.

I'm far from an expert and I probably have a lot more back-to-school shopping seasons before I can become a seasoned veteran. But I have some experience between shopping for my own child and helping my niece get ready for the new school year.

Here's a quick list of what I've learned, and remember it's not just about filling lists and closets.

10 Don't be married to one store. Sure, you may find the perfect tennis shoes at one store, but "buy one get one half off" means very different things between stores. We learned that the hard way this year. After buying socks and underwear at one store, we realized the third store had the same items for a fraction of the cost. We also learned that the store with the best deal on pencils doesn't have a great selection of backpacks and lunchboxes (and another tip, those metal water bottles that match the lunch boxes leak. You can get a better, plastic version for about \$5 at a dollar store).

9 Brands don't really matter when you're talking about supplies. You can buy the exact same markers from a generic brand as you can the name brand. I will amend this to say I don't think there is a better crayon than Crayola (I love coloring, and there is a difference),

but the 24-pack of Crayola crayons are only 50 cents. Try filling as much as you can on your lists from the dollar store.

8 You don't need a whole new wardrobe every fall. We purchased an insane amount of new clothes for our daughter to start kindergarten. Some of the items she still hasn't worn. This year we bought her one brand new outfit to wear on the first day of school (and it was on clearance). I'm not even sure what all she has in her closet at this point, but I'm sure it will feel like an all new wardrobe once we go through it.

7 Plan ahead. Sure, my daughter's shoe size grew overnight, but I discovered some of the shoes we bought last year still fit well enough for now. It's the same with a lot of her clothes. She's an in-between size, so I can keep her in a lot of the items she had last year. Be sure to go through last year's clothes before heading to the stores. Do some cost comparisons online to see which stores have the best deals.

6 Don't focus on personalized supplies. When our daughter started kindergarten, we wanted her to have the best of everything. The coolest pencils and the best markers. Then we realized they're not just for her. Many school districts will share supplies with the entire classroom. So those amazing My Little Pony tissues you bought are going to go in a pile that the entire classroom can use.

5 Don't forget the consignment sales. Sure every store will start having end of summer sales and you can get cute T-shirts for \$6 on sale, but with consignment sales you can often find an entire outfit for that price. There are children's consignment sales twice a year in Kansas City, and there are several different ones all over the metro. Parents can find great deals on shoes and clothes. We hit all of the sales each time they come around – in the spring and the fall. It takes some digging because some of the items are still priced high, but almost every sale also has a 50 percent off day. My daughter is probably 85 percent clothed by these sales.

4 Remember the daycare rules too. We're in a situation that requires us to have before-and after-school care for our daughter. We take her to daycare, and they drive her to school and pick her up. Daycare rules say that she has to have her feet completely covered to play on the playground. While it's not realistic to assume my daughter – who may just be the next big fashionista – will wear tennis shoes every day of the year, I had to make sure she had a pair of shoes at daycare that would allow her to play outside with her friends.

3 Consider sending a sack lunch. I had no idea how much hot lunches cost when I was in school. Mom just gave me lunch money and I could eat lunch. What I learned last year is I can send my daughter a sack lunch every day for two weeks for less than paying the hot lunch every day for one week. Now, we did decide to put some money in her lunch account so we have that option on mornings that we

7 STEPS TO A GREAT SCHOOL YEAR

by **Dr. Bob Barnes**

Before any big event, wise people make thorough preparations. Whether it's a wedding, a vacation or a new career, we want to be prepared for whatever comes our way.

In the same way, wise parents plan ahead for their child's success. Instead of playing defense and taking on each battle as it comes, it is mandatory to plan ahead. Here are seven steps to help your child's school year get off to a great start and a successful finish. These steps will also help your family get along when the stress of school hits.

STEP NUMBER 7:

Decide the bedtime routine. Pick a bedtime for each child and the routine that needs to take place. This is a great time to sit on the side of each child's bed and spend 15 minutes downloading their day. Send them off to sleep knowing you care.

STEP NUMBER 6:

If you have a morning dawdler, require him or her to pack their backpack the night before. Avoid morning arguments by having your child set out tomorrow's school clothes before they go to bed. For those attending schools that do not use uniforms, this is also the time for the parents to decide what kinds of clothes are unacceptable for school. These are discussions and decisions better dealt with the night before.

STEP NUMBER 5:

Begin the school year with a predetermined homework plan. Choose the time and location for homework. Your students can earn more independence as the year progresses, but for now start them in one location and pick the time they must

just can't get our act together, but a lunchable, an apple sauce and a juice box (or one of the aforementioned water bottles) comes out to less than \$10 a week. We alternate between lunchables and PB&J for a little variety.

2 Get ready for the fundraisers. I had no idea how many times I'd have to hit up my friends and co-workers in kindergarten. While it's not part of back to school shopping, it's an important part of the school year. And if you have a child in sports, those fundraisers hit back to back to back all year. It's OK to not do all of them. Our school asks families who don't want to participate to donate a certain amount and opt out of them for the entire year. Just remember all those PTA activities that makes school so much fun have to be funded somehow.

1 Start a dialogue early with the teachers. As soon as I knew who my daughter's teacher was last year, I immediately looked her up on Facebook. I googled her. I wanted to know as much about the person who would be molding her mind for the next

be at the table. This is also the time to pick the consequence for not being on time at that pre-determined location. Sound unreasonable? Their boss will expect them to arrive at meetings on time. This discipline might save their future job.

STEP NUMBER 4:

Establish a month-at-a-glance family calendar, as well as a one month calendar for each child. This will help the child begin to learn time management. It will also help the family realize just how many activities they are committing to. Put the due dates for long-term assignments, such as science projects and book reports, on both calendars. Then count back an appropriate amount of days from those due dates so adequate time can be set aside to read the required books and work on the projects. Rushing to finish a project at the last minute doesn't teach a child anything but stress management. A calendar will show the family and child that you really don't have time to say "yes" to everything.

STEP NUMBER 3:

With everything else there is to do, decide ahead of time that each week will include a family Night. Make this a night where an hour or two is set aside for games. Obviously this time is for more than games. Give your children the opportunity to feel like they're part of something special: a family.

STEP NUMBER 2:

Decide ahead of time what your priority activities are going to be. On Wednesday night, is church a priority over other activities? If you make these

decisions at the beginning of the year it will prepare your children to say no to other unimportant activities. It will also teach the child that time management decisions are all part of bigger priorities. Your children will still ask if they can do extracurricular activities on previously planned nights, but in their hearts they will already know your answer.

STEP NUMBER 1:

Use breakfast time to set a mood; don't just use it for eating. There are three kinds of nourishment your child needs every morning. The most significant is spiritual nourishment.

Second is family enrichment and the last is actual food. If it was just about food, you could hand them a health bar as they go out the door. Breakfast is a time for the family to sit for 20 minutes and eat together. This is the perfect time for a parent to read a short passage from the Bible, discuss it and then pray before everyone goes off to fight the battle. Setting aside time to read a Bible passage is the most important investment a parent can make. Why else do you think it's so hard to actually do?

Minutes spent together reading the Bible and praying helps send the children out the door with the realization they actually belong to something even bigger than their family. They belong to God. This will go a long ways when they have those moments of feeling alone and without value.

This is the time to jump out front and decide that you will take control of your family time rather than spend another school year racing to catch up.

Dr. Robert Barnes is the president of Sheridan House Family Ministries. He and his wife, Rosemary, are authors and speakers on marriage and family issues. Need more information? Order the Dr. Bob Barnes' book "Read for Responsibility" from Sheridan House at www.SheridanHouse.org.

time at the school.

BONUS:

Several organizations around Kansas City collect school supplies for families who can't afford it. Don't forget those families in need as you're school shopping. Consider filling an extra school supply list and donating it. It's a great way to teach children the importance of giving back.

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Have you considered the many advantages of distance learning?

Most Christian universities have opportunities for distance learning. Distance learning is gaining prominence among students eager to upgrade themselves for better career prospects. According to the U.S. Department of Education's National Forum on Education Statistics, virtual education is now part of the planning agenda of most organizations concerned with education and training.

The quality of distance learning has greatly improved in the past few years, as both students and educators have become more comfortable with the technology and as stories of best practices have been shared and duplicated.

While quality has increased substantially (and while many inferior programs have failed), it is still prudent to verify that the distance learning organization is fully accredited by the appropriate agencies. One valuable resource is AccreditedOnlineColleges.org. The goal of accreditation is to ensure that education provided by institutions of higher education meets acceptable levels of quality.

Accreditation in the United States involves non-governmental entities as well as governmental agencies.

Distance learning features a number of advantages. Perhaps the most relevant benefit involves the flexibility of when and where you participate. Other advantages include:

- ▶ Accessibility for those living away from the training center
- ▶ No waste of time or other resources in transport, commuting to a central location for each class
- ▶ Flexibility to study in any convenient location with an Internet connection
- ▶ Self-paced learning:
 - Quickly browse materials you have already mastered, and concentrate time and effort in areas containing new information and / or skills
 - Study materials at a personal



speed and intensity, without having to wait for slower pace of the average classroom

- Flexibility to join conversations in the bulletin board areas at any hour, and to review your classmates' comments since the previous visit
- ▶ Just-in-time learning; more opportunities to study the most current material available
- ▶ Flexibility for those with irregular work schedules
- ▶ Accessibility for those with restricted mobility (e.g., handicapped, injured, elderly)
- ▶ Accessibility for those with family responsibilities (e.g., parents with young children at home)

Recent research has shown that the most significant factor helping students to succeed – or not – in Web-based classes has been their ability to manage time.

The more successful students reported spending 2 to 3 hours regularly each week for each hour of credit for a class. For example, a 4-hour credit class required a minimum of at least 8 to 12 hours of work each week of the semester to complete all requirements.

Without class lectures to spur a quick burst of activity to complete a project, for example, some students procrastinated through weeks of the semester, only to find themselves so far behind that they could never recover. Experts strongly recommend that you devise a typical weekly schedule so that you will have a general guide for allocating appropriate time to study.

Students share their experiences

Getting started and pursuing a college education can seem like a daunting task, particularly if your job, location, time, and home responsibilities make attending a classroom challenging. However, when you take a step beyond the traditional classroom environment and consider distance education, the possibilities expand dramatically.

When several students who chose the online path to professional development shared their insights and experiences, they dispelled a few myths about distance learning. As you read their views, your ideas about trying distance learning may change, too.

We asked Gwen Ridley Robertson, a family child care provider, why she chose online [education] and her answer was simple, "I'm in my home all day and work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and online is so convenient. If I tried to get to class, by the time I drove and found a place to park, I would always be late."

Other students had different reasons for choosing distance learning. As a military spouse, Donna Britt travels with her husband and was not able to complete a degree at any one location. Jean Wright and Kathy Rogers both work fulltime and have families, one with high school age children and one with small children. Jean also lives in a rural location.

The Student Experience

These four people pursued degrees and expectations about what the courses would be like varied.

Gwen, who received her A.A., is now starting a B.A. degree. She did not expect the level of involvement she found. "I expected only e-mail communication, but the teachers helped me network beyond my own course with others and instructors were available to talk by phone."

Donna Britt, who received her Ed.D in Management of Programs in Child and Youth Services said what she discovered exceeded her expectations. "I realized that I can develop strong relationships with my fellow students without seeing them," she said. "Online courses opened up a whole new world of learning."

Jean Wright expected to be self-directed and to stay on schedule. She was pleasantly surprised that her



expectations were easy to meet. Kathy Rogers, who also is earning her degree in Early Childhood Education, said the video lectures that were part of her class enhanced the readings. "While watching the videos, I felt like I was a live participant in the class," she said, "because the readings and assignments fit together perfectly on the video."

Each student learned new computer skills including new software, like spreadsheets and how to download and upload assignments to the Web site. "I learned to adapt to the way each professor distributed materials and returned papers just like a student in a face-to-face class does," she said. In addition to learning new computer skills, Donna also became a more focused writer. "I had to be precise when I wrote, she said "because there are no visual clues or opportunities to clarify ideas through speech."

Time management became a family activity in Gwen's house. "Sometimes I did my homework with my children after supper," she said. This practice validated what she told them about their need to develop good study habits. "I have to study and so do you is the message," she continued, "and my children saw the pay-off when I received my degree."



Challenges Faced By Students

There were two primary challenges faced by these students:

Time management—Kathy remarked, "It is important to stick to your plan and not good to fall

behind. The professors give you a realistic timeline and the class Web sites have all the assignments and discussion topics listed."

Participating in the student teaching process online differed from traditional classrooms—Jean said: "My mentor, who also worked in my agency, videotaped me in the classroom doing a specific activity. I sent the videotape to my professor who posted it on the Web site. Then I watched it with my mentor and professor and they offered feedback." Insights

Students reflected about their distance learning experience. They realized that they have learned that:

They have the ability to succeed in an online environment.

Some people are independent learners—"In a traditional classroom, I probably would have been quiet and participated less in the discussion. But online there is no pressure to be called on, or worry that you will not be heard. I can participate in a different way—there is no time limit and I have access to the discussion all the time." (Gwen)


Advice for Potential Students

All the students agreed that distance learning was an enriching experience. They recommended:

- Trying an online course to see if you like it. Take a moment and review the self-assessment for online learning. This is one tool to help you decide if you want to try a course or earn a degree online.
- Asking for help with technology. The staff at school and people in technical support will be available to offer help with the online system.
- Being disciplined and carrying out assignments.
- Budgeting your time and asking your family to respect your time.

There are an ever-growing number of students nationwide who are taking online courses and reporting that the experience has enabled them to learn and also taught them something even more valuable—a better understanding about their own ability to succeed in the changing educational arena of higher education.

—From "Student Views of Distance Learning,"
HHS/ACF/OHS.



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Traveling evangelist to speak locally

Don Davis, a traveling minister who has served the Lord around the world, will be speaking in Topeka on two occasions during August.

Davis was saved 15 years ago and went through discipleship at Teen Challenge in Minnesota. He served the Lord locally, went through bible training and, after that, did a lot of street ministry in and around New York City. He also worked for eight months with the fellowship of David Wilkerson.

Later, Davis traveled to India and spent ten years there serving in the realm of discipleship, teaching, evangelism and especially the hidden life of prayer and deeper development from God. He grew in His presence and faithfully served as many as he could.

He then again began moving back and forth through America preaching and teaching, loving and serving the Lord as

he did in the beginning.

Davis met his wife eight years ago, through an arranged marriage – God opened doors for Don to meet her through the church leadership. After hearing all about her, they finally met and were married five months later. They now serve the Lord together and have opened a restaurant in the forefront ministry of evangelism and outreach, in a big mall setting.

God has strengthened them and is leading them by His spirit, and they are now traveling in America again – preaching, desiring to set-up a discipleship, looking for more fellow laborers to pray with and serve with. They are looking for people that have been developed, that are humbled, broken, submitted to God, faithful in secret and consistent in their private prayer lives – men and women who have grown and known and walked



in the anointing of God.

Davis will minister here in Topeka on Wednesday, August 10, 2016, at 7 pm at Harvest Family Fellowship, 522 SW Polk. For more information call Pastor Rey Rodriguez at 785-220-5418.

Davis will be in Topeka again on Sunday, August 14, at 6 pm at Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. He will also be speaking earlier that day, at 11 am at Community Foursquare Church, 117 E. 9th St in Ottawa, Ks.

Life Lessons From a Little One

BOLDNESS

by Jessica S. Hosman

There are a plethora of times when my five-year old evangelist pretends to be shy. There are other times when God uses his real boldness to bring me out of my comfort zone and teach me what it really means to live for Christ.

We were inside with the windows open when the sound of voices caught Zechariah's ear. He looked outside and saw a group of adults, teenagers and little ones walking down the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street. Immediately, he grabbed my hand and said, "Come on! We need to go tell them about Jesus!" He proceeded to pull me outside in hopes that I would follow his enthusiasm and join him in the opportunity. Sadly, an intense fear of man rose up within me instead. I made up a lame excuse and told him if they walked back on our side of the street we would talk to them later. My son was devastated, I was devastated, and the group disappeared around the corner (never to return on "our" side of the street).

That encounter occurred months ago and has not yet left my mind. I repented to God and Zechariah and told them both that I would never again deny my son the opportunity to share Christ, no matter how intimidating. Today I had the chance to make good on that promise.

We sat in a restaurant and spotted a soldier in military fatigues. I shared with

my son about how he and others fight for our country and help to keep us safe. That's when Zechariah decided he wanted to pray, not comfortably at our table, but directly with the man.

I took a deep breath and remembered the group we never had the opportunity to share Jesus with some months back. Hand-in-hand we walked over to the soldier and made introductions. After thanking him for his service, I told him of my son's desire to pray for him right there and then. The man was caught off guard but immediately accepted. Through tears I helped lead my son in prayer. And with red watery eyes, the soldier said, amen. We might never know what was going on his life that day, but it was obvious that this simple act of boldness and love from a little one had a significant impact on us both.

We walked back to the table and I took another deep breath; not to muster up courage this time, but to fight back tears. God, forgive me for the many times I have given in to fear and allowed it to prevent me from blessing others. Help me, help all of us, to boldly share Christ and never be ashamed to love You and our neighbors by reaching out in faith. Only You know the impact those simple acts of obedience will have. Let us not miss a single one. In Jesus' Name. Amen.



Jessica Hosman

National Black Robe Regiment meeting to be held at First Southern Baptist

As a follow up to the National Black Robe Regiment's February Summit held in Topeka, which featured David Barton and Mark Gonzales, there will be a meeting August 9 at 1st Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd.

The meeting begins at 6:30 pm and will feature Pastor Doyle Pryor, a National Black Robe Regiment pastor, who is also the pastor at First Southern. Pastor Doyle will share how to address the issues, as he has done, and will make his notes available to pastors to freely use.

Church leaders, elders and pas-

tors are invited to come and find out how to create a Civic Impact Team in your church.

What can be done to protect believers, churches and the culture from the sexually oriented mandates like the 'bathroom bills'? Church leaders can join the efforts of the National Black Robe Regiment pastors, David Barton's WallBuilders' pastors association who have organized and mobilized to reverse already passed ordinances that are targeting city and county officials.

Attendees will also receive a DVD of Mark Gonzales, Exec.

Director of NBRR as he explains to a pastor's group how churches can stand in love, united in prayer and action to be the salt and light upholding God's standards.

RSVPs are requested to Phillis Setchell at p.setchell@gmail.com or 785-845-7020.

Safe Streets to host National Night Out Kick-Off Party

Safe Streets is celebrating its 20th year of National Night Out in the Topeka/Shawnee County community! This annual event, which will be held Saturday, August 6, brings neighborhoods together to connect with one another and local law enforcement. The simple act of getting to know your neighbors is the best form of crime prevention.

National Night Out is designed to heighten awareness about crime, alcohol, drug & violence prevention, generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighbor-

hood spirit and police community partnerships and send a message to criminals, letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back!

The Topeka Kick-Off party will be Friday, August 5th, 5:30-7:30 PM at the Alpha Media Topeka Radio Studios, in the parking lot, 1210 SW Executive Dr., and will feature free hot dogs, music, games, food, fire trucks, and more! Everyone is invited to come for a good time and to help take a stand against crime!

Neighborhoods activities vary – some may host an ice-cream social, cookout, pot

luck dinner or a pool party. In 2015, one neighborhood had a pancake feed, others focused on games for the kids. Some events are smaller with around 25 people, and others are larger with more than 300 attending.

To sign up your neighborhood or to find out if your neighborhood has National Night Out plans, contact Safe Streets at 785-266-4606 or visit www.safestreets.org. You don't have to have a neighborhood organization to host an event, so contact your neighbors and Safe Streets and get involved today



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How a Summer Wedding Can Affect Your Taxes

By Peggy Beasterfield
 Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service

With all the planning and preparation that goes into a wedding, taxes may not be high on your summer wedding checklist. However, you should be aware of the tax issues that come along with marriage. Here are some basic tips to help with you planning:

- Name Change. The names and Social Security numbers on your tax return must match your Social Security Administration records. If you change your name, report it to the SSA.
- Change tax withholding. A change in your marital status means you must give your employer a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance

Certificate. If you and your spouse both work, your combined incomes may move you into a higher tax bracket.

- Change in circumstances. If you or your spouse purchased a Health Insurance Marketplace plan and receive advance payments of the premium tax credit in 2016, it is important that you report changes in your circumstances, such as changes in your income or family size. Reporting changes now will help you get the proper type and amount of financial assistance so you can avoid



getting to much or too little in advance, which may affect your refund or balance due when you file your tax return.

- Address Change. Let the IRS know if your address changes. To do that, send the IRS Form 8822, Change of Address.
- Tax Filing Status. If you're married as of Dec 31, that is your marital status for the whole year for tax purposes. You and your spouse can choose to file your federal income tax return either jointly or separately each year.
- Select the right tax form. Choosing the right income tax form can help save money. Newly married taxpayers may find that they now have enough deductions to itemize on their tax returns.



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or a few weeks!" Driggers said.

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

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

The Computer Store has been in business since 1999, and is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You



can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at www.thecomputerstoreks.com.

The Computer Store is a member of the Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce, the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce and the Topeka Independent Business Association.



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CONCERTS

TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - First Sat. of ea. month, 3-5pm, Potwin Presbyterian Church (enter south door), 400 S.W. Washburn. Information: 286-0227 or hagen1525@gmail.com.

THE BERRYTON PICKERS - First Sat. of ea. month, 7-9pm, Berryton Baptist Church. Bring snacks and have some fun!

NOONTIME BROWN BAG CONCERT - Every Wednesday 11-1, Westar Pocket Park, 818 S Kansas. Aug. 3 - Ric Barron Band; Aug. 10 - American Slim; Aug. 17 - Jarrad Guth; Aug. 24 - Josh Vowell; Aug. 31 - Smith & Liston.

EVENING CONCERTS IN THE PARK - Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. Discover or re-discover that wonderful pastime of sitting under big shade trees in the cool of the summer evening just to relax & listen to the rich sounds of the big bands. Bring a blanket and a picnic dinner, or sit on one of our benches. For info: 785-251-

2680
SOUTH STEPS FRIDAY - Every Friday this summer, 11am-1pm at Kansas Statehouse - Live music courtesy of Reach Out Kansas and the KU School of Music. Enjoy live music and learn about Kansas attractions & organizations. Bring your lunch or visit the food vendors.

HILLSONG UNLIMITED - July 27, 7pm, Sprint Center, KCMO. Special guest Lauren Daigle. 888-929-7849 or premiereproductions.com.

BOBBY BOWEN CONCERT - July 29, 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. The Bobby Bowen Family Band. Free will offering

DOLLY PARTON - Jul. 29, all day. Spring Center, 1407 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO. For info: 816-949-7100 or sprintcenter.com

SUMMER SUNSET CONCERT - July 30, 6-9pm. Old Prairie Town at Ward Meade Park, 124 NW Fillmore. Bring your family out for this fun-filled evening to listen to some wonderful local artists performing at their best. Bring your own lawn-chair and enjoy the beautiful Old Prairie Town setting, while listening to some great music! This is a family friendly event and children are welcome! Parking at 1st & Clay. Price: \$3/person; Children under 10 free. For info: 785-251-2992

THE WRIGHTS - Jul. 31, 6pm, First Southern Baptist Church. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

INSPIRATIONS GOSPEL CONCERT Jul. 31, Berryton United Methodist Church. Two shows at 3 and 7 pm. Free will offering taken. Concessions.

WILLIE NELSON & FAMILY - Aug. 2, 7:30pm. TPAC. Willie Nelson & Family with Leon Russell.

THE WRIGHT FAMILY CONCERT - Aug. 5, 7pm,

Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

THE WRIGHTS - Aug. 6, 7pm. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

ELMONT OPRY - Aug. 12, 7pm; and Aug. 13, 1pm, Elmont UMC, 6635 NW Church Ln. With Mike Campbell & Special Guests. Doors open 90 minutes early for lunch or dinner. Tickets \$10 - call John at 246-0156.

CROSBY LANE - Aug. 12, 7pm. Cornerstone Community Church, 7620 SW 21st St. An acoustic vocal group from Nashville, that plays favorite hymns & fresh arrangements. Their video for "Crucified" has been featured on the Great American Country network, cmt.com, mtv.com, Southern Gospel and Country radio and more. For info: 478-2929 or crosbylane.com

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT SERIES - Aug. 13, 5:30pm, Downtown Topeka. Featuring The Crumpletons. Food Trucks will be on hand. Free.

ELIZABETH ANNE MALL IN CONCERT - Sep. 10, 4:30-5:30pm, Morganville school in Morganville, KS. Performing songs from her new LP, with the Community Chamber Orchestra. The concert is on the grass, so bring a lawn chair or blanket. Free will donation. For info: www.kansasmusic.net or www.facebook.com/CommunityChamberOrchestra.

NEHEMIAH FEST X - September 16-18, Smith's Fork Park @ Smithville Lake, 1601 DD Hwy, Smithville, MO. Free Adm., music, food, disk golf tournament, vendors, petting zoo, camping. Christian Music & Camping Festival 50 bands 4 stages. nehemiahfest.com.

AMERICAN PRODIGAL TOUR - Sep. 27, 7pm. Fellowship Bible Church, 10th & Urish Rd. David Crowder, The New Respects, Tedashii. For info: 877-987-6487

GORDON LIGHTFOOT - Oct. 11, 8pm, TPAC

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - every second Sat., takes place at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET - First Saturday of every month, 7:30-10am. Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church. Free will offering.

FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor John Menkfeld - which is in turn followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

BINGO AT FAIRLAWN HEIGHTS ASSISTED LIVING - 3pm, 1st Sat. of ea. month. Facilitator: Pastor Carole

SPIRITUAL PAUSE - Every Wed., 12-12:30pm, Carole Chapel at Washburn Univ. Informal worship service. 785-233-1844

LIFEST - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Seniors ministering to seniors - celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729

CLOTHING EXCHANGE - July 30 & Aug. 6, 10am-2pm. Topeka Free Methodist Church - 3450 SE Indiana Ave.

PRAISE IN THE PARK - Jul. 30, 6:30pm. Harris Park, 510 Gertrude in Harveyville. Bring a lawn chair. Free will offering accepted.

COMMUNITY ICE CREAM SOCIAL - Jul 31, 5:30pm, Auburn Presbyterian Church, 1101 N Washington St. Free event.

COMMUNITY DINNER - Aug. 3, 5-6:30pm, Tecumseh United Methodist Church. Homemade chicken and noo-

dles and all the fixins for a free-will donation.

SOAKED 2016 - Aug. 6, 3-5pm. Good News Church, 3819 SW Burlingame. Wet and wild fun for kindergarten to 6th grade. For info: DJ@goodnewstopeka.com

TRUE LIGHT CHURCH MINISTRIES - Aug. 13, 8-11am. Pancake feed. \$6.50 all you can eat, with bacon & juice.

GAME DAY AND HOG ROAST - Aug. 13, 12:30pm. Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N Kansas Ave. Various games all day, with hog roast at 6pm. For info: 785-286-0467

ANNUAL SON-SHINE CARNIVAL - Aug. 20, 11-3, Crossroads Wesleyan Church, 2121 SW Harrison. Food, music, games, waterslide, silent auction, prizes, cake walk & fun for all! Free admission. 230-4362

COMMUNITY DINNER - Aug 31, 5-7pm, Berryton UMC. Ham, cheesy potatoes, dessert and more for love offering.

TRUE LIGHT CHURCH MINISTRIES - Sep. 17, 11:30am. Fish Dinner, 2 sides & dessert. \$10.

TECUMSEH HERITAGE DAY - Sep 24, 10am-3pm, Tecumseh UMC. Live entertainment, homemade pie and ice cream, wagon rides, petting zoo, craft booths, and more fun family activities

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

23RD ANNUAL FAMILY OF GOD CONVENTION - Aug. 2-7, 7pm nightly, 1162 SW Lincoln. For info: 785-235-1834

NATIONAL BLACK ROBE REGIMENT MEETING - Aug. 9, 6:30pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 19th & Gage. A follow up to Feb. Black Robe Regiment Summit in Topeka. Doyle Pryor, a National Black Robe Regiment pastor, will share how to address the issues before us, as he has done, and will make his notes available to pastors to freely use. Learn how to create a Civic Impact Team in your church. What can be done to protect believers, churches and the culture from the sexually oriented mandates like the 'bathroom bills'? We can join the efforts of the National Black Robe Regiment pastors, David Barton's WallBuilders' pastors association who have organized and mobilized to reverse already passed ordinances that are targeting city and county officials. You will also receive a DVD of Mark Gonzales, Exec. Director of NBRR as he explains to a pastor's group how churches can stand in love, united in prayer and action to be the salt and light upholding God's standards.

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.

BETH MOORE AND TRAVIS COTTRELL - Sep. 17, First

TRAVELING EVANGELIST

Don Davis

will be speaking in Topeka twice during August. Davis has ministered extensively across America, including New York City, and in India for many years.

Wednesday, August 10, 2016, 7 pm
Harvest Family Fellowship, 522 SW Polk

Sunday, August 14, 6 pm
Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene

Sunday, August 14, 11 am
Community Foursquare Church, 117 E. 9th, Ottawa

For more information call Pastor Rey Rodriguez at 785-220-5418.

TICKETS LMGCONCERTS.COM [FACEBOOK.COM/LMGCONCERTS](https://www.facebook.com/LMGCONCERTS) 855-443-8499

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The making of the future president of the United States

Two documentaries look at background of Clinton and Trump and the development of their philosophies

entertainment

by **Dwight Widaman**

With just three months left before the November elections, two documentaries shed light on each of the candidates—albeit from decidedly partisan point of view.

The most recent film opened on July 22 to packed audiences around the country. New York Times best-selling author and notable filmmaker Dinesh D'Souza's *Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party*, is a biopic of not only Democrat nominee Hillary Clinton, but the history of the Democrat Party that most voters have never heard. *Hillary's America* reveals disreputable facts about Hillary and the secret history of the Democratic Party and Hillary's combative rise as presidential candidate.

The 100-minute film, which movie industry observers speculate will be this year's best performing documentary at the box office, uses narrative elements mixed with interviews to present a complete picture of the history of the Democratic Party, starting with slave-owning President Andrew Jackson and guiding viewers through Margaret Sanger's founding of Planned Parenthood and up to President Woodrow Wilson, who screened the Ku Klux Klan-glorifying movie *The Birth of a Nation* at the White House.

Vanderbilt University professor Carol Swain, who plays a significant part in the film, said "I would like to see this film reach as many people as possible, especially minorities who are convinced the



The Making of Donald Trump.

Democratic party is a party of equality, liberation, civil rights, and economic mobility. Once they watch the film I am hopeful it will encourage them to research additional information on these important issues".

Sam Adams is no fan of D'Souza or his other documentaries but says D'Souza shows himself digging into the Democratic Party's past by "infiltrating a fictitious museum ... furtively taking an elevator to the basement, and ignoring the 'Keep Out: Authorized Personnel Only' sign at the end of a dimly lit corridor.

"...He runs down Democrats' history of supporting slavery, from the Civil War through the end of Jim Crow, we see him pulling a set of manacles from a banker's box," says Adams who writes for "The Wrap".

Adams asserts that what D'Souza has discovered is readily available to those who want to invest countless hours discovering for themselves. But isn't that what documentaries are for? Discovering for the viewer what the viewer does not have the time or resources to discover on their own?

Professor Swain believes the film's greatest enlightenment is the connection between abortion and racism.

"To me the greatest Civil Rights issue of

our time is the abortion of millions of black babies". According to the "Guttmacher Institute's data on abortion, the number of abortions in the United States since 1973 is estimated at 57 million. Of the 57 million babies aborted since 1973, " +/- 31% have been black.

Swain gives the documentary much of its intellectual basis in fact. Says D'Souza about her work, "Carol Swain played a critical role in "Hillary's America." She presented with clarity and intellectual authority the role of the Democratic Party in undermining civil rights the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries."

The movie contains reenactments with actors playing real-life politicians and historical characters, including "Dallas" actress Rebekah Turner as Hillary Clinton, Michael Clemmons as President Barack Obama and Don Taylor as Lincoln.

Long-time Democrat and liberal movie critic Roger Ebert panned the documentary but refused to defend Clinton in his review.

"It utterly fails at its mission of being the ultimate Hillary Clinton takedown by never laying a single glove on her. This is especially astounding, as even those inclined to support her could probably name a couple of things she has done in her years in the spotlight that are legitimately questionable," he said.

Donald Trump

The other documentary that takes a no-hold barred look at a candidate is The History Channel's "Breaking History: The Making of Donald Trump." The film hasn't been aired for a while but you can search for it on Youtube and find the 1:45 minute film easily accessible.

While Trump supporters and many conservatives might consider it biased, the documentary acknowledges both the foibles and great success that America's most famous businessman counts in his resume both professionally and personally.

There is no lack of people who absolutely despise Donald J. Trump and the documentary gives them ample opportunity to share their views. But, unlike D'Souza's "Hillary's America", the



Hillary's America.

History Channel's "Breaking History" allows both sides of the man to be explored. Those who know him most personally share their view of him as a knowledgeable and loveable personality. Trump, they say, is the only man who can get the country back on track. For them, all you have to do is look at his children to determine his character.

There is no lack of people who absolutely despise Donald J. Trump and the documentary gives them ample opportunity to share their views.

Even the mainstream media covering the Republican convention in late July, exploded with accolades about how pleasant, hard-working, successful—and yes, normal—Trump's children are. For however people see Trump as flamboyant and excessive, his family

is NOT the selfie-crazed, media obsessed Kardashian family. As for Trump's personal habits, viewers will be surprised to learn that Trump has never smoked or drank—a personal trait that would make many Christians blush.

"Breaking History" was filmed at the height of Trump's rise to the political stratosphere.

And while giving the viewer insight on his most controversial statements and detractors, it investigates the good and the bad of the family business and how his own father's empire came to be. The documentary explores Trumps three marriages, business dealings and media run-ins—all the while giving you a sense of "Oh, yeah, I remember that," type of feeling when seeing old clips.

Trump may be the first reality TV star having been in the media for four decades with appearances on Letterman long before Trump headed up his own reality show "The Apprentice". From Oprah to every major news show, Trump has made his mark on America's media culture.

The film documents that rise. You see a Donald Trump that, amazingly isn't much changed from that of the late 1980s. You get a sense that Trump believes what he says, doesn't put on heirs to make you believe he is someone other than he is.

He is still as brash today as in 1988. Same hair, same smile. Those clips from 30 and 40 years ago are amazingly prescient to his speeches today.

Surprisingly, "Breaking History" is not a hit job on Trump. Neither does it gloss over Trumps many failures. It is an honest assessment of who recent polls show may be the next leader of the free world.

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NEW RELEASE HAS NOSTALGIC FEEL

For fans of late-70's/early-80's rock, like me, the upcoming release by The Union of Sinners and Saints should be welcome news to many listeners. Led John Schlitt, lead singer of Petra (1986-2005), and Billy Smiley, guitarist, singer, and founding member of Whiteheart, the band's first release will include rerecorded versions of hits from both former groups, as well as some new songs. The CD will be available only at Lifeway Stores, but can also be downloaded at iTunes, Amazon, etc.

Other artists recording and touring with the band this summer are Jason Fowler (recently produced by Smiley), and Anthony Sallee, who played bass with Whiteheart.

"The idea of a new project really



D.C. Jeanes
Metro Voice
Music Critic

musicscene

intrigued Billy and me. With our histories, it only made sense to feature Petra and Whiteheart favorites along with some of the new songs we were writing in the studio," Schlitt said, "We're all sinners, and it's only through the blood of Christ that we can be called saints. Christ is our union. Thus, the band's name..."

John Schlitt will also be performing at Nehemiah Fest in Smithville, in September.

Speaking of Nehemiah Fest, the music festival-that's-really-a-ministry, Nehemiah Fest X will be coming to Smithville Lake Park September 16-18. The festival will include over forty bands, including Bread of Stone, 9th Hour, Alex Sons, and Bearing Armor, to name a few. The musical genres spread across four

stages varies from bluegrass and Gospel, rap and rhythm and blues, to intense metal worship, and it's all free! Other events include fishing, petting zoo for the kids, and supporting Christian vendors from all over the region.



Alex
Sons

Metro Voice was able to catch up with the very busy founder of Nehemiah Fest, David Lin (actually, we interrupted him during a meeting!), and got a brief low-down on this year's festival. There are going to be some great new artists coming through from all over the country, as well as some new contributions from Liberty and nearby. The concerts are all free and it would be well worth your time to get as much in as you can in such a short time. Visit nehemiahfest.com/ for more information on location and showtimes.



John Schlitt

Festivals abound across the region

As people anticipate cooler temperatures, one activity that will finally bring them back out of the house as summer ends are the numerous festivals that take place across our area. Check out our picks for this year's "must attend" events.

GREATER ANDOVER DAYS

Sept. 29 – Oct. 2, Andover, KS
andoverks.com

The festival includes a food court, KidFest, 5K fun run, parade, fishing clinic, car show, business expo / craft fair, carnival, ice cream social, live entertainment and a fireworks show in Central Park. A Friday night tailgate party features Radioflyer and a Saturday evening concert features Lucky People.

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Oct. 8, Junction City, KS
hildebrandfarmsdairy.com
Highlights of the event include a picnic

lunch, live music, tours of the farm, hay rack rides, kids' play area, Kansas product sampling and educational demonstrations. This is a free event.

JAMMIN' IN JC BLUES & BBQ FESTIVAL

Sept. 23 & 24, Junction City, KS
www.jammininjc.com

Blues and BBQ...it's a winning combination! Music will fill the air when the Jammin' in JC Blues & BBQ Festival brings Texas Style Blues and a four category BBQ contest to historic downtown Junction City. Bring lawn chairs or blankets! No alcohol, coolers or pets.

KC FAMILY FEST

Sept. 18, Lenexa, KS
Westsidefamilychurch.com

Bring your whole crew to this free community-wide festival for families. Acres of rides, gigantic inflatables, games and activ-

ities for all ages. Enjoy music and DJs, teen zone, kiddie rides and lots of family-friendly fun! Lunch will be available from the best food trucks in KC.

LENEXA SPINACH FESTIVAL

Sept. 10, Lenexa, KS
lenexa.com/parks/festivals_spinach.html

Lenexa was hailed as the "Spinach Capital of the World" during the 1930s. Celebrate with a day of food, music, entertainment, arts and antique vendors.

LITTLE BALKANS DAYS

Sept. 2 – 4, Pittsburg, KS
littlebalkansfestival.com

The premier annual festival in Pittsburg, KS celebrates the community's culture, heritage and history with various events, activities, entertainment and vendors in downtown Pittsburg.

PAXICO BLUES FESTIVAL

Sept. 17, Paxico, KS

Lecrae takes on Christians who don't want him to talk about race

Outspoken Christian rapper Lecrae is making waves once again by voicing his thoughts on race relations in America. This time the music artist is taking on other Christians who believe he shouldn't use his platform to talk about race and instead focus solely on spreading the Gospel.

In an Instagram message posted last month, Lecrae included a photo that read: "I Won't Keep Calm I Have a Black Son," and spoke directly to Christians who try to steer clear of addressing the nation's growing racial tensions.

"Christians saying that 'preaching the gospel is all we need' ignore how sin affects infrastructures and societal systems," Lecrae wrote.

The songwriter insinuated that fighting racism not only requires preaching biblical truths, but further actions like making changes to some of the nation's structures and to the powers that be.

"True faith stands up for the oppressed and the broken," he wrote. "Obviously, many can't see the systemic effects of racism and abused authority. Many can't see that racism has stained this country because they are privileged to not see it."

Lecrae was blunt when he wrote, "They [some members of the white community] project blame on themselves when they see these kinds of posts. You assume my anger is at white people and not white supremacy."

The Grammy Award-winner implored



fans and followers to heed his point that racism is operating within many of the nation's infrastructures and that it must be killed at the root.

In a seemingly two-pronged approach the Texas native also published an op-ed in Billboard magazine in which he asserted that humility is a path toward racial harmony.

Still, in his Instagram post, the rapper urged followers to strongly consider his position.

"If you ever trusted in anything I've said, if you've used my words to stir your hope or joy, then trust that same voice now. This [racism] is an epidemic that school books or church services haven't taught you."

Lecrae concluded his post with the defiant message, "And listen if you really, really hate this post you are always free to unfollow me. I'll still love you."

www.paxicobluesfest.com

Music, community, a rural good time for more than a decade! Big-city blues, dancing, local food, antique dealers, and live music from morning to night.

SHAWNEE INDIAN MISSION FALL FESTIVAL

Oct. 8 & 9, Fairway, KS
kshs.org/p/shawnee-indian-mission

The Shawnee Indian Mission Fall Festival features living history demonstrations, craft areas, children's activities, and food booths, as well as live entertainment, including authentic Native American dancers.

WALNUT VALLEY FESTIVAL

Sept. 14 – 18, Winfield, KS
wvfest.com

Visitors come not only to enjoy the music but to be a part of the festival, either through the continuous campground jam sessions or as a contestant in one of the eight different acoustic instrument contests. It also includes various food vendors and a large juried arts and crafts show

AUTUMN DAZE ARTS, CRAFTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

Sept. 15-17, Branson, MO
<http://downtownbranson.org>

The entertainment stage will feature free live music from some of Branson's finest entertainers! Crafters and artists from many states around the country will participate.

APPLE FESTIVAL

Sept. 10, Raymore, MO
MBCH.org

Crafts, quilts, children's area and apple-related foods of all kinds are just a few of the many reasons why the Apple

Festival is a day full of fun, food and fellowship for the entire family.

DOGTOBER FEST

Oct. 16, Blue Springs, MO
makeyourdayhere.com

Highlights include the Halloween costume contest, agility fun run, dock diving, Frisbee competition, obedience obstacle courses, dog/owner look-alike contest, and the Blessing of the Animals.

MISSOURI TOWN 1855: FESTIVAL OF ARTS, CRAFTS AND MUSIC

Oct. 1 & 2, Lee's Summit, MO
mo-jacksoncountyparks.civicplus.com

Enjoy 1850s music and dance, horse drawn buggy rides, hot-spiced cider, children's games, period arts and crafts, and fun-filled hay rides.

MAPLE LEAF FESTIVAL

Oct. 1-29, Carthage, MO
www.carthagemapleleaf.com

Festival offers family style fun in a home town atmosphere. Numerous events are scheduled throughout the day to entertain young and young at heart, including: Willie Arthur Smith's Marching Cobras; an art and crafts festival; car and dog shows; quilt show; food vendors; and live entertainment, a 5K/10K; beauty pageants; baby and toddler contests; dog skill competition; a gospel sing; a lip-syncing competition and more!

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- ♪ Ray Cardwell & Tennessee Moon w/ Special Guest Pat Flynn
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- ♪ Marley's Ghost
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Sunday (Gate Only)	---	\$15

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How to Deal with Rising Health Care Costs

(Family Features) Many seniors are finding their medical expenses exceed what they anticipated when planning for retirement. Maximizing the value of available assets can be one of the ways to significantly ease a stressed budget.

Whether living a longer, healthier life than anticipated, dealing with a critical illness or paying for ongoing treatment for various ailments, the costs associated with medical care can add up. If you or a loved one is facing this challenge, it may be time to explore alternatives that allow you to continue to cover your expenses while easing the burden on your bank account.

Consider this story about a woman who sold her \$500,000 term policy to pay her medical bills and cover future treatment costs. After her husband passed away, she was having trouble meeting her life insurance premium payments. Years later, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and was struggling to meet the cost of her ongoing treatment. She tried to apply for an accelerated death benefit, but didn't



qualify due to her state's regulations. That's when she contacted Coventry Direct to explore the option of selling her policy.

She sold her policy for \$175,000. Having paid only \$9,527 into a policy that had no cash value, she was surprised to learn how much it was worth. With the proceeds from the life settlement, she paid off her debts and no

longer had to worry about the cost of her medical treatments.

One of these solutions may help manage your assets in a way that allows you to deal with mounting health care costs:

Cut costs where you can. Ask your doctor to periodically review your medications to determine whether

there are any you can eliminate, either due to improved condition or because other, newer prescriptions make them redundant. Also, talk with your doctor and pharmacist to ensure you are able to fill generic prescriptions when possible for added savings.

Take stock of your financial resources. Obvious assets such as a bank account or home can be leveraged for your financial benefit, but don't overlook other potential resources, such as a life insurance policy. Many people are not aware that life insurance is personal property, has value and can be sold. Selling your life insurance policy, which is known as a life settlement, may result in an immediate cash payment. A company like Coventry Direct can help you determine whether a life settlement might allow you to sell your policy to help cover immediate needs or relieve the pressure of mounting medical debt. To learn more about your options and whether a life settlement is right for you, visit coventrydirect.com/lifeselements or call 888-858-9344.

Be a smart shopper. Shopping around for the best prices may take time, but it can also help you keep more of your money. For example, when it comes to special treatments and procedures, ask for a detailed explanation of charges ahead of time and compare outpatient facilities to hospitals to find the most affordable option.

Seek supplemental coverage. If out-of-pocket expenses are eating away at your savings account and you qualify for Medicare, consider purchasing supplemental coverage. You may find that the monthly premiums are more affordable than the costs you rack up with each new visit or prescription refill.

Managing your medical costs can feel like an overwhelming task, but there are steps you can take, including tapping into your financial assets, that can ease stress and allow you to focus more energy on managing your health and happiness.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

A New Definition For "Old"

By Julie Isphording,
former Olympian

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word "old" is defined as "having been in use for a long time," "worn, dilapidated, ancient, or decayed by time." After an experience as a volunteer at the 1995 St. Louis Senior Olympic games, I may have to give Webster a call.

On May 28-31, 1995, the Jewish Community Center on Aging in St. Louis held their 16th Annual Senior Olympics. Men and women 55 and older were eligible to compete. There were 1,421 participants from 25 states. More than 60 athletic events were held during the weekend. The oldest participant was 93! Each day proud winners would walk around wearing their bronze, silver, or gold medals.

As seniors in a Master of physical therapy program, we felt volunteering at these games would give us greater insight into our future geriatric patients. We had just completed a course on development

throughout the life span. Our attitudes towards older people, we were ashamed to admit, still leaned towards Webster's definition. Our experience at the Senior Olympics permanently changed this ageist attitude.

During the first event of the morning, we served as scorekeepers for the badminton tournament. Badminton is a sport that requires finesse, agility and court-vision. Our attention was immediately drawn to the most energetic player on the court. "Mo," as her friends called her, was competing in the badminton doubles championship. Her movements resembled those of a skilled athlete. She was particularly aware of the rules of the game and played with true sportsmanship.

Later that morning we found out that Mo was battling brain cancer and her prognosis was not promising. Nevertheless, she was eager to participate in her 12th year of Senior Olympics. She won a gold medal and our respect and admiration for the way she

played.

Later in the day, we helped out at the "softball throw for accuracy" event. Before the competition, we helped one gentleman in his warm-up. He said that the competition was the realization of a goal set after undergoing triple bypass surgery. He had a passion for playing the game of baseball and was not about to let the surgery slow him down. He told us he did not have a bad heart, but simply a "new and improved" one. The determination in his eyes certainly killed any notions that motivation was not possible in older people.

In the final analysis, we think Webster should highlight "old" with words such as "courage, wisdom, athletic and perseverance."

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SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question:

My brother has been completely disabled from birth. He gets Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Our grandfather died recently and left him a little money. Will this extra money stop his SSI benefits?

Answer:

It all depends on the amount of the inheritance. Inheritance money is considered income for the month he received it. You'll have to report the income and we will adjust his benefit for the month accordingly. If he keeps the money into the next month, it then becomes a part of his resources. To get SSI benefits, he is limited to \$2,000 in total resources, although there are exceptions. Call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and report the inheritance. We'll tell you how your brother's eligibility will be affected. For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:



My dad receives Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. He soon will be coming to live with my brother. Does he have to report the move to Social Security?

Answer:

Yes. He should report to us within 10 days any change in living arrangements. The change could affect his benefit. Failure to report the change could result in a penalty being deducted from his SSI benefits. Also, we need his correct address so we can send correspondence. Please have him call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778). Or, he can report the change by mail or in person at a Social Security office. Visit our website for more information at www.socialsecurity.gov.

MEDICARE

Question:

Should I sign up for Medicare Part B if I am working and have health insurance through an employer?

Answer:

Choosing to sign up for Medicare is an important decision that involves a number of issues you may need to consider. The decision you make will depend on your situation and the type of health insurance you have. You may be able to delay signing up for Medicare Part B without a late enrollment penalty if you or your spouse (or a family member, if you're disabled) is working, and you're getting health insurance benefits based on current employment.

In many cases, if you don't sign up for Part B when you're first eligible, you'll have to pay a late enrollment penalty for as long as you have Part B. Also, you may have to wait until the General Enrollment Period (from January 1 to March 31) to enroll in Part B, and coverage will start July 1 of that year.

Find out how your coverage works

with Medicare at www.medicare.gov or contact your employer or union benefits administrator.

GENERAL

Question:

I received a notice from Social Security recently. It said my name and Social Security number do not match Social Security's records. What should I do?

Answer:

It's critical that your name and Social Security number, as shown on your Social Security card, match your employer's payroll records and your W-2 form. If they don't, here is what you need to do:

- Give your employer the correct information exactly as shown on your Social Security card or your corrected card; or

- Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator) or call 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) if your Social Security card does not show your correct name or Social Security number.

For more information, visit our website at www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:

How do I report a lost Social Security card?

Answer:

You don't have to report a lost Social Security card. In fact, reporting a lost or stolen card to Social Security won't prevent misuse of your Social Security number. You should let us know if someone is using your number to work (call 1-800-772-1213; TTY 1-800-325-0778).

If you think someone is using your number, there are several other actions you should take:

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission online at www.ftc.gov/bcdp/edu/microsites/idtheft or call 1-877-ID-THEFT (1-877-438-4338);

- File an online complaint with the Internet Crime Complaint Center at www.ic3.gov;

- Contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit by calling 1-800-908-4490, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.; and

- Monitor your credit report.

senior news/events briefs

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - every second Saturday, at Christian Lord Ministries, 2421 SE California. Call 266-4979.

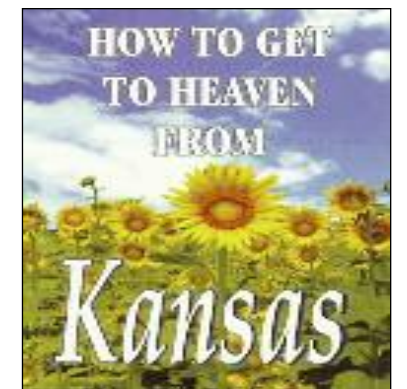
VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS – Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. For Info: 286-1370.

MEDICARE MONDAYS – First Monday of every month, 1-3pm. Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library (Menninger Room 206), 1515 SW 10th. Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nhonl@tsopl.org

GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP – 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room, St. Francis, 1700 SW 7th. Join for support, information, etc. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763

PERRY SENIOR CITIZEN'S LUNCHEON - Aug. 8, noon, Perry Community Building. Blood pressure checks start at 11:15. Bring a covered side dish. Fried chicken provided by Perry Pride. Everyone welcome!

LIFEFEEST – First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Notice: Seniors ministering to seniors – celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729



More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Sin brings both physical & spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14).

2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the only One who could pay for our sin, He is the only Way to Heaven.

3. Repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to Heaven from KANSAS, or anywhere else, you must accept Christ by calling on Him in prayer. He tells us in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Use the following prayer, or one similar to it, to receive Him now:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died and rose again for me. Please forgive me of my sin, become Lord of my life, and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting you completely, and in nothing I can do. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

sports



5 THINGS TO LEARN FROM DEFEAT

by **Stephen Copeland**

In the Christian sports world, a common topic is “giving glory to



God” and sharing the glory of victory with our Creator — the One who gave us the ability to compete. But what about defeat? How do we honor God when we don’t win — when it seems like we don’t have any glory to share?

Defeat provides a similar, if not greater, opportunity for spiritual growth, especially in terms of learning. In James 1, it reads, “consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith develops perse-

verance...” Losing tests us — it isn’t easy. Testing gives us an opportunity to learn and to grow.

Following the Golden State Warriors recent loss to the Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 7 of the NBA Finals, the website “Desiring God” posted an article entitled, “Glory in Defeat: Five Ways We Win, When Our Team Lost.” The post breaks down specific ways to respond to

loss while still bringing glory to God.

God puts specific events in our lives for specific purposes, and He works all things together for the good of those who love and trust Him, according to Romans 8:28. If nothing else, dealing with loss provides an opportunity for growth — to draw nearer to our Lord and Savior. Try not to view loss as a failure, necessarily, but as a moment of possibility.

God works through all circumstances.

THE POTTER AND HIS TOOLS

by **Stephen Copeland**

“Then the word of the Lord came to me: ‘O house of Israel, can I not do with you as this potter has done?’ declares the Lord. ‘Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.’” Jeremiah 18:5-6

“I just know I am playing for a greater purpose. This sport teaches you humility and patience in all different aspects. There are times when you are praised and you are the hottest thing going—and then things turn, and people are trying to bring you down. You just have to know that God is in control of everything, and you are playing for Him...” – Andy Dalton, Cincinnati Bengals quarterback

I often approach my passions with a mindset of: What can I get out of this? How much juice can I squeeze from the lemon? Rarely do I step back and think about how the things I am passionate about might be tools that

God is using to mold and shape me into the person He wants me to become.

In Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Andy Dalton’s quote, he talks about how football



FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by **Rob Mooney**

Football season is right around the corner and NFL training camps have been getting underway. What does this season look like and what teams do you think will make a jump up and which teams do you believe will take a step back? Let’s take a look at five teams I believe will be different in 2016 than they were last year. Not necessarily for the better.

1. Dallas Cowboys: Of course I have to start here. Let’s take a look at last season’s 4-12 dismal showing. Offense ranked 22nd overall (9th in rushing; 26th passing) Defense ranked 17th overall (21st against the run and 5th against the pass). Obviously, the passing offense will improve as quarterback Tony Romo returns from injury. The rushing



game could return to elite status if first round pick Ezekiel Elliot lives up to even half the hype. The defense is solid, the offense line is good and they play in the NFC East division. They play 10 games a year against teams with losing records. If everything goes as planned and Romo stays healthy all year, the Cowboys should be back in the midst of things at 9-7.

2. Denver Broncos: Two reasons the defending champions are on the list. One, quarterback play is uncertain. Gone are Peyton Manning and Brock Osweiler and in is NFL veteran Mark Sanchez and rookie Paxton Lynch. The defense, which was ranked #1 overall last year looks to still be very good. If the quarterbacks can get in and move the ball around, they will

be quite good. Secondly, the Kansas City Chiefs are right behind them chomping at the bit.

3. Carolina Panthers: Is it bad to have both teams from the previous Super Bowl on the downslope list? Maybe not when you consider exactly what type of year the Panthers had. The Panthers went 15-1 last year due in large part to a stifling defense rated 6th overall and the legs of quarterback Cam Newton, who ran for 636 yards and 10 touchdowns. The schedule gets quite a bit tougher this year, however they still play in the NFC South. They will definitely win the division again, but this year they’ll do it at 12-4.

4. Cleveland Browns: Am I fan of Robert Griffin III? Not really, but I realize that any upgrade at the quarterback position for the Browns is a step in the right direction. They did lose 5 games last year by 7 points or less, including an overtime loss to Denver. The defense doesn’t seem much better, however they did address the pass rush by signing two defensive ends in rounds two and three. After finishing 3-13 last year, there really is no other direction but up for them!

teaches him humility and patience in all kinds of ways. His quote seems to imply that he believes God uses football to mold him and shape him.

Today, I am reminded to be more aware of how God is using the different passions I have in this life to shape me. It is really quite tiring to try and get something out of everything in life. Rather, He is the Potter and I am the clay. And as He shapes me, He might use all sorts of tools for my benefit, in His grace, so that I can become a better, more stable person, so that I can realize more and more what it means to be His child.

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High-End Home Upgrades

(Family Features) For most people, the home is their family's most significant asset. Upgrading is a smart approach to protecting and growing the value of that investment.

Home upgrades come in all shapes and sizes, from minor landscaping projects to large-scale security installations. When looking to make an impact, it's smart to opt for high-end upgrades such as those that boost security or enhance the technologic features of your

home.

These upgrades not only lend an upscale feel, but can bring families peace of mind while enhancing the ways to enjoy their home.

Home security

Whether you're aiming for a stronger sense of personal safety or extra protection for your valuable possessions, today's security systems take home monitoring to a whole new level. Basic keypad alarms have been

replaced by a host of features, such as silent alarms that allow authorities to catch a burglar in action; cameras that allow you to monitor the premises from inside the home or while you're away using a connected device; motion detectors that simultaneously trigger exterior and interior lights while activating security cameras and more. There is no one solution for every home, but a home security expert can talk through your concerns and guide you to the system that best fits your needs.

Standby generators

When seasonal weather or other circumstances cause power outages, the impact on a home and family can range from inconvenient to unsafe. A standby generator system keeps a household humming even when the power is out – automatically. An important feature to look for is power management technology, which manages the power balancing act that is your home's appliances.

For example, Briggs & Stratton Fortress standby generators are equipped with Symphony II Power Management, which lets homeowners prioritize what in their home they need powered by proactively monitoring and managing the home's backup power needs, allowing for whole-house power with a more affordable generator. This power management system also uses remote power-switching modules that are installed directly to a home's existing wiring, to help reduce installation costs. For more information about standby generator systems and their features, visit powernow.com.

Wireless automation

You may think of it as just a phone, but the tiny computer you carry every day packs the power to control an ever-growing segment of your home. Using an app on your smartphone, tablet or computer, you can control everything from your locks and lights to the temper-

ature setting on your thermostat. What's more, you can create settings that integrate multiple functions to set the perfect ambiance for whatever you have in mind. Planning on a movie night? Cue the movie setting, with dimmed lights, blinds lowered and the TV powered on. Hosting a party? Count on your custom entertaining setup, with lighting in all your guest-friendly rooms, lively music playing on your whole-home sound system and a lower temperature to keep things cool as the party heats up.



The options are nearly endless when it comes to elevating your home's features. By combining practical functions and indulgent improvements, you can take your homeowner satisfaction to new heights.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

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Annette's Tip:

- Fall gardens are often the best because cooler temperatures enhance flavor and crispness of greens, cole crops, radishes and beans. Use those vacant spots where early crops have been removed for tasty produce in September, October and even November.
- If you have unwanted Bermuda grass in your lawn, spray with High Yield Kilzall now and then again in two weeks so you will be ready to overseed in early September.
- Water trees and shrubs now if you don't receive an inch of rain this week. Drought stressed plants tend to attract destructive insects and diseases.

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- 1. The Great I AM Church**
Breaking Traditions
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Pastor Cordell Fischer
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(785) 861-0422
www.greatIAMchurch.com
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**
Pastor Beau Bryant
c/o Seaman Baptist Church
2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka Ks 66608
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org
Sun. School 9:30 am
Sun. Service 10:45 am
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka
785-234-5545
Worship: 8:00 - 9:30 & 11am
Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:30 & 11am
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
Wed. 6:15 pm: Children/Youth/
Adult programs
Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am
www.northlandctopeka.org
- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**
730 SW Fairlawn Rd., Topeka, KS
(785) 272-6322 • www.FairlawnNaz.org
Sunday Worship: 10:40 am
Adult, Youth & Children's Sun. School 9:15

- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
Sunday Services:
8:30 AM Traditional Worship
9:45 AM Bible study--all ages
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
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www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
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(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com
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Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm
- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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www.gccinoverbrook.com
office@gccinoverbrook.com
- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**
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www.kawriverkeruv.com
Questions? kawriverlordshouse@att.net
- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka
233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com

- Sun. 9:30am - Sunday School for all ages
Sun. 10:30am - Worship & Word, Children
Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult
~ Nursery care for all services ~
- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**
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Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavely 760-3513
 - 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**
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www.wwnaz.org
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6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University
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 - 15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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- 18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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- 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
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- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
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- 22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**
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- 23. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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SAVE THE DATE! Topeka North Outreach Fall Festival will be on Sat. Oct. 1 at Seaman Community Church, 2036 N.W. Taylor. Pancake Breakfast from 7:30 to 10:00 A.M. Bierock, Brat, Hot Dog Lunch from 11:00 – 2:00. Homemade pie and cookies. Silent Auction of many lovely baskets. Proceeds go for Emergency Service requests in North Topeka and Oakland. Please come and support TNO.

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WANTED: VOLUNTEERS - Caring Pregnancy Options has some openings for volunteers. Please call 785-249-6130 for info or stop by our office, 2041 SW McAlister Ave, Mon - Thur 10-5. Ask for Kathy Hart.

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WRITERS - Metro Voice needs volunteer writers or interns who can serve as area correspondents for church and community news around the metro area. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net. Some perks.

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Work flexible hours

Call on businesses, churches, and non-profits about advertising options in Metro Voice.

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Welcome...

TO NORTH TOPEKA!

North 75 Barbershop
 Ron & Lacy
 Tue-Fri 8-5:30
 Sat 8-1
 1904 N Central Avenue 233-4281

Local Christian Radio
 KFGB 97.7 FM Upper Room Radio
 Proud Member of MIDWEST Barter Exchange

THE PAD RESTAURANT
 Every Monday, 3 pm - closing:
35% OFF Burgers!
 234-3596
 1730 N. Topeka Blvd.

Topeka Rescue Mission
 "Faith with its sleeves Rolled Up"
 Main: 785-354-1744
 Non-cash Donations: 785-357-4285
 Volunteers, Tours: 785-354-1744 ext. 393
 Finances: 785-354-1744 ext. 316
 Policies, Speakers: 785-354-1744 ext. 315
 Thrift Store (1312 N. Kansas): 785-235-9094
 www.trmonline.org
 600 N. Kansas Ave. Topeka, KS 66608
 P.O. Box 8350 Topeka, KS 66608

MERIDEN ANIMAL HOSPITAL
 Jeffrey F. Van Patten, DVM
 Rick Tanner, DVM
 Veterinary Acupncture & Chiropractic Care
 Member - AVMA, IVAS, AVCA
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 785-484-3358 • Phone answered 24 hours
 Shop at: Meridenanimal.com
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Davidson FUNERAL HOME
 "Family Owned & Operated"
 1035 N. Kansas Avenue
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NOTO
 NORTH TOPEKA ARTS DISTRICT
 NOTO Community Arts Center
 935 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS
 Register for classes at notoartsdistrict.com
 For information: 785.608.6738 or email
 NOTOartscenter@gmail.com

northland
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 8:00, 9:30, & 11:00 a.m.
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PHONE: (785) 286-2390 FAX: (785) 286-2393
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 4107 N TOPEKA AVE TOPEKA, KS 66617
 BECAUSE OF THE CUSTOMER... WE EXIST!

Biker Sunday...Every Sunday!
Christian Cavalry Ministries Int.
 c/o Seaman Baptist Church
 2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka, KS 66608
 785-224-5419
 www.church4bikers.org
 Sunday School 9:30 AM
 Sunday Service 10:45 AM
 Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study 7:00 PM
 All are welcome, casual dress ok!

DOWNTOWN Antiques and Collectibles Mall
 PROBLEM SOLVER
 ONE CALL CAN DO IT ALL
 NEW - USED - ANTIQUES - COLLECTIBLES
 BOOTH & SHOWCASE SPACE AVAILABLE
 785-354-1603
 500 SW Harrison, Topeka, KS 66603
 1 blk east of 5th & Topeka Blvd.
 Mon. thru Sat., 11-5 • Sun. 1-5 or by appointment

Operation Backpack is Back!

Topeka North Outreach, Inc. (TNO) is set to begin its 11th year providing Weekend Food Sacks to area children in need through its Operation Backpack program. To start the new school year, backpacks and school supplies are being collected for eligible children whose families are: working poor, single or widowed, foster or adoptive, disabled, or grandparent parents.



Once school starts, children will receive a Weekend Food Sack full of nutritious, single-serving size food items every Friday that they may take home in their new backpack.

The desire is to look after orphans and widows, the poor and the needy, as God instructs us to do in His Word. TNO is currently raising funds, collecting school supplies and backpacks, and collecting snack type food items in order to reach 500 children every week at ten local schools.

76.68% of children in Topeka Public Schools fall in the "economically disadvantaged" category according to the Kansas State Department of Education

website (2015-2016 statistics.) That's close to 11,000 children right here in Topeka! TNO is helping by providing school supplies at the beginning of each school year, and providing weekend meals to approximately 500 children per week. But we need your help! You can drop Operation Backpack food donations off at any of our member churches.

Volunteers are always welcome to help assemble the Weekend Food Sacks the first Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. beginning September 1st and continuing thru June 2017 at Mathis (Lyman) Learning Center, 2032 N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers are also needed on Fridays to distribute sacks to the children at school. Over 100,000 Weekend Food Sacks have been distributed to needy children in Topeka since the program began. TNO distributes food sacks to children in need that attend State Street, Quincy, Logan, Rochester, Pleasant Hill, Elmont, North Fairview & West Indianola Elementary schools, Seaman Middle & Lyman Learning Center. Please come join us for fun and fellowship, as well as the opportunity to help children in our community!

This year, Topeka North Outreach, Inc. & Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries are partnering together to help those in need! Gideon's will be distributing bibles. If you are needing help with School Supplies then visit our website: www.topekanorthoutreach.org to sign up by August 8th.

School Supply donations are needed by August 8th and can be dropped off at the Topeka Rescue Mission Distribution Center, 401 NW Norris, between the hours of 8 am - 3pm, Monday - Friday, & 8am - 12 pm on Saturday. They may be reached at 357-4285.

TNO is a 501c3, non-profit, all-volunteer organization. If you would like to help, please contact TNO at 785-286-1370, or email: youth@topekanorthoutreach.org.

Chiropractic
 CARING FOR YOU
Capitol City Chiropractic
 Dr. John E. Chance
 1835 N. Topeka, Ste. 209
 Topeka, KS 66608
 Phone 234-0900
 Hours
 MTWF 9am - 6pm
 Th 9am - 12pm
 HEALTH CARE FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

When it comes to protecting our **VALUES**
only **ONE** candidate stands with us.



SENATOR SCHMIDT

JOE PATTON

ON TAXES

Voted **FOR** the second largest tax hike in Kansas history.

Consistently voted **AGAINST** job-killing tax increases.

ON HEALTH CARE

Voted against an Interstate Health Compact that would allow us to opt out of ObamaCare, and would protect your Medicare funding.

Voted for an Interstate Health Compact that would allow us to opt out of ObamaCare, and would protect your Medicare funding.

ON CONCEALED CARRY

Voted **NO** on concealed carry gun legislation.
Received an "F" rating by the NRA.

Supports second amendment rights to keep and bear arms.
Received an A rating from the National Rifle Assoc.

ON ABORTION

Voted against Pro-Life bills that would restrict late term abortions, partial birth abortion, and require parental consent.
Voted against the prohibition of live dismemberment abortions.

Voted for all pro-life bills, co-sponsored several pro-life bills.
Strong advocate of stopping taxpayer funded abortions.

ON MARRIAGE

Carried the amendment to weaken the Kansas marriage amendment and to add homosexual civil unions to the Kansas constitution.

Supported a constitutional amendment to define marriage as between one man and one woman.

ON SPENDING

Voted for budgets that over spent revenues by millions.
Voted to increase taxes and to borrow hundreds of millions more.

Voted against the budgets put together by the Tax and Spend coalition that exceeded revenues.

ON JOBS

Supported by the job killing Tax and Spend coalition.

A successful businessman, has met a payroll, created jobs, and is supported by Job Creators.
NFIB (National Federation of Independent Businesses) 100% Rating

ON RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

Voted against a bill that would protect the Religious Liberty of college students.

Supports legislation to protect religious liberty.

ON TAX FAIRNESS

Has done nothing for tax fairness.

Supports tax fairness.

ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

After creating a fiscal cliff, for four years she's refused to vote for any solutions and offered none of her own. She promised fiscal responsibility but delivered a fiscal cliff.

An experienced businessman who knows how to balance the budget.