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KANSAS GARDEN SHOW | **PAGE 13**

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Grace Community Church - Overbrook

See inside back cover!

'24 TO CHRIST

A man wrongfully accused of murder becomes local pastor after spending nearly a quarter of a century in prison

by **Sam Smith**

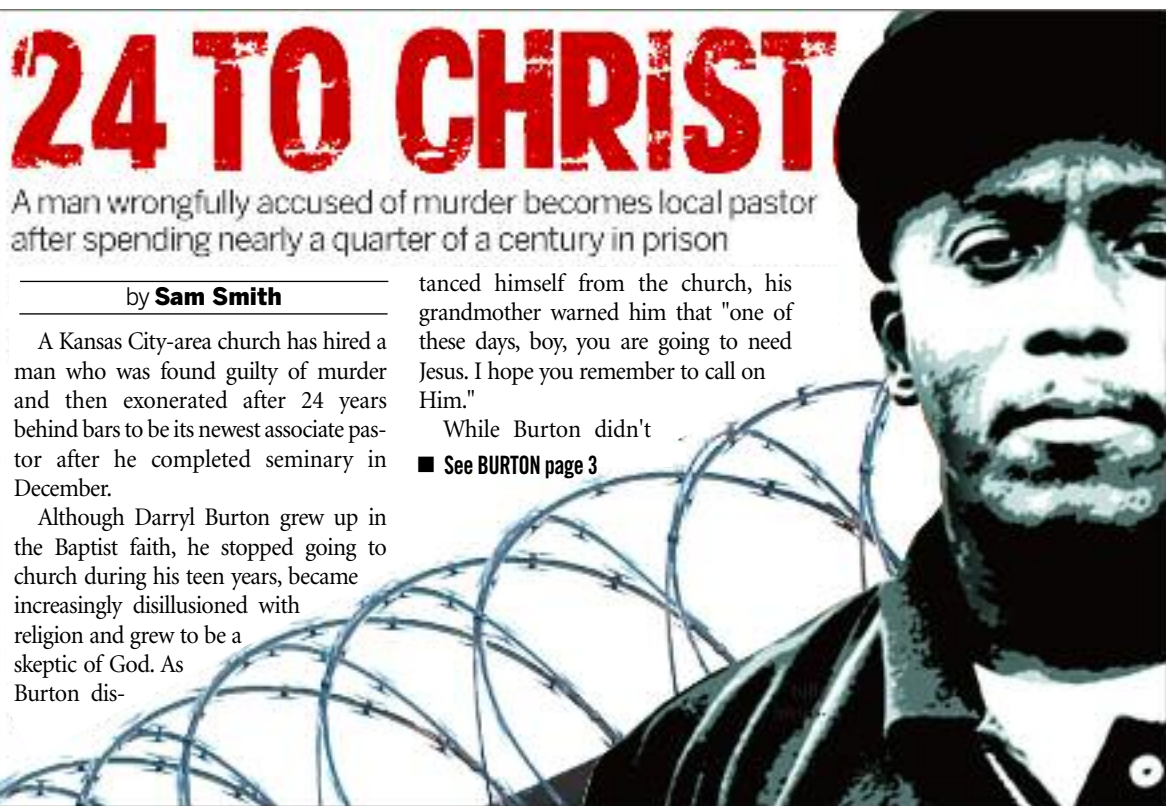
A Kansas City-area church has hired a man who was found guilty of murder and then exonerated after 24 years behind bars to be its newest associate pastor after he completed seminary in December.

Although Darryl Burton grew up in the Baptist faith, he stopped going to church during his teen years, became increasingly disillusioned with religion and grew to be a skeptic of God. As Burton dis-

tanced himself from the church, his grandmother warned him that "one of these days, boy, you are going to need Jesus. I hope you remember to call on Him."

While Burton didn't

■ See **BURTON** page 3



Prayer Breakfast Speaker Has Lots of Experience

If someone were to show up at the Ramada Inn in downtown Topeka on March 16th about 6:00 am, they would find themselves joined by approximately 900 other early risers for a very early breakfast.

The occasion is the annual Kansas Prayer Breakfast, sponsored by Topeka Fellowship, Inc. Statewide leaders in government, business, education and industry will be on hand as usual as the program begins at about 6:45 a.m. for the 55th celebration of the annual event. As several buffet lines open for serving at 6:00 a.m., the banquet hall will be filled with Kansans from all walks of life.

Education Expo & Open House March 5 & 7

The 2016 Christian Education and College Expo is Saturday, March 5 but, this year, a second K-12 Open House has been added for the Northland. The Open House will take place Monday, Mar. 7 at the Gladstone Community Center in Gladstone, MO. More info is available at metrovoicenews.com.

The March 5 Expo runs from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will once again feature area K-12 schools, homeschooling organizations from Missouri and Kansas and 50 colleges from 15 states. In addition, free seminars will be offered on everything from how to take the ACT to finding the most college financial aid to an intro to homeschooling.

The Northland Open House was added at the suggestion of several Northland schools. It will serve as an opportunity for parents in the Northland to visit with schools and get information about K-12 options.

Both events are sponsored by the Metro Voice Newspaper.

"It's the 18th year for the Expo and it continues to grow," says Anita Widaman, co-publisher of Metro Voice. "We are excited to have partnered with area schools and colleges to bring options for all levels of education together for one big event."

For info visit metrovoicenews.com or call 816-524-4522. Look for "Midwest Christian Education & College Expo" on Facebook.



We're not in Kansas any more

WORD FROM GOD LED KANSAS COUPLE TO AFRICA

by **Steve Reese** | Assist News

Buhler, Kan. However, Tracy and Becky Spencer plan to build their second home in that nation – this one for orphans of HIV/AIDS. They feel like Dorothy in

"The Wizard of Oz", saying, "We're not in Kansas any more."

The Spencers' vision for building Christ-centered orphanages in Swaziland, where 50 percent of men and 32 percent of women are infected with the deadly virus, looks and sounds like the fulfillment of a prophecy given to them by an Oklahoma pastor more than three decades ago during a home Bible study.

John Hollar looked directly at them in 1984 and said, "You will be a father to many more than your eyes can see." Today Hollar, is director of Christ for the Nations in Dallas.

In 1984, the Spencers had four children, and one was on the way. The family eventually grew to eight — four adopted and four biological children — but it hardly numbers "as far as the eye can see." However, in 2006, when the Spencers traveled to Swaziland on a mission trip, they pondered Hollar's words. There, in Swaziland, the Spencers saw untold numbers of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and wondered if they were Tracy's prophesied family.



This year's featured speaker will be Doug Burleigh, who will join a long list of distinguished state-wide and nationally known leaders who have shared their vision and wisdom at past Prayer Breakfasts.

Burleigh currently serves as an associate for the Leadership Development Foundation. He has previously served as president of Young Life until 1992 after over two decades of work with the program, headed the Youth School of Evangelism in Moscow, and organized national prayer breakfasts in multiple countries through his work with world leaders. He has worked with leaders of government in Russia, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia, and Kazakhstan, establishing weekly small groups in each. Over the years, Burleigh has worked to organize the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, inviting

■ Please see **KANSAS** page 4
 ■ Please see **BREAKFAST** page 3

EASTER FUN FEST EXPANDING

Third annual parade and fair will be bigger again this year

The Topeka Easter Parade & Family Fun Fest will be back for the third consecutive year on Saturday, March 26, 2016. Last Year's event was attended by over two thousand people who made their way to Gage Park to watch the parade, visit the Fun Fair, listen to live music and take part in the egg hunt or other activities.

Dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit organizations took part in the parade, and dozens more set up vendor booths and kids' games in the park as part of the family fun fair. There were lots of floats and all shapes and sizes of other vehicles, as well as walking entries such as schools, military groups, marching bands and more. The event is coordinated by the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

"We're expecting an even bigger turnout than last year," said Drew Walker, Parade Coordinator. "It just keeps growing every year, and we expect that to continue."

This year the Fun Fair will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Big Gage Shelter near the Zoo. The Parade and Egg Hunt will be in the



morning, with vendor booths, food trucks and kid's activities going on all afternoon. This year, even more churches, non-profit organizations, schools and local businesses are

"Food trucks are a new addition this year."

expected to enter floats and marching bands, etc., in the parade, as well as set up booths at the fun fair. This year, vendor booths and kids activities will also be located inside the Topeka Zoo, as well as outside in the park and inside of Big Gage Shelter House.

The Family Fun Fair will consist of activities geared toward children and fami-

lies, as well as booths, exhibits, and other activities such as Easter egg hunts, children's games, scavenger hunts, facepainting, and more. The activities inside the zoo will have an Oz theme, and will be tied to various animals in the zoo.

Live performers will be on hand all day, such as jazz bands, dance troupes, praise bands and more, performing in the Gage Park Amphitheatre, as well as inside Big Gage Shelter.

Food trucks are a new addition



this year, and judging from past experience, they will be a big draw at this year's fair. They will also provide more food options that will enable families to stay at the park longer to enjoy the festivities. The food trucks will be set up around Westlake Shelter, near the Amphitheatre,

For more information, email info@C5Alive.org or call 640-6399, or go to www.C5Alive.org or the facebook page Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair.

Life Lessons From a Little One

GIVING IT ALL

by Jessica S. Hosman

Every Sunday morning I give my son a dollar for his morning offering in Sunday School. I was taken aback when he recently told me that he did not want it because he instead wanted to give all of the money in his piggy bank to God. I knew how much change he had acquired through the years and am ashamed to admit that my first instinct was to talk him out of it, thinking of the plethora of other things he could do with the money.

We emptied the bank on the table and began counting up the change. As we did, Zechariah assured me that he wanted to "give it all... for God." It was then I became cognizant of my selfishness and realized my offerings had become nothing more than ritualistic obligation. Instead of giving my all in various areas, I was only giving what was comfortable and was not allowing the Lord to stretch me any further. I began to wonder what other areas existed that I was clutching too tight and not releasing fully to Him. I watched my child's excitement to give such an extravagant gift and my anxieties began melting into an overflowing joy at what was taking place before me. The savings in his little bank could have easily been used to purchase toys or treats for himself but instead he was choosing to cheerfully give it all to God... not out of ritual or obligation but out of sincere love.

Isn't this what God desires from us

all? Not for each of us to place all of our finances in an offering plate, but for all of us to have a willingness to give everything we have to Him and then to trust Him with the results. Zechariah didn't want to give God just a



Jessica Hosman



portion of what he had, he wanted to give every part of it. Though this beautiful sacrifice initially caused anxiety in me, I am convinced it brought nothing but great delight to God. And in less than a month's time after giving his \$22.15, his bank was replenished by more than double from various individuals who knew nothing of his gift. I believe

God is waiting to do the same for us when we are willing to give our all to Him as well. We might not receive our reward through finance, but it will come through the beautiful peace we receive when we relinquish control and entrust our everything to Him.

Are there things, people or areas you are clutching too tightly today? I invite you to take a moment to be still before the Lord and allow Him to bring to mind any area that you could more fully entrust to Him. While it might seem scary to let go of control and place your trust fully, I guarantee He can do a better job in these areas than any of us could ever try. Nothing is too big or too small. He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly more than we could ask or imagine with any life, sacrifice or gift we're willing to give.

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March for Life Rally draws huge crowd in Topeka

Approximately 1,500 rally attendees braved the bitter cold at the Rally for Life in Topeka January 22, having marched one half mile together to the Capitol in Topeka with a variety of pro-life posters and banners, including 'Stop dismembering unborn babies.' The local march and rally was held in conjunction with the national March For Life in Washington, D.C. to commemorate and protest the

43rd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion.

Many in the crowd were visibly upset at the noon-hour rally in reaction to a new ruling by the Kansas Court of Appeals just hours earlier that upheld a district court's block of the ban on dismemberment abortion.

"They intend to use the courts to end

this debate, to end our rallies," Rep. Tim Huelskamp told the crowd. "They know we are winning the minds and hearts of America. We know the polls. We know that Americans understand. In 1973 they made the claim they didn't know when life began. Do we know when life begins? Yes, we do."

"They intend to continue to kill babies. And if we stand in the way, ladies and gen-



tlemen, they intend to destroy us as well. And should we expect any different? Should we expect any different from the culture of death?"

As the yearly protests continue, some progress has been made. Many pro-life laws have been passed in

Kansas during the current administration, and there is some indication that hearts and minds are being won over. In a CBS/New York time poll last September, 67% said abortion should only be available under stricter limits or not permitted at all.

BURTON

continued from page 1

think much of his late grandmother's words at the time, those words rang through his head as he sat for two decades in prison after he was convicted in 1985 for a murder he didn't commit.

Burton, who recently assumed his new role as the associate pastor in congregational care at the Church of Resurrection in Leawood, said it took over 15 years in prison before he finally opened his heart to Christ.

"For the first 15 years or so I was just trying to do everything in my own abilities. Of course, I was really angry and upset and really frustrated about my situation and being

wrong-fully imprisoned," Burton explained. "I said, 'Well, I have tried everything but God, what do I have to lose.' I just challenged Jesus — 'If you're real, show me. If you help me, I will serve you and tell the world about you.'"

Knowing that his guilty verdict was due to two prosecution witnesses lying in their testimony and saying that Burton had committed the

murder of a St. Louis man, Burton wrote over 700 letters to lawmakers, attorneys and activists who are known for helping free wrongly convicted inmates.

After years of waiting for legal assistance, Centurion Ministries, a New Jersey-based organization dedicated to taking on cases of those wrongly convicted, came to his aid and headed an eight-year legal battle that eventually led a judge to overturn Burton's conviction in 2008 on the grounds that his 1985 trial was constitutionally flawed.

Although he spent over 24 years in prison, Burton, who was led to Christ by various prison ministries and a devout man who hounded him for seven years to accept Christ, never blamed God for putting him in prison and explained that he saw similarities between his imprison-

ment and that of Joseph from the Bible.

"I think God used the situation the same way with Joseph when Joseph was thrown in the prison and treated by his brothers in a way that was not right," Burton stated. "'What man and human beings made for evil, God used for good.' That's the way I look at it. I never blamed God. God didn't throw me in there."

After Burton was released from prison in 2008, it took him a few years before he finally realized that he was called to become a pastor. In a one-year span, Burton said he was asked on two separate occasions whether or not he was interested in becoming a pastor.

"I tried to live without God before in my young life and now when I hear people talk about God, I am going to pay attention now," Burton told CP. "I said, 'Let me learn what pastors do' and I enrolled in seminary. I said, 'I am called to ministry and I better just obey God because not obeying God can really be costly.'"

In 2012, Burton, who never finished high school, began taking classes at Saint Paul School of Theology. And this past December, Burton graduated from the seminary.

After his graduation, an associate pastor's job at the Church of Resurrection, a church he had previously interned with, was waiting for him.

"Of course, I wanted to tell the world about God but only God could write up a script like this," Burton said. "I had no imagination about anything that has happened in my life now."

Burton added that he has a large interest in prison ministry and re-entry ministries for the exonerated and youth.

"My role is just to be a humble servant and do whatever I am asked and whatever I am allowed to do," Burton said. "I just want to speak to the world as I said to Jesus that I would tell the world about Him. Whatever I can do to just get this message across the globe. Like I said, this church is too small. As [John] Wesley said, 'the world is my parish.'"

Karen Lampe, the executive pastor of congregational care at the Leawood congregation, stated that Burton has been nothing but an "amazing gift to us."

"There's no one who represents himself more humbly than Darryl," Lampe said. "He just wants to do the very best he can. I think he's trying to make up for lost time."

Although Burton works for one of the area's largest churches, he still believes that the church is not big enough and that there is room for the congregation to grow.

"Christ said to take it to all the nations of the Earth, so we still got work to do," Burton contended.

BREAKFAST

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members of Parliament from these nations and around the U.S. During his oversight of the Cedars in Washington from 2008-2014, he established Youth Cores in 7 cities in Russia and Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia. He has worked with hundreds of young disciples over the decades, and he speaks extensively about these experiences all over United States and around the world.

Born March 31, 1945, Burleigh currently lives and works between The Cedars in Arlington, Virginia and his home in Annapolis, Maryland. He and his wife of 41 years, Debbie, have four children and 14 grandchildren together. Doug earned a B.A. in Political Science and Russian from Williamette University in 1966, a M.A. in Political Science with a focus in Soviet government and politics at the University of Washington the next year, and later a M.Div. from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1979.

Beginning in 1967, Burleigh spent over two decades working for Young Life in multiple capacities. He served as an area director, Northwest regional director, Western division director, Eastern division director, and spent the last 1 1/2 years as President of Young Life until 1992.

From 1992-93, Burleigh served the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association as head of the 5000 person Youth School of Evangelism for the Moscow 1992 Crusade, and organized the first Russian National Prayer Breakfast in October of 1992.

Burleigh acted as president of computer training company Compre, Inc. in Washington from 1993-95, before beginning his work with the Leadership Development Foundation in 1995. Since 1992, Doug has worked on organizing and leading 65 Jesus conferences for thousands of young people in all 15 nations of the former Soviet Union and every region of Russia.

In addition to Burleigh, the audience will hear from a wide array of Kansas leaders, as always. Festivities will wrap up by 8 a.m., just in time for most folks to get to work on time.

The Kansas Prayer Breakfast is held in March each year, and is patterned after the National Prayer Breakfast, which began in 1953 in Washington, D.C., under the leadership of Kansas Senator Frank Carlson and President Dwight Eisenhower. The Kansas version began in 1962 with the aid and encouragement of Governor John Anderson. Carlson was the first keynote speaker.

Tickets for the breakfast are \$18.00 per person or \$180.00 for a reserved table of ten. For reservations call 234-6204 or email francisbartley@cox.net. More information can be found at kansasprayerbreakfast.net.

"What man and human beings made for evil, God used for good."

Darryl Burton



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National Marriage Week 2016

by **John Potter | Military Chaplain**

Everyone wants a good, strong, happy marriage. Our marriages often start out well. They are full of enthusiasm, joy, love, compassion, and devotion. But as time goes by, couples often find it difficult to carve out time, space, and energy for their one true love.

It seems so odd and sad, but it is a common story line with a majority of married couples. The things of life get in their way and dampen the romance that once burned bright. A few years prior, nothing could separate this pair of love birds. Now priorities have changed. Distractions are everywhere. Demands must be met. Children must be fed. Bills must be paid. Somehow couples seem to lose the fire and energy that brought them to the altar.

We all need a wake up call when it comes to marriage. Everyone! We husbands need a reminder to date our wives and make her a priority. Wives need a reminder to love and cherish husbands.

February 7-14 is National Marriage Week. It serves as the national alarm clock for couples to remember why they got married in the first place. It

also allows groups, organizations, and churches to join the fight in saving marriages across America.

If you are planning a marriage enrichment event, a workshop, or presentation, join the campaign by sharing it on the national website. Let your community know what resources are available in their own backyard. This simple act can go a long way to encourage or even salvage a couple on the brink of divorce.

National Marriage Week USA, offers several marriage resources, date night suggestions, event guides, reading lists, and videos on how to build a satisfying marriage. Check out the website to find a tip, idea, or suggestion that can improve your marriage in 2016.

This can be the year that you turn things around. Stop allowing distractions and insignificant events to suck the life out of your relationship. Take time to strengthen your marriage. Reconnect with your spouse. Focus on the romance that brought you together. Use National Marriage Week as a way to strengthen your marriage and focus on the one you love.



newsbriefs

Bakery Owners Accounts Seized

Imagine the surprise when Aaron and Melissa Klein went into their bank accounts a few weeks before Christmas and found them empty – including their tithe money. “It was like my breath was taken away,” said. “I panicked. Everything was gone.”

In 2013, the Kleins turned down a request to make a cake for a same-sex

wedding. Since then, their troubles have multiplied. They recently paid \$136,927.07, the judgment awarded for “emotional suffering.” Those funds were raised on behalf of the family and included interest accrued.

The couple decided to pay the fines to avoid higher interest penalties, even though their case is far from over. The money is being held while their case is pending. It is not clear why the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries confiscated additional money from the couple’s per-



sonal accounts.

Aaron and Melissa shut down the bakery. Melissa says they’re prepared to take their case all the way to the Supreme Court.

KANSAS

continued from page 1

“From the standpoint of the first time ever going on an overseas mission trip, it was very life-changing,” Tracy said. “Just everywhere you turn there are kids on the streets, chasing your car, asking for help.”

Spencer also was struck by the orphans’ inability to obtain an education.

He and Becky knew that Jesus saw these abandoned, orphaned and vulnerable children like lost lambs. “The Good Shepherd’s staff is grand enough to care for each one – through His people,” Becky said, explaining the ministry name.

The Spencers founded Grand Staff Ministries Inc. (GSM), upon their return from that first trip to Swaziland in 2006. This nonprofit Christian charity started as a sponsorship program for orphaned and vulnerable Swazi children. Since 2006, GSM has provided money for educating 209 Swazi children; 61 children are cur-



Tracy with Swazi friend

rently in school, courtesy of sponsors. Five more have pursued post-secondary training in college or trade schools.

When the Spencers first visited Swaziland, 11 percent of homesteads were run by orphaned children, mostly because of the high death rates from AIDS. Just four years later, in 2010, that number had grown to more 20 percent or about 195,000 children without adults in the home.

Today, an estimated one-half million people in Swaziland are infected with HIV. Additional untold numbers don’t know they’re infected because of the stigma associated with the disease. Some people visit Christian medical mobile units after dark to receive anti-retroviral medications to avoid suspicion of their HIV status. Others refuse to be tested and receive life-saving drugs.

Becky, who is an author, speaker and singer/songwriter, supports the Swaziland vision by inviting men and women at Christian conferences, churches, and retreats to sponsor Swazi children at either \$25 or \$50 per month, which pays for students’ uniforms, tuition, books, fees and lunches.

The Spencers’ residence, a former nursing home built in 1895, was converted to a bed and breakfast within a year of their inaugural trip to Swaziland. The

Becky and Tracy, right, with their “expanded family”– kids from the orphanage.



Spencers welcomed their first guests in 2008. Becky and Tracy saw their home transformed into a haven for burned-out pastors, tired Christians, troubled spouses and weary travelers. However, many also have become close friends and partners to the mission work they’re doing in Swaziland.

In 2014, GSM began raising funds to build their first orphan home in Swaziland. Last May, they had raised only about 40 percent of the total needed. Then GSM received a sizable financial pledge from a widow in the United States to help build the orphanage.

Barb Haley is the widow who promised enough cash to complete a 1,540-square-foot building for homeless or abandoned children. Haley, who had received a large insurance settlement after her husband’s death, was planning to use a significant amount for a major home renovation until she attended a Christian writer’s conference where Spencer talked about GSM and one Swazi girl in particular.

“I decided right then to give every penny of that money to the ministry to help fund this new home,” said Haley. “I feel so blessed to know that God is allowing us to be a part in this undertaking. I can honestly say I have nothing but joy when I think of the project ahead.”

The girl Becky spoke about was Angel, whose mother abandoned her when she was small. Angel lived with her grandmother until the grandmother died. She was reunited with her mom, but when Angel was in only the third grade, her mother began locking her out of the home. The Spencers, Angel’s pastor and their missionary friends all witnessed changes in her that would indicate this precious little girl was being sexually victimized. Now about 14 years old, Angel reluctantly lives with her mother and other siblings from different fathers, but she frequently runs away.

Building orphanages is vital to changing the course of Swaziland’s future, Becky said, but the success of sponsorship is profound, already. The benefits are evident in the lives of Swazi men and women who’ve reversed downward spirals.

Twenty-eight-year-old Swazi Colane

Nkambule graduated college in 2015 with a degree in broadcasting and media, thanks to the financial support of his American sponsor, Penny Takeda. A GSM supporter from southern California, Takeda saw Nkambule’s promise in secondary school and chose to invest in his life through university training.

Nkambule’s success defied the odds stacked against him.



Angel

Orphaned and uncared for by immediate relatives, Nkambule lived on the streets of Swaziland’s capital city, Mbabane, for five years, stealing food from street vendors. His crime devolved further into alcohol and drugs and probably would have killed him if not for the Christian ministries that helped Nkambule beat his addictions.

Changed dramatically by Jesus and through relationship with Takeda, who consistently prayed for him, Nkambule gushes with gratitude for GSM, Swazi pastors and U.S. sponsors. He said they provide needy Swazi children the opportunity to live a responsible, honest, productive life.

Nkambule’s achievements are incentives, the Spencers say, for them to continue fulfilling the prophetic words and vision for their ministry and Isaiah 58:10, which states God’s desire for His people: “Spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your light will become like the noon-day.”

For more information visit grandstaffministries.com or 620-543-6518

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Road warrior rule

Dear Dave,
I'm trying to get out of debt. I make good money and do consulting for a living. I put about 4,000 miles a month on my car. It's a 2012 model, and I currently owe more on it than it's worth. I've considered selling it, but I'm concerned about reliability since I'm on the road so much. Do you have any advice?
Chantel

Dear Chantel,
Rule of thumb number one when it comes to your finances is you don't want too much of your financial picture tied up in things that are going down in value. Specifically, no one needs to have more than half of their annual income tied up in things that go down in value.

You're a road warrior, so whatever you drive you're going to destroy. From a business perspective, you need a relatively low-mileage vehicle with good gas mileage that's reliable and safe. You also want something that's reasonably com-

fortable. Having said that, I would advise doing a lot of research and getting the least in car that meets all those criteria.

Since whatever you drive is going to be worth nothing in about 20 minutes, I'd start setting aside some cash every month as part of a monthly budget for a newer, better car. That way, when it comes time to put the old one down, you'll have a pile of cash to go along with your trade-in.

But even in your situation, Chantel, I would never advise buying a brand-new car or leasing a vehicle. From a financial standpoint, either of those moves would be just about the dumbest things you could do!

—Dave

The buying decision

Dear Dave,
I live in Pennsylvania, and I'm accepting a new job out of state. My wife and I



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

davesays

will be in this new area for at least two years, and we're not sure if we should rent or buy a house.

Ron

Dear Ron,

Most of the time, as long as you're financially ready for such a big investment, buying a house is a good move. But if I'm in your situation, and I'm not sure if it's a long-term thing, I'm going to rent until I see what the future holds.

It seldom makes a lot of sense to live in a place for two or three years and sell it, unless you get a ridiculously good buy at purchase and are able to sell for retail without any trouble. Even though the economy is finally, slowly turning around somewhat, I'm not sure that most properties in the current marketplace would go up enough in value in only two years to offset your cost of sale.

You're in a situation similar to lots of military families I help. Often, they'll be stationed somewhere for just two or three years. They'll buy something, they can't get it sold, and they end up with rental properties all over the country. Believe me, that wasn't their initial plan.

Playing long-distance landlord is a pain in the rear! Rent for now, Ron. Then, if you two decide you like the new job and new surroundings — and it turns out you're going to be there for a good, long while — start checking out the area for a nice home.

—Dave

Budget your time, too!

Dear Dave,
I'm going to college next year, and I'm pretty scared. My older brother is smart, but his grades aren't too good. He says he can't find time to study and work. How do people do it?

Justin

Dear Justin,

I'm glad you're thinking ahead, and try-

ing to make your college experience a successful one. It's really just a matter of using your time wisely. You know how I always tell people to budget their money? You can do the same kind of thing with your time.

There are 24 hours in a day. Set aside seven for sleep and that leaves 17 hours. Let's say three meals combined takes three hours. You've got 14 hours left. If you're in class for four or five hours a day, that still leaves you with about nine hours. That's plenty of time during the week to study hard, hang out with friends a little and take care of other things. Then, you can work weekends, and have a little down time to relax, study more and run errands.

—Dave

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MATT MOORE

Christian blogger and guest columnist for The Christian Post

myopinion

I know this is going to be kind of hard to believe (sarcasm), but most new Christians don't pop out of the spiritual chute morally sophisticated or biblically articulate. They are almost always a bit rough around the edges in the way they speak, act, and communicate their faith. Lord knows I was!

If you had sat down to have a conversation with me three months post-conversion, I would have said something like, "I love Jesus and stuff, but I'm never going to be like those stick-up-butt church folks" as I sipped on my fifth glass of Merlot and

chain-smoked my Marlboros.

My faith was genuine; I promise you that. The new life that had been poured into my heart through Christ was vibrant and effecting real changes in my life. I had

"It was a process. It still is a process. And I think that Christians forget this sometimes. Being born again is just the beginning of a beautiful, slow, and sometimes awkward sanctifying process."

stopped going to bars and gay clubs. I'd stopped guzzling down hard liquor to the point that I blacked out nearly every night. I'd stopped sleeping with and dating men. I'd started going to a church, praying, reading the Bible, spending time

with Christians, and thinking non-stop about God. But I did not yet fit nicely into the image of what many church people envisioned me to be and act like. I was still a bit jaded in my attitude, liked my wine a little too much, loved my cigarettes, and even dropped an f-bomb here or there just to satisfy that rebellious urge still wiggling around in my heart.

As time passed and my relationship with Jesus grew, the sanctifying hand of his Spirit started to touch these parts of my life. I began to enjoy things in moder-



Years ago, Bieber appeared with Church Lady (Dana Carvey) on Saturday Night Live. Sadly, the Church Lady character is a fair representation of how many people view Christ followers.

ation, rather than indulge them. I started to grasp how much Jesus loves his church, which caused my love for her to grow. My understanding of grace deepened and I began extending it toward the hyper-re-

■ Please see BEIBER on page 15



letters & mails

LEADING THE NATION

For 84 days the great state of Kansas led the nation by banning live dismemberment abortion.

In dismemberment abortion the unborn child, "dies just as a human adult or child would..." writes Justice Anthony Kennedy in a U.S. Supreme Court opinion, "It bleeds to death as it is torn limb from limb." By the time an abortionist performs a dismemberment abortion, the unborn child has a beating heart and is making her own blood, often a different blood type than her mother. She has brain waves, legs, arms, eyelids, toes, and fingerprints. Every organ (including the kidneys, liver, brain) is in place, and even teeth and fingernails have developed. The unborn child can turn her head and even frown. She can kick, swim, and grasp objects placed in her hand. Using the dismemberment abortion procedure after 20 weeks means the unborn child feels the pain of being ripped apart during the abortion. This abortion method is, "...brutal." ... involving as it does the "tear[ing] [a fetus] apart" and "ripp[ing] off" its limbs", said Justice Ginsburg. In comparing this to partial birth abortion, Justice Ginsburg says, "[T]he notion that either of these two equally gruesome procedures... is more akin to infanticide than the other, or that the State furthers any legitimate interest by banning one but not the other, is simply irrational."

The Kansas legislature voted to stop this madness. The House 98-26 overwhelmingly passed the "Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act," after the Senate had passed the measure, 31-9. The bill was signed by the Governor on April 7, 2015. We led the nation, for exactly 84 days.

Then on June 30th, 2015, the day before the bill would become law, a District Court Judge intervened. The abortionists had claimed the Kansas Constitution protects the right to an abortion. The District Court Judge agreed and issued a preliminary order stopping this law. The State of Kansas appealed this preliminary order and the dispute was moved to the Kansas Court

of Appeals.

Past Kansas courts have ruled that certain sections of the Kansas Constitution give rights similar to the United States Constitution's 14th Amendment. It is from the 14th Amendment's due process clause that the U.S. Supreme Court implies a right to abortion. Therefore, the abortionists contended these parallel provisions in the Kansas Constitution must also include similar abortion rights. Kansans for Life disagreed.

KFL voiced this disagreement by filing an Amicus brief, otherwise known as a friend of the court brief. The Kansans for Life brief indicated that the U.S. Supreme Court should uphold the "Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act". This law is constitutional under the federal law since it still allows other abortion alternatives. Remember this law banned the D&E abortion only when the unborn child is living. So when legislators voted against this bill, they were voting for the right to dismember a living child. Only 35 Kansas legislators voted for the right to dismember a living child. These Legislators included Topeka Democrats Annie Kuether, Annie Tietze, Harold Lane, Anthony Hensley, Laura Kelly and Republican Vicki Schmidt. Thankfully, this was not the view of the overwhelming bi-partisan majority of Kansas legislators; nor was it the outlook of our state's founders.

We know this because the words in the Kansas Constitution, adopted in 1859, include the right to life:

"Section 1. All men are possessed of equal and inalienable natural rights, among which are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." (Emphasis added).

At nearly the same time that Kansas adopted the above language, it also prohibited abortion by statute referring to the unborn as a "child". One such law from 1859 made it manslaughter in the second degree to give medicine, drugs or substance "...with intent thereby to destroy such child..."

The KFL brief concluded that the authors of the Kansas Constitution would have understood that the "right to life" included life within the womb. The so-called right to an abortion, the destruction of life in the womb, is not implied by the phrase "...rights, among which are life..."

Unfortunately on January 22, the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, the Kansas Court of Appeals

handed down a split decision with seven voting to affirm the District Court and seven voting to reverse. When an Appellate Court is equally divided, the trial court's ruling is affirmed. This means the lower court preliminary order stopping the enforcement of the law will continue at least until a full trial is held. The two groups of Judges could not have more divergent views on the Constitution.

The seven Judges who found the right to an abortion in the Kansas Constitution admitted that while it may be true that the framers of the Kansas Constitution did not intend to create a right to an abortion a constitution must "be adapted to the various crises of human affairs". As evidence of this view of the constitution, they cite the recent U.S. Supreme Court in Obergefell where-in the right to same-sex marriage was read into the U.S. Constitution. They cite, with approval, the words used in a previous Kansas Supreme Court opinion that the actual words of the constitution "...must yield to the pressure of changed social conditions, more enlightened ideals... and the general march of progress."

The other seven Judges disagreed concluding that in order to find a right to an abortion in the Kansas Constitution, one "...would go well beyond the apparent intent of its framers." These Judges stated that "In ascertaining the meaning of a constitution provision, the primary duty of the courts is to look to the intention of the makers and adopters of that provision." They reasoned "Clearly, the framers of the Kansas Constitution could not have consciously intended to create rights coextensive with the rights under the then non-existent Fourteenth Amendment." The Judges pointed out that Article 14 provides a process for amendments to the Constitution, and that, "it should not be done by judicial decree."

For 84 days the great State of Kansas led the nation. Now 7 judges in black robes decided that as a state we must have the right to dismember living boys and girls for "the general march of progress."

Joe Patton

I HAVE A DREAM

There was a man who had a dream once. It was a dream to release oppression and have the promise of America released. That promise was

freedom. I too have a similar dream. It is one where I see the parents having the power and freedom to shop for education for their children in a free market system that best reinforces their culture, belief, skills, and talents.

In this dreamland, I see big government release its stranglehold from our children, acting once again as if it were Uncle Sam rather than their mom and dad. I see moms and dads selecting schools based upon competitive performance, the quality and compatibility of teachers, their sports, art, theater, or music emphasis, their special education emphasis, their religious compatibility for their beliefs, their emphasis on social skill development, their emphasis on transportation assistance, their hands-on teaching style, their apprenticeship/technical emphasis, and on and on as far as the eye can see.

Can't we already do that with private school? We cannot do it without oppression to the poor or struggling. Private schools come with a large dollar sign. On top of that, those who select a non-public school option are double paying for education. With 1/2 of every dollar of taxes we pay going to education, we would be re-paying for education a second time when we elect to pay for private education. Does this seem fair? Does this allow the financially challenged to have any options whatsoever? No. It makes more sense to allow parents to choose the mode of education they prefer by allowing the tax dollars to follow the students to either public, private, or home-school options.

The critical component to this change in education is to ensure that government withdraws its oversight and regulation from private and home-schools to ensure parents are the managers and not big government. There has to be a no-strings-attached funding based upon the parents wishes. After all, parents are the best in deciding for their kids without a conflict of interest, and with a competitive free market, they make demands with ease by the vote of their tax dollar in hand.

In honor of National School Choice week, we should all take a moment to communicate to our government servants, education professionals, neighbors, and other parents our desire to be the parent once again to our kids in the realm of education.

Cordell Fischer

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RETREAT & CAMP GUIDE

Retreat planning: How to create a retreat plan for your church

BY JESS SCHLOAD

How to prepare a basic plan

Your plan should include at least four things: a summary, a goal, the audience, and the budget.

1. Summarize the event

Your summary is a basic snapshot of your retreat in three sentences or less. With no additional information, anyone that reads your plan should be able to understand what the event is from a high-level perspective. It is appropriate to include a basic goal in this summary. For example:

- This leadership retreat will bring together the leaders of (fill in the blank)

Planning a retreat? Here is your chance to be a hero! The more you plan in advance, the more organized you will be, and the overall outcome will be higher quality.

Most companies, churches and organizations will not simply hand over money for you to host a retreat – even if they asked you to plan it. Your company will want to know rough budget estimates and details about your event. Even if you are in charge of your own budget, it is still helpful to take the step of preparing a basic plan to organize and save your thoughts. So let's get started!



plan can start to picture your retreat. For example:

- 3 days
- 20+ participants
- Overnight accommodations at a camp retreat center
- Team-building activities
- Completed program plans and budget for next year
- Enhance leadership skills
- Promote togetherness and a sense of community

4. Define your audience

First, ask yourself these questions: Who are you inviting to your retreat? Are they males and females? Adults only, or are children invited? Next, dig a little deeper into your audience. What do your attendees care about? What are they interested in? This does not dictate who is allowed to come. Rather, it outlines the group for which the retreat is intended. Doing this

■ Please see PLAN next page

company/church/university for program and budget planning for the next year.

2. Determine a timeline

When is this retreat? Are you planning it in the winter or in the spring? Include the target timeframe of the event, the promotion period, and any other important milestones. Make sure you understand the timing of your participants. How much lead time do they need? Tip: start from the end (the retreat date) and work backwards. For example:

- Retreat planning: Jan.-May
- Website page created: March 1
- Promotion: March-June
- Retreat Date: mid-June

3. Set a goal (or two or three)

All retreats should have at least one simple goal. Are you planning a retreat on behalf of a business, university, or other organization? If so, consider the mission

of the organization and create a goal that aligns with this mission. Goals can be high-level, or they can be very specific. Set enough goals that someone reading your

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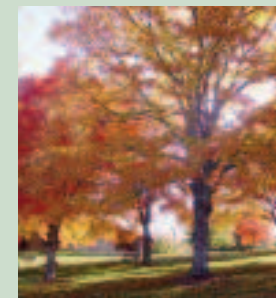
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PICK A GOAL AND WEAVE YOUR THEME

GOALS

Every retreat or getaway should have a clear purpose, a set of goals, and a plan for take a ways or follow-up. When you determine what you're doing and why you're doing it, then you'll be better able to sort through ideas and possibilities more easily. The first question you need to ask is, "What do we want to accomplish through this event?" Possible answers include:

- Help participants grow closer to God
- Promote connection among participants
- Teach how the Bible applies to every day life
- Nurture spiritual formation or direction
- Equip participants to become more involved in ministry or take on leadership roles
- Launch an upcoming shift or

vision within the ministry, group, or church

- Create a specific space for prayer, silence, reflection, or discussion about a particular topic.

What will determine if your retreat is a success? Once you know what you're trying to accomplish, you can consider the best way to reach your goals and how to navigate away from ideas and activities that don't help you fulfill them.

THEMES

The organization team should pray and ask God to reveal a theme and Scripture. Invite each leader to spend time praying and see if there are any common themes that emerge. Whatever theme the team selects, make sure the language is clear and the main idea is easy to grasp. Also consider making the theme

sound catchy or memorable. Instead of calling a retreat "Sharing Jesus" or "Evangelism," consider "Jesus—Too Good To Keep To Yourself." Whatever theme you choose, look for opportunities to weave it into every part of the event so each participant knows the main idea you're trying to convey.

Do not try to weave more than one theme into a retreat. We've been part of retreats that have tried to combine up to three different themes and ideas. The result is confusion and a lack of cohesion for "Be careful not to slip into the temptation of choosing a decorating theme and then trying to find a verse to go with it. One retreat had a ton of decorating ideas for a garden theme and chose a 'garden' verse. It felt forced and awkward."

-A retreat planner

PLAN

continued from page 8

small brainstorm and jotting down a few notes will help you later as you plan activities and promote the event. For example:

- Males and females
- 35-55 years old
- Doctors, CEOs, administrative professionals, team leaders
- Many have children
- Volunteers
- Live in _____ city/state/ neighborhood

5. Propose a budget

Money is a big factor for most retreats. Research and compile estimates for the larger cost categories. The costs should be realistic – not too high, and not too low. If they are too high, you might not get approved. Too low? You might be stuck with a penny-saver budget. Your venue will be one of your larger expenses. A four-star retreat center will require a much higher budget than a camp retreat center. Be sure to include an estimate for overnight accommodations and meeting space. Other large budget items to consider include: travel and transportation; food and beverage; and marketing and promotion. Also, be sure to subtract the estimated cost per person in your budget to show how costs will be offset. If the goal of the retreat is to raise money, include estimated earnings from fundraising activities, which could be a silent auction, offering, etc.

6. Your retreat plan should be able to fit on 1-2 pages

Now that you have finished creating your retreat plan, you have a nice guide to use moving forward. The items that you

Why retreats are so important to our faith!

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," (Matthew 11:28).

Rest is a theme that is easily found in the Bible. Not only is it something that scripture is saturated in, but it is something that we believe is absolutely necessary in life.

When life becomes heavy, it is often the case that the only medication to cure such stress comes when one retreats to find peace and quiet. Through this escape, time can be spent contemplating goals, planning the next steps to take in life, finding some quiet, or maybe even coming closer to Christ; but how can something as simple as getting away save a life? Is this rest really something that vital?

At Sky Ranch Cave Springs, we wholeheartedly believe that it is. It is often in those times when people encounter Christ, the only thing that can truly save a life; and we focus on that life change so heavily that our whole mission at our camp is centered on creating a space for that encounter to take place. It is in this encounter that people are truly transformed for the better, and that



is something that is both necessary and priceless.

So often we hear stories of people who were ready to throw in the towel before they came for a retreat here with us, and it is stories like these that remind us of the true power that getting away from the hustle and bustle of life can carry.

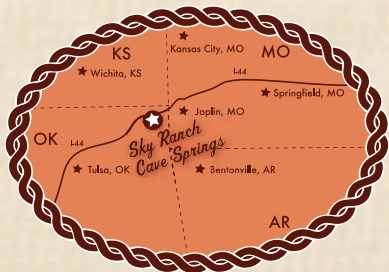
So whether you are looking to find peace and rest, you need some time to get away and refocus, or you need that life change, our team at Sky Ranch Cave Springs would love to partner with you and your group so that you can discover the rest and life-change that a retreat can provide.

-Tim Finch, Retreat Coordinator.

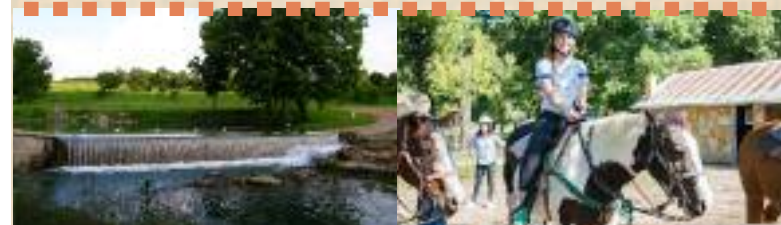


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have already identified should help you get budget approval, provide direction on event promotion, help you choose a retreat theme, and overall, organize your thoughts. Having your plan ready also helps the retreat center - the staff can bet-

ter support the goals of the retreat. Often they have ideas about ways to use the facility that you never would have known.

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Tips for a smooth Valentine's Day

Are you ready to make your love's heart leap on Valentine's Day? Our guide to a great Valentine's Day will provide you with ideas and tips that will make your Valentine's Day a success.

Tips for a smooth Valentine's Day:

- Tell your special someone how much you care about them
- Be thankful – it's always appreciated
- Plan ahead – babysitters, reservations, and other things that need done
- Turn off your cell phones – enjoy this time together

Gift Ideas:

Candy and Flowers and Jewelry:

- Visit Hazel Hill Chocolate for a unique chocolate treat
- Surprise your special someone with a bouquet of favorite flowers or balloons
- Dazzle him/her with a piece of jewelry from David's Jewelers
- Make a list of all the things you love about him/her

Gift basket for her:

- Get a gift certificate for a massage or trip to Avenue Hair Styling & Spa.
- Pick up a candle for a candle-lit bath.
- Find her favorite book at one of Topeka's bookshops for her to enjoy during her quiet time
- Buy her a personalized gift from Elk Creek Engraving.

Gift basket for him:

- Buy his favorite candy bars and personalize it with "Udaman" wrappers
- Include miniature bottles or cans of his favorite drink and personalize them with valentine's day labels
- Create a ticket book with tickets for him to use at his leisure
- Include a new favorite movie, C.D., or video game he's been wanting



Dinner:

- Avoid the Valentine's Day rush - create a romantic meal at home
- Go to a restaurant where you share special memories
- Get dinner and a room at Ramada West, and enjoy the indoor pool

Dates:

- Laugh together at a comedy show.
- Enjoy a romantic movie at home from Netflix, RedBox, or one you already



• Spend uninterrupted time together with a romantic getaway at one of the retreats listed in Metro Voice's Retreat Guide.



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includes 2 songs, a red rose and box of chocolates for \$40. You can reach them at 273-9514.

The Madrigals from Cair Paravel



Latin School will also be doing Singing Valentines February 11th & 12th, which includes a song, a card and a heart-shaped cookie or brownie. Call 232-3878 or email markcongdon@cpls.org for more information.

Love N Harmony Women's Barbershop Quartet is offering **Singing Valentines** for your special someone. We can come on **Fri. Feb. 12th • Sat. Feb. 13th • Sun. Feb. 14th** 2 songs, a rose, sm. box chocolates & card: \$40 **For more information call Evelyn at 478-4650**

Hidden Treasures Mall
 Thrift Store Plant Shop
 Balloon Extraordinaire
 Hideaway Cafe T-Shirt Shop

Valentine's Day Balloon Extraordinaire
Balloon Bouquet \$13!
 3 solid mylar balloons plus 1 graphic with candy

Hidden Treasures Mall Located at KNI
 M-F 8:00-3:30 • 3107 SW 21st Street, Topeka
Delivery Discount until Feb. 5
Orders taken until Feb. 12
 Flyer with available designs on request
296-0817 or Stacie.Davis@kni.ks.gov

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Avenue Hair Styling and Day Spa

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\$2.00 Off Adult or Kids cuts
 Walk-ins welcome!

\$5.00 Off a Perm service
 Long hair extra • Please call for appointment

Welcome...

TO NORTH TOPEKA!



NOTO activities include craft project

Join The Craftivists at the NOTO Art Center, 935 N Kansas Avenue, for a fun, free public art activity during the February First Friday Art Walk. Let's spread a little love in our community and brighten someone's day with art. The Craftivists are a group of Topeka women uniting Art + Activism. Their mission is to make the world a better place through art – won't join them?



THEPROJECT:

Write a short love note, positive expression or a sweet fortune on paper to insert into a hand-stitched fabric heart pouch. The project is open to all ages & skill levels, and supplies are provided. You can either leave it with the Craftivists who will place them around Topeka for strangers to find or distribute on your own. Let's all do a little something nice to brighten someone's day!

Join VINTAGE VIBE, located at 833 N Kansas Ave, for the First Friday Artwalk. This month you will be greeted by Marie Antoinette! It's the perfect month to fall in love with French & romantic items! Summer Brew and Cannoli cheeseballs will be served from 5pm-9pm. Artist of the Month is Tamera Haefner. Hours are First Friday: 9am-9pm, and First Saturday: 9am-3pm

UPSTREAM - STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE - Feb. 6, 10am - noon, Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor St., in the Fireside Community Room through the east entrance. Cory & Lisa Walker present a 90 minute workshop, being offered free of charge to the community, with free childcare also available. Registration required, go to www.myscc.org, or email corywalker@cox.net for info

VISIONARY PARENTING CONFERENCE - Feb. 12, 6:45-9pm & Feb. 13, 9am-3pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. The cost is \$40.00 per couple. Free child care will be available from 5:00-11:00 after the conference so parents can go out without the cost of a babysitter. Registration at www.awanaksmo.org

MONTHLY MOOSE MARKET - Second Saturdays, 8am-12pm, Moose Lodge, 1901 N. Kansas Av. Free to shop, \$4 for pancakes. For info: 250-6788

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Ron & Lacy
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 Finances: 785-354-1744 ext. 316
 Policies, Speakers: 785-354-1744 ext. 315
 Thrift Store (1312 N. Kansas): 785-235-9094
www.trmonline.org
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 P.O. Box 8350 Topeka, KS 66608

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 3851 South Street, Grantville, KS 66429
785-286-2488
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 Sunday Service 10:00 AM
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 Monday Bible Study 6:30 PM
All are welcome, casual dress ok!

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Next Sale: Thurs/Fri Feb. 4th & 5th 7AM to 3 PM
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 Questions about non-cash donations? Call 357-4285

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A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION OF THE METRO VOICE! CALL 235-3340 TO BE FEATURED ON THIS PAGE!

Iwig Dairy offers three locations for purchases

Tim Iwig and his wife Laurel, owners of the Iwig Family Dairy Farm located at 3320 S.E. Tecumseh Road, now operate two retail stores as well.

In addition to the farm store on Tecumseh Road, there is a retail store at 724 Gage in west Topeka, and another at 1901 Massachusetts St. in Lawrence.

All three stores are open 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through

Friday, and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

In addition to milk, cream, butter and ice cream, the stores also offer other locally produced foods, such as cheese, pies, bread, jellies, salsas, honey and candies.

The Iwigs have transitioned to more of a retail focus and away from wholesale sales.

“The retail sales end is more profitable, and there are less costs involved, compared to wholesale

sales,” Iwig said.

The Iwigs also operate a Mobile Market Van, which is a fixture at



the Farmer’s Market in downtown Topeka in the summertime.

For more information call the farm store at 379-9514.

It's FRESH, DELICIOUS & NATURAL!
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Farm located 1.5 miles east of Lake Shawnee
3320 SE Tecumseh Rd. (785) 379-9514
The Iwig Dairy Store across from Topeka Zoo
724 SW Gage Blvd. (785) 228-1697
 Hours: M-F 9:30am - 6:30pm | Sat 10am - 5pm

816 Hotel is Unique, Authentic and Fun

Kansas City’s 816 Hotel is KC’s only hotel dedicated to the past and present of the “Paris of the Plains.” The history of KC is rich, and the hotel lends itself to both telling the story of Kansas City while offering a memorable experience through exemplary customer service.

Formerly a Holiday Inn Express, the 816 Hotel has undergone a half-million dollar renovation and interior facelift. The hotel offers spacious rooms decorated with archived photos of Kansas City’s history. Large murals of KC history dot the hallways, and 20 corner rooms celebrate some of KC’s most colorful people, places and products, past and present, famous and infamous. Themed rooms share the story of Kansas City - everything from the KC Zoo to Boulevard Brewery, to the KC Mob

past, to TWA and everything in between.

The 816 Hotel puts you in the heart of the best amenities Kansas City has to offer. Located in Old Westport, the oldest part of the city, the area around the hotel is home to more than 150 shops, restaurants and bars. Within 90 steps of the front door are these restaurants: Bluestem (highest Zagat rated restaurant in KC); Pot Pie (a moderately priced local gem); and the Westport Flea Market (often voted the best cheeseburger in KC).

Five blocks to the south is the world famous Country Club Plaza, and the 816 is within 1 mile of the Uptown Theater, the Nelson Atkins Museum,

the Plaza Tennis Center, the National World War 1 Museum, UMKC and Rockhurst University. Within 2 miles is the American Jazz Museum, the

Negro League Baseball Museum, Crown Center and the Kauffman Center for Performing Arts. Finally, within 3 miles are the Sprint Center and the Power & Light Entertainment District.

And the best part? 816 Hotel offers free shuttle service to all of these attractions and everything in between. Once you check in, you can hide your car keys because you won’t need them! All in all, KC’s 816 Hotel is one of the most Unique lodging experiences you will ever have.




Unique. Authentic. Fun.

“The 816 Hotel is not simply a Hotel, it’s a storyteller of Kansas City History.”

Kansas City’s only hotel dedicated to the “Paris of the Plains.” Located in Old Westport, the area around the hotel is home to more than 150 shops, restaurants and bars.

816 Hotel Amenities

Complimentary shuttle service within a 4-mile radius	KC’s fastest (and free) hotel Wi-Fi
Complimentary breakfast (including made-to-order omelets)	Complimentary parking
Free cocktails nightly in our Lobby Lounge	Tommy Bahama Bath Amenities
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The Area's Most Complete guide to the Events and Concerts You Want to See!

the events calendar

FREE LISTINGS! E-mail your events to: Voice@cox.net; mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; or fax to 785-235-3340

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 & have fun

THE WRIGHTS - Jan. 31, 10:00am, Heritage Baptist Church, 1937 NE Madison. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET - Feb. 12, 7:30pm. Topeka Performing Arts Center.

THE WRIGHTS - Feb. 14, 10am, Family Life Church of the Nazarene, 1211 NW 46th. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

THE WRIGHTS - Feb. 21, 10:30am, Eastside Baptist, 4425 SE 29th. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

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

THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY - Mar. 19, 7pm. Kansas City Christian College, Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 7020 W. 74th St., Overland Park, KS. 913-722-0272.

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 Menkvelde - 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

LIFEFEET - 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

HAM & BEAN/VEGETABLE SOUP DINNER - Feb. 3, 4-6:30pm. Oakland UMC, 801 NE Chester. \$8 adults, \$3 children. Includes cole slaw, cornbread & cake or pie. For info: 357-5290

TECUMSEH COMMUNITY DINNER - Feb. 3, 4:30-6pm. Tecumseh UMC Free will donation.

PANCAKE DAY AND COUNTRY STORE - Feb. 6, 7am-1pm, Highland Park UMC, 29th & Michigan. Pancakes, eggs, sausage & beverage. UMC Women Country Store.

THE 60-VOICE GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE CHOIR - Feb. 6, 7:30pm. Countryside United Methodist Church, 3221 SW Burlingame. Free Will offering.

FREE COCOON TO BUTTERFLY BREAKFAST - Feb. 6, 9am. El Shaddai Ministries, 920 SE Sherman. The theme is "I Will No Longer Be The Same." The guest speaker will be Kimberly White, of the Church of the Harvest in Olathe. \$10. For info: 228-2126 or 231-7880

FRIED WINGS & FISH FRY - Feb. 6, 12-5, True Holiness Church, 1244 SE Republican Ave. Fried Chicken Wings & baked beans/green beans - \$7.50. Fried Catfish with coleslaw, baked beans or green beans - \$11.00. Dessert & soda - \$ 0.75. 233-9545 or 806-1666

FOOTBALL SUNDAY - Feb. 7, 10:40am, Cornerstone Community Church. Special Sunday Service - An exciting presentation about the move of God in the lives of professional football players. 478-2929. cornerstonetopeka.com, office@cornerstonetopeka.com

SOUPERBOWL PARTY - Feb. 7, 5pm, Cornerstone Community Church, 7620 SW 21st St. The annual Chili Cook-off contest begins at 5pm. so bring your best chili or soup and a side to share! While Peyton & the Broncos and Cam & the Panthers battle each other on the field, we will enjoy some good food, games and conversation. Bowl game kickoff is at 5:25. 478-2929. cornerstonetopeka.com, office@cornerstonetopeka.com

FRIDAY FISH FRY - Feb. 12-Mar. 18, 4-7pm. Sacred Heart Church, 312 NE Freeman Ave. Adults \$8.50, Children under 12 \$4. Fish or shrimp. Take out available. For info: 234-6727

ANNUAL CHILI AND VEGETABLE SOUP SUPPER - Feb. 12, 4-6:30pm. United Methodist Church, 1029 N Kansas. Adults \$8, Children under 10 \$3.50. Hot dogs \$1, chili dogs \$1.50. Carry out available.

FIRST ANNUAL BISHOP APPRECIATION - Feb. 14, 3:30pm, Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. Honoring Bishop R. K. Lassiter, Sr., in a service entitled "Celebration Bishop . . . Foundation, Landmark, Vision . . . 41 years!" Everyone welcome! Free. 785-235-1834.

TECUMSEH KIWANIS PANCAKE FEED - Feb. 20, 7-noon, Tecumseh UMC. Tecumseh Kiwanis pancake feed and silent auction. Pancakes, sausage, eggs, OJ, and coffee.

ANNUAL BLACK HISTORY PROGRAM - Feb. 24, 7pm, Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. Everyone welcome! Free. For info 785-235-1834.

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

UPSTREAM - STRATEGIES FOR A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE - Feb. 6, 10am - noon, Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor St., in the Fireside Community Room through the east entrance. Cory & Lisa Walker present a 90 minute workshop, being offered free of charge to the community, with free childcare also available. Registration required, go to www.mysccc.org, or email corywalker@cox.net for info

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Feb. 9, 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all of its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare as well as those considering making a change during open enrollment. Seminars will be held at Century Health Solutions, a division of Stormont-Vail Healthcare, 2951 SW Woodside Dr. Information: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Snacks, beverages provided.

NATIONAL BLACK ROBE REGIMENT SUMMIT - Feb. 12, 9:30am reg., 10-2 w free lunch, civic action team training 2:30-5:30pm. Capitol Plaza Conv. Ctr, 17th & Topeka Blvd. Empowering pastors & leaders for social & cultural transformation. Speakers: David Barton, Gov. Sam Brownback, Rev. Mark Gonzales, Donna Lipholdt, Congressman Bob McEwen. Free but reg. required. RSVP 210-802-1397 or nationalblackrobergiment.com

WOMEN OF FAITH LOVED FAREWELL TOUR - Feb. 12-13. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., KCMO

VISIONARY PARENTING CONFERENCE - Feb. 12, 6:45-9pm & Feb. 13, 9am-3pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. The cost is \$40.00 per couple. Free child care will be available from 5:00-11:00 after the conference so parents can go out without the cost of a babysitter. Registration at www.awanaksmo.org

BLUE RIBBON ACADEMY - LUNCH & LEARN - Feb. 16, GO TOPEKA, 120 SE 6th Ave. Finding Your Marketing Plan and Knowing Your Brand. Where to start and valuable tips to know when to create a successful marketing plan from the ground up. Presenter is Martha

Bartlett Piland, President of MB Piland
MIDWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE AND EDUCATION EXPO - Mar. 5, 9:30am-2pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, KCMO. Visit with over 50 colleges from 17 states and 20 local homeschool groups and K-12 schools. Seminars throughout the day: Homeschooling 101. How to prepare for college, more. 816-524-4522. www.metrovoicenews.com. Sponsored by Metro Voice.
WEEKEND TO REMEMBER MARRIAGE GETAWAY. Mar. 11-13. Overland Park Marriott, 10800 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park. Special getaway room rate: \$106.00/night. Event price \$149.99 per person. Sponsored by Family Life.
GROWTHCLUB: STRATEGIZE YOUR SUCCESS - Mar. 31, 8am-4pm, Topeka Country Club. Workshop and 90-day planning. Presented by ActionCOACH business coaching. \$97. Contact 408-5927 or 90DayPlanning.com.

NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS - NOTO arts district. Enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and flea market items.
SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH - Every Sat., 1am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker
TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES - Saturday nights, 7-9:30pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from over 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. Call 785-215-0968 for info.
MONTHLY MOOSE MARKET - Second Saturday, 8am-12pm, Moose Lodge, 1901 N. Kansas Av. Free to shop, \$4 for pancakes. For info: 250-6788
DA VINCI: THE EXHIBITION. Through May 1, 2016. Tuesday-Thursday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm; Friday-Saturday, 10:00 am-6:00 pm; Sunday, 12:00-5:00 pm. Union Station, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Featuring more than 65 fully built life-size inventions, more than 20 fine art studies and dozens of stunning displays, guests will learn the complex beginnings and lifetime achievements of Da Vinci through his discoveries in art, engineering, flight, hydraulics, music, light, etc
PUBLIC SKATING AT EXPOCENTRE - Jan. 30 1, 9:45-11:45pm; Jan. 31, 4-6pm. \$7 admission, \$3 for skates.
PANCAKE BREAKFAST - Jan. 30, 7:30-8:45am, Cair Paravel Latin School, 635 NW Clay. Enjoy an all-you-can-eat breakfast to benefit the Junior Classical League at CPLS. Pancakes, sausage & beverages served in the CPLS Cafeteria. Get advance tickets in the Main Office (\$5 ea. or \$20 family pass) or pay at the door (\$7).
FRESHMAN CLASS: THE BLIZZARD BASH SHOW - Jan. 30, 7-8pm. Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy. \$6.
BLEEDING KANSAS 2016 - Sundays from Jan. 31-Mar. 6, 2pm., Constitution Hall Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Leocompton. A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent conflict over slavery in the Kansas Territory 1854-1861. Actors will portray Kansans from the turbulent Bleeding Kansas era as they passionately



"A Showcase of Kansas Horticulture"
 February 12-13-14
 Friday & Saturday 10 am - 8 pm
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 Admission \$8.00
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 INCLUDES FREE PARKING!
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 Topeka, KS

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nhoni@tscpl.org
SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS - Mondays 7pm, Croco Hall. Call Don at (785) 966-2765
WOW - WORKIN' OUT ON WEDNESDAYS - 5:30 pm every Wed., south steps of the Capitol building. Free, fun and family-friendly. A combination of aerobic & strength training exercises, coupled with a fun line dance to end each experience. www.makimoves.com
SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING - First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or jjwilson@safestreets.org
COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING - Thursday's 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

Everyone Welcome!

Rally for Religious Freedom

February 17 • 12pm - 1pm
 2nd Floor, Inside the Kansas State Capitol Building in Topeka

Religious freedom is increasingly coming under attack. All Kansans are encouraged to attend and show their support for our 1st Amendment right to live our faith in our daily lives.

Visit www.kscathconf.org for information about parking & speakers

Be there early to get thru security

Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce

Promoting and Supporting:

- Christian Businesses & Organizations
- Excellence in Products & Services
- Christian Values and Ideals

Topeka area business people, united by their faith in Jesus Christ, making a positive impact in our community, through networking and community service

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

- C5Aive POWER Luncheons - (2nd Thur. ea. mo.)
- Feb. 11, 11:30-1 - VALENTINE Luncheon at Ramada West, 7th & Fairlawn. Featuring a Valentine Matchmaker Speed Marketing Event to help you find other organizations or people to work with. There will be fun activities to help you get to know each other better!
- Mar. 10, 11:30-1, POWER Luncheon
- Easter Parade & Fun Fest Mar. 26, 2016, in Gage Park. Contact us for vendor space & parade entries!

Save the Date!
 Save the Date!

Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/C5Aive

For info: www.C5Aive.org or info@C5Aive.org

discuss the issue of slavery in Kansas. Adm: \$3 adults, \$1 students. Children five & younger free. On tap for Jan. 31: "Founding the Soldier State: How Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War Shaped Kansas" by author, historian, public speaker Deb Goodrich, book signing to follow. For info: 785-887-6520

CHOCOLATE FANTASY – Feb. 3, 7-9pm. Atria Hearstone West, 3515 SW 6th Ave. Enjoy two hours of chocolate tasting, coffee sampling, live entertainment, fashions, photobooth and our sweet but silent auction. Benefiting the programs of Midland Care Hospice and Community Health Ministry. \$10 tickets include free drawing entry and coupons. For info: findables@midlandcare.org or 554-9688

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION WAREHOUSE SALE – Feb. 4-5, 7am-3pm, 206 NW Norris St. All sales benefit the programs of Topeka Rescue Mission.

DOWNTOWN'S FIRST FRIDAY CHOCOLATE WALK – Feb. 5, 5-8pm – venues across the downtown core provide chocolate samples as you view local artists' work for the First Friday Artwalk. Big Daddy Loud Live – 5-8pm at The Merchant, 913 S Kansas, also Julia Phillips the Fire Spinner. downtowntopekainc.com or call 234-9336 for locations

ADVENTURE'S IN LEARNING – Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 9am-12noon, Shepherd's Center of Topeka, hosted at 4101 SW 15th St. For those over 55. First time guests may attend ONE FRIDAY in an Adventures in Learning session for FREE. For info: 267-0248.

POLAR PLUNGE & STRUT – Feb. 6, 9:30-Noon. Swim Beach, 3300 SE 29th St. Registration at 9:30am, 5k at 11am, Polar Plunge at 12pm. Info: 620-408-4450

DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT – Feb. 6, 4-6pm or 7-9pm. Big Gage Shelter, 635 SW Gage. Info: 251-2600

FEBRUARY FRENZY CRAFT SHOW – Feb. 6-7, 9am-4pm. Ramada Downtown.

TOPEKA BOAT AND OUTDOOR SHOW – Feb. 5-7. Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

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

KANSAS GARDEN SHOW – Feb. 12-13, 10-8 & Feb. 14, 11-5, Kansas Expocentre. Adm. \$8. Children 12 & under free. Free parking. Friday is Senior Citizens Day. 55 & older buy one, get one free.

FAMILY DATE NIGHT – Feb. 12, 6-10pm. Central Park Community Church, 1534 SW Clay. Adults will enjoy dinner and dancing. Children will be entertained by staff while eating homemade pizza and dessert. \$65 family or four, \$5 additional children. Info: 251-2965

BOY SCOUT TROOP 10 PANCAKE FEED – Feb. 13, 7am-1pm, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. \$5 all-you-can-eat pancakes and bottomless juice or coffee. Children under 5 eat free with adult purchase. For info: (785) 215-0870 or katrina.ringler@att.net

ANNUAL ASLAN LECTURE – Feb. 15, 7pm, Cair Paravel Latin School, 635 SW Clay. Special guest speaker Dr. Steve Turley, well-known speaker on various Christian subjects. Info: 232-3878 or www.cpls.org.

CYBERBOWLING – Feb. 15, 8-11pm, Gage Bowl.

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY RALLY – Feb. 17, 12-1pm. Capitol building inside the dome, 2nd floor. Sponsored by Catholic Bishops of Kansas and others concerned about the future of religious freedom. Speakers include Dr. Ryan Anderson of the Heritage Foundation. All Kansans concerned about attacks on religious freedom are encouraged to attend.

KMC OPEN HOUSE – Feb. 17, 4:30-6:30pm, KMC Plastic Surgery, 6001 SW 6th Ave. Ste. 310, in Tallgrass Surgery Center. The public is invited to stop by to view the clinic, meet plastic surgeon Dr. Carla Skytta and enjoy appetizers and drinks.

TOPEKA RV AND SPORT SHOW – Feb. 19-21. Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

TOPEKA LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE – Feb. 21, 2-4pm, Topeka Lutheran School, 701 SW Roosevelt.

WELCOME BABY JUBILEE – Feb. 21, 1-3pm, Pozez Education Center, 8th & Horne. Showcasing the Stormont Vail Birthplace/Neonatal Intensive Care. Refreshments, tours, door prizes & information on Birthplace services & classes will be provided. Exhibitor booths from outside businesses and agencies who support families in the community. Pregnant & soon-to-be pregnant couples welcome. Enter for chance to win a \$250 Babies R Us gift card or Medela Breast Pump. To attend the Open House, please click "I'm Attending" on the events tab of the Stormont Vail Health Facebook page or e-mail marketing@stormontvail.org. Parking available in the parking garage.

WAKE UP WITH WASHBURN – COLBY FRIES – Feb. 25, 7:30-8:30am, Convocation Hall of Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center, 17th & Jewell. Washburn Alumni Association, in conjunction with the School of Business, sponsors this breakfast lecture series. Colby Fries is director of pharmacy and retail operations at Walgreen Co. Alumni Assn members: \$10; non members: \$13. RSVP online at: wuevent.org/wakeup

KANSAS SILENT FILM FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENT – Feb. 25, 7-10pm, Jayhawk Theatre. Doors open at 6pm, special reception & tours. Reserved seats only - \$15.. Kssilentfilmfest.org.

KANSAS SILENT FILM FESTIVAL – Feb. 26, 7-10pm & 27, 9:30am-9:30pm. White Concert Hall, Washburn

University. Free. Cinema dinner available on Sat. Kssilentfilmfest.org.

CPLS KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP – Mar 9, 9-11am, Cair Paravel Latin School, 635 SW Clay. Info & registration: 232-3878 or www.cpls.org.

55TH ANNUAL KANSAS PRAYER BREAKFAST – Mar. 16, 6am, Ramada Inn downtown. Guest speaker Doug Burleigh of Leadership Development Foundation, with leaders in government, business, education and industry. \$18 each or tables of 10 for \$180. For info and RSVP: francisbartley@cox.net or 234-6204

TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR – Mar. 26, 9am-5pm, Gage Park. Topeka's third annual Easter parade will move around inside Gage Park at 9:15am. Egg Hunt begins at 9am in AnimalLand playground. Family Fun Fair at Big Gage Shelter house will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more between 9am & 5pm. Praise bands and school bands will perform nearby. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

DECISION AMERICA TOUR – Apr. 28, 12-1pm. Franklin Graham will speak on the south steps of the Capitol.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

C5Alive "VALENTINE" LUNCHEON – Feb. 11, 11:30am-1pm, at Ramada West, 7th & Fairlawn. This month's Christian Chamber of Commerce luncheon will feature a Valentine Matchmaker Speed Marketing Event to help you find other organizations or people with which to get together for mutual benefit! There will be fun activities to help you get to know each other better!

• Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door

• \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.

• Please RSVP to info@C5Alive.org, so we know how much food is needed!

Open to the public – Put POWER in your life with great food, great speakers and great company! Invite a friend to join you!

DADDY'S GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS – Weekly at various times and locations. Daddy's Girls' Inc. is a faith based non-profit organization that encourages young ladies to make wise choices by providing biblically based education and mentoring. Enjoy hanging out with other young ladies striving to reach their highest potential through the power of JESUS CHRIST! Remember: Modest is still the hottest and Virgin is still His standard! Contact us to find a meeting location near you: (785) 969-0491, daddysgirlsinc.com; daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com

THE HEAT – Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Sun. - 4-5pm Yoga; Mon. - 12-12:45pm Zumba; 5:30-6:15pm Kickboxing; 6:15-7pm Pilates Fusion; Tue. - 12-12:45pm Yoga; 5:30-6:15pm Zumba; 6:15-7pm Cardio Interval; Wed. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Thu. - 12-12:45pm Pilates; 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Interval - Low intensity; 6:15-7:00pm Cardio Interval - Moderate intensity; Fri. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Sat. - 8-8:45am Kickboxing

ADULT SINGLES MEETING - Sunday's, 6:30 pm,

Countryside United Methodist Church parlor, 3221 SW Burlingame Rd., north entrance.

TOPEKA TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB – 3rd Sun. of each month, 7pm, Papan's Landing Senior Center, 618 NW Paramore St. Family Memberships include children & grandchildren up to 18 yrs. A place to meet friends to discuss all aspects of Metal Detecting, club business, plus socializing & entertainment.

STEP UP – BUILDING THE SMART STEP-FAMILY – Every Sun. 11am, Northland Christian Church, Room 4, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Focusing on the challenges facing step-families and blended families. Contact Thomas Munker at 249-3054 for info.

BIYS TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPOUS – Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Church, 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs are kids age 5-18. Register online at cornerstonetopeka.com. 478-2929.

INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGtopeka.com - go to Event page to see future meetings, locations and register to attend. If you do not like a whole lot of rules and costs, this group is for you!

CAPITAL CITY NETWORKING GROUP - every Thur, 7:30am, Jayhawk Tower - www.ccneg-online.com. Membership cost \$37.50 a quarter.

TIBA NETWORKING GROUP - 2nd Tues, 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. MUST RSVP: Lunch is \$10. www.topekataba.org

I.N.G. WOMAN'S CHAPTER NETWORKING GROUP - every 2nd Sat., 11am. Bring your business cards, catalogs, a guest and join in the fun! - No fees. INGtopeka.com

DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE – 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

ADULT SINGLES MEETING - Sunday's, 6:30 pm, Countryside United Methodist Church parlor, 3221 SW Burlingame Rd., north entrance.

FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX) – Every Sun., 6:01pm, Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or fxtelawnc@gmail.com.

LADIES' SMALL GROUP – Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. Info: 286-0467.

THE FORCE (Students Taking Action) – 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St. A group committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. Youth ages 12-18 are invited. 266-4606.

HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS – 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

KC TRAUMA AND PTSD SUPPORT GROUP – Every Tue. 10am and Thu. 6:30pm. Call Denise at 816-885-9530

TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB – 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest

President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA (CWA) – 1st Tue., 9-10am, Public Library, Anton Room (202). Also 3rd Fri., 7-8pm, Public Library, Marvin Auditorium. 861-0422.

OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL – Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthefairful@gmail.com. All events are also posted on Facebook at "OurLadyoftheFaithful."

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB – Every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. Info: 246-1291.

O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints) - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at www.faithfamilylife.com

S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God) youth group - Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

AWANA – Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

AWANA – Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

AWANA – Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB – 1st Wed., 9am-2:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (south doors). To teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call Anne 271-1567.

SAFE STREETS MEETING – 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. Info: 266-4606.

STUDENT IMPACT – Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

TGIW: "TEACHING GOD'S INFINITE WISDOM" MEN'S STUDY – Every Wed., 6:15am, Lawrence Wesleyan Church, 3705 Clinton Parkway. Affiliated with CharacterCounts.com. David Scheib, 865-5258 or dvscheib@sunflower.com.

BIBLE STUDY - every Thur. 1pm-3pm in the Prayer Rm at Faith Family Life Centre, 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE – Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

LIFE FEST – 1st Thurs., 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Celebrate Senior Life. For info: 273-2811.

OPERATION BACKPACK – 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers

gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

IMOM – 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Fellowship Hall, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! For info: 234-5545.

SINGLES BIBLE STUDY – 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7pm, Heartland Worship Center Church of God, 1401 NW Harrison. For info: 232-5503.

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – 3rd Thurs., 6pm meal, 7pm meeting, Coyote Canyon, Huntoon & Wanamaker. Kirk Nystrom, 235-6977.

BIBLES AND BOOTS: Chapter of Cowboys for Christ Fellowship – 3rd Thurs., 7:30pm, Wamego. Call for location. All welcome, no membership dues, livestock ownership not required. Fellowship & fun! Doug Palmer, Pres. 410-9097, or Dave Boyd, V.P. 364-2779.

TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – 4th Thurs., 7pm, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. No program in Nov. or Dec. Promotes & stimulates the education, knowledge & interest of the membership & the public in family history, genealogical records & research. For info: 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP MEETING – 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: Financial Planners, Accountants, Attorney's & Insurance Agents invited to attend. For info: kingdoadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB – Every Fri., noon, Top of the Tower. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. 272-1099 or fostern60@yahoo.com.

TOPS (Taking Off Pounds Sensibly) – Every Fri. 8:30 to 10:00 am at 3221 SW Burlingame Road. 800-932-8677. We're here for support for your weight loss journey. tops.org

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. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For info: 286-1370.

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING - First Fri. of month, 6:30pm, 2523 SE Indiana Ave. Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee County and our Nation. To find out more about CWA go to ks.cwfa.org. 785-861-0422

A GOOD YARN CLUB – 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Info: Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@att.net

BIBLE QUIZZING – 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun with area Christian youth age 9-19. YFC/YEA style

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MONTHLY SCORE MEETING – 1st Sat., 8-9:30am, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon (enter east doors facing Huntoon). No RSVP or fee. Small business owners are invited to a Breakfast Roundtable discussion with (Service Corps of Retired Executives. 234-3049.

TOPEKA LOVE AGLOW – Once a month on Sat. morning. A time of worship, prayer and encountering God. Call Tawny Barton at 785-409-0232 or Linda Williams at 785-267-0600 for details.

FREE ENGLISH CLASSES – Every Sat. 9-10:30am, Central Congregational Church, 1248 SW Buchanan. For info: 235-2376.

RUSSIAN HOUSE OF PRAYER – Every Sat., 4pm, Williamstown Assembly of God, 1225 Oak St., Perry/Williamstown. For info: 597-5228.

SINGLES PLAY CARDS SR. – 1st Sat., 6-9pm, St. Peter's UMC, NW 35th & Hwy 75

SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION & EDUCATION BOOTH – every Sat. 11am-2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker.

UPPER ROOM COMMUNITY – second Sat., 10 am, Capitol Building

SUPPORT GROUPS

MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle. Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss. 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm—Ongoing Adult Group. 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age) For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. For info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS – A 12-step Restoring Joy recovery journey for women. Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. For info: Kay Lyn, 272-6212.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS – for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 785-409-3072 or topekaalanon.org

PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY – Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: Hunter Ruch, Topeka Bible Church, 234-5545 or hruch@topekabiblechurch.org.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS – Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. For info: Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, 271-1844 or email cindy.miller@alz.org.

"BETRAYED HEART" support group/Bible study – For women whose husbands struggle with pornography additions or have had affairs. Videos & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing.

For info: Jane Goble, 478-9605.

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE – NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

FRIENDS WITH M.S. – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. (Enter East door). A Multiple Sclerosis support group. Donna, 266-7383.

BOUNCE BACK SELF-HELP – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. For those living with multiple sclerosis. For info: 273-0799.

INCARCERATED PERSONS & FAMILIES – 1st Mon., 6:30-7:30pm, YMCA, 421 Van Buren. 286-2329.

THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP – Meets 4th Monday in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts at 7pm with fellowship & refreshments at 8:30. For info: Susan 272-4895

OVERCOMERS OUTREACH – Every Mon., 7-8:30pm, Wanamaker Woods Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. A bridge between traditional church and traditional 12 step meetings. 409-9111; www.overcomers@gmail.com.

GRIEF SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES – Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss: 1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm, Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry Frizzell directly at (785)230-6730. 3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. Reservations 271-6500.

OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS: MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

WED., 7pm – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 6, 2nd floor; 234-8020.

SAT. - 9am – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 8, 2nd floor; 862-2326.

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.org.

NAMI TOPEKA – Every 2nd Tue., 6:45pm, lower level of Valeo, 330 SW Oakley. If door is locked, call 608-1317 to get in. The 1st hour is often a discussion of an important topic or video. The 2nd hour is usually a support talk time, w/ separate consumer & family groups. 608-1317.

OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP - First Tue. each month at St. Francis Health, 1700 SW 7th St, Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 6-7:30pm. Anyone with an ostomy may attend. The goal is to provide education and ongoing support for individuals with an ostomy. Contact Teresa Kelleman at 785-295-5555 for info.

GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP – 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room,

St. Francis Hosp, 1700 SW 7th. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763.

THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA – 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Oen to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information, & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL" – or Survivors of Suicide) (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozee Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY – Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner. 286-0489 or faithfamilyministries@gmail.com.

GAMBLERS ANONYMOUS – Every Wed, 7pm, St. Francis Hospital, meeting room #8.

JAYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON AGING – 4th Wed., 1pm, Rosehill Place Clubhouse. Monthly support group for caregivers of seniors. For info: 235-1367 ext.30.

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP – Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS – locations and times: **WED** – 6-7:45pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Cost \$15, scholarships available. With children's AWANA & Youth Groups, and a Boundaries in Dating class, at the same time. The next DC4K session will be in the summer of 2016. For info: 273-2811

WED – 6:30pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. Cost: \$15. Child care provided. For info: 379-0505 or www.divorcecare.org.

WED – 6:45 – 8:45pm, Walnut View Christian Church, 3634 SE 37th St. Cost: \$10 registration (scholarships available). Video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on divorce and recovery topics, combined with support group discussion of the materials. Free child care children up to fifth grade. Info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net. divorcecare.org.

NAMI WASHBURN – 4th Thurs., 6-8pm, Spirit Building Room, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. NAMI is a student-run, student-led organization that provides mental health support, education, & advocacy in the Washburn University setting. A support group is also available during this time.

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – 1st Thurs., 7pm, 2nd floor conf. room of the cancer unit at St Francis Hospital. For info: 266-9533.

NICOTINE ANONYMOUS – Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Christian Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nicotine. No fees. 402-321-486; Laboomaha@att.net.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY – Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage Blvd. A Christ centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. 220-0017 or crtopeka.org.

TOPEKA NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP – For families & friends who are affected by someone else's narcotic addiction. Every Sat. – 1005 SW 10th, next to Oxford House, noon-1:15 pm. www.naranonmidwest.org

COVENANT KEEPERS – 3rd Sat. Group for people who want to see their marriage saved when their spouse wants out. For info: 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927.

newsbriefs
Boy and girl locker rooms going extinct

(WNS)—Two human rights commissions have enacted new rules that could be precedent-setting for the gender battle across the nation, including giving people the right to use whichever locker rooms and bathrooms they choose. The New York City Commission on Human Rights issued guidelines to clarify what "constitutes gender identity and gender-expression discrimination." The guidelines offer several defini-

tions that categorize people according to their self-defined sexual identity, including transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex. Instead of male or female, the identity of "cisgender" is offered as "an adjective denoting or relating to a person whose self-identity conforms with the gender that corresponds to their biological sex, i.e., someone who is not transgender."

Meanwhile, a new rule created by the Washington State Human Rights Commission requires buildings open to the public to allow transgender people to use restrooms and locker rooms of the gender with which they identify.

BEIBER
continued from page 6

gious folks that got on my nerves. The Spirit of God continually gave (and gives) me a more full understanding of the gospel and wisdom to apply it in various areas of my life. But this took time.

It was a process. It still is a process. And I think that Christians forget this sometimes. Being born again is just the beginning of a beautiful, slow, and sometimes awkward sanctifying process.

A few days ago I ran across another video of Justin Bieber sharing his newfound love for Jesus — and more Christians (who don't know him and make rash judgments based on a three-minute video clip) criticizing him. Ever since Bieber came out about his faith, many Christians have flocked to social media to accuse him of being disingenuous because he doesn't articulate things quite as clearly as they'd like him to.

"Too much love talk; not enough sin and repentance talk. Too much talk about 'God'; not enough about Jesus."

Umm . . . okay. Likewise, a couple of years ago when Shia Lebouf professed faith in Christ, many Christians violently attacked his profession because he said the word "sh*t" in his interview.

Can we just give these guys a break? Yes, holiness is important and a distinguishing mark of the believer. I'm all about some Christlikeness. But they've been following Jesus for what — [looks at watch] — three and half hours? You can't expect people who have been drowning in iniquity for years to emerge from their "sinner's prayer" squeaky-clean. Justification is instantaneous, but sanctifi-

cation is far from speedy. Jesus himself knows this, and he extends great grace and patience toward the frailty of those who follow him.

Though Peter publicly denied him, Jesus didn't hop on his first century equivalent to a Facebook account and accuse Peter of being a fraud. Believe it or not, knowing beforehand exactly what would happen, Jesus told Peter how he would soon deny him three times. And he didn't accompany it with a sharp rebuke, either. He actually comforted Peter by telling him, "I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers." – Luke 22:32. Grace and patience.

In the first few chapters of Revelation, we see Jesus addressing churches that are far from perfect, but they are nevertheless his churches. He is definitely stern with them and demands — not requests — that they straighten their crooked paths. But notice that in the same sentence in which he warns of the judgment coming upon some for their refusal to repent, he also expresses how he gave them time to repent (Revelation 2:21). Jesus gives time. He gives us time to grow in the knowledge of the truth, respond to conviction, turn from our sins, and put on the new self that is made in his image. Grace and patience.

If Jesus is so gracious and patient with faith-professing people in their weakness and imperfection, shouldn't we be as well? Yes! We should!

I understand that fighting for the authenticity and purity of the faith is important, and there is a need and place for pointing out false teaching, insincere professions of faith, etc. But God bless, I think many of us just like to hear ourselves talk. Maybe some of us need to spend less time saturating ourselves in the podcasts, blogs, and books of hypercritical Christian teachers, and spend more time in the Bible — learning to emulate the grace and patience of its author.

When people are just beginning to profess faith in Christ, we need to give them the benefit of the doubt. If in the years to come, their way of life demonstrates that the gospel has had no real and lasting change on their souls, so be it. But we shouldn't judgmentally jump to conclusions about the state of their hearts when they're just beginning to crawl toward Jesus. If we know them personally, let's encourage them in the faith. If they're some big celebrity like Shia Lebouf or Justin Bieber, let's not immediately jump to criticizing them on our social media.

Let's be gracious. Let's be patient. Time will tell what is true.

Matt Moore is a Christian blogger who was formerly engaged in a gay lifestyle. You can read more about him at www.moorematt.org.

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Jan. 31	"Founding the Soldier State: How Bleeding Kansas and the Civil War Shaped Kansas"—a Kansas Day program. by author, historian, public speaker Deb Goodrich, book signing to follow	
Feb. 7	"Firebrand: The Amazing Story of Bleeding Kansas Fighter August Bondi" by Firebrand author Aaron Barnhart, book signing to follow	
Feb. 14	"Soldiers in the Army of Freedom: The First Kansas Colored and the Civil War's First African American Combat Unit" by historian and author Ian Spurgeon, book signing to follow "James Lane: Pioneering Patriot" by Avery Manna, Washburn Rural High School, National History Day video First Kansas mural display by Royal Valley Middle School	
Feb. 21	"Two State Families of Kansas: Profile of the 1855 Ohio Immigrant Party" by Monica Davis, research volunteer, William Museum of History and "Matilda Barber" portrayal by Jan Elder, Lecompton Historian, National Park Service living history interpreter	
Feb. 28	"Border Wars Ballads: Territorial and Civil War Songs of Kansas and Missouri" by historian and educator Dr. Carl Graves	
Mar. 6	"Colonel Henry Tiltz: The Osage Bin Laden of the Abolitionist Press" by Professor Antonio de la Cova, University of South Carolina at Columbia	

Top to bottom, August Bondi, Soldiers in the Army of Freedom, The First Victim of the Kansas War (Thomas and Matilda Barber, Capture of Colonel Tiltz).

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entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

Seven films to look forward to this year

entertainment

 by **Ryan Duncan**

Let's be honest, 2015 was a pretty dismal year for movies. Sure, we saw the renewal of great franchises like Star Wars and Jurassic Park, but we also had to suffer through the disappointment of high-profile films like Tomorrowland and The Good Dinosaur. Still, a new year means new movies and it's time to look ahead to the most promising candidates of 2016. Here, in no particular order, are the seven movies to look for in 2016.

Hail, Caesar!

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
FEBRUARY 5**


Stars: Josh Brolin, George Clooney, Alden Ehrenreich, Ralph Fiennes, Jonah Hill, Scarlett Johansson, Tilda Swinton, Channing Tatum

2016's first major comedy, Hail, Caesar!, features a cavalcade of stars and a self-deprecating premise that's just too good to miss. When the lead actor of a major motion picture is kidnapped by a mysterious group calling itself "The Future", a Hollywood agent (played by Josh Brolin) must find a way to raise \$100,000 to secure his release. Things

grow even more complicated however, as he's forced to deal with overbearing directors, scheming gossip columnists, dimwitted actors, and everything else Hollywood can throw at him.

Risen

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
FEBRUARY 19**


Stars: Joseph Fiennes, Tom Felton, Peter Firth Cliff Curtis

Risen is already making waves in Christian circles for its stirring trailer. The story follows a Roman Centurion (Joseph Fiennes) who is charged by Pontius Pilate to investigate the disappearance of Christ's body and quell an imminent uprising in Jerusalem. Risen is being billed as a Biblical noir mystery, and honestly, the whole film looks amazing. Christians should keep a sharp eye on this movie, it may just redefine the faith-based genre.

Snowden

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
MAY 13**

Stars: Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Shailene Woodley, Melissa Leo, Zachary Quinto, Nicolas Cage,



Based on true events, Snowden chronicles the life of Edward Snowden and his actions leading up to one of the largest classified information leaks in history. Though the film itself is bound to be controversial, the stellar cast list demands attention. With names like Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Zachary Quinto, and Nicholas Cage attached to the project, Snowden will be interesting to say the least.

God's Not Dead 2

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
APRIL 1**

Stars: Melissa Joan Hart, Jesse Metcalfe, Ray Wise, Ernie Hudson

The Christian phenomenon which swept box offices in 2014 will return this April with a brand new installment. Reversing positions from the previous film, God's Not Dead 2 focuses on a high school teacher (Melissa Joan Hart) who is drawn into an epic court case after quoting the Bible in class. The movie plans to explore issues like religious freedom, persecution, prayer in public schools, and



their effects in modern society. For now, Christians can only wait eagerly until it arrives on April 1.

Silence

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
UNKNOWN**


Stars: Adam Driver, Liam Neeson, Andrew Garfield, Ciarán Hinds,

Unlike the other faith-based movies on this list, Silence appears more reminiscent of 2014's Calvary. The tone is much darker, and the story promises difficult questions about faith, forgiveness, and survival. The film's plot takes place in the seventeenth century, where two Jesuit priests travel to Japan hoping to find their mentor and spread the Gospel of Christ. Instead, they are met with violence, persecution, and an uncertain future.

Moana

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
NOVEMBER 23**

Stars: Auli'i Cravalho, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, Alan Tudyk

Despite the horde of live-action remakes Disney has clogging up its schedule, it's nice to see the studio hasn't com-



pletely given up on original projects. Moana is Disney's latest addition to their animated royalty. Set in ancient Oceania, the movie follows a young girl named Moana as she seeks to become a famous navigator. Along her journey, she teams up with a legendary fisherman named Maui, who helps her explore the surrounding islands. Will this new princess put an end to Frozen's icy reign? Probably not, but it looks fun anyway.

Finding Dory

**CURRENT RELEASE DATE:
JUNE 17**


Stars: Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Diane Keaton, Eugene Levy, Ed O'Neill, Ty Burrell, Kaitlin Olson,

Not long ago, a Christian website named Finding Nemo their top Pixar movie of all time. With beautiful animation and a story packed full of emotional moments, it was easy to see how Finding Nemo wasn't just a good movie, it's the reason we watch movies. It should be no surprise then, that we're anticipating the sequel to Pixar's ocean-spanning masterpiece.

As the name suggests, Finding Dory will focus on the Royal Tang, Dory, as she searches for her lost family. Pixar has demonstrated before that they can make a sequel which surpasses the original, we can only hope the same holds true here.

Out in the COUNTRY

 by **Scott Perkins**


This year marks the 15th and final season of American Idol. Idol has produced some great artists like Carrie Underwood. This year there is a contestant who has received his golden ticket to Hollywood that you can hear on The Country Parson. His name is Isaac Cole.

Isaac signed with Tommy Brandt's Beyond the Music Promotions four years ago. One of the things that Tommy shared with me was how difficult it was to find songs to have an 11 year old kid sing to make authentic. Between the two of them they actually wrote most of the songs on Isaac's CDs.

Diane and I first met Isaac in South Carolina when he was about 11 years old. I sat there while I was interviewing thinking that this is an 11 year old kid who knows what he wants to do when he grows up. While listening to his answers to my questions, I could see a nervous



mother in the background hoping her son would give quality answers. He did. And now, four years later, here he is on one of America's most successful reality TV shows.

Because I know him personally, I'm rooting him on! The kid is good enough to win it. However, there seems to be some very strong competition this year. You can follow Isaac Cole through the process on your local TV station that carries American Idol.

Scott and Diane Perkins host *The Country Parson*, heard every Sunday morning from 6 to 10 a.m. on 94.5 fm in Topeka, KS. Contact *The Country Parson*: thecountryparson.com 785.505.PERK

Winter a great time to set reading goals for the year

 by **Al Mohler**

I cannot really remember when I did not love to read books. I do know that I was very eager to learn to read, and that I quickly found myself immersed in the world of books and literature. It may have been a seduction of sorts, and the Christian disciples must always be on guard to guide the eyes to books worthy of a disciple's attention—and there are so many.

As Solomon warned, "Of making many books there is no end" (Ecc 12:12). There is no way to read everything, and not everything deserves to be read. I say that in order to confront the notion that anyone, anywhere, can master all that could be read with profit. I read a great deal, and a large portion of my waking hours are devoted to reading. Devotional reading for spiritual profit is an important part of the day, and that begins with



the reading of Scripture. In terms of timing, I am somewhat unorthodox. My best time for spending time in the Word is late at night, when all is calm and quiet and I am mentally alert and awake. That

is not the case when I first get up in the mornings, when I struggle to find each word on the page.

■ Please see GOALS on next page

SPRING FILLING UP WITH MUSIC EVENTS

Winter Jam has been plowing through the Kansas City area for a number of years, now, and I've finally decided to go with my family this year; that is, until a student I

work with mentioned — over and over, again — how early we would need to get there to get good seats. Not to mention it landed on a Sunday evening, and I would need to get up at 5am to go to work the next morning. Oh, well, maybe next year?

Not to worry, dear readers. At least, not if you can wait until April. Capturing "the life transforming ministry of Winter Jam, as you've never seen it before," THIS IS WINTER JAM is the film presenting live performances from seminal artists including Skillet, for KING & COUNTRY, Francesca Battistelli, Family Force 5, Blanca, Veridia and many more. It will also offer backstage access, including interviews from Winter Jam past and present artists. THIS IS WINTER JAM also pre-



musicscene

mieres for KING & COUNTRY's brand-new music video "Priceless," as well as exclusive scenes from their upcoming theatrical film.

THIS IS WINTER JAM will only be shown in theaters on Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00 pm. In the Kansas City area, fans can see the film at Cinemark 20 and XD in Merriam.

In Lawrence, it will be shown at Regal Southwind Stadium 12. This would be a great time for those who have gotten to see Winter Jam live, but especially for fans who haven't been able to make the concert. Tickets are available, currently, online.

Elisabeth Hasselbeck and Matthew West were announced as the hosts of 2016 K-LOVE Fan Awards. Shown live from the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn on June 5. With a weekly listenership of over 14 million people, K-LOVE is the leading Christian music radio station. The awards are fan-voted Christian music awards in the industry. Fans can vote at

KLOVEFanAwards.com to select their favorite artists, and their votes formulate the official nominees.

There are seven categories, including Artist of the Year, Male Artist of the Year, Female Artist of the Year and more. Fans are invited to place their votes now.

"To all my K-LOVE friends: get ready to praise and party with us because #GodIsGood!" said Hasselbeck recently.

"I'm so excited to be hosting this year's awards along with Elisabeth," West also shared, "this event has become such a wonderful celebration of how God uses Christian music to impact culture through K-LOVE's airwaves every single day, and I'm honored to be part of what is sure to be an unforgettable night."

Pop artist, songwriter and producer Matt Price will be releasing his sophomore EP, Dream, Feb. 10. Dream has been available for pre-order at iTunes where fans were able to receive an instant download of new track "Fortress" with each purchase prior to release. Price celebrated his new EP, on the evening of release, with a live broadcast via his Periscope channel (mlp-music) where he performed acoustic versions of new music, answered questions from fans and gave away copies of the album.

"The ideas and themes that you hear on Dream were born out of the many triumphs, as well as the deepest struggles of my life over the past couple of years," Price shared. For more information on tours,



releases, and what Matt Price has been up to, please visit www.mattpriceonline.com.

Singer/songwriter John Tibbs has released his long-awaited Dead Man Walking, the highly anticipated FairTrade Services full-length debut. Released February 5th, this follows the critically acclaimed Dead Man Walking EP, and was produced by Ben Shive (Rend Collective, Colony House). "Abraham," a song inspired by God's faithfulness to the Israelites in Exodus; and "Everything I Need," which holds deep personal relation for Tibbs reflecting on his struggle with a lifelong speech impairment.

"The song says, 'Though my weakness ties my tongue, I sing of every good You've done.' It is exhausting to try to hide something. Culture says you have to be perfect and have all the answers, but that isn't a healthy attitude."

For more information, please



visit www.johntibbsmusic.com, www.fairtradeservices.com or

GOALS

continued from page 16

In the course of any given week, I will read several books. I know how much I thrive on this learning and the intellectual stimulation I get from reading. As my wife and family would be first to tell you, I can read almost anytime, anywhere, under almost any kind of conditions. I have a book with me virtually all the time, and have been known to snatch a few moments for reading at stop lights. No, I do not read while driving (though I must admit that it has been a temptation at times). I took books to high school athletic events when I played in the band. (Heap coals of scorn and nerdiness here). I remember the books; do you remember the games?

A few initial suggestions:

1. Maintain regular reading projects. I strategize my reading in six main categories: Theology, Biblical Studies, Church Life, History, Cultural Studies, and Literature. I have some project from each of these categories going at all times. I collect and gather books for each project and read them over a determined period of time. This helps to discipline my reading, and it also keeps me working across several disciplines.

2. Work through major sections of Scripture. I am just completing an expository series, preaching verse by verse through the book of Romans. I have preached and taught several books of the Bible in recent years, and I plan my reading to stay ahead. I am turning next to Matthew, so I am gathering and reading ahead—not yet planning specific messages, but reading to gain as much as possible from worthy works on the first

gospel. I am constantly reading works in biblical theology as well as exegetical studies.

3. Read all the titles written by some authors. Choose carefully here, but identify some authors whose books demand your attention. Read all they have written and watch their minds at work and their thought in development. No author can complete his thoughts in one book. 4. Get some big sets and read them through. Yes, invest in the works of Martin Luther, Jonathan Edwards, and others. Set a project for yourself to read through the entire set and give yourself time. You will be surprised how far you will get in less time than you think.

5. Allow yourself some fun reading, and learn how to enjoy reading by reading enjoyable books. I like books across the fields of literature, but I really love to read historical biographies and historical works in general. In addition, I really enjoy quality fiction and worthy works of literature. As a boy, I probably discovered my love for reading in these categories of books. I allow some time each day, when possible, for such reading. It doesn't have to be much. Stay in touch with the thrill.

6. Write in your books; mark them up and make them yours. Books are to be read and used, not collected and coddled. (Make an exception here for those rare antiquarian books that are treasured for their antiquity. Mark not thy pen on the ancient page, and highlight not upon the manuscript.) Invent your own system or borrow from another, but learn to have a conversation with the book, pen in hand.

I am always glad to hear from readers. Write me at mail@albertmohler.com.

Third Day Wins Song of the Year with new single "Soul on Fire"

Christian rock band Third Day has enjoyed a great deal of success since its inception back in 1990. The group has been inducted into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, sold over 7 million albums, and won numerous Grammy Awards. Now, the gospel band has

achieved new heights with their latest song, "Soul on Fire" being named No. 1 song of the year for 2015 and selected for a 2016 Grammy nomination.

The band's Mark Lee says that while a lot of band's are formed on just great music, "we are formed on

something more solid than that. We all feel called to do this. We feel like God brought us together as friends first — we have always failed back on that. It's such a blessing to be able to continue doing what we are doing."

Trisha Yearwood joins Tyler Perry's 'The Passion' live cast

by Christine Thomasos

The cast of FOX's upcoming musical "The Passion" is starting to unfold with country music legend Trisha Yearwood and Latin singer Prince Royce joining the production as Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ, and the disciple Peter, respectively.



YEARWOOD



PERRY

Yearwood, the 51-year-old singer and host of Food Network's "Trisha's Southern Kitchen" said she was thrilled to join the cast, which was partially announced at the Television Critics Association press tour.

"I'm thrilled to join #ThePassionLive airing LIVE March 20 on @FOXTV xo trish," the Grammy Award-winning "How Do I Live" singer tweeted.

Film mogul Tyler Perry will narrate and host the 2-hour musical that will take place in Perry's hometown of New Orleans, and bring a modern-day

account of the story of Jesus of Nazareth to life.

A number of iconic locations throughout New Orleans will be utilized in the live musical event that is also expected to include a local New Orleans audience in the carrying of a 20-foot cross.

Famed biblical events like the Last Supper, Jesus' betrayal at the hands of Judas, his trial by Pontius Pilate, the crucifixion and resurrection will be included in what the president of Fox said will be an inspirational play.

"The Passion' is both wonderfully entertaining and genuinely inspirational," said David Madden, president of entertainment for the Fox Broadcasting Company, in a statement shared with The Christian Post. "We are so thrilled to have the multi-talented Tyler Perry join us for this epic music production. He is the perfect host to lead the cast — and viewers — through the streets of New Orleans in this contemporary re-telling of a timeless story."

The musical will air on Palm Sunday, which executives close to the production



hope can bring both Christian and secular audiences together before Easter.

"This Palm Sunday television event is a modern-day production of the most famous

story of all time, full of universal themes, which we hope provides a unifying experience, bringing the sacred and secular together," said Mark Bracco, executive vice president of programming and development for Dick Clark Productions.

Adam Anders, the music producer who has worked on "Glee" and "Rock of Ages," revealed that audiences will witness the story of Jesus being told like never before.

"The Passion' is one of the most exciting and compelling projects that I have ever been involved with," said Anders in a statement to CP. "I cannot wait to bring the greatest-story-ever-told to life through music, in a way that has never been heard before. To be able to create new arrangements of some of the biggest songs of all time to create a live film score is a creative dream for me."



Benefits of Hiring a Home Care Companion for an Older Adult

By Michele Teter

Aging—and watching someone you love decline as they age—is seldom an easy process. It's common for older adults to feel isolated, frustrated and in need of help.

Whether you are a relative or close friend of someone who's struggling with the effects of getting older and losing independence, hiring a home care companion for your loved one can provide a great solution. Hiring in-home caregivers for your aging loved one not only provides them with physical assistance, it also offers them someone who can help with the emotional and routine aspects of daily life as well.

Consider some of these benefits of hiring a home care companion for your loved one:

Personal companionship: If there's one thing that becomes clear as someone ages, it's the far-reaching benefits of friendship. "Far too many elderly individuals in [the] United

States live alone and when they have trouble getting around, lose their driving privileges, or do not have family and friends nearby, it can make them feel even more isolated," says Kevin Watkins, Co-Owner of Caring Hearts of Rochester in New York. That's why "companionship becomes a quintessential part of any in-home health care services." A personal companion can provide social interaction that is as simple as conversation or someone to watch movies with, but in the process the caregiver also fulfills a real need for the older adult.

Safe transportation: At some point, most aging adults lose their driving privileges. This severely limits their ability to do everyday tasks, such as buy groceries or visit friends.



A personal care companion can provide transportation and accompany your loved one to errands, meetings, social events, etc.

Sustained independence: By providing ongoing, consistent care, personal care attendants are able to help aging individuals "continue living independently, comfortably and socially with at-home care services," says Best Home Care. A little extra

support can be all that is needed to extend an older adult's sense of independence in his or her own home, and this goes a long way toward improving their outlook on life and boosting self-confidence. Most aging individuals are comforted by being in familiar surroundings where they have spent much of their life, and a professional caregiver can help them stay there longer than they would be able to

on their own.

Accountability: An in-home aide will be able to keep an eye on your parent or other loved one and notice when they are not eating properly, suddenly losing weight, missing medication doses, forgetting to turn the oven off, etc. Particularly in situations where an older adult has a hard time communicating about capabilities or changes that they are experi-

encing, this kind of accountability can make a significant difference in protecting them from unintentional self-harm.

Your own peace of mind: Whether you're living an hour away or on the other side of the country, it's hard not to worry about your loved one when you cannot be nearby. A personal home care companion provides the one-on-one personalized care that you are not able to offer, giving you peace of mind. A companion stands in the place of a family member or other loved one, helping your parent, grandparent, aunt or other relative feel taken care of and safe.

If you have had concerns about your loved one's ability to live independently or your ability to be their sole caregiver, then perhaps it is a good idea to begin exploring the options in your area. Consider the benefits that could come from hiring a companion for your aging loved one, and take advantage of this increasingly popular method of care.

Show Your Heart Some Love - Wellness tips for body, mind and heart

(Family Features) Each day offers new opportunities to make choices that impact your health and overall wellness. Though hectic schedules can cause many of us to let healthy habits fall to the wayside, it is important that we give our bodies the attention and care they deserve.

Consider these small steps to gradually improve your whole body and heart health, which can help you enjoy a happier, longer life:

- **Strike a balance.** Take a simpler approach to the traditional idea of "dieting." Balance calories in versus calories out with a combination of good food choices, such as fruits, vegetables and whole grains, and regular exercise, such as walking or hiking. Incorporate low-calorie, naturally fat-free foods into your diet, such as new Dole Red Grapefruit Sunrise Fruit Bowls, which bring all-natural fruit together with 100 percent juice. They are a great way to start the day or just enjoy as a delicious snack. Grapefruit naturally offers a plentiful source of nutrients, including phosphorus, potassium and vitamins A and C.

- **Watch the middle.** According to the Mayo Clinic, that extra weight you carry around the mid-section can cause serious health problems, including cardiovascular disease, diabetes and certain cancers. Work to keep this common problem area in check by reducing caloric intake and increasing physical activity.

- **Skip the stress.** While a little stress is part of being human, too much can be taxing on the heart. Find activities

that engage your mind and naturally relieve stress such as knitting, crafting or working on a puzzle.

- **Dine in the a.m.** Don't let a rushed morning routine get in the way of enjoying a heart-healthy breakfast. A complete morning meal includes a combination of whole grains, protein, and fruits or vegetables. For a convenient, on-the-go option, throw an individually-sealed cup of Dole Red Grapefruit Sunrise in your laptop bag or purse. Each cup contains peak-of-ripeness, wholesome, peeled grapefruit and allows you to enjoy grapefruit all year around. Plus, they're gluten free, contain no GMOs (genetically modified or engineered ingredients) or artificial sweeteners, and feature BPA-free packaging.

- **Drink more water.** For your body to function properly, it needs the right


amount of hydration. According to the Institute of Medicine, the average required intake for a male is about 13 cups, while a female requires about 9 cups. Switch out sodas and sugary drinks with water to reap its benefits, and to shave off extra "empty" calories that may contribute to weight gain.

- **Get routine exams.** A yearly doctor's examination keeps you more informed of your body's ever-changing status, and it keeps your health care provider in the loop, too. Educate yourself and understand the import numbers for your heart, including blood pressure, cholesterol and triglycerides.

A happy life starts with the right mindset and a few easy routines. For more ways to boost your body's wellness and healthy snack ideas, visit www.Dole.com. *Photo Getty Images*



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SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question:

I can't seem to find my Social Security card. Do I need to get a replacement?

Answer:

In most cases, knowing your Social Security number is enough. But, if you do apply for and receive a replacement card, don't carry that card with you. Keep it with your important papers. For more information about your Social Security card and number, and for information about how to apply for a replacement, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/ssnumber. If you believe you're the victim of identity theft, read our publication Identity Theft and Your Social Security Number, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question:

I own a small business. How can I verify employees' Social Security numbers?

Answer:

Employers can use our Social Security Number Verification Service to verify the names and Social Security numbers of current and former employees for wage reporting purposes. For more information, go to

www.socialsecurity.gov/employer/ssnv.htm.

RETIREMENT

Question:

What can Social Security do to help me plan for my retirement?

Answer:

Social Security has some great online financial planning tools you can use to make an informed decision about your retirement. Social Security's online Retirement Planner and our online Retirement Estimator are both tools you can access at any time. These will let you compute estimates of your future Social Security retirement benefits. They also provide important information on factors affecting retirement benefits, such as military service, household earnings, and federal employment.

Find our Retirement Planner at socialsecurity.gov/retire2. And, the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator.

Question:

How do I earn Social Security credits, and how many do I need to qualify for benefits?

Answer:

We use your total yearly earnings to figure your Social Security credits. The amount needed for a credit in 2015 is \$1,220. You can earn a maximum of four credits for any year. The amount needed to earn one credit increases automatically each year when average wages increase.

You must earn a certain number of credits to qualify for Social Security benefits. The number of credits you need depends on your age when you apply and the type of benefit application. No one needs more than 40 credits for any Social Security benefit.

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

DISABILITY

Question:

What is substantial gainful activity?

Answer:

We use the term "substantial gainful activity," or "SGA," to describe a level of work activity and earnings. Work is

"substantial" if it involves doing significant physical or mental activities or a combination of both.

If you earn more than a certain amount and are doing productive work, we generally consider that you are engaging in substantial gainful activity. For example, the monthly SGA amount for 2015 is \$1,090. For statutorily blind individuals, that amount is \$1,820. You would not be eligible for disability benefits. You can read more about substantial gainful activity and if your earnings qualify as substantial gainful activity at socialsecurity.gov/oact/cola/sga.html.

SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME

Question:

What is the difference between Social Security disability and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) disability?

Answer:

Social Security is responsible for running two major programs that provide benefits based on disability. Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) is based on prior earnings. SSDI is financed through the taxes you pay into the Social Security program. To be eligible for an SSDI benefit, the worker must earn sufficient credits based on taxable work to be "insured" for Social Security purposes. SSDI benefits are payable to eligible blind or disabled workers, the widow(er)s of a disabled worker, or adults disabled since childhood.

SSI disability payments are made based on financial need to adults or children who are disabled or blind, have limited income and resources, meet the living arrangement requirements, and are otherwise eligible. SSI is a program financed through general revenues. For more, visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

Question:

What is a Plan to Achieve Self-Support (PASS)?

Answer:

A PASS helps Supplemental Security Income disability beneficiaries return to work. It is a written plan of action for getting a particular kind of job or starting a business. In it, you identify:

- the job or business (this is your work goal);
- the steps you will take and the things you will need in order to achieve your work goal (for example: education, transportation, child care, etc.)
- the money you will use to pay for these things (this may be any income (other than SSI benefits) or assets, such as Social Security benefits, wages from a current job, or savings); and
- a timetable for achieving your goal

senior news/events briefs

LIFEFEST – 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

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.

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

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

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Feb. 9, 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all of its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare as well as those considering making a change during open enrollment. Seminars will be held at Century Health Solutions, a division of Stormont-Vail Healthcare, 2951 SW Woodside Dr. Information: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

ADVENTURE'S IN LEARNING – Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, 9am-12noon, Shepherd's Center of Topeka, hosted at 4101 SW 15th St. For those over 55. First time guests may attend ONE FRIDAY in an Adventures in Learning session for FREE. For info: 267-0248.



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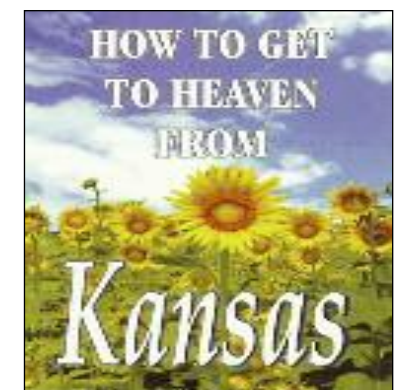
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, 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

DAVIS' REALITY ALTERED

By Stephen Copeland

Thomas Davis sits in the quiet of his Charlotte, North Carolina, home, with nothing in his living room indicating that he has had a successful, 10-year NFL career with the Carolina Panthers, nothing indicating that he is one of the best 4-3 outside linebackers in the league. The only thing in his living room that indicates he has any relation to football at all is the bronze, 2015 Walter Payton Man of the Year trophy sitting on his mantelpiece, almost hidden by a nearby chair.



Davis now shares the side of a story he hasn't shared before...

Growing up in a poor, single-parent household in the rural town of Shellman, Georgia, he understandably became enamored with the new lifestyle that the NFL offered him upon entering the league as a rookie.

"I definitely feel that I was losing sight of reality from 2005 to 2008," Davis says transparently. "Everything was new to me. I had the ability to have anything that I ever wanted. Materialistically, I could purchase and buy anything. I kind of let that become my god in a sense. They say, 'The love of money is the root of all evil,' and it reeled me in."

It wasn't until 2008, upon marrying his

wife, Kelly, that Davis began to reconstruct his worldview.

Through marriage counseling with a mentor, and talks with the Panthers team chaplain, Davis's perspective on life began to change. Davis says that a spiritual seed had been planted a half-decade before at the University of Georgia, but it wasn't until 2008 that Davis began to adopt the mentality for himself.

One day, he was helping with an organization that provided free heart screenings. In demonstrating the screening for the children, doctors discovered that Davis himself had been born with an abnormal coronary artery.

"It was definitely a trying time," Davis says, "because I went from being extremely healthy, playing at the highest level, and being an NFL player, to the doctors saying, 'We have to do open-heart surgery on you, and you can no longer play football until this surgery is done.'"

Davis immediately learned that his previous reality, placing his entire identity and worth in football and all it had to offer, was futile because of how easily, and quickly, it could be taken away.

"I learned that these materialistic things I valued and cherished so much are nothing," Davis says. "Just like football, it can all be gone."

It was later discovered that Davis didn't need to have the surgery after all. But it was a reminder that God intricately cared for him and had a plan for him. Through improbable circumstances, Davis was made aware of his rare heart condition. Maybe it was all a reminder of a divine love.

"After that stuff happened, I didn't take anything for granted moving forward," Davis says.

Third Time's A Charm

Following his offseason scare, Davis entered the 2009 season hungry to seize

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

It appears as though the stupidity level has overlapped into the sports realm, or was it ever really not there? A Seattle Seahawk fan, upset with the fact that Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, took and threw a Seattle 12th



man flag after the Panthers eliminated the Seahawks from the playoffs, has started a petition to ban Newton from entering Seattle's Century Link field next year. What's funny about that is that I can't seem to find a schedule that has Carolina going to Seattle next year.

every opportunity that came his way on the football field. And he did.

However, heading into the Panthers' eighth game of the year, Davis tore his ACL, sidelining him for the remainder of the season. Then, six and a half months removed from surgery, Davis tore the same ACL for a second time on the Panthers' practice field before the 2010 season even began.

"I found myself asking a lot of questions, going to God questioning, 'Why did this thing have to happen to me?' And then it happens again, and now it's really like, 'God, what are you trying to show me?'"

Then came what most believed at the time to be the final blow. Two games into the 2011 season, Davis tore the same ACL again.

Few NFL players had returned from two ACL tears. Returning to on-the-field

The petition reads as follows: "Cam Newton is one of the most unprofessional, unsportsmanlike individuals on the face of the planet. So I say for the 2016-2017 year, when the Panthers come to play in Seattle he should be banned from entering the stadium. This should teach him to put his arrogance in check!!" Hey Seattle, have you ever heard of Richard Sherman? This petition is arrogant.

Next up we go to Rogers, Minnesota where a girls' basketball team in a recreation league has been kicked out of the league due to their talent level being so much higher than the other teams in the league. I'm not sure how much of this I believe. I understand that there are different leagues for varying skill levels. In Lawrence, there is a recreation league, intended for kids to learn and develop their skills. There is also a competitive league for more advanced players.

success after three tears had never even been done before.

"I felt God was trying to send me a message," Davis says. "Was it that I needed to stop playing football? Was it time to hang it up?"

Comeback

Davis might have believed his football future was unclear, but not once did he believe his purpose in life was lacking because he couldn't play a game he loved.

Rather, through all of his ACL tears, Davis saw his time away from the game as an opportunity to not only come back stronger, but also to get more involved in the community and continue to grow as a person—as a husband and as a father to his and Kelly's four children.

"Regardless of what happens in my life, good or bad, I will always be a believer," Davis says. "I will always keep my faith, just

What happened in Minnesota is the league welcomed an advanced, intact team with open arms. The rest of the teams were put together through a draft process. Of course there is going to be a skill level difference between the teams. I think anyone with kids that have played sports will understand the difference between the teams.

However, for parents on opposing teams to get upset and teams to threaten to quit the league, this just sets a very bad example for the kids. Hey, I know it's tough so let's just quit. Yeah, good job parenting there! I'm sure that these are the same parents that expect their kids to receive a participation trophy even if their team doesn't win a game. Call me old fashioned, but I don't understand leagues that give out trophies to everyone and leagues that don't keep score. Learning good sportsmanship is vital to a kids' development and it's hard to learn good sportsmanship when "everybody" wins so that little Johnny doesn't feel bad. When you lose it should push you to want to get better. Hey, parents, stop coddling your kids so much and let them experience the joys of winning and the agony of defeat.

Maybe that's why everyone seems to get offended so easily these days!

realizing there is a plan in place and it's up to us to follow that plan."

After a solid four-year start to his career, followed by three years that he mostly spent injured, Davis has had a resurgence the past four years, totaling over 100 tackles each season (and on pace to do so again this year), reinstating himself as one of the top linebackers in the NFC.

Thomas Davis's world looks a lot different than it did when he entered the league 10 years ago. His reality has drastically changed.

Says Davis: "Reality to me, now, regardless of what is going on in my life, is making sure God is the head of my household without question, and making sure that whatever I do, I always honor my wife, making sure that I always remain respectful, and make sure that I am a father that my kids can be proud of in everything I do.

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UPGRADE YOUR KITCHEN THIS YEAR

As the calendar turns over a new page, many homeowners begin contemplating upgrades and home repairs for the coming year. The kitchen is one of the most common rooms for these efforts, but if a full-

fledged renovation is out of your budget, you can still make a noticeable difference in other ways.

“Many homeowners think about creating their dream homes at the start of a new year,” said James



Coyle, president of home appliances at Sears. “With the guidance and expertise of trained professionals, it is easy to achieve the kitchen you’ve always wanted and also protect your appliances throughout the year.”

Revamp your kitchen

One of the fastest ways to give your home an elevated look without the need for costly remodeling is the addition of stylish new appliances, which can lend a beautiful, professional kitchen design and luxury performance at an affordable price.

A stainless steel range is a good starting point for a sleek new kitchen look. The Kenmore PRO Self-Clean Dual True Convection Range gives the appearance of a built-in and offers front control design so you can operate the oven and range without reaching over a heat source. With Accela-Heat technology, the oven uses sensors to drive a powerful convection element and accurately controls two fans to transfer heat to the food, saving time by significantly reducing the preheating.

Another upgrade that can add functionality to your kitchen is a convection microwave, which, in addition to warming, can bake and roast foods for great meals in minutes.

After preparing a meal in your new kitchen, clean up like a pro with a dishwasher featuring professional-grade details. For example, a spray arm in the Kenmore PRO 24-inch Built-In Dishwasher goes beyond the traditional circle with a full-coverage, spiral pattern that reaches deep to clean every dish, while rotating spray jets let you skip soaking and still target baked-on, caked-on messes.

In addition to purchasing new appliances, homeowners can easily create a new mood in their kitchens by replacing cabinets. Often, you can schedule a free in-home consultation with a licensed professional to discuss cabinet door styles, colors and hardware – such as hinges, knobs and pulls – and receive an estimate.

Protect your investment

Regular maintenance of your new appliances can help prevent costly breakdowns, reduce energy costs

and extend the life of your appliances. Have a technician inspect your refrigerator, dishwasher and oven/range/cooktop for proper functioning, wear and tear, water and gas leaks, clean refrigerator condenser coils and more.

Another way to plan ahead for breakdowns is to invest in a home warranty that helps pay for the repair or replacement of the vital systems and appliances that keep your home running, things which homeowners insurance doesn’t cover.

Find more inspired ideas to



upgrade your kitchen at searshomeservices.com.

Source: Family Features



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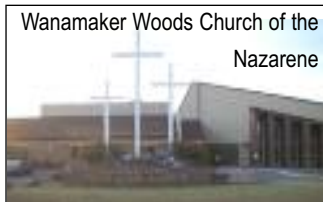
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- Christ for the Nations
- Columbia College
- Concordia University Nebraska
- Culver-Stockton College
- Dordt College
- Emmaus Bible College
- Evangel University
- Franciscan University
- Friends University
- Grand Canyon University
- Hannibal-LaGrange University
- Heartland Christian College
- Indiana Wesleyan University
- International House of Prayer University
- John Brown University
- Kansas Christian College
- Kansas Wesleyan University
- LeTourneau University
- Lincoln Christian University
- Lindenwood University
- Lipscomb University
- Mid-America Christian University
- MidAmerica Nazarene University
- Midland University
- Midwestern College
- Missouri Baptist University
- Nebraska Christian College
- Newman University
- Oklahoma Baptist University
- Oklahoma Christian University
- Oral Roberts University
- Ozark Christian College
- Southern Nazarene University
- Southwest Baptist University
- Sterling College
- Taylor University
- Union University
- University of Northwestern St. Paul
- *Waldorf College
- Wartburg College
- William Jewell College
- World Revival School of Ministry

2015 Attendees. *New for 2016

More Schools added weekly!

Where your faith and future come together!

David Barton to speak at Topeka Summit

American history, civic action, economics and prayer to be focus

David Barton, founder of WallBuilders, will speak in Topeka on Friday, February 12, at the National Black Robe Regiment Summit. In addition, there will be

presentations from Rev. Mark Gonzales, Executive Director of the pastors' group National Black Robe Regiment; Donna Lippoldt, founder of Culture Shield; and

Congressman Bob McEwen. The Black Robed Regiment was the name that the British placed on courageous American clergy during the Founding Era (a backhand-

ed reference to the black robes they wore). The British blamed the Black Robe Regiment for American Independence.

"We are living in a day and age in

which we cannot afford to sit back and simply ignore what is going on politically," said Donna Lippoldt, founder of Culture Shield. "The very existence of our nation depends on Christians engaging in the process. If not, we can expect a continual undermining of our values."

"We cannot allow 1-2% of our culture to destroy our religious freedom, dictate our children's curriculum, and discourage us to the point



BROWNBACK

that we give up," said Lippoldt. "If you have wondered what you can do to make a difference, this Summit is

for you. For the sake of our children we must pursue truth and integrity. We cannot accept Biblical Illiteracy.



BARTON

We must learn our true American history."

The summit will empower pastors and leaders for social and cultural transformation, and to be equipped to make a difference in 2016. They will learn how to influence people, frame a discussion to open eyes to truth on race relations, economics, and prayer. Civic Action Team Training will be offered after a complimentary lunch. Mark Gonzales will teach about the nuts and bolts of organizing Civic Impact Teams in churches, with the hope that more pastors and leaders will be motivated to run for office.

"Jesus, while on this earth was very focused," said Lippoldt. "He requires no less from us. We cannot afford leisure. Please, gather your friends, and rather than talking about the culture, let's IMPACT it!"

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. The Summit will be 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and Civic Action Team Training is from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at Capitol Plaza and Convention Center, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd. The event is free but registration is required. RSVP to (210) 802-1397 or at www.nationalblackroberegiment.com.



National Black Robe Regiment Summit
Empowering Pastors & Leaders for Social & Cultural Transformation

February 12, 2016



The Honorable Sam Brownback
Governor of the State of Kansas
Cordially invites you to attend the National Black Robe Regiment Summit
Which will speak to issues facing our state and nation

National Black Robe Regiment Summit
9:30 AM Registration
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Complimentary Lunch

Civic Action Team Training
2:30 PM - 5:30 PM

Capitol Plaza and Convention Center
1717 SW Topeka Blvd.
Topeka, KS 66612

Events are FREE but registration is REQUIRED:
RSVP (210) 802-1397 or www.nationalblackroberegiment.com

Speakers



David Barton
WallBuilders
American History
In Black and White



Rev. Mark Gonzales
National Black Robe Regiment
Where We Are in America
and Where We Go From Here



Donna Lippoldt
Prayer Undergirding
Governmental Action



Congressman
Bob McEwen
Understanding Politics
and Economics:
Easy As PIE

Worship



Charles Laster II
Detroit, MI



Falma Rufus
Dallas, TX