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**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** | **PAGE 13**

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# VOICE



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**PAGE 16**  
"Finn" John Boyega

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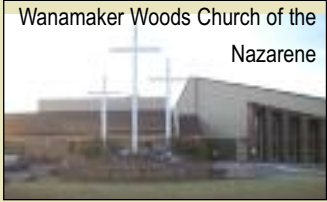
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**NEW RESIDENT churchguide**



Wanamaker Woods Church of the Nazarene

*See inside back cover!*

**K-12 Education & College Expo to be March 5**



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

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

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

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

For info check [metrovoicenews.com](http://metrovoicenews.com).

**What it means to RESPECT Life**



Anita Widaman | Metro Voice

What does it mean to "respect life?" Whether it is protecting the life of the unborn child or serving the child born with special needs or the grandparent with Alzheimer's, there are many faces to the pro-life efforts of millions of Americans. See how you can play a part in our special "Respect Life" Guide.

**GUIDE BEGINS ON PAGE 8!**

**Survey Finds Kansans Misled on School Spending**



Kansas Policy Institute released a new Survey USA Poll of 509 registered voters in Kansas showing a significant disconnect between voters' perception of Kansas school spending and true expenditures.

The survey found 47% of Kansans believe per-pupil funding has dropped more than 5% in the last 5 years. Another 15% believe it has dropped

■ Please see **SCHOOLS** page 3

**Franklin Graham coming to Topeka in 2016**

Franklin Graham is coming to Topeka in April of 2016, and he is asking for your support. He's calling his 50-state tour Decision America 2016. He says, "I'm going to every state in our country to challenge Christians to live out their faith at home, in public and at the ballot box — and I will share the Gospel."

The actual date of the prayer rally will be released on January 6, 2016. The tour is sponsored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association. The first tour stop will be January 5 in Des Moines, Iowa.

Franklin Graham is the son of renowned evangelist Billy Graham.

Various activities are in the works in preparation for Graham's visit. There will be a prayer gathering to worship and pray for Decision America 2016 at the Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library on Monday, January 4. The meeting will be 6:30 - 7:30 pm in Room 101-B.

Organizers say it's vital that the Church in Kansas get behind what God is doing. If you believe the Lord will use



Rev. Graham's visit, and you are in a ministry leadership position, you are invited to a free luncheon to find out more information. This informative gathering will be at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26, at the First Assembly of God, SW 27th at Topeka Blvd. RSVP must be sent to

[MyHopeKansas@gmail.com](mailto:MyHopeKansas@gmail.com).

Rev. Graham posted recently on Facebook: "I have heard from people all over America who believe that our nation is in trouble—morally, spiritually, and politically. But as attention turns to an

■ Please see **GRAHAM** page 3

**Third Annual Easter Parade and Family Fun Fest is Mar. 26**



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 approximately 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,

■ Please see **PARADE** page 3

# WHY MILLENNIALS QUIT

## Seven Ways to Win Them Back

While at a park recently, I overheard snippets from a couple's conversation as they hiked.

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

"Atheist," the guy replied.

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

The rest of the conversation slipped out of earshot, leaving me to ponder the state of my generation. As a fellow millennial (born between 1980 and 2000), I worry over my generation's statistics. According to the Pew Research Center, one-third of adults under 30 claim no religion. With 75 million millennials in the U.S., that's just over 24 million that don't subscribe to any faith whatsoever. Many from my generation didn't grow up in church, and even those who did are leaving the church by the thousands, discarding God as easily as an old phone.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So how can churches connect with millennials? To find out, I drew upon research from National Christian Foundation Heartland's summer interns, Nathan High, Joe High and Calvin Beck. They had spent their sum-



Young millennials hang out at a coffee shop

mer interviewing 17 Kansas City pastors and church leaders to find out what local churches were doing to reach millennials. After months of talking with millennials, interviewing churches and pouring over research studies, our interns saw seven trends emerge among churches that were effective in reaching millennials:

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

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

Millennials know they're messed up. They don't want anything watered down or sugar-coated. They want real answers for real life, and they're drawn to churches that encourage authenticity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

al leader. Young leadership attracts millennials because they feel they can relate to someone their age who shares their vision.

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

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

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

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

# Life Lessons From a Little One

## NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

by Jessica S. Hosman

Eleven months ago I shared the testimony of how my son received the gift of snow as an answer to prayer for his fourth birthday. This past Christmas, a similar miracle occurred...

It was four days before Christmas when Zechariah asked me if it would

snow on Christmas Day. I pulled up the forecast and showed him the predictions of a near-60 degree day with clear skies. "Definitely no snow this year," I confidently

told him. Unfazed by my comment, he asked if we could ask Jesus for snow. I was desirous to save him from disappointment so replied that we could ask Jesus for snow but because of the weather forecasted, it still probably wouldn't happen. Without hesitation he responded, "Well, can we still ask Him anyway?" I agreed with a sigh and together we joined in prayer asking Jesus for the miracle of snow; me in full-blown doubt, Zechariah in full-blown faith. That same prayer continued for the next four days. As his faith soared, so did my unbelief.

"He is the one who sends snow like wool and scatters frost like ashes" (Psalm 147:17).

We woke up Christmas morning and gathered around the tree. Together we read the Bible and prayed before opening the first gift. When we finished I did a double take as my eyes darted past the window. Outside every tree and limb was glistening white as if covered by a fresh blanket of snow! We dashed outside in our pajamas and stood amazed as we looked all around. Surrounding us on every side was a similar sight. While it was actually a freezing fog that caused

the phenomenon, it looked like snow and my son got to experience the white Christmas he had hoped for. What man said was impossible, God had made a reality!

Nothing is impossible for God. Nothing. Dozens of people may have told you otherwise in a particular situation, but you get to choose who to



Jessica Hosman

believe. Both the meteorologists and I told my little boy to essentially not get his hopes up because the idea of snow was an impossibility. But Zechariah choose

not to believe our grim outlook. Instead, he put his confidence in the Lord who he knows can do anything but fail. The world repetitively tells us the same thing I told my son: "Don't get your hopes up." We become programmed into living without hope for fear of disappointment. Yet God tells us the opposite. He actually delights in those who put their hope in His unflinching love (Psalm 147:11). I believe that is why, in just five short years of life, Zechariah has seen an outstanding number of miraculously answered prayers. I envision God looking down on his faith and smiling, eager to surprise him with another gift from above. Those same gifts are waiting for us if only we'd believe.

We've just begun a new year. The last one may have been incredibly hard and we may have been faced with some extremely challenging circumstances. But we mustn't allow our past to dampen our hopes for the future. God is for us regardless of what situations around us try to dictate. He is able to take the impossible and breathe life where there appears to be none. My son stands in full confidence of that. As we embark upon this new season, will you join him?

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# Kansas teen's shoe drive gains national attention

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

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

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

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

Katrina. I think I know the designer of Shoe of the Year Award!"

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

Now that her goal is met, the teen is hoping to raise 25,000 pairs of shoes by March 1.

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

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



**Amelia has made a huge difference fundraising and raising awareness.**

Graham on the website says, "America is at a crossroads, and I believe we should take every opportunity to stand up for the things of God and His Word."

It's not too late for America."

It is hoped that fires of revival will be set in each state as God uses Franklin Graham in these capitol prayer rallies. More information is available on the website at DecisionAmericaTour.com. The local contact for the tour is David Epps, who can be contacted at 785-221-2788 or MyHopeKansas@gmail.com.



state to pray fervently for America and our leaders. I want to challenge Christians across our land to boldly live out and promote biblical principles at home, in public and at the ballot box. The only hope for this country is if the people of God are willing to take a stand for truth and righteousness.

Our nation desperately needs to return to God, and the American Church needs to lead the way. One quote from Rev.

## GRAHAM

continued from page 1

election year, I do not believe that Republicans or Democrats (or any other party) can turn this nation around – only God can.

## Free luncheon will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 26

That's why in 2016 I will hold prayer rallies in the capitals of all 50 states. We're calling it the Decision America Tour, and it starts in January.

God hears the prayers of his people, so I'm calling on people of faith in every

## SCHOOLS

continued from page 1

less than 5%. In fact, school funding has increased by 6.4%. Only 7% of those surveyed believe there have been such increases.

"The narrative coming out of school districts is intentionally misleading," said Kansas Policy Institute President Dave Trabert. "District officials aided by their government funded lobbyists are telling parents and students that because they didn't receive increases as big as they want, they are being 'cut'. This is patently false."

## PARADE

continued from page 1

marching bands and more. The event is coordinated by the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

"We had a great response and even bigger turnout than last year," said Drew Walker, Parade Coordinator. "I expect it to just keep growing every year."

This year the Fun Fair will take place from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. 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 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 be located inside the Topeka Zoo, as well as outside and inside of Big Gage Shelter House.

The Family Fun Fair will consist of activities geared toward children and families, as well as booths, exhibits, and other activities such as Easter egg hunts, children's games, scavenger hunts, facepainting, and more. Live performers will be on hand all day, such as jazz bands, dance troupes, praise bands and more.

For more information, email info@C5Alive.org or call 640-6399.

# Dick Bott Receives Dred Scott Freedom Award

OVERLAND PARK, Kan., December 11, 2015 - Dick Bott, Founder and Chairman of Bott Radio Network, was honored to receive the first Dred Scott

Freedom Award in the category of Religious Broadcasting from The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation. This award was given on Saturday, December 5, the eve of the 150th Anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment at the first Dred Scott Freedom Awards Dinner in St. Louis, MO. The event recognized individuals and organizations that have contributed to the improvement of society in their chosen fields and for civil rights.

Since its founding in 1962, Bott Radio Network (BRN) has grown from one radio station to become a world leader in quality Christian Talk Radio with 100+

radio stations reaching into 15 states with a combined coverage of 51 million people. The goal of BRN is to broadcast quality Bible teaching with Christian news and information to help listeners grow in the Lord and apply their faith in their daily lives. Bott Radio Network programming features some of the greatest Bible teachers of today.

Established in 2006, the mission of The Dred Scott Heritage Foundation is to educate the public of the critical impact of the Dred Scott Decision and the struggle for freedom of Dred and Harriet Scott through commemoration, education and reconciliation. Harriet and Dred Scott both sued separately for their freedom in St. Louis on April 6, 1846, and it took eleven years and five court proceedings to deny them their freedom at the Supreme Court. It was one of the most important cases ever tried in the United States, and hastened the start of the Civil War.



**Dr. Dick Bott**  
BRN Founder & Chairman

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## How to Strengthen Your Faith in 2016

by **John Potter | Military Chaplain**

Everyone talks about a different kind of list this time of year. And it has nothing to do with being naughty or nice. Our New Year resolutions for 2016 are taking shape on apps and lists across the globe.

Most resolutions focus on going to the gym and eating less. The need for personal improvement can be physical, and it can be spiritual as well. As you consider items for your list, here are five items that can strengthen your faith in 2016.

Schedule prayer time. Find the right time of day where you can devote some effort to this. Prayer is central to our faith. It is deliberate communication with our Heavenly Father. It is an act of worship. It is a spiritual discipline. It allows us to adore, petition, praise, and confess. On several occasions Scripture shows us examples when Jesus made time and space to pray. Follow in the example of Christ and find time to pray.

Meditate on the Bible. You can read the text, receive a daily email, or listen to it on your smart phone. Once you have a mode that is meaningful to you, make it a routine. Spending time with God's Word is vital to any Christian. It encourages and educates us. It provides direction when we feel lost. It reminds

us that God is near.

Take a break. God gave the Sabbath for two reasons. First, it is a day dedicated to honor and worship Him. Second, it is a day for us to rest. Prevent burnout by setting aside work for one day out of the week. Activities and events are always quick to crowd the Sabbath for other purposes. Resolve to use your God-given day differently in 2016.

Talk to your parents on a regular basis. Set aside time for your family. It can be on the phone, a video chat, or just stopping by the homestead. Show them love and respect. Show them that you care. Continue to connect with them. It will serve as a reminder of God's love.

Try a new act of worship. This may sound radical, but too often we stay in a rut. We stay with what we already know. Try something new and different. Feed your creative side and let it honor God. Write a poem. Paint a picture. Learn to play an instrument. Create a new song or chorus for church. Volunteer your time at a local charity. Find a new way to glorify God with a talent you haven't used before.

As we prepare for 2016, make faith a part of your New Year resolutions. Make a plan to strengthen your faith today and for the new year.



## newsbriefs



### Israel in top 10% for highest quality of life

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

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

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

Israel is one of 49 countries considered to have "Very High Human

Development." Israel has the highest fertility rate among those countries.

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

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

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

### Fear of vaccines leads to Ukraine polio spike

(WNS)--In early December, the World Health Organization (WHO) did not mince words with Ukraine: Declare a state of emergency. WHO sounded the alarm after the first polio cases the country has seen in five years paralyzed two children, a 4-year-old and 10-month-old. "These cases have arisen as a result of a very low level of immunization in the country," Igor Pereginets, deputy minister of health in Ukraine,

said in a statement. Ironically, health officials believe the polio vaccine, coupled with low immunization rates, is behind the latest outbreak. The polio vaccines used in Ukraine contain a live but weakened virus. When a child is immunized, the virus replicates in the intestine and is excreted. Typically, the weakened virus can confer immunity to an unvaccinated child. But in rare cases, the weakened virus can mutate, grow stronger, and infect an unvaccinated child. In a population like Ukraine's, in which the vaccination rate is only 50 percent, the virus can circulate for a long time and mutate into a form that can paralyze and kill.



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

by **Roger Drinnon**

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

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

At the 2013 Youth Gathering in San Antonio, participants packaged more than 322,000 meals for distribution in and around the city through a partnership with Feeding Children Everywhere, an organization that "empowers and mobilizes people to assemble healthy meals for hungry children."

Held every three years, the

Gathering brings both youth and adults together for five days to spend time in God's Word, worship, service and fellowship with others from across the Synod as thousands of teens will be empowered to grow spiritually in acts of Christ-centered mercy and service to others," said Gray.



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

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## No New Year's debt next time?

Dear Dave,

We've always just assumed that we would use credit cards for Christmas, and accepted the fact that there would be a mountain of debt to pay off in January and February. Can you tell us how to make it through the Christmas season next year without accumulating debt?  
Carol

Dear Carol,

Giving is a wonderful thing if your intentions—and your finances—are in the right place. But don't let yourself get trapped in the shopping bonanza just because everyone else is doing it. It's all too easy to try to justify overspending in the weeks ahead just because it's a gift.

It's pretty simple. Look at your budget, and see what you can afford to pay cash for during the holiday season.

Once you and your spouse agree on this amount, make a list, check it twice and stick to it! Include the names and

amounts you are going to spend on each person or charity. It's just common sense, but it's easy to find something in the mall you "just have to buy." That's where problems start.

Giving is not meant to be stressful on your finances. Give with the right intentions, and give with a financial plan in mind that does not include debt.

Another thing to remember is Christmas always falls on December 25th. Don't wait until Thanksgiving to realize it's right around the corner. You could even get a real jump on things, and set a little bit aside each month toward Christmas starting right now!

—Dave

### The best of the three

Dear Dave,

I'm 61 and on disability, but I'm completely debt-free and I have more than \$1 million in assets. I even try to spend no



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

**davesays**

more than four percent of the principal each year, so I don't dip into it. I need to buy a better car, and I realize that I have three options — pay cash, do a lease or finance the vehicle. What do you suggest?  
Linda

Dear Linda,

There's no way I'll ever tell you to lease or finance a car. You have a nice, peaceful financial life, and you don't want to mess that up.

New car leases are one of the biggest rip-offs on the planet. Consumer Reports, and my calculator, both say leasing is the most expensive way to operate a vehicle. And why would you want the hassle of car payments when you're in such good shape with your money?

I'm alright with you buying a new car, because for someone like you it's such a small portion of your overall financial picture. I advise people to always buy good, used cars unless they have a net worth or \$1 million or more, and you definitely fall into that category. Still, my advice is to pay cash or don't do the deal.

You're more than able to do this every few years and not move the needle where your finances are concerned.

Go get that new, better car, Linda. Just don't go into debt to make it happen!

—Dave

Jeremy

Dear Jeremy,

Are you serious? You're in a financial crisis, and you ask if it's okay to buy a rental property? No, no, no!

Right now, you have a huge mess on your hands and you need to work like crazy to clean it up. That means living on rice and beans for the foreseeable future. It means no vacations, and you should not see the inside of a restaurant unless you're working there. You should not buy a rental property. Even if you did, this plan assumes that it's constantly occupied and the renter actually pays. Use whatever money you have to get out of debt, and live simple, inexpensive lives until you get this behind you.

### No, no, no!

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are recent graduates with advanced degrees. We also have about \$300,000 in student loan debt. We're thinking about buying a rental property, and the plan is to get a mortgage with monthly payments of \$400 and charge \$800 in rent. We could use the extra to help pay off our debt. Do you think this is a good idea?

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*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an overflowing stream. - Amos 5:24*

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# opinion

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## Who are the Christians that are supporting Trump?

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

### ANALYSIS

Growing popularity of Trump with evangelicals and Catholics confuses political class

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

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

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

If the disconnect between Republican Party leaders and much of the base is evident, it may exist among Christian leaders and the average Christian voter too. Immediately following the televised Republican debate in Cleveland, Trump

shot up among Evangelicals in Iowa, which is the first opportunity for candidates to get a head start in their delegate count.

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

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

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

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

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

The Daily Beast published a piece in August titled, "Why Evangelicals Worship Trump." The piece chronicles some of Trump's quieter support of Evangelical ministries, including Samaritan's Purse, and Billy Graham affiliated ministries. Trump spoke to raucous applause at Liberty University in 2012, and reportedly took time visiting campus leaders and students, instead of merely jetting in and out on his plane after his talk.

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



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

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

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

Trump has made similar outreach to Christian leaders such as Tony Perkins of the Family Research Council and Ralph Reed.

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

Others question the support he is getting. Carmen Fowler LaBerge, president of the Presbyterian Lay Committee, argued that Trump's Evangelical followers are likely the type who have embraced a bastardized version of the Gospel that has

more to do with positive thinking and American capitalism than the teachings of Jesus.

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

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

But regardless of his church attendance

■ Please see TRUMP on next page

## Islam is no Peaceful Religion



CLINT  
DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Former Republican President George W. Bush stated less than three weeks after America was attacked in 2001 that "The face of terror is not the true faith of Islam. That's not what Islam is all about. Islam is peace." Current Democratic President, Barrack Obama, agrees along with many other elected officials. Is it true? Is Islam a religion of peace?

I respectfully disagree. Yes, the majority of Muslims are peaceful but Islam itself is not. Ali Gomaa, the Grand

Mufti of Egypt, declared that "Muslims must kill non-believers wherever they are unless they convert to Islam." Where does Mr. Gomaa and other scholars get such ideas? Their teachings come from Islam's sacred text and the example of its founder, the Prophet Muhammad. The Quran says, "Slay them (the infidels) wherever you catch them, and turn them out from where they have turned you out, for tumult and oppression are worse than slaughter" (2:191). Some Muslim's may choose a moderate approach and ignore this, others may counter it with an opposing Quran teaching, but others obey this command.

If someone is a non-Muslim, albeit an atheist, Christian, Jew, Hindu or Buddhist, and refuses to convert to Islam, they are an infidel and vulnerable to confrontation, especially if they live in an Islamic nation. If someone abandons their Muslim faith, tries to evan-

gelize Muslims, speaks out against Islam, or violates Islamic Sharia Law, their lives are at risk.

Islam itself, not fringe groups or leaders, provide the foundation for the appalling Islamic-motivated atrocities we have witnessed in breaking news stories. It is just too wide spread to deny. One expert found that since 9/11 there have been over 20,000 of these attacks, averaging about one every five hours, somewhere in the world.

The stark contrast between Christianity and Islam is found in Jesus' own words when He stated that "In me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). How did He overcome? It was not done with a sword but with His cross. He voluntarily laid His life down on that gruesome and torturous cross that others might live. Then, He rose again showing His power over evil and death.



Because of Jesus' sacrifice, His goodness and peace is available to all — Muslims, Jews, and people of any or no religion. His kindness and compassion is heralded across the globe with His words "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).

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



## DEAR EDITOR,

Considering the simple definition of a "flat tax" - a single rate with no deductions - many proposals being bandied about by 2016 presidential hopefuls are not truly "flat."

The 10% "tithe" proposed by one hopeful is flat, but, without significant - really significant - spending cuts, 10% won't generate sufficient tax revenues to be effective. That hopeful has since received a partial economic-reawakening and upped his proposal to 15%. Unfortunately, 15% will also be ineffective.

A true flat-tax rate would have to be in the range of 21-25% to be effective.

And, a true flat tax would result in a substantial tax increase for the low and middle classes. For example, a couple with combined earnings of \$50,000 now pay about \$2,500. Assuming a 15% flat tax, that couple would pay \$7,500 ... three times more.

The pretend "flat tax" proposals - that do have deductions - would result in a plan similar to the IRS plan we are currently burdened with and, as most Americans agree, must be eliminated.

With a consumption tax, however, you don't pay based on what you earn. Instead you are levied on what you spend, and you are in complete control of how much that is.

With a FAIRtax, you also receive a monthly refund of the taxes you have already paid in connection with the purchase of essential items.

Another big advantage of FAIRtax is that it eliminates the intrusive IRS. There are many other major advantages too. FAIRtax.org clearly explains what they are.

Joe O'Hara

## DEAR EDITOR,

The federal tax code has grown to over 74,000 pages. Nobody understands it, too large to administer, full of loop holes and encourages bad practices. Direct taxation discourages production, income, savings and investment. We want more jobs, but have a regressive tax on jobs of 15.3%, shared 50/50 by the employee

and the employer. Production as in labor and creation is what creates more jobs, a vibrant economy, improves the standard of living and builds a larger tax base, but we tax production. The 47% think they are not paying federal taxes, but in fact they are paying over \$0.28 per dollar in embedded business taxes as a hidden regressive sales tax. You see all taxes, fees, etc. to businesses are costs that increase prices and are passed onto the next buyer until paid by the final consumer. The USA has the highest business taxes in the world thus raising the prices for USA goods, but imported goods do not carry that same high tax burden.

Flat taxes and rate changes are not the answer as they still tax labor and creation, need the IRS with annual tax filing, use tax withholding and most plans still tax jobs. A flat tax may make it easy to file your income tax, but we have been there before and politicians know the tax system will quickly revert back to its old ways. The value added tax (VAT) is another new tax without eliminating any old taxes. It is called a consumption tax but still taxes businesses and opens up a whole new tax play ground for the politicians, lobbyists and special interests. Both the flat tax and the VAT still need the 16th Amendment and are not solutions to the real problems.

There is a solution called the FAIRtax®, a bill of 132 pages (double spaced) in Congress HR 25 / S 155 that does address all of the problems mentioned above. There are now 80 in Congress supporting the FAIRtax (73 House and 7 Senate). The FAIRtax is real "replace and repeal tax reform". It abolishes all federal business and personal, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare and self-employment taxes and replaces them with one simple, visible, federal retail sales tax - collected by existing state sales tax authorities. The FAIRtax is easy to understand, has no tax loopholes and one tax rate. It collects the same tax revenue with a progressive sales/consumption tax on new goods and services of \$0.23 per dollar. The FAIRtax has only one tax break, called a Prebate that is a monthly tax rebate based on family size. The Prebate helps most the impoverished and lower income and decreases in value as income and wealth increase. The Prebate makes the FAIRtax a progressive tax plan. The FAIRtax promises real long term growth for jobs and the economy. The 16th Amendment would be repealed with companion legislation. Learn more at FAIRtax.org.

Paul Livingston

## PARENTING IN AMERICA

## Outlook, worries, aspirations are strongly linked to financial situation

There are deep divisions among U.S. parents today rooted in economic well-being, according to a new Pew Research Center survey. Parents' outlooks, worries and aspirations for their children are strongly linked to financial circumstances.

For lower-income parents, limited resources can restrict their children's access to a safe environment and to the kinds of enrichment activities that affluent parents may take for granted. For example, higher-income parents are nearly twice as likely as lower-income parents to rate their neighborhood as an "excellent" or "very good" place to raise kids (78% vs. 42%). About half of lower-income parents with school-age children (52%) say affordable, high-quality after-school activities are hard to find in their community, and far more higher-income parents than lower-income parents say their children are engaged in sports or organizations such as the scouts or take lessons in music, dance or art.

Economic well-being also shapes the worries and concerns of American parents. Lower-income parents are more likely than those with higher incomes to express concerns about their children being victims of violence. At least half of parents with family incomes less than \$30,000 say they worry that their child or children might be kidnapped (59%) or get beat up or attacked (55%), shares that are at least 15 percentage points higher than among parents with incomes above \$75,000. And about half (47%) of these lower-income parents worry that their children might be shot at some point, more than double the share among higher-income parents. At least half of all parents, regardless of income, worry that their



more mothers than fathers say they are doing a very good job raising their children (51% vs. 39%), and Millennial mothers are particularly inclined to rate themselves positively. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) moms ages 18 to 34 say they are doing a very good job as a parent, a higher share than Millennial dads (43%) or any other generational group.

In several key ways, mothers and fathers approach parenting differently. Mothers are more likely than fathers to say that they sometimes are overprotective of their children (68%, compared with 54% of dads), give in too quickly (50% vs. 35%) and praise their children too much (36% vs. 29%). Mothers also have more extensive support networks that they rely on for advice about parenting.

Many parents struggle to find high quality, affordable child care. About six-in-ten (62%) parents with infants or preschool-age children say that it's hard to find child care in their community that is both affordable and high quality, and this is true across income groups.

About half of American parents (54%) say that parents could never be too involved in a child's education, but about four-in-ten (43%) say too much involvement could be a bad thing. White parents are far more likely than black or Hispanic parents to say too much parental involvement in a child's education could be a bad thing: 51% of white parents say this, compared with only 23% of black parents and 28% of Hispanic parents.

You can read the full report at [pewsocialtrends.org/2015/12/17/parenting-in-america/](http://pewsocialtrends.org/2015/12/17/parenting-in-america/).

children might be bullied or struggle with anxiety or depression at some point, but for parents with annual family incomes of \$75,000 or higher, these concerns trump all others tested in the survey.

The survey, conducted Sept. 15-Oct. 13, 2015, among 1,807 U.S. parents with children younger than 18, examines parents' assessments of the job they are doing raising their children, their parenting values and philosophies, involvement in their children's education, child care arrangements and children's extracurricular activities. The report looks at differences across racial and ethnic groups, socioeconomic groups and generations, as well as between mothers and fathers.

## Among the findings:

A declining share of children live in two-parent households. Today, 69% of children younger than 18 are living with two parents, down from 87% in 1960. A record-low 62% of children live with two married parents, while 7% live with two cohabiting parents. Meanwhile, the share of single-parent households has increased threefold from 9% in 1960 to 26% in 2014. The economic outcomes for these different types of families vary dramatically.

Most parents say they're doing a good job raising their kids. Among all parents,

## TRUMP

continued from page 6

or missteps, supporters and observers say they are overshadowed by his authenticity, the establishment backlash and what is perceived by many as failure in Washington. As Peggy Noonan argues in the Wall Street Journal, Trump's appeal extends far beyond the Republican Party base or politics.

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

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

## "FACTS" AND "FEAR"



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

## myopinion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Imagine His possibilities!



# 2016 Respect Life Guide

## What does it mean to be pro-life?

by **Paul Stark**

Every human being matters, and we ought to act accordingly

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

### What we are for

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

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

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

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

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

### What we oppose

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

Pro-lifers oppose abortion because it takes the life of a human being before he or she is born. The scientific facts of embryology and developmental biology make clear that the unborn (the human embryo or fetus) is a distinct and living human organism, a full-fledged (though immature) member of the

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

species *Homo sapiens*. Each of us was once an embryo and a fetus, just as we were once infants, toddlers and adolescents.

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

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

We oppose embryonic stem cell research (but not

adult or non-embryonic stem cell research) and human cloning because they require the destruction of human embryos. Human embryos are human beings in the embryonic phase of life.

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



### Living our conviction

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

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

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

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

Supporting pro-life educational and legislative

efforts through organizations in your community.

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

It is about loving our neighbors as we love ourselves.

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

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

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

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## Rally and March For Life to be held in Topeka January 22

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

The agenda for the event is as follows:

8:30 AM REGISTRATION - Location this year for registration/donuts/exhibit booths, as well as workshops, will be in the downstairs Capitol’s Visitor Center inside the North Entrance, NOT, as before, on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.

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

9:00 - 10:00 WORKSHOPS - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor’s Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance.

10:00 - 11:00 WORKSHOPS REPEATED

11:00 - 12:30 CATHOLIC MASS - Location: Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC)

11:30 - 2:30 LUNCH - Available early for those not going

to Mass; later for those who are. Free will offering. Suggested \$5.

12:30 - 12:45 MARCH FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

1:30 - 2:30 PM WORKSHOPS - Titles and locations will be the same as those in the morning.

2:30 - 3:30 PM WORKSHOPS REPEATED

To enter the Capitol, enter on the North side only. There is a drive-way for drop offs. Metered parking on the street is available. Under the capitol there is a two hour maximum. Other options are the Crosby Parking Garage, 8th Ave between Kansas & Jackson; Centre City Parking Garage, 9th & Kansas Avenue; Park-N-Shop, on Quincy between 6th & 7th; Coronado Parking Garage, on Quincy between 9th & 10th.

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

Emergency Numbers for KFL Personnel are (785) 383-8636 and (913) 406-4446.



# “What are we doing to them?”

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

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

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

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

In a survey by the Guttmacher Institute, a sizeable percentage of women who sought an abortion responded that they did so because



**Chris Eakin**

## onpoint

health of the fetus. These potential health problems could be many types of diagnoses, from cystic fibrosis to mental retardation to Down syndrome. In fact, it has been estimated that between 60 percent and 90 percent of prenatal Downs syndrome diagnoses result in abortion.

Some of the individuals I loved the most in my direct support position had Down. Their affection for others was infectious; I can't even count the number of requests for hugs I received. Their smiles were adorable and made each workday brighter.



Their comments were hilarious and kept me on my toes. Yet, between 60 percent and 90 percent of prenatal Down syndrome diagnoses result in abortion. Imagine what the world would be like with more people who

have Down? But, as with everything in this present life, there are costs...

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

And how would I pay for their medical care? Would I be able to keep a job and care for them? What if taking care of them was too much for me and I had to place them in a home with people who have similar needs? Could I trust other people to look after my child? I imagine these are all questions parents who receive prenatal diagnoses for their children ask themselves. Without community support, these parents' lives would change drastically. Fortunately, a system exists to assist individuals with disabilities and their families, which has the possibility to ease these pressures...but unfortunately, it is a system that is continually wearing thin.

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

A field that has so much potential to make a positive difference in people's lives is becoming increasingly inadequate. And it's not because the caregivers don't care, but because we are still pushing individuals with disabilities to the margins by directing our attention elsewhere.

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

So what does pro-life mean to me? To me, being pro-life is about more than being pro-birth.

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

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

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

It means treating each person with dignity and respect because God has created us all in his image.

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

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

Admittedly, this is a lofty goal in a world marred by sin, but as Christ's

followers we are called to build God's kingdom here while we wait for him to make all things new and set all things right. If we say we are pro-life, we must be consistently pro-life--from conception to life's final breath. We must follow our values and assume responsibility to care for, provide support for, and ensure the flourishing of all human beings. What more can we do for both the

unborn and the marginalized to show that we are truly pro-life, not only pro-birth?

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



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## Christian Neighbor Center

(also known as Christian Street Witness, Inc.)  
107 SW 14th St., Topeka, KS 66612  
785-354-8763

“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.” Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)

**Our Mission:** to witness the Good News of Jesus Christ, to feed and clothe the hungry, to teach the Bible and Christian conduct, to help mankind by establishing rehabilitation projects, and by engaging in business to support the above-mentioned goals.

The Christian Neighbor Center offers a safe place for Christians to become acquainted with “street people” and the difficulties they face. This in turn provides the opportunity for Christians to be a living witness to people in crisis.

**Who we help:** the down and out, abused women & children, drug addicts, alcoholics, widows & orphans, ex-convicts, etc.

**How we help:** Christian counseling, rehabilitation & support services to establish such individuals in a stable and productive lifestyle; help to find and maintain employment, Bible studies, telephone crisis counseling, and more.

**How you can partner with us & God in this ministry:**

| Daily needs:                   | Reconstruction needs:        |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| • clean clothing items         | • 30 double-pane windows     |
| • non-perishable food items    | • bathroom remodel           |
| • paper plates & napkins       | • kitchen remodel & plumbing |
| • coffee & filters             | • new exit doors             |
| • plastic utensils             | • new carpet for Chapel      |
| • dish soap, aluminum foil     | • sidewalk replacement       |
| • cleaning items, toilet paper | • driveway repair            |
| • 40 gallon trash bags         | • new furnace                |
| • stamps                       | • central air installation   |

xxxxxx

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

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

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

However—and not unexpectedly—Johnson County abortionists challenged the law and secured a legal injunction preventing the ban from yet going into effect. The extremist ruling came from a Topeka district judge, Larry Hendricks, who adopted the abortion attorneys' novel claims that a state right to abortion—broader than the right to abortion created by the U.S. Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade—was secretly residing in the 1859 Kansas Constitution!

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

For Kansans, the potential that a liberal-leaning appellate court and the state Supreme Court might actually uphold the absurd notion of a state right to abortion cannot be understated.



**Kathy Ostrowski**

Kansans for Life  
Legislative Director

## onpoint

ed. If upheld, EVERY state pro-life-protective law would be overturned and Kansans would be forced to PAY for abortions. Much prayer is needed!

### More Pro-Life news in 2015

• Kansas abortionist Kris Neuhaus continues to battle the 2012 revocation of her medical license from the

state Board of Healing Arts, which called her “incapable of successful rehabilitation.” Neuhaus’ sole income for years was rubber-stamping approvals for

late-term abortions for Wichita abortionist George Tiller. Her second appeal sits in the Topeka court of Judge Franklin Theis, who unbelievably allowed her first appeal. Abortions are now banned in Kansas at 22 weeks gestation due to the proven pain-capability of the unborn child at that age.

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

October by the Center for Medical Progress.

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

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

The opinion was requested by Rep. John Rubin (R-Shawnee) and verifies that in two distinct areas the “T-POPP” form contravenes current statutes that protect patients! Legislative hearings on this threat are planned to alert



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

Kansans about this “T-POPP” document on special pink paper that “nudges” denial of life saving treatment.

As one can see from this brief

update, liberal courts harm pro-life interests. Kansans for Life has prioritized reform of the Judicial Nomination Process. For more, see [www.kfl.org](http://www.kfl.org).

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

## NFL Player Will Headline March for Life in Washington D.C.

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

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

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



icipation in pro-life marches. The couple have six children and currently live in Greenwich, Conn.

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

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

## Topeka, Kansas Friday, Jan. 22

### Rally, Learn, Pray & March for Life!

# STOP DISMEMBERING UNBORN BABIES

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

**8:30 AM REGISTRATION** - Location this year for registration/donuts/exhibit booths, as well as workshops, will be in the downstairs Capitol's Visitor Center inside the North Entrance, NOT, as before, on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.

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

**9:00 - 10:00 WORKSHOPS** - Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor's Ctr., basement level, North Capitol Entrance.  
**Room 3 North:** Titles to be announced.  
**Room 4 North:** Titles to be announced.

**10:00 - 11:00 WORKSHOPS REPEATED**

**11:00 - 12:30 CATHOLIC MASS** - Location: Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC) --see map below.

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

**12:30 - 12:45 MARCH FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KANSAS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

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

**1:30 - 2:30 PM WORKSHOPS** - Titles and locations will be the same as those in the morning.

**2:30 - 3:30 PM WORKSHOPS REPEATED**

**6th Avenue** (top)

**8th Avenue** (middle)

**10th Avenue** (bottom)

**North Capitol Entrance** (circled in red)

**South Capitol Steps** (circled in red)

**12:45 RALLY** (circled in red)

**TPAC** (Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium)

**Mater Dei Assumption Church**

**9th Street**

**JACKSON** (vertical street name)

**KANSAS** (vertical street name)

**QUINCY** (vertical street name)

**MONROE** (vertical street name)

**INTERSATE 70** (vertical street name)

**Capitol Entrance:**

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

**Parking:**

**On street:** 10 hr. North & West of Capitol; 2 hr. spots more available. Feed the meter. They ticket.

**Under capitol:** (2 hrs maximum, or ticket)

**Crosby Pkg. Garage:** 8th Ave btw Kansas & Jackson;

**Centre City Parking Garage:** 9th & Kansas Avenue;

**Park-N-Shop:** Quincy btw 6th & 7th;

**Coronado Parking Garage:** Quincy btw 9th & 10th.

**Emergency Numbers for KFL Personnel:**

(785) 383-8636 and (913) 406-4446;

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



## New Monitor for The Women's Clinic Makes Big Difference

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

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

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

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

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

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

Contact The Women's Clinic today at 816-836-9000 or visit [www.twcfriends.com](http://www.twcfriends.com) for ways you can help save lives!

# Pro-Life Award to Kansas & Gov. Brownback on Jan. 22

The National Pro-Life Religious Council will honor Kansans and Gov. Sam Brownback on Jan. 22 with the National Pro-Life Recognition Award for the enactment of the "Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act."

The presentation is part of the annual events at the Washington, D.C. March for Life, marking the tragic 1973 U.S. Supreme Court Roe v Wade ruling that legalized abortion and the destruction of an estimated 58 million unborn children.

Fr. Frank Pavone, head of Priests for Life and president of the NPR Council, has announced that Gov. Brownback will be a guest of honor at the prayer gathering at Constitution Hall, 1776 D Street NW, in Washington, D.C., opening with a Catholic Mass at 7:30 a.m., and followed by an interdenominational service from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The event is free and open to the public, with no tickets required.

Members of the NPR Council Host committee include representatives from the National Right to Life Committee, Family Research Council, Alliance Defending Freedom, Bott Radio Network, and other pro-life groups.

Gov. Brownback released this statement:

"As Governor of Kansas I have signed 15 Right to Life bills reaffirming our commitment that life at all stages is sacred and valuable. I appreciate the efforts of the National Pro-life Religious Council, Priests for Life and their allied organizations in recognizing the people of Kansas and their elected officials at the National Prayer Service. Kansas has enacted legislation protecting unborn children from dismemberment abortions, and I encourage other states to do the same. I ask you, therefore, to join me at this prayer service, so that the action we have taken in Kansas can be an encouragement to similar efforts throughout this

great land."

The historic "Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act" prohibits a gruesome method in which the abortionist tears apart a living, well-formed, unborn child—piece by piece—with sharp metal clamps and scissors.

The draft legislation for the "Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act" was developed by Kansans for Life with the National Right to Life Committee; Sen. Garrett Love (R-Montezuma) was lead sponsor. Public support for the bill was overwhelming and ceremonial bill signings by Gov. Brownback were held in four Kansas cities.

- The Act is currently blocked in Kansas by a temporary injunction, awaiting a ruling from the State Court of Appeals.

- Oklahoma passed the Act and it is under injunction in federal court.

- The Act is being considered in several other state legislatures and has been filed in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The "Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act" was crafted to be upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court, with the same reasoning they cited for upholding a ban on partial-birth method abortions in 2007 (emphasis added):

"[W]hen it has a rational basis to act, and it does not impose an undue burden, the State may use its regulatory power to bar certain procedures and substitute others, all in furtherance of its legitimate interests in regulating the medical



2015 Rally for Life at the State Capitol in Topeka

profession in order to promote unborn." [Gonzales v Carhart, 550 respect for life, including life of the U.S. at 158]



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## Workshop for Artists Scheduled in NOTO

What do artists and entrepreneurs have in common? A lot.

Artists, just like traditional small business owners, have to wear many hats—creator, fabricator, accountant, marketer, technologist, and more. And, just like traditional small business owners, artists can find this to be a daunting task. How do some artists make the leap to sustainable and profitable artistic practices?

Area artists can find the answers at the "What Works" Workshop, to be held January 7th at NOTO Community Arts Center, 935 N Kansas Ave, in the NOTO Arts District. The workshop begins at 6:30 p.m.

Through their work with over 500 artists (from musicians, to writers, to painters, to filmmakers), the Artist INC program has identified the common behaviors of successful artist entrepreneurs. In the "What Works/What Doesn't?" workshop they will share those behaviors and leave attending artists ready to apply them to their own art practice.

The workshop includes discussion of

portfolio careers, goal setting and planning, communications strategy, and financial planning. The last 30 minutes of the workshop is dedicated to audience needs, so questions are welcome.

You can download a free copy of the What Works Workbook at <http://www.artistinckc.com/docs/default-source/documents/what-works-workbook.pdf?sfvrsn=0>

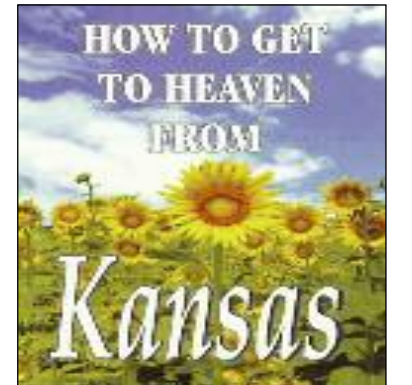
## First Friday Art Walk to be held Jan. 8 due to holiday

The First Friday Art Walk and NOTO Market will be held this month on January 8 instead of the first, due to the New Year's Day holiday.

During this monthly event the NOTO arts district enables visitors to enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and flea market items. Entertainment is also available at many of the venues.

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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.

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](mailto: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](mailto:hagen1525@gmail.com).

**THE WRIGHTS** - Jan. 3, 10:30am, Oakland UMC, 801 NE Chester. 289-8905. [thewrightsmministries.com](http://thewrightsmministries.com)

**LINCOLN TRIO** - Jan. 9, 7:30-10pm. Washburn University, White Concert Hall. For info: 273-2767

**THE SPINNERS** - Jan. 17, 7-10pm. Prairie Band Casino, 12305 150th Rd. Mayotte, KS. For info: 966-7777

**ILLIJAM IN CONCERT** - Jan. 23, 7pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. This is what happens when a white Christian drum line junky from suburbia marries Hip-Hop. Performing with Magoh. For info: 272-0443 or [illjam.com](http://illjam.com)

**WINTER JAM**. January 24, 5:45 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. \$10 admission at the door. Featuring For King & Country, Matthew West along with Crowder, RED, Sidewalk Prophets, NewSong, KB, Trip Lee, Lauren Daigle and evangelist Tony Nolan. 816-979-7100.

**SCOTT FRAKER** - Jan. 24, 7-9pm. Grace Community Church, 310 East 8th, Overbrook, KS. Former bass singer for the gospel quartet The Chosen Few at Silver Dollar City. He has an incredible voice with a 4 1/2 octave range. Free. Donations accepted.

**THE WRIGHTS** - Jan. 31, 10:00am, Heritage Baptist Church, 1937 NE Madison. 289-8905. [thewrightsmministries.com](http://thewrightsmministries.com)

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

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

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

**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 Menkveld - 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

**LIFEFEEST** - 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

**"FIRST FRIDAY EXPLOSION!"** - Jan. 1, 7:00pm, Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. Special Guest speaker, Min. Josh Mayfield; also speaking: Min. Greg Bland. Also, El Shaddi Ministries' Praise and Worship Team will be featured, as well as The Williams Sisters. Quindarious Johnson will MC! Everyone is Welcome! FREE event!

**NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY** - Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29, Feb. 5, 12 & 19, 9:30-10:45, First Baptist of Lyndon, 129 W 15th, Lyndon. Hosea: Unfailing Love Changes Everything by author Jennifer Rothschild. Finding a love we dream of - full of hope that lasts in the difficulties and harshness. All ladies welcome. Books are \$14. Bring your own or call to reserve a copy. Building community in Christ.

**YOUTH RALLY WITH GOD** - Jan. 8, 1pm, Solid Rock Action Center, 118 S 2nd St, Osage City. Youth come spend a few hours with us and go deeper in your walk with God: two current prayer and belief movie releases, worship music, special speaker Malachi Bryant, prizes, fellowship, food & drink. (785 ) 207 6231

**"STAR OF HOPE"** - Jan. 10, 4pm, Kansas Avenue UMC, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. An Epiphany celebration with Nativities on display, pageant, special music and chocolate buffet. Public invited. For info: 785-234-0507.

**PERSPECTIVES CLASS** - Jan. 17-May 8, 6:30-9:30pm, Fellowship Bible Church. Get threaded into the biggest story of all time. For info: Joshua Thompson 785-554-9354

**ANNUAL HAM AND BEAN DINNER** - Jan. 17, 11:30am. Highland Park United Methodist Church, 2914 SE Michigan.

**POVERTY MEAL** - Jan. 24, 12:15pm Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. A simple meal to raise awareness of worldwide hunger, and to raise funds for the assembly of 25,000 meals on April 16 for Kids Against Hunger.

**MLK JR. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE** - Feb. 17, 6pm, The New Beginning Baptist Church, 1329 SW 37th St. A Worship Fellowship, in conjunction with the Living The Dream Committee. Praising God for how He blessed us through the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and for how he continues to bless us as we come together in the Name of Jesus. 862 1141 or [BaptistMinistersUnion@gmail.com](mailto:BaptistMinistersUnion@gmail.com)

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR** - Jan. 21, 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](mailto:info@century-health.com). Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

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

**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.

## 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@tsopl.org](mailto:nhoni@tsopl.org)

**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.makinmoves.com](http://www.makinmoves.com)

**SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING** - First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or [jwilson@safestreeets.org](mailto:jwilson@safestreeets.org)

**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

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

**ALBERT BLOCH: SCENES FROM THE LIFE OF CHRIST** - Ongoing display at Mulvane Art Museum, 1700 S W College Ave. This exhibition presents very rarely seen works about key events and teachings in Christ's life by internationally known American painter and poet Albert Bloch (1882-1961). These paintings, watercolors and drawings are infused with his deep spirituality.

**PUBLIC SKATING AT EXPOCENTRE** - Jan 1, 3-5pm; Jan. 2, 12:30-2:30 & 9:45-11:45pm; Jan. 16, 9:45-11:45pm; Jan. 24, 4-6pm; Jan. 30, 12:30-2:30 & 9:45-11:45pm. \$7 admission, \$3 for skates.

**PRAYER GATHERING** - Jan. 4, 6:30 - 7:30 pm in Room 101-B, Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library. Worship and prayer for Franklin Graham's Decision America Tour 2016

**LIVE TRIVIA KICKOFF DOWNTOWN** - Jan. 4, 6-8pm. HNB BBQ, 906 S Kansas. Every Monday night. Free. Public & teams welcome.

**TOPEKA FARM SHOW** - Jan. 5, 9am-5pm, Jan 6, 9am-8pm, Jan. 7, 9am-4pm. Kansas ExpoCentre. Free.

**WHAT WORKS WORKSHOP** - Jan 7, 6:30pm, NOTO Community Arts Center, 935 N Kansas Ave. Sharing the common behaviors of successful artist entrepreneurs so that you will be ready to apply them to your own art practice.

**OUTLAW NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MOTOR SPECTACULAR** - Jan. 8-9, 7:30pm, ExpoCentre. Friday night FREE pit party - anyone with a ticket can get into the pit party 6-7pm. Meet the drivers, get autographs and take your picture with the stars.

**AUBURN LIONS CLUB BREAKFAST BLITZ** - Jan. 9, 7:30-10:30am. Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N Washington St. Pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, and scrambled eggs. Cost: \$6, children under 4-11: \$3. For info: 256-7274

**FUNNY MONEY** - Jan. 15-Feb. 5, Topeka Civic Theatre and Academy. For info: 357-5211

**BSA TROOP 59 PANCAKE FEED** - Jan. 16, 7am-noon, Faith Lutheran Church, 1716 SW Gage. \$5 all you can eat. Also: camping equipment rummage sale.

**GEEKY GAME NIGHT** - Jan. 16, 7pm. 712 Innovations, 712 S Kansas.

**NATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY** - Jan. 16.

**HISTORIC GRAVEL ROAD RIDE (MULLET RIDE)** - Jan. 16, 10am, 6th & High St., Baldwin City. Ride has 28 and 56 mile options, connecting famous historical sites in the area. No cost. [www.kansascyclist.com](http://www.kansascyclist.com)

**ABATE OF KANSAS DISTRICT 4 BOWL - A - THON** - Jan. 17, 12 noon, West Ridge Lanes and Family Fun Center

**GALLERY TALK - ALBERT BLOCH: SCENES OF THE LIFE OF CHRIST** - Jan. 20, 4-5pm, Mulvane Art Museum. Dr. Reinhold Janzen, Guest Curator of the Bloch exhibition will give a tour of the show

**KFL RALLY FOR LIFE** - Jan. 22, 8:30am registration, donuts & booths at Capitol Rotunda; 9:00-noon - Take a tour, watch KS House in action, and other activities; 9:00-10:00 - workshops; 10:00-11:00 - workshops repeated. 11:00-12:30 Mass & prayer service at TPAC; 11:30-2:30 - lunch. 12:30-12:45 - March For Life from TPAC to Capitol steps. 12:45-1:15 - Rally on south Capitol steps. 1:30-2:30pm - workshops repeated; 2:30-3:30 - workshops repeated. For info: 785-383-8636.

**MARCH FOR LIFE 2016**. January 22. Washington DC. [www.MarchForLife.org](http://www.MarchForLife.org).

**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** - Jan. 22, 7-9pm. ExpoCentre. For info: 235-EXPO

**TOPEKA CORKS AND FORKS** - Jan 23, 6:30-11pm. 534 S Kansas, Top of the Tower. For info: 354-7746

**COMMUNITY STORYTELLING CONCERT** - Jan. 22, 7pm, Marvin Auditorium, Topeka/Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. River and Prairie Storyweavers will present a FREE family-friendly storytelling concert "Tales of Kansas" from 7-8:30 pm. (816) 896-6893 [www.rapsstories.org](http://www.rapsstories.org) [lindakuntz@yahoo.com](mailto:lindakuntz@yahoo.com)

**ILLIJAM**  
In Concert  
Jan. 23, 7pm

This is what happens when a white Christian drum line junky from suburbia marries Hip-Hop. Performing with Magoh.

First Southern Baptist Church  
1912 SW Gage Blvd.  
For info: 272-0443 or [illjam.com](http://illjam.com)

**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 & Tradeshow & some other events open to the general public!

- **C5Alive POWER Luncheons** - (2nd Thur. ea. mo.)
- **Jan. 14, 11:30-1 - at Aldersgate Village, 7220 Asbury Dr. Featuring Jeremy McDowell of Midwest Sports Productions, & Bill Severns, author of "Keepers of the Sandlot" - a new movie about parenting and baseball**
- **Feb. 11, 11:30-1, Valentine Luncheon**
- **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/C5Alive](http://facebook.com/C5Alive)

For info: [www.C5Alive.org](http://www.C5Alive.org) or [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org)

**DECISION AMERICA TOUR 2016**  
with Franklin Graham

OUR NATION IS IN TROUBLE. JESUS CHRIST IS THE ONLY HOPE.

Franklin Graham is traveling to all 50 states in 2016 to hold prayer rallies, to preach the Gospel, and to challenge believers to take a stand and take action. He'll be urging Christians to vote, to live out their faith in every part of their lives, and to pray for our nation.

**BRIEFING:**  
Pastors & Key Leaders Luncheon  
11:30 am - Tuesday, January 26, 2016  
Topeka First Assembly of God  
RSVP: [MyHopeKansas@gmail.com](mailto:MyHopeKansas@gmail.com)

[DecisionAmericaTour.com](http://DecisionAmericaTour.com) REGISTER | PRAY | ORGANIZE | PARTICIPATE

**94.5 COUNTRY BRIDAL FAIR** — Jan. 23-24, 10am. Downtown Topeka Ramada. For info and tickets: [bridalfair.94country.com](http://bridalfair.94country.com)

**PASTOR'S BRIEFING** — Jan. 26, 11:30am, First Assembly of God, 27th & Topeka Blvd. Free Luncheon for pastors and key leaders, to discuss and pray for Franklin Graham's Decision America Tour coming to Kansas in April.

**KANSAS DAY** — Jan. 29. Celebrate the state's 154th birthday.

**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, Lecompton. 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 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

**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. For info: 620-408-4450

**DADDY DAUGHTER DATE NIGHT** — Feb. 6, 4-6pm or 7-9pm. Big Gage Shelter House, 635 SW Gage. For info: 251-2600

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

## MEETINGS & CLASSES

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

**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

**NEW LADIES BIBLE STUDY** - Jan. 8, 15, 22, & 29, Feb. 5, 12 & 19, 9:30-10:45, First Baptist of Lyndon, 129 W 15th, Lyndon. Hosea: Unfailing Love Changes Everything by author Jennifer Rothschild. Finding a love we dream of- full of hope that lasts in the difficulties and harshness. All ladies welcome. Books are \$14. Bring your own or call to reserve a copy. Building community in Christ.

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING** - Jan. 8, 6:30pm, 2523 SE Indiana Ave. Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee County and our Nation. All future meetings are the first Friday of every month. To find out more about CWA go to [ks.cwfa.org](http://ks.cwfa.org). 785-861-0422

**C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON** — Jan. 14, 11:30am-1pm, Aldersgate Village, 7220 Asbury Drive. This month's Christian Chamber of Commerce luncheon will feature Jeremy McDowell of Midwest Sports Productions, with Bill Severns, author of Keepers of the Sandlot — a new movie about parenting and baseball.

• 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](mailto: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](mailto:daddysgirlsinc.com); [daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com](mailto:daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com)

**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 TROUPS** - Every Mon. 6pm. Cornerstone Comm. Church, 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs are kids age 5-18. Register online at [cornerstonetopeka.com](http://cornerstonetopeka.com). 478-2929.

**INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA** - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. [www.INGTopeka.com](http://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](http://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.topekatiiba.org](http://www.topekatiiba.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](http://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 [fxthelawn@gmail.com](mailto:fxthelawn@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.

**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](mailto: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](http://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.

**TGIV: "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](mailto: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](mailto: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: [kingdomadvisors.org](http://kingdomadvisors.org) or Jim Hanna, [james.c.hanna@ampf.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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.

**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](mailto:kittens812@att.net)

**BIBLE QUIZZING** - 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun with area Christian youth age 9-19. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. 913-593-6427; [biblequizzzer.org](http://biblequizzzer.org)

**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 Buchannan. 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 Reent 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 [topekaalananon.org](http://topekaalananon.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 [hruh@topekabilechurch.org](mailto:hruh@topekabilechurch.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](mailto:cindy.miller@alz.org).

**"BETRAYED HEART"** support group/Bible study - For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addictions 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](mailto: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.ia.org](http://sunflowerintergroup.ia.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 sup-

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port 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 Kellerman 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. Open 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, Pozez 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 faithfamilylifeministries@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

### ISIS ramping up recruitment

(WNS)--ISIS has developed into a full-fledged insurgency already active in the United States, according to a recent report. The Threat Knowledge Group, which provides training to the intelligence, defense, and homeland security communities, released the report to assess the risk of Islamic State attacks on U.S. soil in the aftermath of the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris. Although the proportional Muslim population is much higher in France than in the

U.S., the report concludes the risk of domestic attacks is high. "ISIS has already recruited supporters in the U.S. with the intent of executing domestic attacks here in America," the report states. U.S. officials have arrested 82 individuals for affiliating with ISIS since March 2014, a small part of the nearly 1,000 ISIS-related investigations the FBI is conducting. ISIS is recruiting within the United States at three times the rate of al-Qaeda, resulting in more than 250 individuals joining or attempting to join ISIS in Syria and Iraq.

## newsbriefs

### Professor's letter stirs interest nationwide

(WNS)--Since writing an open letter to college students telling them to toughen up, Oklahoma Wesleyan University president Everett Piper has been inundated with responses, most of them emphatic cries of, "Amen!" From all over the country, people are writing via social media and email to

thank Piper for his letter, entitled "This is not a day care. It's a university!," which he posted on the school's website. The message on 1 Corinthians 13—which includes the famous Bible passage "Love is patient and kind"—made the student feel uncomfortable. Piper not only rejected the complaint, but also denounced the way modern culture is teaching young people to demand protection from discomfort.



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# entertainment

**MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!**

## Star Wars for a New Generation

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

entertainment

by **Paul Asay**

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

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

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

have Darth Vader to choke wayward generals anymore, it does have a guy named Kylo Ren—a young, passionate Sith acolyte who thinks Vader walked on water.

But there are plenty of folks who'd rather not see the First Order sweep

through the galaxy like the Empire's second coming. A resurgent Republic is none too pleased with the Order's incursions. The Resistance is actively pushing back. And, indeed, the Order is terrified that Luke Skywalker—who disappeared ages ago—could return and teach a new collection of Jedi the fine art of Forceful opposition.

### POSITIVE ELEMENTS

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

a good chunk of the galaxy.

He's not alone, of course. BB-8 eventually finds himself in the company of a Jakku scavenger named Rey. She subsists by selling the semi-usable parts she finds on crashed space cruisers. Pretty much everyone on Jakku lives hand to mouth the very same way, which makes an

have been in country music forever!

So you ask, "How in the world can anything Christian be in country music?"

I'm glad you asked! In Christian Country music, the song is written as a story. In the song, there is a situation in people's lives where they need help. The Christian Country song gives the answer found in Christ. In describing the show I say, "Country music talks about real life.

Christian Country music gives the real life answer. That is why I call the music you hear on my show Country Music for Life!"

Another matter that I have identified is how many Christians do not accept this format. Yes, I choose to play the music on a secular country station. Why? I'm trying to reach people who are - like what I was - with the message found in the songs. In fact, many believers have unsaved friends who listen to country music. Those believers should be using the show as a tool to share the Gospel.

I was disappointed in October as we celebrated 20 years on radio with this show. I had five, high quality artists that

actual running contraption like BB-8 incredibly valuable. But despite the pressure to sell the thing for parts, she refuses, even beating away folks who would take the droid by force. Once she and Finn join forces (because you knew they would), she shows herself to be at least as brave and resourceful as he is. Who knows. This young lady might turn out to be the sort of savior the Resistance could really use.

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

Two more things: Family has always been an improbably big part of the Star Wars universe, and we again see the stubborn love of family powerfully at work here. And the series mainstay of "It's never too late to do better" also reemerges. Kylo Ren is Vader's evil heir apparent. And he'd like nothing more than to follow in the Sith's foul footsteps. But even he, perhaps, is not beyond salvation. (More on that later.)

came to celebrate with us. I had expected an audience between two and three hundred people. I was utterly shocked by the amount of people that showed up. The few that did were completely blown away by the talent, content and humility of the artists involved!

So as I set out in 2016, I ponder what this article is to accomplish. Obviously, I have more teaching to complete. I also hope to begin hearing from some of you readers with questions regarding Christian Country music.

Now let's do something fun. For each week in the month of January, I will be giving away the brand new CD of Peter Lewis Whitebird entitled: Ain't God Good. Tune in to The Country Parson & Lil Miss and when you hear his song, "Get My Jesus On," be the fifth caller at 785.290.9494. You will love this CD! Looking forward to hearing from you!

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](http://thecountryparson.com) 785.505.PERK



film411

**STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS**  
**STARS:** Daisy Ridley as Rey; John Boyega as Finn; Adam Driver as Kylo Ren; Oscar Isaac as Poe Dameron; Harrison Ford as Han Solo; Carrie Fisher as Leia; Mark Hamill as Luke Skywalker; Peter Mayew as Chewbacca  
**DIRECTOR:** J. Abrams (Star Trek Into Darkness, Super 8, Star Trek, Mission: Impossible III)

offers a thread of hope to the now-masked villain. "The First Order came from the Dark Side," he says. "You did not."

I like that.

It illustrates the biblical point that



the original film—is a believer.

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

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

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

### CONCLUSION

When Kylo Ren confronts aged Resistance leader Lor San Tekka, Ren takes the opportunity to bait the guy.

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

"Something far worse has happened to you," San Tekka says. And then he

while we all do evil deeds, we are not irredeemably evil. As dark as our souls are, there's the hope of light that's freely given to each of us—the possibility of redemption.

Of course, we have to embrace that hope for it to come about. We have to accept that possibility. Just as Rey and Finn choose to accept that there's another way to do things—a way practically inconceivable to those of the First Order—we have our own choice to make.

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

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

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

J.J. Abrams' take on George Lucas' monumental cultural myth returns to the spirit of the original trilogy. It's PG-13, as was Episode III: Revenge of the Sith, but despite the literally astronomical body count here, it's not as bleak as that 2005 feature.

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

## Out in the COUNTRY

by **Scott Perkins**



Happy New Year! I pray the best for your family in 2016! I also pray that your Christmas celebration was Jesus-filled!

We start a new year with Out in the Country. My original goal for this article was to expose artists that I play on my radio program to you. I've been playing Christian Country music for over 20 years on radio. During that time, I have found that I have been an educator for the genre. I have found that there are many folks that didn't know Christian Country music existed.

Let's define what Christian Country is. Country music, from its inception, has told the story about real life. As a believer, you might not like some of the story lines but the truth is: there are people who live them. Topics like; God, country, drinkin', lyin', cheatin', trucks and trains



# 2016 KICKS OFF WITH GREAT CONCERT LINEUP

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

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

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

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



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2016 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album.

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



The Goo Goo Dolls, SGD has been a consistent act to see, though relatively unknown.

These guys are worth seeing, especially for the ten dollar price!

Later in the year, but



still early, Tenth Avenue North plan to continue their All The Earth Is Holy Ground tour. Stopping in Joplin on March 3rd, TAN will be touring with hit rockers Hawk



Nelson and I Am They.

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

## How young is too young for Star Wars?

by **Michael Foust**

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

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

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

I watched "The Force Awakens" with



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

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

know this film would terrify my almost-4-year-old son, and there are a few scenes that potentially could give my 7-year-old son some bad dreams. But I am considering taking him to it, with the understanding that I need to shield his eyes in at least two specific scenes (both involving Kylo Ren).

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

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

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

Similar to the original trilogy, the violence in "The Force Awakens" is mostly bloodless, and it's largely absent any coarse language (I counted two h—s and one d—ns, all used by Finn). And it's (obviously) also void of sexual content, with not even a kiss on the lips.

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

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

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

## Christianity Today names 2015 Book of the Year

### Onward: Engaging the Culture without Losing the Gospel

Russell Moore (B&H)

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

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

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

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

### AWARD OF MERIT Spiritual Friendship: Finding Love in the Church as a Celibate, Gay Christian

Wesley Hill (Brazos)

"Spiritual Friendship is challenging

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

"Hill tackles not only the currently pressing topic of what hope Christianity has to offer those experiencing themselves as gay or lesbian, but also the deeper topic of friendship in an expressive-individualist age—something that's relevant to everyone, regardless of sexual orientation. The book makes an acute diagnosis of our atomized lives in a world that imagines sex as the only source of real intimacy, and marriage as the only setting for real commitment. It retrieves elements of the historic church tradition relating to friendship and commitment. And all this is presented in sensitive, evocative language, with a reverence for literature, language, and art that makes it a delight to read. Hill's account has a raw, even wrenching, honesty that's essential to authentic Christian testimony in our broken world." —Andy Crouch, Christianity Today.

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



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## 10 Myths About Home Care for the Elderly

By Zak Griffith

When Carrie Miller's husband was hospitalized after a heart attack, his doctors recommended an in-home care professional to help him get back on his feet. Several times a week, a physical therapist came into the home to improve her husband's mobility and a speech therapist arrived to work on some of the language skills he had temporarily lost.

Susan Ryan's mom didn't have major health problems, but as she aged, her arthritis was becoming more debilitating. She had lost some mobility, which made tasks like getting up the stairs, bathing and cooking more difficult. So Susan hired an agency to help out with duties such as cooking, bathing, light housekeeping and accompanying her mom shopping.

For many families, this can be a godsend. But others worry about letting a stranger into the home. There is still much confusion and myths surrounding home care. Let's do some myth busting.

**Myth No. 1:** They don't care about their patients.

**Reality:** Miller admits that was a concern for her and her family, especially because she knew her husband wasn't at his best. "My concern was that they wouldn't care for him properly," she says.

Dr. Michael Fleming, Chief Medical Officer for national home health care company, Amedisys, counters that concern by explaining that nurses, therapists and aides base their treatment on the person's individual needs. A profession-

al will establish a rapport, make them feel at ease, understand their hesitations and make the experience as comfortable as possible. To accomplish this, the agency staff should analyze their needs before placing someone in the home to make sure the caregiver is prepared and suited to meet them. If you feel this is not the case, contact the agency immediately and request another employee, or look for another agency.

**Myth No. 2:** They steal from the elderly and/or abuse them.

**Reality:** Most of us have heard the stories about mistreated patients or those who were victims of theft. For those reasons, some people avoid using outside services entirely. Dr. Fleming believes the majority of those kinds of crimes are committed by unskilled, independent caregivers or sitters who are not hired through a reputable agency. That's why it's important to perform your own due diligence when hiring. Ask about criminal background checks on employees before hiring. Another protection is to make sure the company is licensed and bonded, procedures which are required of all agencies that receive payment from Medicare. He also suggests that people ask an agency how it trains the home health care workers it employs and whether employees are certified. Ask if the agency provides a supervisor to evaluate the quality of care on a regular basis.

**Myth No. 3:** Hiring an Outside Professional is only for people who are very sick.

**Reality:** It's true that seniors at home who are very ill or recovering from a serious operation may seek the services

of a nurse or other licensed medical professional. This type of care can cover a wide range of medical and therapeutic services, such as those needed for post-operative rehabilitation, wound care, mobility training, pain management or IV therapy or injections.

Nonmedical care is also available and a good option for those who just need some extra help and attention around the house. Nonmedical care often revolves around the activities of daily living (ADLs) such as eating, dressing, bathing, housework, driving and shopping. Depending on the situation, your parent may benefit from both types of services.

**Myth No. 4:** Only really old people need home care.

**Reality:** Although many people who utilize home health care are 65 years old or older, it can also be used for younger people who are recovering from an injury or dealing with a chronic illness.

**Myth No. 5:** I have no say about who comes into my parent's home.

**Reality:** Reputable agencies will try to match similar interests and personalities that connect with your parent. For instance, Home Instead Senior Care, an international agency makes every attempt to try to match workers with seniors who share the same hobbies and histories.

The agency needs to continue to work with you and your parent to find someone who has the personality and skills

that match what they need. Finding the right fit for an elder requires some upfront work on the agency's part, says Val Halamandaris, president of the National Association for Home Care & Hospice, a Washington, D.C.-based trade association. The agency staff should analyze your parent's needs before placing someone in the home to make sure they are prepared and suited to meet your parent's particular needs. If at any point you are unhappy, call the agency immediately. They should be willing and able to work with you to find a better fit for your parent.



**Myth No. 6:** The quality of care provided at home is inferior compared to other facilities.

**Reality:** In reputable agencies, the staff receives extensive training before they ever enter a person's home. Clinicians need to be very well versed since they're on their own inside a home. It's not uncommon to have advanced medical treatments such as intravenous therapy and ventilator care to be done at home. To be certain that your parent will be well cared for, ask questions such as: Does the agency conduct training? What does it entail? Are they knowledgeable about elderly health conditions and certified in CPR?

**Myth No. 7:** My parent only needs help with basic hygiene, so we don't qualify.

**Reality:** However basic your needs, there should be no limit for a care provider to assist you. Be sure to find an agency that can provide the full range of care, from basic peer-level companionship and hygiene assistance to highly skilled nursing and therapy.

**Myth No. 8:** My parent needs round-

the-clock care, so this isn't an option.

**Reality:** Many agencies do provide 24-hour-a-day care. The agency will coordinate a team of experienced professionals to provide your loved one with care 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**Myth No. 9:** It is expensive, and only wealthy people can afford it.

**Reality:** Peter Ross, CEO and co-founder of the Senior Helpers franchise, says there are actually many ways for seniors to afford quality care. "With new programs such as reverse mortgages, VA benefits, long-term care insurance, and access to state and local programs such as Medicaid, many more families are able to afford quality care for their loved one."

According to Genworth's 2015 Cost of Care survey, the national median hourly rate for home health care is \$20 per hour. In contrast, the Genworth study reported that the national median cost of a one-bedroom residence in an assisted living community is \$3,600 per month.

**Myth No. 10:** If I am their caregiver, there is no need for additional help.

**Reality:** According to the Harvard Medical School Family Health Guide, a caregiver, including a family member, should never be on-call 24 hours a day. People who are emotionally and physically exhausted or guilt-ridden cannot provide good care. Everyone needs respite and relief. A professional can provide you a break from the rigors of full-time care giving, without having to remove your loved one from familiar surroundings.

The simple fact is that most elders want to stay at home. With the older population increasing, learning about home health care is important and a solution worth considering, depending on your individual situation.

## Medicare: General Enrollment is Jan. 1 to Mar. 31

Need Medicare Part B? If you're eligible, now is the time to sign up. The general enrollment period for Medicare Part B runs from January 1 through March 31. Before you make a decision about general enrollment, let us fill you in on some general information.

There are four parts to Medicare: Parts A, B, C and D. Part A helps pay for inpatient hospital care, skilled nursing care, hospice care, and other services. Part B helps pay for doctors' fees, outpatient hospital visits, and other medical services and supplies not covered by Part A. Part C allows you to choose to receive all of your health care services through a provider organization. These plans, known as Medicare Advantage Plans, may help lower your costs of receiving medical services, or you may get extra benefits for an additional monthly fee. You must have both Parts A and B to enroll in Part C. And Part D is the Medicare Prescription Drug Program.

Most people first become eligible for Medicare at age 65, and there is a monthly premium for Medicare Part B.

In 2016, the standard premium is \$121.80. Some high-income individuals pay more than the standard premium. Your Part B premium also can be higher if you do not enroll during your initial enrollment period, or when you first become eligible.

There are exceptions to this rule. For example, you can delay your Medicare Part B enrollment without having to pay higher premiums if you are covered under a group health plan based on your own current employment or your spouse's current employment. If this situation applies to you, then you have a "special enrollment period", in which you can sign up for Medicare Part B without paying higher premiums:

- Any month you are under a group health plan based on your own current employment or the current employment of any family member; or
- Within eight months after your employment or group health plan coverage ends, whichever comes first.

If you are disabled and working (or you have coverage from a working family member), the same rules apply.

Remember: If a person is already receiving Social Security retirement benefits they will be automatically enrolled in Medicare Part B when they become eligible at 65. If you don't enroll in Medicare Part B when you first become eligible to apply and you aren't eligible for a special enrollment period, you'll have to wait until the general enrollment period, which is January 1 through March 31 of each year, with coverage beginning in July. At that time, you may have to pay a higher Medicare Part B premium.

For more information about Medicare Parts A, B, C, and D, visit the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) website at [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov). Or read our publication on Medicare at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10043.html).

Depending on income and resources, you may be eligible for Extra Help With Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs. More information about the Extra Help is available at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/prescriptionhelp/>.

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## SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### GENERAL

#### 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](http://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](http://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.

### 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.

You can access our Retirement Planner online at [socialsecurity.gov/retire2](http://socialsecurity.gov/retire2). And, you can use the Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://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.

### 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 & 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 benefits.

#### Question:

Will my disability benefits be reduced if I get workers' compensation or other public disability benefits?

#### Answer:

If you get either workers' compensation or public disability benefit payments, we may reduce Social Security benefits for you and your family.

Public disability benefit payments paid under a federal, state, or local government law may affect your Social Security benefit. This includes civil service disability benefits, temporary state disability benefits, and state or local government retirement benefits based on disability. Disability payments from private sources, such as a private pension or insurance benefits, don't affect your Social Security disability benefits. However, in some cases, private disability insurers may require you to apply for Social Security disability benefits before they pay you. You may want to check your private insurer's policy.

We reduce the Social Security disability benefits you and your family get if the combined total amount, plus your workers' compensation payment, plus any public disability payment you get, exceeds 80 percent of your average earnings before you became injured or ill.

## No SSA Cost of Living Increase in 2016

On October 15, 2015, SSA announced that monthly Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits will not automatically increase in 2016.

The Social Security Act provides for an automatic increase in Social Security and SSI benefits if there is an increase in inflation as measured by the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W). As determined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, since there was no increase in the CPI-W from the third quarter of 2014 to the third quarter of 2015, under existing law there can be no Cost of Living Increase (COLA) in 2016.

Other adjustments that would normally take effect based on changes in the national average wage index also will not take effect in January 2016. Since there is no COLA, the law also prohibits a change in the maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax, as well as the retirement earnings test exempt amounts. These amounts will remain unchanged in 2016:

- The maximum amount of earnings subject to the Social Security tax (taxable maximum) will remain \$118,500.
- The earnings limit for workers who are younger than "full" retirement age (age 66 for people born in 1943 through 1954) will remain \$15,720. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$2 earned over \$15,720.)
- The earnings limit for people turning 66 in 2016 will stay at \$41,880. (We deduct \$1 from benefits for each \$3 earned over \$41,880 until the month the worker turns age 66.)
- There is no limit on earnings for workers who are "full" retirement age or older for the entire year.

## 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](mailto:nhonl@tsopl.org)

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR** - Jan. 21, 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](mailto: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.

# sports

## WHEN YOUR FAITH IS TESTED

By Bill Crowder

In sports, there are all kinds of things that test you. You can be tested by the intellectual challenge of a game that requires a significant amount of memorization and study (like football). You can be tested physically by just the wear and tear of a sport that has an extraordinarily long season (like baseball), and you can be tested emotionally by disappointment in your



performance, the performance of teammates, or even the attitudes of fans. This emotional testing, I think, is especially acute this time of year for football teams that have not lived up to the pre-season hype they received. Whether due to bad injuries, bad breaks, bad decisions, or bad performances, the disappointment and frustration of not achieving what you had hoped or expected can produce a real test—and one that, if taken seriously, forces an athlete to look deep inside to see what they may have contributed to that season of shortcoming.

As fun as sports can be, they can also be

painful—and the emotional pain is often felt when we don't measure up to what others, or ourselves, thought we might be. As followers of Christ, we also find ourselves being tested—but our most significant test come when our faith is put on the firing lines. Sometimes our faith is tested by life experiences that we felt were unthinkable—yet they visit us and our lives and relationships with significant pain attached. Sometimes we find our faith being tested by our own personal struggles with doubt and disillusionment when life turns out differently than we expected or desired. Sometimes our faith is tested because we don't understand what God is doing—sometimes even causing us to question God Himself. None of these experiences are pleasant, and none can be minimized as unimportant or trivial. Rather, these are the things that most often end up defining us, for these challenges and tests do

not occur in a vacuum. Nor do they occur without purpose. In fact, the scriptures tell us that even life's toughest tests can be used of our heavenly Father to accomplish good things in us. What good things can come from our of seasons of testing? At least two come to mind:

To Purify Our Hearts: "...that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ..." (1 Peter 1:7)

To Bring Patience to our Lives: "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into

# FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

Well, another year has come and gone and I'm no thinner than I was at this time last year. I might even be a bit bigger. Funny how those resolution things work out, huh? I think I'll use the excuse that I'm getting older and it's more difficult to lose weight the older you get. Yeah, I've heard that before so I think I'll go with that. Actually, I guess it's hard to lose weight when you don't put forth the effort to lose it.

It seems like everyone is trying to lose weight these days. Or at least, that's what they tell you. We're looking for that miracle pill or that drink that will slim your waist while you sleep. Of course we all know that the only way to lose weight properly is by controlling our diet and exercising, but most of us, me included, don't seem that interested in putting



forth the effort. So let's not blame the candy manufacturer or the hamburger restaurant that we practically live at, let's lay blame where it belongs, and that's with each one of us. Ok, I'm off the soap box. Back to our regularly scheduled programming.

Has anyone else noticed that going into the playoffs Chiefs quarterback Alex Smith would arguably be considered the second best quarterback among playoff teams in the AFC? Smith has quietly put together a very solid season. He has quietly thrown for 3300 yards and 18 touchdowns. Toss in the fact that he has only thrown five interceptions all year, and you've got yourself a pretty good quarterback.

I realize that a lot of quarterbacks have

thrown for more yards or more touchdowns than Smith and I am in no way crowning him the king of NFL quarterbacks, far from it. But Smith has developed into a smart, protect-the-ball passer who does what he needs to do to win. Maybe he would have more yards and touchdowns if the Chiefs were losing every game by double digits and they were constantly playing from behind. It's amazing how quarterbacks can put up numbers when their team isn't very good. Case in point – Blake Bortles from Jacksonville.

The Chiefs have a solid defense and they are scoring enough points to win games. They take care of the football and they don't make stupid mistakes. Kind of sounds like an Andy Reid type of team. Throw in the fact that they play in a watered-down AFC, and they may just be able to make a playoff run, Kansas City Royals style. Don't be fooled by the notion that they will struggle in the playoffs because they haven't won a playoff game for quite some time now. The first step is getting invited to the dance. How they dance, however, is entirely up to the Chiefs! Either way, it's pretty cool to see the Royals and Chiefs make the playoffs in the same year.

various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience." (James 1:2-3)

The seasons of testing we face in life may feel like body-blows to our faith, but take heart. Our God can bring good from them, and will help us through them. As Paul wrote:

No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it. (1 Corinthians 10:13)

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We are unlike a bank, because we connect you directly with other barter client members. MBE brings you new customers to purchase your products and services with Barter dollars. You can then use those Barter dollars to purchase products and services from other members without using cash.

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- Credit line available (\*Barter \$2,500)
- Local and Global marketplace

Your gross margin becomes your savings when you purchase

- Use the Free mobile phone app to process transactions
- Your MBE broker helps you with buying or selling needs



## EASY WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR WHOLE HOME IN ZONES

(Family Features) You've been taught from childhood to turn off the lights when you leave a room to save energy and money. Now, technology is allowing homeowners to apply those years of training to managing energy consumption – and comfort – on a room-by-room basis throughout the house.

This new approach to managing your home allows you to customize nearly every aspect of a room's environment independently from other parts of the house, in some cases, even when you're miles away. You can adjust lighting, music and

even the temperature using the right technology-enabled devices.

### Options to create ambiance

Nothing sets a mood quite like music. Your home audio system may be perfect when you're home alone, but when guests fill every room, a more custom approach is in order. For example, the volume may be louder to overcome the commotion of the kitchen, while a lower decibel provides a gentle backdrop to conversation in the living room. Where the kids are congregated, you can play a different

soundtrack entirely.

Likewise, there are dozens of reasons to change the lighting from room to room. Kids shuffle from



room to room and guests gravitate to different parts of the house, or you may simply want to give the appearance that someone is home when you're on the road. These are all good reasons to explore a system that lets you adjust your home's lighting from a single location.

### Zoned climate control

The approach to heating and cooling homes has evolved dramatically through the years as well. Now, the latest technology makes it possible to combine the advantages of cooling and heating systems with the benefits of more localized climate settings. Individualized zone control allows homeowners to save money while offering the flexibility to choose which rooms they want to cool and heat.

"Cooling or heating unused areas of your home means using less energy," said Mike Smith, senior marketing manager, residential, Mitsubishi Electric US, Inc. Cooling & Heating Division. "By creating zones, homeowners can feel confident that they are not only saving money, but living smarter and more comfortably."

Options, such as Mitsubishi Electric's zoned Diamond Comfort System, create efficient, whole-home cooling and heating solutions, offering year-round comfort control room-by-room. The whisper-quiet units also feature an anti-allergen filtration system to reduce allergens, dust, pollen, viruses and bacteria in the home. Learn more at MitsubishiComfort.com.

### Remote management

One of the greatest advantages of the new zoned approach to home management is the ability to adjust each room remotely. Smartphones have taken that function to a whole new level, with apps that let homeowners control virtually any aspect of the home from a remote location, whether down the hall or across the country.

For example, the kumo cloud smart controls app integrates seamlessly with Mitsubishi Electric sys-

tems allowing the homeowner to control the temperature of each room in the house from anywhere. The tool takes pre-programmed thermostats to a whole new level with greater flexibility, such as the ability to boost the heat when you're home earlier than planned. Learn more about the app, which is also compatible with other devices, at MitsubishiComfort.com.





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# New Resident Church Guide

Buck Creek Bible Church

- 1. The Great I AM Church**  
Breaking Traditions  
Non-Denominational  
Pastor Cordell Fischer  
2523 SE Indiana  
(785) 861-0422  
www.greatIAMchurch.com
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**  
Pastor Beau Bryant  
3851 South St., Grantville, KS 66429  
1-800-673-3633  
www.church4bikers.org
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**  
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka  
785-234-5545  
Worship: 8:00 - 9:30 & 11am  
Sunday School & Bible Studies:  
9:30 & 11am  
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
3102 NW opeka Blvd., Topeka  
286-1204  
Wed. 6:15 pm: Children/Youth/  
Adult programs  
Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am  
www.northlandctopeka.org
- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
730 SW Fairlawn Rd., Topeka, KS  
(785) 272-6322 • www.FairlawnNaz.org  
Sunday Worship: 10:40 am  
Adult, Youth & Children's Sun. School 9:15

**6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**  
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS  
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org  
Sunday Services:  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Bible study—all ages  
11 AM Contemporary Worship

**7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"  
Sunday Worship 9:30 & 10:45am, 5pm  
~ Sunday School for all ages ~  
Sat. Evening Worship 5:30pm  
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka  
785-862-0988  
www.topekabaptist.org

**8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"  
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka  
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com  
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm  
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

**9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)  
Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117  
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor  
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am  
www.gccinoverbrook.com  
office@gccinoverbrook.com

**10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**  
300 SW Roosevelt, Topeka KS 66606  
Pastor Marilyn Hahn McGinnis  
10 a.m. Sunday (Non-traditional Service)  
See "About Us" at our website  
www.kawriverkeruv.com  
Questions? kawriverlordshouse@att.net

**12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**  
Meeting at Buck Creek School House

5 mi. east of Perry on Hwy 24, 13th & Phillips Rd.  
Childrens Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.  
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,  
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavely 760-3513

**13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**  
Serving Christ - Loving People  
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248  
Dr. L.D. Holmes, Sr. Pastor  
www.wwnaz.org  
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am  
Children's Worship 9 & 11 am  
Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs  
6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service  
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups  
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University  
~ Nursery care at all services ~

**15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616  
235-1010 • oumc@att.net  
Shawn O'Trimble, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:15am, Worship 10:30am  
Children's worship time 10:30am  
Hear us on WREN Radio Sun. 10-11am  
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**16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**  
A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church  
2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka  
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm  
Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm  
785-266-LOVE (5683)  
J. Michael Borjon, Pastor

**17. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM  
785-379-5642  
Jars of Clay Children's Center now open  
Taking registrations: 785-379-9098



2930 SE Tecumseh Road  
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542

**18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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5973 SW 25th St.  
Topeka, KS 66614 • 273-0710  
Reconciliation: Sat 3-4pm  
Weekend Masses: Sat 4:30pm  
Sunday 7:30, 9, 11am, 6pm  
www.cktopeka.org  
Fr. Mitchel Zimmerman, Pastor  
Fr. Jaime Zarse, Associate Pastor

**19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church  
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS  
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com

Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am  
Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am  
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm

**20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dale Stockburger  
801 NE Poplar St.,  
Topeka, KS 66616  
785-506-4594  
Sunday Mornings: 10 am Worship  
and Junior Church for the kids

**21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
Meets at 522 SW Polk  
785-220-5418  
Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
Sun. Worship 10 am  
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com

**22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**  
5221 SW West Drive  
Topeka, Kansas 66606  
Sunday Services - 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathy Crofford

**23. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.  
Sunday Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm  
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.  
See our website for info on our  
Student Ministries & Kid City  
www.esbcks.org

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**WANTED** - Kin reference(s), related to J.P. and Leona Smith (deceases) of St. Mary's, KS. God-fearing, abstinent and neighborly? Contact Lawrence Smith, PO Box 442040, Lawrence, KS 66044-2040.

**SPACE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH SERVICES** - Free space available for a small or growing church to use for services on Sunday mornings, with other small rooms available for breakouts or small groups. For info call Will at 430-1657.

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**WANTED: EMPORIA DELIVERY PERSON** - Metro Voice needs someone to drop off a couple bundles of papers in Emporia each month. If you're going that way, we'll give you \$20 for gas and your trouble. We also need someone to

deliver to Baldwin City and Ottawa.

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

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

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If you need a new computer, The

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

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

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



can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at [www.thecomputerstoreks.com](http://www.thecomputerstoreks.com).

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



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**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

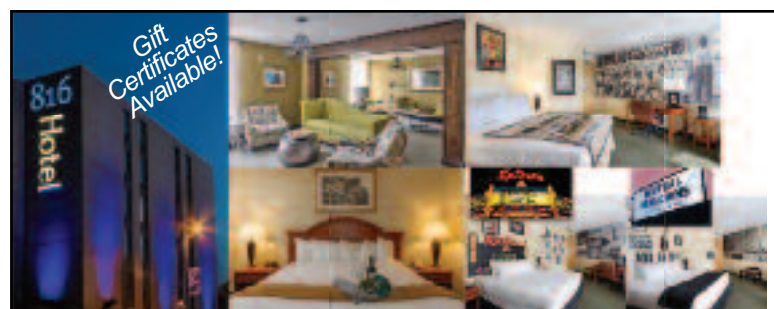
between.

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.



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