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*See inside back cover!*

**Harriet Tubman: Behind the face of the new \$20 bill**

by **Onize Ohikere**

Former slave and faith-driven abolitionist who carried a pistol, Harriet Tubman will be the face of the new \$20 bill, becoming the first woman to appear on U.S. paper currency since the 19th century, Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew announced last month.



The back of the new bill will feature the White House and an image of President Andrew Jackson, whom Tubman is displacing from the front of the bill.

Lew said the Treasury Department will unveil the new bill in 2020 to mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote.

"Harriet Tubman was a woman of faith who wasn't afraid to act on her beliefs to fight for justice," said Kristina Arriaga, executive director of the Becket Fund for Religious Liberty, in a written statement. "Her incredible moral and physical courage is an example to all Americans, as is her willingness to act on her Christian faith."

■ Please see TUBMAN page 15

# JOPLIN, MISSOURI: FIVE YEARS LATER

**Kansas native recounts her experience as Joplin remembers and rises from the rubble**

**SEE PAGE 11**

Much of Joplin lay in ruins on the night of May 22, 2011. Above right, Morgan, Liz and Logan Ratliff. Morgan survived the tornado inside the Stained Glass Theatre while others, including a friend, died near her.

## Business Facilities: The Sunflower State is Blooming and Booming

*Business Facilities is media brand specializing in the site selection marketplace, through a bi-monthly magazine, e-mail newsletters, a news portal and more.*

In a recent issue, Business Facilities published some very positive things about Kansas, starting with this:

"Kansas boasts a highly skilled workforce, outstanding infrastructure, low operating costs and a location in the heart of America. Thanks to these advantages, the state has experienced significant growth in numerous industries and emerged as a leader in sectors such as advanced manufacturing, alternative energy, bioscience, distribution and food processing. Leaders in these sectors and

■ Please see BOOMING page 4



Mars Chocolate North America's first new plant in the U.S. in more than 35 years is located in Topeka and already is in the midst of an expansion within its first three years of operation.

## Book to Help Fund Rescue Mission's Children's Palace

by **Carolyn Cogswell**

Jessica Hosman, director of children's ministries at the Topeka Rescue Mission, hopes to break the generational cycle of homelessness by equipping children to be ready for kindergarten and by introducing them to Christ at an early age.

Currently the Topeka Rescue Mission works with Topeka USD 501 to provide an after-school program for children 5-12, but there is no program for children under 5. The Hope Center for Women and Children, staffed by the school district provides help with homework, tutoring, summer programs and field trips.



A new facility, the Children's Palace is in the works to serve children under 5 living at the Mission and will also be available to the children after they leave the Mission.

"It is not unusual," said Hosman, "that a young single mom with a couple of young children will come through the mission, and 15 years later we will see those children coming back through these doors. We really believe that if we can pour into these children when they are very young the understanding that they have value and worth and help prepare them for kindergarten, we can really change the direction of their lives."

"By introducing families to Christ and teaching them that they have value and worth," Hosman said, "We believe we can help produce successful families. If we just continue doing what we're doing now, we're simply going to

■ Please see PALACE page 3

# Kansas schools, churches try new ways to deliver summer meals

Megan hart | KHI News

Delivering meals to low-income people is a long-standing way to improve nutrition, but a project in Iola Unified School District 257 will bring the whole diner.

Kathy Koehn, nutrition and wellness coordinator at USD 257, said students taking vocational classes in the district are working to remodel an older school bus as a "traveling bistro" where children who may not have access to healthy food during the summer can get lunch.

The students are building tables and turning half the seats to create restaurant booths, as well as decorating the bus and adding space to carry books, she said.

The Meals and Reading Vehicle, or MARV, will stop in three low-income neighborhoods in Iola and at sites in the towns of Gas and LaHarpe to serve lunch on weekdays during the summer, Koehn said. The southeast Kansas district also offers meals through its summer programs at some of the schools, she said.

Many parents work and may not be able to bring their children to a central location for a healthy lunch, Koehn said, making it important to take the



food to where the kids are in summer. "There's a lot of kids that still need to have access to these meals," she said.

The Kansas State Department of Education and nonprofit groups are encouraging communities to get creative in finding ways to feed children during the summer. In recent years, Kansas has ranked at or near the bottom of states based on the percentage of qualifying children who receive summer meals.

### Summer meal sites

In summer 2015, the 138 Kansas summer meal sites served:

- 321,603 breakfasts
- 890,804 lunches
- 15,527 suppers

72,439 snacks  
Kelly Chanay, assistant director for child nutrition and wellness at KSDE, said the meal sites can attack several problems, including hunger, lack of opportunities for socialization and physical activity, and accidents when children try to prepare meals for themselves. Some also offer mentoring and enrichment activities, she said.

"If the children aren't well-nourished during the summer, it impacts their ability to learn when school starts up," she said. "The summer food service program goes way beyond food."

Schools, nonprofits and government agencies can sponsor meal sites and receive reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If more than half of the children in an area are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunches, USDA will reimburse for all meals. Children from a family of four are eligible for reduced-price meals if their annual family income is less than \$44,955, or 185 percent of the federal poverty line.

In areas with less poverty, a site can only be reimbursed for meals to qualified children, requiring more record keeping.

The state has made some progress in increasing access to summer meals, Chanay said. In 2014, 44 of the 105 Kansas counties didn't have a meal site, but that number fell to 35 in 2015. Still, that left a third of the state's counties without a site, with the northwest corner and rural areas particularly lacking.

Transportation is one of the biggest challenges in rural areas, Chanay said. KSDE encourages potential host sites to look at areas where children might congregate in the summer, such as libraries, swimming pools and athletic programs, she said.

KSDE proposed a pilot project in 2015 to increase meal access in rural areas by setting up 10 sites where children could have a meal and take home shelf-stable food for several days, decreasing the number of times parents would have to make trips for food.

USDA said it didn't have any additional funds for pilot projects that year, but Chanay said KSDE is talking with Kansas congressional representatives and is optimistic the project could move forward.

### Grants available

Nonprofit groups also are encouraging communities to start or expand meal sites, and some are offering small grants. Rebekah Gaston, childhood hunger initiative director at Kansas Applesseed, said the group is offering grants ranging from \$100 to \$1,000 for

■ Please see MEALS page 3

# Life Lessons From a Little One

## GOD'S BEST GIFT

by Jessica S. Hosman



Jessica Hosman

There was nothing special about the day. Yet it became one of the most memorable in our journey. We drove down the country road with the windows down in the noisy pick-up truck. My wind-blown hair was pulled back from my unmade-up face and flying in every direction. My jeans were torn and tee-shirt raggedy. I could feel an intent stare coming from my right. I looked over and saw his sweet smile and eyes of love. As he took in my appearance, he smiled with a sheepish grin and shyly said, "You look beautiful today." After he said it, he looked down and bit his lower lip, grinning still. He then reached over for my hand and held it affectionately as he looked out the window at the scenery passing by.

Many times over the past several years, this boy has stolen my heart; but today I became aware of just how much our love for one another has grown. We got to our destination and before long he found fresh wildflowers to pick and present to me. I smiled as the wooing continued. Yes, this precious one knows how to charm a lady and make her feel loved. Even if he is only five years old.

Motherhood has been one of the most rewarding, fun and terrifying adventures of my life. How God could see fit to bless me with such a gift in spite of my imperfections and lack of patience at times is beyond me.

"Don't you see that children are God's

best gift?" (Psalm 127:3). That is truly the way I see my little boy. Like all other children, he too has his flaws and there are days his behaviors make me want to pull out my greying hair... but, even so, his life is a treasure that, according to scripture, was handed to me directly from God. It's up to me how I handle that gift. If I choose to only focus on the dirt and grime that might shadow both body and behavior at times, I miss out on the precious jewel hidden beneath. The one that, when polished and loved, shines bright in return and blesses me in unexpected and heartwarming ways.

Not everyone in this world has experienced the gift of parenthood, but we're all surrounded by children who long to be loved. Some children are young, others are now old and weathered from the storms of life. But even in adulthood, there's a child who once was. A gift and treasure from God. When we begin to look at one another through that lens, suddenly it becomes a little easier to see beyond the dirt that may try to hide their true beauty. It's then that we find a shining gem reflecting back the love that was unconditionally shown. Today and every day, let us be those who treasure the gifts God has blessed us with and cultivate them into all they were created to be. Together we can raise up a generation and create a community who knows how genuinely amazing and treasured they are.

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# U.S. religious groups and their political leanings

by **MICHAEL LIPKA**

See Detailed Graphic Chart on page 7

Mormons are the most heavily Republican-leaning religious group in the U.S., while a pair of major historically black Protestant denominations – the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church and the National Baptist Convention – are two of the most reliably Democratic groups, according to data from Pew Research Center's 2014 Religious Landscape Study.

Seven-in-ten U.S. Mormons identify

with the Republican Party or say they lean toward the GOP, compared with 19% who identify as or lean Democratic – a difference of 51 percentage points. That's the biggest gap in favor of the GOP out of 30 religious groups we analyzed, which include Protestant denominations, other religious groups and three categories of people who are religiously unaffiliated.

At the other end of the spectrum, an overwhelming majority of members of the

AME Church (92%) identify with the Democratic Party, while just 4% say they favor the Republican Party. Similarly, 87% of members of the National Baptist Convention and 75% of the Church of God in Christ (an historically black denomination) identify as Democrats.

These patterns largely reflect data from exit polls during the 2012 general election. In that year, 95% of black Protestants said they voted for Democrat Barack Obama, while 78% of Mormons said they voted for Republican Mitt Romney.

White evangelical Protestants also voted heavily Republican in 2012 (79% for Romney), which mirrors the leanings of many of the largest evangelical denominations. Members of the Church of the Nazarene are overwhelmingly likely to favor the GOP (63% Republican vs. 24% Democrat), as are the Southern Baptist Convention (64% vs. 26%) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (59% vs. 27%), among other evangelical

churches. (In our survey, members of these groups can be of any race or ethnicity, while exit polls report totals for white evangelicals in particular.)

Catholics are divided politically in our survey. While 37% say they favor the GOP, 44% identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party (and 19% say they do not lean either way). In the 2012 election, 50% of Catholics said they voted for Obama, while 48% voted for Romney.

Members of mainline Protestant churches look similar to Catholics in this regard. For example, 44% of members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) identify as or lean Republican in the survey, compared with 47% who are Democrats or Democratic-leaning. United Methodists and Anglicans are slightly more likely than other mainline groups to say they are Republicans, while members of the United Church of Christ are more likely to be Democrats.

About seven-in-ten religiously unaffiliated voters (70%) and Jews (69%) voted for Obama in 2012. A similar share of Jews in our survey (64%) say they are Democrats, while all three subsets of religious "nones" (atheists, agnostics, etc., lean in that direction as well.

## C5 Christian Chamber to meet in N. Topeka

Cory Walker will be the featured speaker at the C5-Alive "POWER" Luncheon May 12, from 11:30 am to 1 pm, at Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor.

A special meal will be catered in by Aboud's Catering. The luncheon is sponsored by Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

The cost is \$10 for C5 members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$12 at the door. Non-members and other guests pay \$15. C5 luncheons are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend, organizers said. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org).

The Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5) sponsors luncheons on the second Thursday of every month, which are held at different locations around the city. Next month it will be held at the Topeka Zoo, with City Manager Jim Colson as the featured speaker.

## PALACE

continued from page 1

continue the cycle of homelessness."

"There is very little in place right now," she said. "Parents dealing with homelessness are stressed out and not able to help the kids. We feel that if we can have support for the children while they're here and after their parents leave the Mission, we can really help them succeed."

In conjunction with the Children's Palace, Hosman has written a children's version of *In Darkness, a Light Still Shines* by Barry Feaker, Mission director. The children's version has "family friendly" versions of the 52 stories in the original (2012) volume, she said.

Hosman said families using the stories in the original book as a devotional have reported that many have come to Christ as a result. She hopes the children's version will have the same impact on younger readers.

Each story has Scripture, a life application and a prayer. The children's version is geared toward the special challenges of children, such as bullying, how to be a good friend and how to handle when somebody dies.

At the Children's Palace, Hosman said the children will be treated like little princes and princesses – children of the King of Kings. A feature of the new book is the "Amazing Secret" – "that Somebody loves you more than you can possibly imagine, and no matter what you go through in your life, you are never alone."

Hosman would like to have the Children's Palace open by mid-August of this year, but that will depend on getting the playgrounds and fencing completed, which will cost \$450,000. The Topeka Rescue Mission Board is also asking the Mission to have raised six months of operating expenses, or \$750,000 when it opens. That's a total of nearly \$1.25 million.

"The book will minister to kids that are in hard situations from a scriptural standpoint, give them hope and encouragement and also introduce them to Jesus," Hosman said.

Hosman believes that even people who would not typically read a Christian book will be able to relate to the book. To help

with that, Scott Smith, a Mission employee, has illustrated the book. He is also designing the murals for the Children's Palace.

"He's done a great job capturing the stories," Hosman said.

There will be a book signing and book fair from 5:30 to 7:00 pm May 19 at the Topeka Barnes & Noble store at 17th and Wanamaker. Patrons will be able to obtain vouchers for the Rescue Mission so that a portion of the proceeds from any purchase will go toward the Mission.

Proceeds from the book will go towards the Children's Palace. Those who wish to help support the Children's Palace may donate by check (write "Children's Palace" on the check) or they may donate online. Complete information about donating is available at [trmonline.org](http://trmonline.org).

The book is already available through Amazon.com and will be available on or before May 19 at the Topeka Rescue Mission Thrift Store at 1312 North Kansas Avenue in Topeka, at Barnes & Noble and at other locations.

**There is HOPE for EVERY CHILD**, regardless of how dark a circumstance may seem.

This book was written to bring hope and encouragement into the lives of children and families. The fifty-two short chapters included are child-friendly replications of stories found in, "In Darkness, a Light Still Shines," by Barry Feaker. Each one is written in a fun and heartwarming way sharing the clear message that every child is unique, loved and never alone.

Whether you are part of a family who is in a position to help others or you are in need of help yourself, this book has something in it for you. As your family gathers together to read, prepare to embark on a life journey that will forever assure you that... even in darkness, a light still shines.

Proceeds from the sale of this book go to support the Topeka Rescue Mission Children's Palace, a daytime care facility for homeless children aged zero to five.



## MEALS

continued from page 2

start-up costs related to new summer meal sites or for "innovative" projects to increase the number of children receiving meals at existing sites. The grant funding came from the Kansas Health Foundation.

USDA reimburses the cost of meals at a fair rate, Gaston said, but it doesn't pay for children's activities or meals for parents. Activities tend to reduce children's concerns about being identified as poor if they go to a meal site, while offering meals to parents increases the odds they will bring their children, she said.

"Some of the extras that help bring kids to sites aren't always covered," she said.

The United Methodist Health Ministry Fund also is offering up to \$2,000 in grants to member congregations that host a meal site or assist community groups in running one.

The congregations can decide how involved they want to be, including whether they want to add other activities, said Katie Schoenhoff, program officer at UMHMF. They also don't have to have the meal site in a church building if they could better reach children at other locations, such as a park or a Boys and Girls Club, she said.

Congregations that participated last year "really talk about the need for community cooperation," she said. "One of the key pieces is getting community involvement so you find kids where they're at."

Debbie Makings, who attends Larned United Methodist Church, said their congregation was too small to consistently field enough volunteers to run a meal program but was able to provide food and a building. Groups such as the Lions Club, National Honor Society and city employees then stepped in as volunteer cooks and servers for a week, and that kept the site going for the summer, she said.

"We never had a problem with too few people showing up," she said.

They served about 75 children per day last summer and hope to serve more this summer, Makings said.

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## Harriet Tubman: A Christian Woman for the Ages

by John Potter | Military Chaplain

It was recently announced that Harriet Tubman would replace Andrew Jackson on the \$20 bill. Harriet Tubman is remembered as an abolitionist who risked her own life to rescue others, but it is the story of her living faith that truly made her famous.

She was born into slavery around 1820 and was raised as an illiterate child. Harriet's mother often shared Bible stories and helped to develop a passionate faith in her child.

Tubman escaped to freedom in 1849. She made use of a network known as the Underground Railroad to find her freedom. This informal, but well-organized system was composed of free and enslaved African Americans, white abolitionists and other religious activists. Most prominent among the latter in Maryland at the time were members of the Friends Church, also known as Quakers.

Even after securing her own freedom, Tubman later made more than 13 missions to rescue enslaved families and friends. Her notoriety and wide ranging success with the Underground Railroad grew. Tubman was nicknamed "Moses" after the biblical rescuer who delivered the Jews from slav-

ery in Egypt.

Tubman ultimately led hundreds of slaves to freedom. The groups would travel at night and always in secrecy. All of her rescue missions were successful. She "never lost a passenger" and attributed all of her strength and success to God.

Today, even as Christians are being persecuted for their faith, we should look to the story of Harriet Tubman and be reminded how important it is to demonstrate a living faith. Harriet's mother could not teach her daughter to read, but she could share Bible stories to develop a lasting faith. Christians could be fined and arrested for harboring fugitive slaves, but they

carved out time and space to help people in need. They shared food, shelter, and protection with fellow believers so that they could find freedom. Harriet also practiced a living faith by crossing the Mason-Dixon Line, risking her own arrest to save others who had no way to escape the cruel grasp of slavery.

Just as God has richly provided for us in 2016, may we boldly live out our Christian faith in a way that benefits others and guides them to a newfound freedom.



## BOOMING

continued from page 1

in many others have decided that the best place to invest in their future growth is Kansas."

**Topeka in particular is singled out for praise in the following manner:**

"Topeka offers a plethora of resources and services to help existing and relocating or expanding companies. A highly educated workforce, quality infrastructure, and a low cost of doing business are just a few advantages that the community offers. In the past year, many of Topeka's existing companies took advantage of both the healthy economy in Topeka and resources and incentives offered by GO Topeka to grow their business. Big Heart Pet Brands, Federal Home Loan Bank and Mars Chocolate North America have all expanded their facilities and added more jobs to the community in 2015. In addition to expansions of businesses within the community, Koch and Co. joined the Topeka community in 2015.

These companies are choosing to expand and thrive in Topeka because their business expenses are low. The cost of doing business is 15 percent lower than the national average and the cost of living for Topeka has consistently ranked 8 percent to 10 percent lower than the national average. Those assets partnered with low state and local taxes as well energy costs that are 18 percent lower than the national average, create an environment where a company can continue to grow and compete globally.

Topeka's top four industries are prospering. Food processing, advanced systems technology, professional and financial services and logistics companies find Topeka is a great place to do business. Within 60 miles of Topeka, they will be able to access a highly educated workforce with over 13,500 students graduating annually from The University of Kansas, Kansas State University and Washburn University. Add to that Topeka's access to low cost reliable power and water, speed to market, aggressive financial incentive programs, and on-time delivery with fast track permitting means the region offers food manufacturing an unbeatable combination of assets.

Topeka is setting the bar high when it comes to training for advanced systems technology. Washburn Tech is leading the charge with innovative programs that work hand in hand with area companies to create customized training curriculums that meet the needs of today's leading manufacturing companies. Graduates of these programs hit the ground running and create a much more efficient onboarding process for new employees in the manufacturing industry.

Entrepreneurship in the professional and financial services is already happening in Topeka, a fact that speaks volumes about the region's assets for back office operations and data centers. Blue Cross, as well as Security Benefit (a home grown success story) prove the market has the cost environment, infrastructure, and talent pool needed to thrive.

Topeka is nestled in the middle of the U.S. with connectivity to five major highways allowing quick access to Interstates 70 and 335. Topeka is home to one of the

top six longest air runways in the U.S. at 12,800 feet. It is located at Forbes Field in the South Topeka Economic Growth Corridor, which is still under capacity.

Connected by Highway 75, I-70, I-335, BNSF Railway and Union Pacific Railway, Topeka is a natural location for companies looking to make transportation easy. Topeka's strengths as a logistics and distribution hub have already proven to be invaluable to companies such as Target, Home Depot, Big Heart Pet Brands, Goodyear, Frito Lay and PTMW, who all have distribution centers in the community.

Topeka has the right combination of resources to make relocation or expansion quick and painless. Companies looking at expanding, relocating, or growing, need to come take a look at Topeka and see how locating here will help them have the competitive edge needed to compete in today's market."

**The publication also had some good things to say about other parts of Kansas:**

"Kansas has a proud history as a manufacturing leader, particularly in the aerospace sector. The state's largest city, Wichita, is known as the Air Capital of the World due to the prominent role it plays in aviation manufacturing. Wichita's aviation manufacturers are supported by the National Center for Aviation Training and Wichita State University's National Institute for Aviation Research. Cessna just received a \$14 million Air Force Contract in April.

In western Kansas, winds whip across the prairie, providing the state with a valuable source of renewable energy. During the past decade, energy companies have started to capitalize on this resource by building a growing number of wind farms in the state. Since the beginning of 2008, wind generating capacity in Kansas has more than tripled to 2,967 megawatts. That capacity places Kansas in the top 10 in the U.S., and the state currently has more than 1,000 megawatts of additional wind energy projects under construction.

Kansas has a growing biofuels sector. As an agricultural leader, the state offers affordable access to plentiful amounts of the raw materials needed to produce biofuels.

In order to support the continued expansion of the renewable energy industry, Kansas has a goal of generating 15 percent of the state's electricity from renewable sources by 2016, and the state's utilities are on track to meet this target. A further goal of 20 percent by 2020 has been set.

Bioscience is yet another emerging industry in Kansas. The Kansas City Animal Health Corridor is home to more than 300 animal health companies that account for 56 percent of worldwide animal health, diagnostics and pet food sales. The Corridor is anchored in the west by Manhattan, home to Kansas State University, which is respected across the country as a leader in animal health research. Due to Kansas State's strengths in this area, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security is constructing its new National Bio and Agro Defense Facility in Manhattan, a \$1.25 billion state of the art biosafety research laboratory.

The human health industry is also rapidly expanding in the Sunflower State.

The University of Kansas Medical Center and Cancer Center are nationally recognized for their research and patient care. As a result, a number of clinical research companies and technology firms that serve the healthcare industry are expanding in the Kansas City area."

**The article also noted some facts about Kansas that even some Kansans may not know:**

"Geography is one of Kansas' key assets. With a location at the center of the U.S., the state offers easy access to clients across North America. Interstate 70, which runs from the East Coast to the western United States, cuts a swath through the middle of Kansas. So does Interstate 35, which stretches from Canada to Mexico and is a key component of the North American Free Trade Agreement Corridor. Beyond these major routes, the state is home to a many additional miles of high quality highways, as only two states have more total road miles than Kansas.

The state also ranks in the top 10 in railroad miles, which helps facilitate second day freight delivery to every area of the continental U.S. This railroad system includes the Logistics Park Kansas City intermodal facility located in Edgerton, Kansas. The \$1 billion state-of-the-art development is the only full-service facility in the western two-thirds of the country that offers the combination of domestic intermodal service, international intermodal service and direct-rail and carload service.

Known as the breadbasket of America for its wheat production, Kansas is also one of the United States' leading producers of beef, corn and soybeans, and has one of the most rapidly growing dairy industries of any state. Because of this abundance of raw agricultural commodities, a growing number of value-added agriculture and food processing companies are opening facilities in Kansas.

In 2015, Dairy Farmers of America announced the relocation of its corporate headquarters to Kansas and also began construction of a \$235 million milk powder plant that will process four million pounds of milk per day.

Businesses in Kansas are attaining remarkable success today, yet they are positioned for even stronger growth in the future. In an increasingly competitive global economy, innovation and forward thinking leadership is of the utmost importance. Recognizing this, Kansas has focused on building a business environment that supports growth now and in the future.

Through innovative workforce programs, cutting edge research institutions, outstanding infrastructure and reduced costs, the state is prepared to help companies achieve success for years to come. Business and industry leaders from around the world are investing in the Sunflower State because they recognize that an investment in Kansas is an investment in their future"

**Add to the all this the recent news that Amazon is planning to open a fulfillment center near Kansas City that will create 1000 jobs, and it really does seem to indicate that Kansas is Blooming and Booming!**

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# FINANCIAL PLANNING

## A Frank Discussion About Credit Cards

**Dear Dave,**

I don't understand why you don't like it when people properly manage their credit cards and pay them off every month. By doing this, you pay no interest and in my case I even got a free trip to Europe from using my credit card. Please explain.

*Patrick*

**Dear Patrick,**

I truly doubt that I can explain it to your satisfaction, but here goes. First, the credit card company did not give you a free trip to Europe. They're not going to lose money on transaction after transaction, year after year. The fallacy is that you feel like you've outsmarted a multi-billion dollar company that studies human behavior at incredible levels. You maybe, possibly came out ahead against them during

that particular calendar year, but even that's debatable.

Over the course of your life, you'll spend more when using credit cards as opposed to cash. There's plenty of research proving this to be fact. If you use a credit card repeatedly with the idea that you're getting a free trip to Europe because you're building up your miles, you spend more. An example would be McDonald's. When they started taking credit cards years ago, they found that the people using them spent 47 percent more.

In a good way, you are very unusual. You're not playing over in the stupid zone like most people who use credit cards. But both I and the credit card companies have found that, on average, your behavior would put you in a class of less than one-half of one percent of their customers. Can 0.5 per-



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

**davesays**

cent of people handling snakes manage not to get bitten? Sure. But that doesn't mean I'm going to start recommending *snakes!*

—Dave

### Thankfulness and boundaries

**Dear Dave,**

My fiancé and I are getting married in May. He's a youth pastor, and I'm in grad school. His mom and dad found a home they think we'll like, and they want to gift us money for a down payment. I'm not sure how I feel about this under our present circumstances. Do you think we should go ahead and accept when I'll still be in school and we'll still have debt to pay off?

*Emily*

**Dear Emily,**

You need to get to know each other before you buy a house together. I always recommend that young couples rent for a year and concentrate on each other, the new marriage, cleaning up any debts you have, and establishing an emergency fund. Then, after another year or so when you've had time to take control of your finances, the idea of looking for a home becomes much smarter.

It sounds like your future in-laws are really generous people. They're trying to do something nice for you two, but they kind of got out ahead of things with this idea. And in the process, they violated some boundaries in your relationship with your fiancé.

My advice is to have a conversation with your fiancé about all this and get on the same page about what is the smart thing to do. Then the two of you need to have a loving discussion with his parents. Let him do most of the talking, and say thank you a lot, but let them know you both feel it would be best to start out by renting something for a year or so. Then after a little time has passed, tell them if they still want to help with a down payment you'd both very grateful.

I think this approach would be good for the boundary issues and for your finances!

—Dave

### Welcome to life

**Dear Dave,**

Our son just turned 8 years old. Is it time to start giving him an allowance?

*Dan*

**Dear Dan,**

There's never a time for an allowance, no matter the child's age. In my mind, that kind of thinking is the best way to

plant the seeds of entitlement. You want your son growing up with the idea that he's owed money simply because he's alive.

Instead, work out a plan to pay him commissions. Assign him weekly chores that are age-appropriate. Then, when the work gets done, he gets paid. And guess what? If the work doesn't get done, he doesn't get paid! Not only do we want to teach a healthy work ethic, but we also want him to learn that work creates money.

Of course, there are some things a child should be expected to do without financial reward. Everyone needs to pitch in and do certain things to help out when they're part of a family. But once you've taught him about work, make sure to also teach him about the three uses for money—saving, spending, and giving.

Lessons on the basic handling of money are some of the best teachable moments you can have with your child. Not only does it make them more knowledgeable about finances, it helps them learn about life!

—Dave

### Seminary money

**Dear Dave,**

My wife and I recently followed your plan and became debt-free, and we're committed to never going back there again. Currently, I work for the state but I've been feeling God's calling to the ministry. We'll get an income tax refund of about \$4,500 this year, and we've both agreed to put that money toward my first semester of seminary training. Does this, along with saving money as we go, sound like a good way to pay for this?

*Bradley*

**Dear Bradley,**

I love the move to get out of debt, and the fact that you and your wife are determined never to go back there. If you truly feel that you're being called by God to be a pastor or some other form of ministerial work — and you're both in agreement on how to make it happen — I think that's great, too. Just remember your promise to stay away from debt in making it happen.

But I did hear one problem you need to fix. You should stop having so much income tax withheld from your

paychecks. That \$4,500 you mentioned is the result of one or both of you overpaying your taxes. For the future, make sure to adjust your withholdings \$375 a month. It's always better to have the cash you earn in your pocket rather than parking it with the IRS interest-free every year.

Best of luck in your new career, Bradley!  
—Dave

### Avoid the gimmicks

**Dear Dave,**

What kinds of insurance should I avoid?

*Rhonda*

**Dear Rhonda,**

Well, in the life insurance world, you should buy only term life insurance. Avoid any kind of insurance that has a savings program built into it — things like whole life, universal life and variable life. Another thing to avoid is return of premium. This is where an insurance company charges you extra, but gives all your premium money back if you don't use the policy. It sounds good, but if you'd just invest the extra you pay for that stuff, you'd get all your premiums back, and more, whether you used the insurance or not!

I also don't recommend gimmick insurances, like double indemnity for accidental death. Think about it. You're not double-dead if you die by accident; you're just dead. Your family needs the same amount of money whether you die by accident or heart attack. If you have a family, I suggest 10 to 12 times your annual income in a good, level term policy. Also, stay away from cancer insurance policies. Your regular health insurance policy should include cancer coverage. If it doesn't, you've got a crummy policy and you need to get a better one right away.

So, for the coverage you do need, we're looking at level term life insurance, good health insurance, long-term disability and homeowners and/or renters insurance. Throw in auto coverage and, once you hit age 60, long-term care insurance and you're pretty much set!

—Dave

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

# opinion

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## NO TOLERANCE FOR RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE?

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Speaker and Fellow of  
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myopinion

The words "religious liberty" don't mean what they once did to many people, especially if big business has its way.

You've seen those ridiculous "Coexist" bumper stickers, right? You know, the ones where the word is spelled out using religious symbols from Christianity, Islam, Paganism, Gay rights, Judaism, and so on?

I call it ridiculous because, as someone once wrote: "The C wants to kill the E, X, T, and the O. The O offers peaceful non-resistance, which will be ineffective if real trouble breaks out. The E feels like it's been oppressed, making it intolerant of the C, the X, and the T. The I and the S are numerically irrelevant, but are just necessary to spell out the word. And the sticker is mostly directed at the T (or the Christian), who ironically poses no threat whatsoever to any of the others."

In other words, the "Coexist" bumper sticker slogan assumes that each ideology be emptied of its actual conviction if its to work. And according to Colson Center board member Jennifer Marshall, that's what big business is currently trying to sell to the American people.

In a piece for Religion News Service, Marshall says the recent controversies



over religious freedom amount to a test of whether those who so loudly proclaim the need for coexistence are prepared to live by it.

Exhibit A is the new Mississippi law that ensures that churches and other religious groups aren't punished for declining to participate in weddings against their convictions, or for setting personnel and housing policies based on their deeply held beliefs.

Further, this law allows private businesses and schools to set their own policies for bathrooms, showers, and locker rooms. In that sense, the law models peaceful coexistence on very contentious social issues.

But one corporation, IBM, is claiming that, "(T)his legislation will permit discrimination against people based on

their marital status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression."

**"True advocates of cultural coexistence seek conscience protections for all, not just those who adhere to the vision of the sexual revolution"**

Not so, according to Jennifer Marshall. The law protects those with religious scruples from being discriminated against.

"What the new law does," she points out, "is to prevent discrimination by ensuring the government will not force people to violate their consciences in very specific contexts spelled out by the law."

For example, the law guarantees everyone legally eligible for a marriage license gets one, while allowing clerks with religious objections to opt out of directly issuing marriage licenses. That way, there will be no courthouse showdowns like the one involving Kentucky county clerk Kim Davis last year.

"Mississippi's policy shows that we can coexist," Marshall says. "Why would big business oppose that?"

That's a good question given the number of times large corporate entities have entered these hot debates just in the last few years. Think of all of the corporate-led attacks and blackmail against common-sense religious freedom legislation in Arizona, Indiana, Georgia, North Carolina, and now Mississippi. And then think of the bakers, florists, and photographers in places such as New Mexico, Colorado and Washington State who have been forced to choose between their beliefs and ruinous fines forcing them out of business. They were not allowed to coexist, at least not without compromising their convictions.

As Jennifer Marshall points out, true advocates of cultural coexistence seek conscience protections for all, not just those who adhere to the vision of the sexual revolution.

Citing a poll that says 63 percent of state residents support the law, Jennifer writes, "Citizens in Mississippi and elsewhere are looking for solutions that defuse cultural tension over issues of sexual orientation and gender identity. . . . The corporate establishment's campaign against these common sense policies disregards all that. Citizens would do well to see through the big business marketing blitz against religious liberty. This corporate messaging puts neither the common good nor constitutional principle first."

No, it certainly doesn't.

— Originally posted at [breakpoint.org](http://breakpoint.org).

## Jesus & the value of a woman



CLINT  
DECKER

President and  
Evangelist with  
Great  
Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Among the many nations of the world there are many that do not allow women to drive, own property or even vote. Not to mention the global multi-billion dollar sex trafficking industry that traffics women 98 percent of the time.

Despite where the world still is in its treatment of women, it has taken a tremendous leap forward in the last 100 years. In America, their place and value is nothing like it was in 1850. However, long before the establishment of the women's suffrage movement they had a powerful advocate in the first century -

Jesus. Here are five ways in which He gave value and purpose to all women.

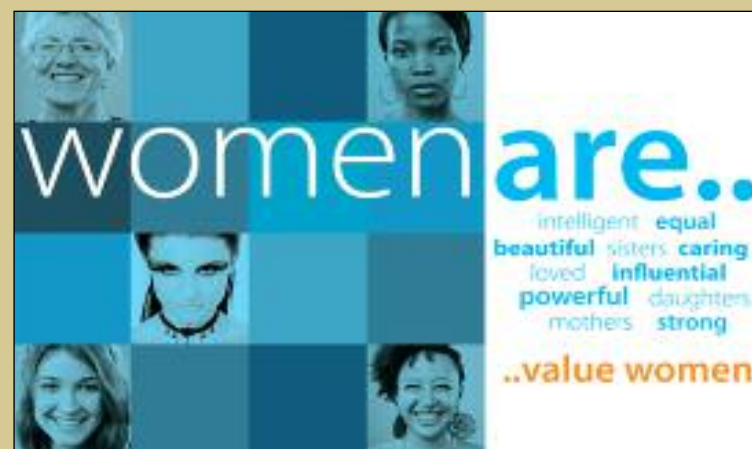
**Defense.** Jesus had celebrity status easily gathering crowds in the thousands around Him. They hung on His every word. Through His platform of influence He defended women when society tried to demean and dismiss them.

**Challenging the status quo.** Jesus put His life and reputation on the line challenging the unjust ways in which women were treated during His day. Though knowingly opposing cultural rules He became a voice for the voiceless.

**Equality.** Jesus demonstrated that women were as equally valuable as men. He saw no difference in a man's worth over a woman's. Both were created and loved by God.

**Compassion.** Jesus showed kindness toward women of all ranks in society - upper, middle and lower classes. He offered peace, hope and freedom to all women who would choose to believe in Him with all their heart.

**Accountability.** Even though Jesus offered promise to women, He also



called them to repentance. He realized true freedom is not just found in changing laws or cultural ideals. He offered liberation of the soul through forgiveness of sin. When women are delivered from sin they receive a new mind and heart and a new future that lasts for eternity.

Jesus and those who follow His example offer a message to women around the world. Those in abusive relationships, oppressive cultures and feeling on the fringe of society, can find worth in Christ. While publicly standing against

one woman's accusers Jesus said to her "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more'" (John 8:10-11). As Jesus championed this lady's worth, He calls upon all men everywhere to honor the God-given value that women inherently possess.

Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](http://cdecker@greatawakenings.org)

# Kansas continues to snub school choice reform that helps the most vulnerable schoolchildren

Bob Weeks | WichitaLiberty.org

Charter schools benefit minority and poor children, yet Kansas does not leverage their benefits, despite having a pressing need to boost the prospects of these children.

The CREDO studies at Stanford University are often cited as the most comprehensive and reliable research on charter schools. Opponents of charter school focus on a finding that some charter schools are worse than local traditional public schools, the figures being 19 percent for reading and 31 percent for math. Because of this, opponents of charter schools feel justified in keeping them out of Kansas. (Kansas does allow charter schools, but the law is so stacked against charter schools that there are very few, effectively none.)

The findings from the Stanford CREDO National Charter School Study from 2013 contain much more information than this simple conclusion. In particular, here is a partial quote from its executive summary: "Enrollment and persistence in charter schools is especially helpful for some students, particularly students in poverty [and] black students ..."

Why would we not want to experience these benefits, especially for poor and minority students?

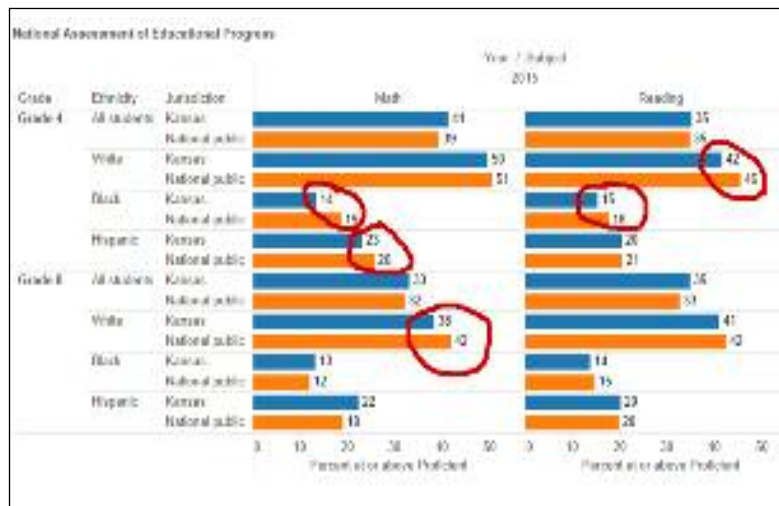
This is important. While the Kansas public education establishment touts the state's relatively high performance on national tests, when results are analyzed closely, we see some things that should cause all Kansans to embrace whatever we

students that need the most help. But the Kansas school establishment does not want charter schools, and so far Kansas Republicans — including Governor Brownback and legislative leaders — have been unwilling to help the most vulnerable Kansas schoolchildren.

"The 27 states in our study provide the widest angle view of the charter school sector to date. Across multiple measures, the students in these charter schools have shown both improved quality over the results from 2009 and an upward trend in their performance over the past five years."

"The average charter school student now gains an additional 8 days of learning each year in reading, compared to the loss of 7 days each year reported in 2009. In math, charter students in 2009 posted 22 fewer days of learning; now that gap is closed so their learning each year is on par with their peers in traditional public schools."

"Looking back to the demographics of the charter school sector in the 27 states, charter school enrollment has expanded among students in poverty, black students, and Hispanic students. These are precisely the students that, on average, find better outcomes in charter schools. These findings lend support to the education and social policies that focus on education as the mechanism to improve life chances for historically underserved students. Charter schools are especially beneficial learning environments for



can do to correct this.

Kansas students compared to national. Nearby is a chart of NAEP scores for Kansas and national public schools. I've circled some troubling results. An example of something that must be changed is this: For grade four math, 14 percent of Kansas black students are at the level "proficient" or better. For national public schools, the figure for the same population subgroup is 19 percent.

Following, some findings from the CREDO study that show how charter schools help precisely the

these students, as the following graphics illustrate in greater detail."

"Enrollment and persistence in charter schools is especially helpful for some students, particularly students in poverty, black students, and English language learners all of whom post significantly higher learning gains in both reading and math. Hispanic students are on par with their TPS peers in both reading and math. For students with multiple designations (such as being black and in poverty), the impacts of charter schooling are especially positive and noteworthy."

## The political preferences of U.S. religious groups

% of U.S. adults in each group who lean toward or identify with the Republican Party, the Democratic Party, or another party/no lean

	Republican/ lean Rep.	Democrat/ lean Dem.	Ind. no lean/ other	Difference	
Mormon	70%	19%	11%	+51	
Church of the Nazarene	63	24	13	+39	Evangelical
Southern Baptist Convention	64	26	10	+38	Evangelical
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod	59	27	14	+32	Evangelical
Assemblies of God	57	27	17	+30	Evangelical
Presbyterian Church in America	60	34	6	+26	Evangelical
Church of God (Cleveland, Tenn.)	52	26	22	+26	Evangelical
Anglican Church	58	37	5	+21	Mainline
United Methodist Church	54	35	11	+19	Mainline
Churches of Christ	50	39	11	+11	Evangelical
American Baptist Churches USA	41	42	16	+1	Mainline
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)	44	47	10	+3	Mainline
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America	43	47	10	+4	Mainline
Catholic	37	44	19	+7	
All U.S. adults	37	44	18	+7	
Episcopal Church	39	49	12	+10	Mainline
Seventh-day Adventist	35	45	19	+10	Evangelical
Orthodox Christian	34	44	22	+10	
Jehovah's Witness	7	18	75	+11	
"Nothing in particular"	26	49	26	+23	
United Church of Christ	31	58	11	+27	Mainline
Jewish	26	64	9	+38	
Agnostic	21	64	15	+43	
Muslim	17	62	21	+45	
Hindu	13	61	26	+48	
Buddhist	16	69	16	+53	
Atheist	15	69	17	+54	
Church of God in Christ	14	75	11	+61	Historically black
Unitarian Universalist	14	84	2	+70	
National Baptist Convention	5	87	8	+82	Historically black
African Methodist Episcopal Church	4	92	4	+88	Historically black

Source: 2014 U.S. Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.  
Note: Evangelical, mainline and historically black indicate Protestant tradition of the row group.



Bible class article. I just checked with the YWCA front desk and calls to register are coming in.

DEAR EDITOR,

We really appreciate the Menninger

Mary Jane Hellebust

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## TAX REVENUE STILL INCREASING, BUT NOT ENOUGH TO KEEP UP WITH RECORD SPENDING

by Dave Trabert

You wouldn't know it from most media coverage – and certainly not from the special interests calling for higher taxes and more spending – but the new revenue estimates released recently show that tax revenue increased 1.5 percent last year and is expected to be 2.6 percent higher this year. Tax revenue is expected to grow 3.0 percent more next year.

The real problem is that revenue cannot keep up with record-setting spending that is \$1.2 billion ahead of the 20-year inflation track. With inflation at 53 percent between 1995 and 2015, tax revenue grew 82 percent but spending increased 89 percent.

The Kansas budget problem can be summed up rather succinctly: you can't have a conservative tax plan and a liberal spending plan.

Tax Type	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017
Motor Carrier	-68.8%	3.2%	4.3%
Individual Income	2.7%	2.1%	2.2%
Corporate Income	4.5%	-6.6%	1.5%
Financial Institutions	25.0%	-8.7%	8.1%
Retail Sales & Use	1.6%	6.8%	3.8%
Oil & Gas Severance	-25.9%	-74.3%	41.3%
Other Excise	1.8%	23.7%	-0.2%
Other	8.4%	-9.9%	2.1%
<b>Total taxes</b>	<b>1.5%</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>3.0%</b>

Source: April 2016 Consensus Revenue Estimate

# 2016 CAMP GUIDE

## THE COOL THING ABOUT CAMP

by Leah Hill

While we may have plans for our lives, God can set us on a different path—one we might have never expected. The course of one man's life was changed one summer in Northern Michigan at Lake Ann Camp.

"It just kind of hit me right where I was that the Lord had bigger plans for my life than me just living it for myself," Brant Cole says.

As a high school student, Cole dreamed of playing college sports. But in a moment of reflection, Cole responded, "You know what, Lord, I give it all to you."

He was open to what God had in store for him, and that moment at camp was a significant turning point.

Today Cole is a youth pastor at a Michigan church, and he takes his students to a camp each summer. As Cole brings his students back to a place where his own life was changed, he knows what the camp environment can offer.

"With camp, one of the cool



Brant Cole with some campers and staff

things about it is it allows students to get this third-perspective look on their life that no other experience can," he says.

Throughout the week, campers have unique learning experiences that take shape in a variety of

ways. Whether it's interactions with other campers or building friendships with the counselors and camp staff, students are able to look at their life in a way they never had.

When considering the life

change that a camp or conference environment can provide, Cole says the monetary cost is a small price to pay.

"When you're able to step away from your life for a little bit and just be focused on one thing, it allows you to commune with God in a unique way, but also make decisions about your life that are necessary for your spiritual life to flourish."

Recently, Cole had a conversation with a student about the spiritual aspect of our lives. We often think of our emotional or physical health, but we don't always think of the spiritual part of ourselves.

Within student ministry, Cole considers one of the biggest challenges is getting past all the barriers and filters students have put in place to protect themselves.

"And rightly so," he says. "Emotionally and physiologically there are so many things they are facing right now that are worth

having filters and barriers for. When it comes to their spiritual life, they also have those."

Camp provides something valuable that few other events can; camp allows those barriers to come down. "When everyone else is in the same unique environment that you are, you are kind of all in it together," Cole says.

But it doesn't all have to be serious. In fact, the activities are geared toward building trust and removing barriers to help students lighten up.

"Because when a student is not having fun," Cole says, "they are not

going to be learning."

Combining purposeful activities with an element of fun can result in campers forgetting about the worries of life and becoming open to what God has for them.

More at: <http://thepowerof-camp.com/the-cool-thing-about-camp/#sthash.PMcLCSrj.dpuf>

**"It just kind of hit me right where I was that the Lord had bigger plans for my life than me just living it for myself."**

Brant Cole



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June 6-10, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.  
Register on line at [www.cornerstonetopeka.com](http://www.cornerstonetopeka.com) or call 478-2929.

**EGYPT FAMILY EXPERIENCE VBS** - June 20 thru June 25, 6:30-8 pm  
Dinner available at 5:30 pm  
Free family event. Families step back in time at Egypt, exploring the life of Joseph. Kids and adults participate in a memorable Bible-times marketplace, Wanamaker Woods Nazarene Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd  
785-273-2248 - Pre-register at [wwnaz.org](http://wwnaz.org)

**Kanakuk KampOut! Summer Day Kamp** - June 13-17, 8:45 a.m. until 4 p.m.  
For K-6th grade: Zipline, climbing wall, inflatables and crazy skits!  
Other Kamps available for older youth  
Topeka Bible Church, 1135 SW College Ave. 417-266-3000  
For info or to Register: [kanakuk.com/camp-finder](http://kanakuk.com/camp-finder).

**Cave Quest VBS**  
June 20 - June 24, 5:15 pm - 8:00 pm; Meal served at 5:15 pm  
Faith Lutheran Church, 1716 SW Gage 272-4214

**Kids Camp** June 20 - 23 at Central Christian College, McPherson  
Kids entering 4th - 6th grade in Fall 2016 • Cost \$140  
Grace Point Church, 5400 SW Huntoon  
(785) 273-4200 or [NCOPELAND@GPTOPEKA.ORG](mailto:NCOPELAND@GPTOPEKA.ORG)

**Free Sports Camp** Saturday June 18, 9:30 am - 5 pm (half-day options available)  
Ages 3 years - 6th grade • lunch is provided  
East Side Baptist Church, 4425 SE 29th St.  
Valerie Kampfer: 785-379-9933 • [esbcks.org](http://esbcks.org)

**Vacation Bible School** June 13-17 from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Join us as we learn life lessons from Noah. All Divers entering Kindergarten through 6th grade are invited to attend. Register at <https://answersvbs.com/vbs/BETHELBAPTIST-TOPEKA2016/> or call Bethel Baptist at 286.0467. 4011 N Kansas Ave

**Barnyard Roundup VBS; Jesus Gathers Us Together**  
June 20th - 24th (Monday - Friday) 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
4 years old through those entering 4th Grade  
Registration Deadline - June 1st; \$30 Registration Fee  
Most Pure Heart of Mary, 3601 SW 17th St. 272-5590; [mphm.com](http://mphm.com)

YMCA offers several varieties of summer camps. Call 354-8591

# YMCA OF TOPEKA OFFERS SUMMER CAMPS

The YMCA staff works every day to make sure that everyone has the opportunity to learn, grow, and thrive. Parents desire a safe environment in which children can learn practical and social skills and develop positive values. Kids want to exert energy, discover who they are, and what they can achieve and be accepted among one another.

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staff works to create an exciting and safe environment for kids to have an unforgettable summer of fun while nurturing life lessons in kids and working to develop character and leadership skills. Each week is packed with an amazing variety of activities including field trips, swimming, themed special events, playing at local parks, creating crafts, exploring through sci-

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Each camp will have the opportunity to experience the outdoors every week at beautiful Camp Hammond, a 175 acre camp outside of town. In the Y camp, your child will participate in fun, age-appropriate activities while creating a sense of being a part of a Strong Community.

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Monday-Friday 7:30am-5:30pm

Members \$100 per week

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Dates: May 31-Aug 12

Ages: 7-12

Bring this article in at the time of registration and the Y will waive the registration fee! (A \$30 value!)

Info and registration packet at [www.ymcatopeka.org](http://www.ymcatopeka.org)

Contact DeeDee Reedy with any questions 785-435-8645



# The TOP 5 Reasons kids should go to camp

Summer camp can be one of the most rewarding, unforgettable experiences in a child's life. Camp provides children with a community of caring mentors who provide experiential education that leads to self-respect and appreciation for life. All of the outcomes—friendships, overcoming challenges, staying healthy and building character—prepare them for bigger, brighter lives down the road. In addition to great friendships and enduring memories, many important life skills are learned at camp. Here are five reasons kids should go to camp:



**1. To try new things.** Camp pushes children out of their comfort zone and exposes them to new activities and experiences that they may not be familiar with. Campers get the opportunity to try out different things and discover new hobbies or passions. By exploring various types of activities, children have a greater chance of finding something that they excel at or that makes them happy.

**2. To develop social skills.** Camp teaches children to communicate, to work together as part of a team and to be a leader. Leadership is developed by asking campers to fulfill responsibilities that may not be expected of them elsewhere, while sharing resources and attention helps foster teamwork and the desire to participate.

**3. To face challenges and learn**

**the value of hard work.** Because they feel safe at camp, youngsters are comfortable taking healthy risks, setting personal goals and realizing their dreams. At camp, children learn the importance of working hard to accomplish what they want and to never give up, all in a low-stress setting.

**4. To build character.** On top of making new friends, campers also develop an appreciation for the qualities required to cultivate and strengthen these relationships. Camp provides children with the core values of a strong, moral individual by teaching them about ethics, honesty, caring, respect and responsibility. Parents frequently report that after camp, their children are more kind, understand the importance of giving, are more equipped to stand up for what they know is right, and are willing to be more responsible.

**5. To foster independence.** At camp, children learn the responsibility of making their own decisions with the safety net of insightful counselors and staff in a safe environment. Campers can risk finding out what works and what doesn't, while discovering new facets of themselves. The camp environment provides peer support that allows children to quickly overcome their need for constant parental dependency.

The main goal of any well-run camp program is making sure children have the time of their lives. Summer camp is a much needed break from the academic year where creativity, adventure, thrills, smiles and plain old good times are the priority.

*Carson Sofro is founder/director at HSB-CAMPS and HSB-CARES, a nonprofit dedicated to providing basketball and educational opportunities for underprivileged youth around the world.*

# FREE SPORTS CAMP



**Saturday, June 18**  
9:30 AM-5 PM (ages 3 yrs-6 grade)  
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Lunch is provided.

\*Special appearance by Chief's own "K.C. Wolf"

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## Camp a great way to unplug

For today's tweens and teens, technology is part of the fabric of everyday life. They're watching TV on lots of devices and using smartphones and tablets to maximum advantage -- texting, researching, sharing, connecting -- and generally causing lots of hand-wringing among parents who don't know how much is too much.

While going to camp has always seemed like a good way for kids to spend their summers, recent studies makes camp sound not just good but essential for our youngsters—especially in the age of constantly being “plugged in.”

It's not your imagination -- media use is off the charts. Teens use an average of nine hours of entertainment media per day, and tweens use an average of six hours, plus several more hours spent using media.

That's well over one-third of our kids' waking hours!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that an American child is six times more likely to play a video game on any given day than ride

a bike.

What better way to unplug than a week or two at summer camp? Wanda DeWaard, Section Executive for the American Camp Association, agrees.

“Being plugged in is so isolating for children,” DeWaard said. “And going to camp is a great way to make sure that they get a balanced life experience.”

In fact, one thing that most camp programs share is the rule that tech devices stay at home.

Whether it's a theater camp, an art camp, a soccer camp or a traditional outdoor experience camp, most require that cell phones and video games stay at home or buried deep in the backpack, only to surface when it's time for Mom and Dad to pick up campers.

DeWaard applauds this policy, saying, “Cell phones encourage homesickness.” What summer camp encourages are all the things that entertainment media can't provide.

DeWaard sums it up this way, “Camp is all about experiencing life directly rather than virtually.”

**KIDS TODAY**

The generation has the opportunity but they also face significant challenges. Life is complicated. The world is hectic. Expectations are high. How do we help them live in the moment and discover all that has created them in half?

**EACH WEEK**

GET ENOUGH EXERCISE

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KIDS ARE MORE PLUGGED IN. READ LESS. SPEND LESS TIME OUTSIDE. ARE LESS FIT.

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## Great reasons to attend a summer arts camp

Most art museum enthusiasts know that visual art experiences are valuable to a child's growth and achievement, but do we really know why? Over the years, many studies have quantified the benefits of fine art experiences on a child's development.

While we appreciate the scholarly research, we also like to go straight to the source for our information. For our Top Ten Reasons to Attend a summer art camp list below, we culled fascinating facts from recent studies, but also asked for input from the TRUE experts—kids and parents!

10. Art is motivating! Kids in art classes can actively engage in their experience, taking risks, and developing sustained attention and perseverance.

9. Art makes you smart! Studies have shown that kids who participate in art experiences tend to score higher in language arts and mathematics exams.

8. Think about it! Kids who learn to look closely at art, using reasoning skills to infer what they see, are able to transfer those essential reasoning skills to other fields, including science.

7. Art is good for civilization. Making art leads to self-confidence and self-control, collaboration,

empathy for others, and care for your fellow man.

6. I can do it! Learning new things can be challenging, and kids who are challenged to try new things develop a strong sense of accomplishment.

5. Art is messy! Welcome the creative disaster areas that arise when paint, clay, tape, glue, and glitter are truly activated. Why have the mess at home?

4. Drawing is awesome. As one kid-experts said, “If you draw something really awesome like a dragon, you can imagine it's real!”

3. Freedom! Another kid-expert tells us “the best thing about art camp is that there's not an exact certain way you have to do the project. You can adjust it to how you want it.” Individuality is encouraged in the arts, and kids love finding their own approaches and solutions.

2. Art is for everyone. There's no right or wrong way to create art; art is noncompetitive, and we can all find a connection between ourselves and the art we see or make.

1. You're student is hanging with camp counselors who love all forms of art, are enthusiastic, and love to share and encourage that God-given gift and draw it out of your camper.



**NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR GETAWAY!**

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

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# Former Kansan forever changed by the Joplin tornado

Five years ago this month

by **Rick Nichols**

Author's note: Like my subject in the combination story and interview that follows, I was in Joplin, Mo., on Sunday, May 22, 2011, where I ultimately found myself in the path of the powerful EF5 tornado that destroyed roughly a third of the city that day. It killed 161 people in the process.

I live in Leavenworth, Kan., but I work in Oskaloosa, Kan., occupying the editor's chair at The Oskaloosa Independent, the second-oldest newspaper in the state. On June 9, 2011, the two papers owned by Davis Publications Inc., The Independent and The Vindicator (Valley Falls, Kan.), each carried a story about my subject headlined "Valley Falls native cheats death in Joplin tornado." It was my eventual discovery of this story while I was looking through the back issues of The Independent one day (I wasn't working for the paper in 2011) that prompted me to recently start trying to locate the subject of that story, then having found her, make the necessary arrangements to interview her.

Morgan Ratliff, a 2008 graduate of Valley Falls High School, came ever so close to dying on May 22, 2011 when a massive tornado rolled into Joplin late in the afternoon and proceeded to chew up and spit out everything in front of it, including the Stained Glass Theatre of Joplin just a block from St. John's Regional Medical Center.

"Two more feet in either direction, and I would be dead," Morgan told The Vindicator's Marveta Davis several days later, describing just how near she was to some of the many things that came crashing through the floor from upstairs while she was lying on her side behind a recliner in the basement of the building. That's where she landed after she dove for cover when the air pressure suddenly changed and the doors flew open.

When the tornado hit, Morgan had just arrived at the theatre, where she was a volunteer, to help take down the sets and put away the props following the final performance of "I Remember Mama." As she stepped out of her mother's car, which had safely driven her and the bulk of her possessions from Deaf Missions in Council Bluffs, Iowa, to Joplin that very day, she heard tornado sirens wailing. She hurried inside, made the front office staff and ushers aware of the approaching storm and urged them to get everyone down to the basement as quickly as possible, then headed there herself.

A friend who also was in the theatre when the twister slammed into it showed up shortly afterward and aided Morgan



Above, the Ratliffs - Morgan, Liz and Logan from left to right. The loss of husband and father Michael Ratliff earlier this year has only strengthened the bonds among them. Photo by Blair Maurer. Right, the Stained Glass Theater took a direct hit just a block from the hospital.



in emerging from the rubble that surrounded her. She was able to walk out of what was left of the building on her own power, but she was in some pain. One of her sides, the side she'd landed on, was bruised, and she had a gash on her left leg.

But despite the fact that she was hurt, the far-flung car looked like it'd been in a terrible accident and she'd never see most of her things again, Morgan was among

**"Nobody knew just how many were killed or the extent of the devastation at that point, but I knew enough from my experience to know that God was there in the midst of that storm and that He was going to be teaching me something incredible about Himself through all of this."**

the "lucky." Many were far less fortunate. Nearby, two people who had been in the theatre lay dead, a third would die later and six others were seriously injured. One of the three victims she knew well enough to call her a friend.

In May of 2011, Morgan was a student at Ozark Christian College in Joplin and a part-time employee of Heart-to-Heart, a local home health-care agency. That's also the month she turned 21. Since then she's gone on to earn two bachelor of arts degrees from OCC, one in psychology, counseling and biblical justice and the other in bible and deaf ministry, both of which she received last year. She's currently attending John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark., where she's pursuing a master's degree in counseling.

Morgan now works for a school district in the Joplin area as a sign language interpreter, but she still finds time to volunteer at the theatre and is planning to help backstage during an upcoming production. The theatre's new home is a brick building a few blocks from its former location.

Five years ago, Morgan spent her Sunday mornings at Joplin's College Heights Christian Church. Located just to the northeast of Missouri Southern

State University, the church was active in the effort to assist the needy in the immediate aftermath of the tornado, establishing a distribution center at the church where people could drop off items they were donating to the cause.

These days Morgan worships at Christ Church of Oronogo (Mo.), which is where she did an internship in 2014 through OCC.

Morgan is the daughter of Liz Ratliff and the late Michael Ratliff, who passed away in early January. Her mother is the librarian for the Valley Falls school system but will be moving to Joplin once the school year is over and has been thinking about getting involved with the theatre by helping with costumes.

Morgan also has a younger sister, Logan, who graduated from VFHS three years ago. Logan is 20 now and a student at Washburn University in Topeka.

**When the tornado hit the theater, did you think it was "all over," and, if not, what were your thoughts at the time?**

Ratliff - If you're asking if I thought I would die in the storm, I didn't. To tell you the truth, I didn't really understand what was happening. I knew that it was a tornado, but it really didn't register that what was happening was as devastating or catastrophic as it was. At the time, all I could do was pray.

**The headline for the story in the papers about the experience you had read "Valley Falls native cheats death in Joplin tornado." Do you think you cheated death and do you feel like you're living on "borrowed time," so to speak?**

Ratliff - I felt like those words were a little bit heavy and didn't match the experience. I don't think I cheated death because I understand that God has a plan for my life. At the time, I knew there was nothing that I did or didn't do that contributed to my survival. No one in the building I was in should have made it out. I'm not living on borrowed time. I'm living on God's time.

**If you could go back to Sunday, May 22, 2011 and do that day all over again, is there anything you would do differently?**

Ratliff - Wow! I have definitely thought over this exact question on more

than one occasion. There are various things that I wonder if they would have made a difference. Part of this journey has meant that I understand that, in the moment, I was using my best judgment and doing the best I knew how with the information I knew at the time. I couldn't have done anything different that day than I did. That being said, I wouldn't do anything differently.

**When you woke up that morning, how would you describe the extent to which you had faith in God going into that day?**

Ratliff - I had a strong faith in God. I became a believer in 2008 and had been walking with God for four years when the tornado hit.

**The following morning when you woke up, how would you describe the extent to which you had faith in God going into that day?**

Ratliff - I wish I could say I "woke up" the next morning. I spent most of that night wide awake, listening to the ever-present sounds of sirens and helicopters. My faith in God was even stronger on May 23 than it was on May 22. Nobody knew just how many were killed or the extent of the devastation at that point, but I knew enough from my experience to know that God was there in the midst of that storm and that He was going to be teaching me something incredible about Himself through all of this.

**Overall, what has your faith journey been like since the day of the tornado?**

Ratliff - The summer of the tornado was an emotional rollercoaster for everyone (myself included). I think what kept me grounded at all was my faith. In my emotional highs and lows I knew that God was constant. That's a lesson that I will carry with me forever. I am learning about God just as much now as I was in 2011. I hope that process never ends.

**In the story, Marveta wrote that your mother said Joplin is probably the most religious town in the world. Do you think that is true, and, if so, in what ways have you felt loved and comforted by your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ?**

Ratliff - I wouldn't say that Joplin is the most religious town. There are lots of places that are extremely religious. When people describe a person or location as "religious" it doesn't necessarily imply that they are Christian. Joplin has a strong faith community of Christ-followers. There are many kinds of churches in Joplin, a classic town in the Bible Belt, U.S.A., and certainly more than in Valley Falls, Kansas. I have felt loved and comforted by my brothers and sisters in Christ as we shared our stories together, cried together, laughed together, loved



Ratliff, days after losing all her belongings, volunteers sorting clothes for others. Photo: Neosho Daily News

each other as best as we could, when they took me in, when we stood by each other as we adjusted to our "new normal", as we shared the rough times and the times when we overcame, as they came from all over to help us clean-up, rebuild, and recover, and as we stuck by each other and as we still continue to walk with each other. The biblical metaphor for family became much more than a metaphor. That summer it became a reality.

**If there was one thing you could say to the people of Joplin, what would you tell them at this time?**

Ratliff - Joplin was put on the map by a tornado that made history. It stayed on the map because of how God touched the hearts of the many who came in contact with you. There are not many things that I can say with certainty that would



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### The Resale Lady of Topeka expands with warehouse space

Anje Kearney, the Resale Lady of Topeka, has been organizing estate and other sales in Topeka for years. She now has expanded her business with warehouse space at 5608 S.W. Topeka Blvd., Ste A. The new location will be used to store items clients want to sell and also for warehouse sales every Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The warehouse space will also allow her to take just one or two, or a few, items to sell from individuals.



ment items from people to sell at our warehouse sales," Kearney said. "We also list items for sale online that can be picked up in Topeka."

Kearney will host an Open House May 4 at 5 p.m. at the warehouse location, with live music, treats and shopping.

The dates and times of all sales are announced online on



the website and Facebook pages. You can also text ILOVERESALE to 22828 to get text alerts of special sales and get on the email list.

Kearney can be reached at 785-260-5458 or [anje1976@gmail.com](mailto:anje1976@gmail.com). More information is available on the website at [www.theresaleladyoftopeka.com](http://www.theresaleladyoftopeka.com).

The business will continue to do estate sales and other types of sales as well. "Soon we will start taking consign-




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### Securing Your Business Summit Set for May 3 at KBI Building

How secure is your business from cyber, physical, data or mobile breaches? Find out how to safeguard your company at this half-day workshop Tuesday, May 3, at the Kansas Bureau of Investigation building, 21st Street and Washburn Avenue. The half-day sum-

mit, offered from 8 - 11:30 a.m. and again from 1:30-5 p.m. Costs are \$20 for Greater Topeka Chamber of Commerce members and \$25 for non-Chamber members and includes an optional hour-long tour of the KBI building immediately following the morning

session or preceding the afternoon session at 12:30. Speakers include representatives from Watch Guard, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Capitol Federal and the KBI.

To register for the summit, go to [topekachamber.org/events](http://topekachamber.org/events).

### Small Business Awards to Feature Topeka Native and PBS SVP

Juan Sepulveda, PBS Senior Vice President – Station Services and a Topeka native, will be the keynote speaker at the 36th Annual Small Business Awards luncheon Tuesday, May 10, from noon - 1:30 p.m. at the Capitol Plaza Hotel. Sepulveda attended Our Lady of Guadalupe School and Hayden High School before becoming the third Latino awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. He holds degrees from

Harvard College and Oxford University and a juris doctor from Stanford Law School.

The event will recognize small business award winners. This year's categories and finalists are:

Emerging Entrepreneur of Distinction: Ash Boutique, Casa del Sabor and Motovike Films

Nonprofit Award of Distinction: CASA of Shawnee County, Harvesters

and SLI (formerly Sheltered Living, Inc.)

Minority and Women Business of Distinction: Express Employment Professionals, Juli's Coffee & Bistro and Reliant Apparel, LLC

Capital City Business of Distinction: Clayton Financial Services, Inc., HTK Architects and Big O Tires

Tickets for the event are \$30, and reservations can be made online at [brownpapertickets.com/event/2490055](http://brownpapertickets.com/event/2490055).

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## CONCERTS

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

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

**SHAREFEST CELEBRATION CONCERT w/ CLOVERTON** - Apr. 30, 11-3, 800 block Kansas Ave. Celebrate downtown with vendors & food trucks present. Cloverton performs at 1pm. Free event

**HOME FREE** - May 2, 7:30pm-10:30pm, TPAC. The winners of season four of "The Sing Off!" 785.234.2787 www.tpactix.org

**ARMOURAIRES QUARTET** - May 8, 6pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene St.

**NOONTIME BROWN BAG CONCERT** - Westar Pocket Park, 818 S Kansas, 11-1. May 18: Sam Doores of New Orleans.

**SUMMERTIME BLUES** - May 18, 7-9pm, Gage Park Amphitheater. The Topeka Blues presents Summertime Blues. Admission is free. Seating available, or bring your own chairs/blankets.

**SOUTH STEPS FRIDAY** - May 27, 11am at Kansas Statehouse - Live music courtesy of Reach Out Kansas and the KU School of Music.

**THE WRIGHTS** - May 28, 3pm & 7pm, Berryton UMC, 7010 SE Berrinton Rd. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

**LIFEFEAST** - 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

**COMMUNITY DINNER** - May 4, Tecumseh UMC. Pulled pork sandwich dinner featured. Free will donations

**FREE JAMZ AND JAVA NIGHT** - May 6, 7-9pm, Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor St. Common Grounds Coffee House serves up great coffee and live music in a family-friendly atmosphere. 785-354-8777 | info@myscc.org

**FAMILY FUN FEST** - May 7, 1-5pm, New Hope Church, 2915 SW 8th Ave. Prizes, games, and fun for the whole family! Hot dogs, snow cones, and popcorn! And three bands, including Anxious For Nothing and Grandeur. Free

**RUMMAGE SALE** - Jun. 2, 8am-3pm, & June 4, 8-11am, Faith Lutheran, 17th & Gage. Fundraiser for Youth Ministry. Items may be donated through May 22. Drop off during business hours, M-F, 8am-4:30pm.

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

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

**TOPEKA LITERACY COUNCIL VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP** - Apr. 2 & 9, 9am-4:45pm, Doorstep Building, 1119 SW 10th Ave. Tutors work with individuals who want to improve their reading and writing skills. Cost: \$25 (workshop materials). Information and registration by Friday, March 25: 785-234-2806 or topekaliteracy@juno.com

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS** - May 10 & 24, 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all of its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare as well as those considering making a change during open enrollment. Seminars will be held at Century Health Solutions, a division of Stormont-Vail Healthcare, 2951 SW Woodside Dr. Information: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Light snacks and beverages will be provided.

**FINDING HEALTH INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET** - May 6 & 24, 3-4:30pm, Computer Training Center, Topeka/SNCO Library. Finding quality health information from trusted sources can be a challenging endeavor. The consumer health librarian will show you how to access answers to your health and wellness questions. Register at <http://tsopl.eventbrite.com>.

**COMMUNITY GARDENS** - May 12, 7-8pm, Marvin Auditorium 101B, Topeka/SNCO Library. Hear about what interesting, productive and fun communities are having across the country. Join the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners to learn more about community gardens.

**ACTIVE LIVING, HEALTHY AGING** - May 16, 1-3pm, Marvin Auditorium 101BC, Topeka/SNCO Library. Come watch the award-winning documentary Age of Champions, which follows five National Senior Olympics competitors. A panel of local experts, including active older adults, health providers and community leaders, will discuss the film and answer questions afterward

**LAW AT THE LIBRARY** - May 23, 1-4 pm, Marvin Auditorium 101BC, Topeka/SNCO Library. A half hour informational program on advance directives and estate planning basics starts at 1, followed by the opportunity to meet with Kansas Legal Services staff who will be available to draft documents such as Powers of Attorney and Living Wills for free for community members aged 60+.

**CONTAINER GARDENING** - June 9, 7-8pm, Marvin Auditorium 101B, Topeka/SNCO Library. Do you prefer flowers, herbs and/or vegetables in your containers? What container should I use? How do I choose potting mixes? Members of the Shawnee County Extension Master Gardeners will lead the discussion.

## 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

**SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS** - Mondays 7pm, Croco Hall. Call Don at (785) 966-2765

**SILVER LAKE FARMERS MARKET** - Tuesdays 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m., Jun. 7 - Sep. 6, Silver Lake Public Library, 203 Railroad Street, Silver Lake

**EAST TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Tuesdays 3-7pm, begins May 24, 2010 SE California - Topeka Housing Authority

**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)

**CAPITOL MIDWEEK FARMERS MARKET** - Every Wed., May 11 thru Oct. 12, 7:30am - 12pm, Corner of 10th & Jackson on the South side of the Capitol Lawn

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

**COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING** - Thursday's 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

**NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS** - NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items.

**DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET** - Saturday's through Nov., 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods and more.

**MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET** - Saturdays 8:30-11:30am, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church 2014 NW 46th St.

**SWAP MEET AT PREMIERE FARM & HOME** - last Sat. of every month thru Oct., 900 SW University Blvd, 7 am to noon. Laying hens, pullets, baby chicks, guineas, ducks, geese, and more.

**SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH** - Every Sat., 1am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker

**TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES** - Sat. nights, 7-9:30pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968

**WHITE LAKES MARKET** - 1st Sat & Sun of every month 9 am - 3 pm

**VIP OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION** - Apr. 29, 6:30pm, Jayhawk State Theatre, 720 S Jackson. Taking Tea with the Ripper & The Hours of Anne

**CELEBRITY PANCAKE FEED** - Apr. 30, 7 am to noon, Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field. All you can eat pancakes for \$6 per person. Includes museum admission.

**CAPITAL CITY CARNAGE DEMO DERBY** - Apr. 29-30, Landon Arena @ Kansas ExpoCentre. The largest paying demolition derby in the US, with the winner taking home \$30,000! This 2-day arena event features the best drivers and car builders in the country.

**BATTLE FROG OBSTACLE COURSE** - Apr. 30, Heartland Park Topeka, 7530 SW Topeka Blvd. One of the fastest growing obstacle course racing series, known for its challenging endurance events. The 630 acre Heartland Park facility has natural terrain with ground elevation, wooded sections, a pond, and streams that provide all of the elements to make the obstacle course fun for participants. For info & to register: [www.battlefrogseries.com](http://www.battlefrogseries.com).

frogseries.com.

**LULAC PLANT SALE** - Apr. 30, 10am-6pm, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Flowers, tomatoes, peppers and herbs.

**CAPITOL CLASSIC BICYCLE RIDE** - May 1. Registration 6:45-8am, ride at 8am, parking lot of Kansas Judicial Center. Sponsored by Kaw Valley Bicycle Club. Four route options. [www.KVBC.org](http://www.KVBC.org)

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC** - May 2, 11:30 reg.; 12:30 shotgun start, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. 232-8296 or topekayfc.org

**OPEN HOUSE** - Resale Lady of Topeka - May 4, 5pm, 5608 SW Topeka Blvd. An evening of fun, live music, treats and shopping! 260-5458

**SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR** - May 5, 10-2., Fairlawn Plaza Mall. Meet with professionals to learn about senior living options and care choices. Register to win gift cards. Free. Sponsored by Topeka Area Continuity of Care.

**TOUCH-A-TRUCK** - May 5, 10-11:30am, Blaisdell Pool Parking Lot at Gage Park. Preschoolers age 3-5 can climb on, play in and honk the horns of various vehicles. Free event. 251-2960

**TOPEKA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** - May 5, 12 noon at Capitol Rotunda

**TOPEKA NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** - May 5, 6:30-7:30, Open Way Church, 200 NW Gordon. Info: [TransformTopekaKS.org](http://TransformTopekaKS.org)

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OPEN HOUSE** - May 5, 3:30-6:30pm, Faith's Home, 2529 SE Michigan Ave. Tour a Topeka Habitat for Humanity home, chat with our staff, and enjoy some refreshments. For info: 785-234-4322.

**TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION WAREHOUSE SALE** - May 5 & 6, 7am-3pm, 206 NW Norris St. All sales benefit the programs of Topeka Rescue Mission

Every Wednesday  
11am to 1pm  
8th & Quincy.  
MAY 18  
818 S. KANSAS AVENUE

**WASHBURN TECH CAR SHOW** - May 6, 9am-2:30pm, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon St. is a yearly fundraiser for Care Closet, a committee that provides short-term financial assistance to Washburn Tech students who need help to complete their education. To register contact Mike Evenson at 785-228-6313.

**COMMANDERS BREAKFAST** - May 7, 8-11am at Am. Legion Post 1. Biscuits and gravy. Public welcome.

**TWO BLOCK CHALK WALK** - May 7, 11am-9pm, 800-900 block of N. Kansas Ave. NOTO Arts District is getting out the sidewalk chalk and attempting to cover each square of concrete sidewalk within two blocks with art. There will be a box of chalk in front of each building for community use. Special guest artists will be featured on designated areas.

**BOOK SIGNING** - May 7, 1pm, Hastings Books, 1900 W. 23rd St., Lawrence. Join Christian author Luis Angel Duperon for the book signing of his new Christian novel The Clown: One Who Rises From His Fall. For info: (785) 832-0719

## Topeka Rescue Mission Thrift Store

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### NEXT WAREHOUSE SALE

May 5th and 6th from 7am-3pm  
at 206 NW Norris

To Donate to the Topeka Rescue Mission, please take items to the Distribution Center  
401 NW Norris, M-F, 8am-3pm or Sat, 8am-Noon  
Questions about non-cash donations? Call 357-4285  
[www.trmonline.org](http://www.trmonline.org)  
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- C5Alive POWER Luncheons - (2nd Thur. ea. mo.)
- May 12, 11:30-1, at Seaman Community Church, NW Taylor & Lyman. Featured Speaker: Cory Walker
- June 9, 11:30-1, at Gary Clarke Edu. Ctr., Topeka Zoo. Featured Speaker: City Manager Jim Colson
- July 14, 11:30-1, Ramada West. Featured Speaker: Barry Feaker
- Aug. 11, 11:30-1, details TBA

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)

Sat., June 4, 5 - 11 pm • Sun., June 5, 10 am - 5 pm

A benefit for Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Parish, supporting Holy Family Catholic School and Hayden High

Find us on Facebook

**Event Drawings**

**Saturday, June 4 - Outdoor**  
4 pm Mass  
5 pm German Food Lines Open  
Children's Inflatables & Mini-Train  
Live Entertainment

**Sunday, June 5**  
10 am German Food Lines Open  
Carnival, Games, Bingo  
Musical Entertainment  
2:00 pm Oral Auction, Drawings

**Saturday & Sunday**  
Authentic German Food, Silent Auction, Beer Booth, Fancy Booth, Country Store, Jewelry Booth, T-shirts, Souvenirs, Entertainment, Snacks, Bier Garden & More!

**Event Drawings**

Electronics - \$1 donation/ticket  
2-in-1 Tablet-Laptop Computer  
42 in. Flat Screen TV  
X-box One Game System

Entertainment - \$7 donation/ticket  
50 Royal Movie Ticket Vouchers  
20 KC Royals Ticket Vouchers  
Great Wolf Lodge, KC, KS (overnight stay for family of 4)

Handmade Quilts - \$1 donation/ticket  
Three beautiful handmade quilts donated by St. Anthony's Guild

Cash Drawing - \$10 donation/ticket  
1st Place - \$5,000  
2nd Place - \$2,500  
3rd Place - \$1,000  
4th - 7th Place - \$250

**JUNE 4, 8:00 am: BRAT TROT - 5K Run/Walk**. \$25 registration includes t-shirt & post-race snacks. Begin and end at Sacred Heart parking lot.  
Register at [www.GermanfestBratTrot.weebly.com](http://www.GermanfestBratTrot.weebly.com)

Sacred Heart Church, 312 NE Freeman, Topeka KS • 234-3338  
More info at [SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org](http://SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org)



floor; 862-2326. For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.aa.org.

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

**OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP** – First Tue. each month at St. Francis Health, 1700 SW 7th St, Meeting Room, 2nd floor, 6–7:30pm. Anyone with an ostomy may attend. The goal is to provide education and ongoing support for individuals with an ostomy. Contact Teresa 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 faithfamilyministries@gmail.com.

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

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

**MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP** – Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our

students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

**DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS** – (For updates check www.divorcecare.org) Locations and times:

**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. (just East of 37th & Croco). Cost: \$10 registration (scholarships available). The video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost experts on divorce and recovery topics, combined with support group discussion of the materials. Complimentary child care children up to the fifth grade. Info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net. Contact: Pastor Thornton.

**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.

**TUBMAN**

continued from page 1

Tubman was born a slave in Maryland in the 19th century. In 1848, she escaped to Philadelphia but was not content with only her freedom. Considered the Moses of her time, she made 19 trips to the South through the Underground Railroad network and escorted more than 300 slaves to freedom over 10 years. Her willful personality propelled her through the perilous journey: She often had to draw her pistol on nervous slaves who wanted to turn back. But Tubman's faith in God served as her strength, and she never lost a slave during the countless trips she made. A lesser known fact about Tubman was that she considered herself a Republican—the party of President Lincoln whom she admired, even though she was denied the vote.

"I always told God," Tubman said, "I'm going to hold steady on to you, and you've got to see me through."

During the Civil War, Tubman worked for the Union as a nurse, cook, and spy. She earned the distinction of being the first woman to lead a military expedition, directing the army on a raid to free 700 slaves in 1863. After the war, she continued to serve the elderly and poor and remained a prominent advocate for education and the right for freed slaves and women to vote.

**JOPLIN**

continued from page 11

speaking for all the people of Joplin. Here's one thing I can say with great certainty: People of Joplin, God is not finished with our story!

Aside from the obvious physical differences, in what ways has Joplin changed - for the better or the worse - since May 22, 2011?

Ratliff - I think that, because Joplin is a college town, the changes are many and constant. People come and go. What I think has changed for the people who were and are here is that we know on an experiential level that people are what matter. Things are just things.

Has the experience you had changed the way you approach life and if so, how?


Ratliff - Absolutely! The tornado changed how I approach life! I would say that the tornado changed how I approach life because it has shaped the way I view life. Life is precious and life is fleeting. The tornado made both of those concepts more real to me than they ever had been in the past. My life is lived much more intentionally and purposefully now. Not that I lived without intention and purpose prior to the tornado, but it has most definitely shaped the amount of fervency and attention that I pay towards being intentional and purposeful every day. Life is short. The tornado taught me to think eternal. I no longer live "in the moment" I live "for eternity".



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# entertainment

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## Union Bound explores brutality of war and spiritual questions

**entertainment**

 by **Pluggedin**

You're never going to be fed very well in a prison camp. And when you've been captured by an army that can't even feed its own men ... well, you can be pretty sure they're not going to save the prime rib for you.

New Yorker Joseph Hoover and his Unionist pal, Robert, were captured by Confederates during the Battle of the Wilderness—one of the bloodiest confrontations in the Civil War. They survived four months in the Andersonville prison camp, where 13,000 men eventually died. Finally transferred to the Florence Stockade in South Carolina, they quickly realize it's not much better. And even though the Confederacy seems to be wheezing its last by the fall of 1864, Joseph and Robert know the war could go on for months, maybe years yet. There's no guarantee they'll survive to the end.

But a new pal, Tom Ryan, has an idea. See, the Florence Stockade isn't much of a stockade yet. In fact, it looks more like a really crowded campsite—albeit one

**“God's influence, love and sovereignty are also acknowledged throughout the rest of the film.”**

**film411**
**UNION BOUND**
**STARS:** Randy Wayne, Drew Seeley, Isaac C. Singleton Jr.

**WRITERS:** John Errington

**DIRECTOR:** Harvey Lowry

**RATED:** PG-13

where you'll be shot if you're seen trying to leave. Still, the lack of walls gives Tom a bit of hope. What if they could make a dash for it. And so they do. It works out

well ... for two of them.

They're not the only folks who long to escape Southern captivity, of course. Indeed, it seems these Northern white soldiers may yet find help below the Mason-Dixon

Line—not in the camps of the Confederacy or the sprawling antebellum mansions built by King Cotton, but in the modest shacks and hovels of African slaves.

Moviegoers are reminded of the evils of slavery and what was, in the end, at stake during the Civil War. Joseph feels that he and his comrades are fighting for a righteous cause, and he insists to Tom that if they ever get back to the North,

both should return to the army and continue campaigning for that cause. "The Union cannot stand until all men are free," he says. "And it cannot hold together unless each one of us does our part." Much of that conviction of various characters rests on their faith.

Throughout the movie, faith is an enduring element.

During their stay in the Florence Stockade hospital, a nurse comes to comfort a dying man. With Joseph lying nearby, she tells the delirious soldier that she's a "woman of faith," and walks him through the Sinner's Prayer so that he might go to heaven should he die that evening. And as the two pray, Joseph silently mouths the words along with them—becoming, it's suggested, a Christian himself.

God's influence, love and sovereignty are also acknowledged throughout the rest of the film. When a family takes Tom and Joseph in, Joseph says, "Thanks be to God, and to you"—even though one of the slaves, speaking in an accent reminiscent of the stereotypical slaves from *Gone With the Wind*, calls them "Yankee demons." When Tom lies about who he is and where he came from, he's reprimanded with, "It's a terrible sin to tell such a lie."

When a calamity befalls the trio, Joseph suggests that "the Lord works in His own ways." "How is this the Lord's way?" Jim asks aloud in his own moment of personal agony. And yet God does seem to use the tragedy as a catalyst to



send Jim on his sacrificial path. "We all got a purpose," Jim says.

When Joseph asks Jim why he'd bother to help them escape, Jim at first says that it just seemed like the "Christian thing to do." But then he goes deeper with his explanation. "Y'all been captives," he tells Joseph. "I've been in chains before. I know what that is. It ain't nothing that no man should endure."

Union Bound is based on the real-life diaries of Joseph Hoover, and it is determined to remind viewers that slavery is indeed a terrible evil. "Those who deny freedom to others," Abraham Lincoln wrote, "deserve it not for themselves; and, under a just God, cannot long retain it." Subtly, the film, which portrays many of the darkest brutalities of civil war, suggests that a just God is indeed at work,

even in the midst of horror and hardship. It tells us that the better angels of our natures (another phrase from Lincoln) stem from a deep, abiding faith: As Jim said, the "Christian thing to do."

Of course, we all know that it's not so simple as that—not now and not then. While Christianity was the cornerstone of the abolitionist movement, a great many people also used the Bible to justify slavery.

But that is the beauty of a story, isn't it? We can tell the stories that should be told, to remind us how we—as Christians, as people—should act and treat others.

And Union Bound, in spite of some cinematic missteps, tells us that even in our own imperfections we still have the ability to tell a story—a truth—worth telling.

**bookshelf**

## The Bitter Quitter

*Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior.*

—Ephesians 4:31, NLT

I sat sipping my fresh cup of coffee, listening to her story, and hearing what God was doing in her life. My friend was about to embark on a journey across the country to follow after a purpose she desired.

I was so excited for her as she shared with me the ways she had seen the faithfulness of God through this situation. I was really inspired, but something in me ached when she said these words:

"You know, Nicki, when you're following God, everything just falls into place."

I nodded my head slowly, took another sip of my coffee, and held back the tears.

I was following God too. I was chasing the purpose, the dream, the plans He had for my life. But, it didn't feel like anything was falling into place. It felt like everything was falling apart. Every time I seemed to turn around there was another problem, another obstacle, another detour away from where I was trying to go. How do we follow God when it feels like everything is

falling apart?

I think Ruth may have run into this issue more than once on her journey with Naomi because as Naomi and Ruth arrive in Bethlehem, there's a clue as to how this journey may have gone.

Let's read Exodus 15:23 to get a better idea of why Naomi would say to call her this. Why does it say they could not drink the water in Marah?

Bitter.

Now, you guys, I have been mad at God and others before, but goodness gracious—you know you are mad when you change your name to bitter. That is a whole other level of bitterness.

It's possible there were days when she felt that following God wasn't looking too snazzy and upbeat. This assignment of refinement was getting harder for Ruth.

When we are following God and it feels like everything's falling apart, if left untreated, disappointment can easily develop into bitterness.

God did not give Naomi the name of bitterness; in fact, Naomi actually means pleasant.

Perhaps it's something like a job—when it turns from an exciting opportunity into a dreadful obliga-

tion—or when family turns into the people we resent the most. Even church or Bible study can become just another thing on a to-do list.

Naomi allowed a huge disappointment to become a definition of bitterness over her life, but Ruth allowed a huge disappointment to become an assignment of refinement over her life.

Before you think I'm getting all high and mighty and telling us we should all just be like Ruth, full of hope, let's be honest for a second. If I were walking through this situation, I would probably be more like Naomi than Ruth. Not letting bitterness slip into my disappointments has been a huge struggle for me personally. I have definitely become a bitter quitter more than once in my lifetime.

I've spent some time trying to understand [the verse] of the day:

Get rid of all bitterness, rage, anger, harsh words, and slander, as well as all types of evil behavior (Ephesians 4:31, NLT).

I like this version of Ephesians 4:31 because I understand what it means to "get rid" of some stuff.

When you first start to get rid of things, it can feel difficult and confusing. You start to second-guess

yourself and wonder, Will I ever need this again?, but after a while, stuff just starts flying out of the house. Don't need this; don't need that.

There's the potential for each of us to become bitter quitters when facing disappointments, but there's also the potential for us to allow every difficult situation to shape and form some part of our character.

When we start to see the hard, messy places as assignments of refinement, something shifts in our

souls. It's a perspective change.

This isn't about getting it "right" or "wrong." It's about letting the hard things make us strong. As we get rid of bitterness day by day, moment by moment, we will stack these defining days—the days we didn't quit—and one day look back and realize we, too, are wearing the title: I finished strong.

*Excerpted from  
A Woman Who Doesn't Quit  
by Nicki Koziarz.  
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# CELEBRATE NEW MUSIC, ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating the 25th anniversary of her hit song "Baby, Baby," Amy Grant has joined pop artist Tori Kelly to re-record a new version of her single, stating "we needed to give some new juice to this old song."

"There's a pop artist that I love that wasn't even alive 25 years ago," Grant said in an interview. An American Idol alum, Tori Kelly has garnered quite a bit of attention playing numerous televised appearances and getting nominated for Best New Artist at the 58th Grammy Awards.

The newest version of "Baby, Baby" was released April 29.

Speaking of new artists, Joel Vaughn has released his debut album, Kinetic, just last month. Recently signed to DREAM Records, Vaughn's premier also includes two remixes by Chris Howland and David Thulin. Kinetic was co-written by Joel Vaughn, David Thulin and Jonathan Thulin, with David Thulin producing the album. Joel has garnered quite a bit of attention after his track, "In This World" was remixed by Unikron and shown on YouTube, which has gotten him 12 million views worldwide.



**D.C. Jeanes**  
Metro Voice  
Music Critic

**musicscene**

"I loved making this new album. Writing with "The Thulins" [Jonathan Thulin and David Thulin] was a blast."

Joel's first single, "Wide Awake," has gotten into the top 30 on the Billboard Christian Hot AC / CHR chart in a few weeks here in the states and was the most added song on Christian radio in Australia's TCM Chart. For more information, visit Joelvaughnmusic.com.

BEC Recordings' All Things New premiered a new music video last month today for their new radio single "Believe." Off of their current album The Good News, All Things New had offered previews of the video before releasing the finished product. Written to encourage Believers in times of trial, the song is based on the scripture in Mark 9. Lead



singer Garrett Hornbuckle says the song is a reminder of God's grace and strength.

"[God] can remind us to rest in the promises of who He is and who He says we are. We are children of God. We do not have to live in our past anymore, we can live in the new life and the freedom that God has given us."

All Things New has been travelling in support of the Way-FM For Kids tour / The Unashamed tour with Building 429 and special guest Colton Dixon.

Sisters Lauren and Brooke DeLeary, known as the Christian pop/rock duo LoveCollide, have released their sophomore project, RESONATE. "RESONATE - A Ripple To A Wave," their first of a two CD collection, was released April 29th.

"The mission with our music has



always been to awaken a movement and to ignite a wildfire passion for Jesus in the hearts of this generation and those to come," the sisters said, "we believe our life is a ministry and our music is simply the



vehicle God is using for His Kingdom... We had so many songs we wanted to include in this project that it was getting difficult to narrow down our selection. After much prayer and reflection, we decided to make this project a journey for our fans and listeners; a lifestyle to embrace, rather than just a single CD release. We decided to split the full project into two separate 8 song CDs. They will be 6 months apart with music videos and devotionals for each song released every month before the release of the second CD, RESONATE: A Spark into a Flame next fall."

## Seven essential books to give your graduate

You have so much you want to tell your graduating senior—whether a child, grandchild, or friend. Although you've spent years sharing the wisdom you've gleaned from life, somehow that doesn't seem to be nearly enough. There's always something else you meant to say, some piece of advice you forgot to mention, some story from your past that could definitely help.

Instead of loading them down with everything you think they'll need, sometimes it's better to supply them with solid books that can shape them over the long run. But which ones should you choose?

None of these recommendations matter if there's no solid foundation in Scripture. But if that's there, then here are seven books to give your graduate to help them in their journey.

### Every Young Man's/Woman's Battle

by Stephen Arterburn, Fred Stoeker, and Shannon Ethridge

Sex. Every graduate will face an onslaught from the world when it comes to sex. Porn is more common on the Internet than cat memes. Smartphone apps encourage hooking up with a simple swipe, and temptations have become nearly constant. In fact, the battle they face will likely only grow more intense. They need help, and the Every Man's Battle series gives them the weapons to overcome. Both Every Young Man's Battle and Every Young Woman's Battle tackle this topic in a way that will stick with them.

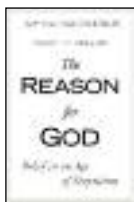


### The Reason for God: Belief in the Age of Skepticism

by Tim Keller

Considered by many an instant classic, The Reason for God by Pastor Tim Keller

often appears on lists of the best Christian books of all time. There's a good reason for that. This well-reasoned volume has become the go-to book for answering the skeptics of our day. With his firm grasp of Scripture, Keller will provide your graduate with a new trust in God's unfailing Word.



### Crazy Love: Overwhelmed by a Relentless God

by Francis Chan

Millions of Christians have responded to the passionate appeal Francis Chan unleashed on the world in the form of Crazy Love. This book has become fodder for small group studies and awakened many to the need to do more in their love for God than just "trying not to cuss." Easy to read, but impossible to put down, Chan's short book will charge your graduate up to pursue a wild love for Jesus.



### Clout: Discover and Unleash Your God-Given Influence

by Jenni Catron

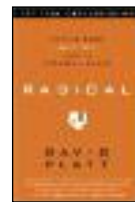
Every teen and young adult longs to be significant, to do something that matters. That's why it's often so hard for many to "settle down" into one decisive career choice or major—and why they often doubt their influence. In Clout, Jenni Catron examines the life of Jesus to see exactly what His Philippians 2 leadership looks like. She wants us, as Christians, to follow His example in unleashing our "clout" and using our gifts to impact the world.



### Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream

by David Platt

Pastor David Platt has become widely known for his multi-hour sermons during special "secret church" events. But his fire for sharing the gospel is the true engine that drives him, and you can see that in his best-selling book Radical. Most grads take the comforts of home for granted—security, money, convenience. But this book will challenge them to see beyond the world to what it truly means to take up their crosses and follow Jesus.



### Kingdom Calling: Vocational Stewardship for the Common Good

by Amy Sherman

Too often, Christians make a distinction between "holy work" and "secular work." Some jobs, the argument goes, have a Kingdom impact, and some don't. But Jesus never presented vocation as an impediment to sharing the gospel—He worked through fishermen, tax collectors, soldiers, and doctors. In Kingdom Calling, Amy Sherman shows how any job can be a launching pad for advancing the Kingdom. Plus, there's practical advice on how it works in daily life.



### (The Cost of) Discipleship

by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Thanks to recent biographies, Bonhoeffer's stature among Christians has risen once again. And that's a good thing because his classic work Discipleship (also called The Cost of

Discipleship) is a must-read for any believer. Although the core of the book is a study of the Sermon on the Mount, the true power of this work is its insightful (and sometimes devastating) explanation of what it means to follow Jesus—no matter the cost.



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## Atheist Bill Maher calls for tax on religion; blames religion for the evils in society

Television host Bill Maher is calling for taxes for religion, equating it to alcohol and cigarettes.

"If we levy taxes — sin taxes, they call them — on things that are bad to get people to stop doing them, why in Heaven's name don't we tax religion? A sexist, homophobic, magic act that's been used to justify everything from genital mutilation to genocide. You want to raise the tax on tobacco so kids don't get cancer? Okay, but let's put one on Sunday school so they don't get stupid," Maher said in a report by Christian Daily.

Maher, a known atheist, has been vocal about his perception of religion as

harmful to society. He lamented that religious groups and institutions in the U.S. have properties amounting to \$600 billion and are exempt from taxes.

The television host also tagged religion as the cause of conflict in society, and linked it to child sex abuse and the terrorist acts of the Islamic State and Boko Haram and child sex abuse.

"Americans are losing their religion because they're catching on that religions do much more harm than good. Who enabled child sex abuse for centuries? What's the common thread between ISIS, al-Qaeda, Boko Haram, and most other terrorist groups in the world? Who's behind the new law in Mississippi that says Mississippi now cannot, among other things, force a baker to bake for a gay wedding?" he ranted.



MAHER



## Healthy Living to 100 By Dr. Barry Chase

In China there is a village called Bapan Village. It is also called Longevity Village. At 115, Boxin Huang is the oldest resident of Longevity Village but he's not extraordinary there, as many of the residents live long past 100 years. Although many people think it's their genetic makeup that determines longevity, current medical data shows that only 25 percent of longevity is due to genes and the other 75 percent is affected by lifestyle. It turns out that we are the makers of our own destiny. Through lifestyle choices we can increase the chances of living a longer life, with greater quality.

The 5 most important factors for increasing our lifespan are:

1. Be physically active
2. Eat a healthy diet
3. Get restorative sleep
4. Manage your stress
5. Be socially connected

Think of your own lifestyle. How many of those factors do you make conscious choices that are healthy and beneficial for a long life?

Of the 5 factors listed, one of the most poorly understood is restorative sleep. What is meant by restorative? And how does that affect our potential to live to 100 years of age?

When we sleep our brain cycles through what is known as sleep staging. There are 3 stages of sleep: light sleep, deep sleep and Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep. While sleeping, we need a certain amount of each

stage to feel rested, energetic, clear minded, and healthy. The total sleep time adults need remains constant throughout life, somewhere between 7 to 8 hours each night. As we become older, people spend more time in the lighter stages of sleep than in deep sleep or REM sleep. Changes to our sleep patterns are a part of the normal aging process. As people age, they tend to have a harder time falling asleep and more trouble staying asleep. The result is that many seniors do not sleep in one 7 to 8 hour time period, but rather, sleep in fragmented segments, often taking many naps during the day. Unfortunately, it usually takes 30 to 40 minutes of sleep to enter into deep sleep and up to 90 minutes to reach REM sleep. If your sleep is constantly interrupted, deep and REM sleep are compromised.

The benefits of sleep are more than just not feeling tired and sleepy during the day. Seniors who sleep at least 7 hours during the night are less susceptible to serious illnesses like heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, dementia, mood disorders and obesity. The long-term effects of poor sleep impact our longevity as we slowly gain weight, suffer more from common colds and the flu – without connecting our poor sleep habits to our growing number of ailments.

Lack of sleep quality has long been linked to a compromised immune system. A recent study by scientists at the

Archives of Internal Medicine found that, of the 153 men and women who participated, those who slept less than seven hours a night on average were three times more likely to get sick than those who averaged at least eight hours.

One of the most common causes of interrupted, fragmented sleep is a condition called sleep apnea. It is often characterized by loud snoring, periods of not breathing while sleeping, waking during the night gasping for breath, and waking up in the morning unrefreshed, often having headaches and being sleepy during the day. People suffering from sleep apnea experience episodes during the night when the airway (throat or pharynx) is collapsed or blocked by the tongue and air is not flowing into the lungs. Oxygen, therefore, is not flowing into the body. The person continues to burn the oxygen in the blood and body but it is not being replaced. As the oxygen levels fall, the brain senses the decrease in oxygen and awakens the person to take a breath. The oxygen levels quickly recover, but the person's sleep is broken. Often it then becomes difficult to return to sleep, and deep and REM sleep are reduced.

Sleep apnea is a very easy condition to diagnose and therapy is very effective. If you snore loudly, and have the other signs of sleep apnea, please consult with your doctor. Treating sleep apnea is one way to ward off the many



medical consequences of interrupted sleep and add years to one's life span.

There are many tips to improve sleep and add to the longevity of your life. Some of them include:

- Many people find that warm milk increases sleepiness, because it contains a natural, sedative-like amino acid.
- Avoid stimulants such as caffeine (found in coffee, tea, cola drinks, and chocolate) for at least 3 or 4 hours before bed.
- Try to avoid napping during the day. If you must nap, keep it to less than 30 minutes.
- Exercise (moderately) in the late afternoon or early evening. Exercise increases core body temperature. The cooling of the body when resting after exercise will promote sleep.
- Avoid too much stimulation, such as violent TV shows or computer games, before sleep. Practice relaxation techniques at bedtime.
- Try to go to bed at the same time

every night and wake at the same time each morning.

• Use the bed only for sleep or sexual activity. Try not to eat or use the computer in bed.

• Avoid tobacco products, especially before sleep.

If you cannot fall asleep after 20 minutes, get out of bed and do a quiet activity, such as reading or listening to music. When you feel sleepy, get back in bed and try again. If you still cannot fall asleep in 20 minutes, repeat the process.

Insomnia, restless legs, chronic pain, stress and worry all can interfere with healthy sleep. In medicine today, some physicians are sleep specialists. There are many new therapies, medications and technologies to combat sleep disorders. If you are having difficulty sleeping, please consult with your doctor or seek out a sleep specialist. Improving your sleep is paramount to a long and healthy life.

## Aging Gracefully

(Ivanhoe Newswire) -- Age may just be a number, but when the numbers start adding up, so do the stereotypes. One geriatrician is on a mission to dispel the negative mindset that getting older means getting worse.

At 92 and 88, Roland and Lucienne Lee are so comfortable together; you'd think they'd be celebrating a 50 year anniversary.

But they've only been married for 10 years.

Roland told Ivanhoe, "We dated for about a year, didn't we?"

Lucienne responded, "We were married after a month!"

A month? Was it that fast? You work pretty fast," Roland replied.

"It was your idea. I wanted to live in sin; he wanted to get married," Lucienne explained.

All kidding aside, both Ronald and Lucienne have a keen understanding about their advancing years.

Bill Thomas, MD, Geriatrician



told Ivanhoe, "It's not about how fast you can run or how high you can jump. It's about how much you understand and how much you're able to give back to the world, that's aging."

Dr. Thomas was a geriatrician who now travels the country performing what he calls "Non-fiction Theater." When it comes to aging, he focuses on three simple ideas.

The first: move well.

"People who move best in old age are the people who keep moving," Dr. Thomas explained.

Next, sleep well. Dr. Thomas said, "Older people can have

greater sleep fragmentation, and are awake more during the night, it's normal, no problem."

Last, but not least: eat well, and he's not talking about counting carbs.

"It turns out that eating and sharing meals together is a really important part of our health. If you only ever eat alone, you're missing something vital," he said.

Lucienne told Ivanhoe, "I hope that he goes before me, or both together. That would be the best way."



Roland replied, "Okay, I can do that."

Lucienne said, "Don't get any ideas and crash the car or anything." And for heaven's sake, don't stop laughing, she added.

Thomas says people who focus their energy outward, on friends, family and new hobbies and experiences, tend to have the

highest degree of happiness and well-being, compared to people who just think about themselves and their aches and pains.

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# SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Question:**

My son, who gets Social Security, will attend his last year of high school in the fall. He turns 19 in a few months. Do I need to fill out a form for his benefits to continue?

**Answer:**

Yes. You should receive a form, SSA-1372-BK, in the mail about three months before your son's birthday. Your son needs to complete the form and take it to his school's office for certification. Then, you need to return page two and the certified page three to Social Security for processing. If you can't find the form we mailed to you, you can find it online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-1372.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/forms/ssa-1372.pdf).

**RETIREMENT**

**Question:**

My neighbor, who is retired, told me that the income he receives from his part-time job at the local nursery gives him an increase in his Social Security benefits. Is that right?

**Answer:**

Retirees who return to work after they start receiving benefits may be able to receive a higher benefit based



on those earnings. This is because Social Security automatically re-computes the retirement benefit after crediting the additional earnings to the individual's earnings record. Learn more by reading the publication, *How Work Affects Your Benefits*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:**

I plan to retire soon. When will my monthly Social Security benefits paid?

**Answer:**

Social Security benefits are paid each month. Generally, new retirees receive their benefits on either the second, third, or fourth Wednesday of each month, depending on the day in the month the retiree was born. If you receive benefits as a spouse, your benefit payment date will be determined by your spouse's birth date.

Here's a chart showing how your monthly payment date is determined:

Day of the Month You Were Born = Social Security Benefits Paid On:  
 1st-10th: Second Wednesday  
 11th-20th: Third Wednesday  
 21st-31st: Fourth Wednesday

For a calendar showing actual payment dates, see the Schedule of Social Security Benefit Payments at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/calendar.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/calendar.htm).

**SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME**

**Question:**

How do I apply for Social Security disability benefits?

**Answer:**

There are two ways that you can apply for disability benefits. You can:  
 1. Apply Online at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov); or  
 2. Call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), to make an appointment to file a disability claim at your local Social Security office or to set up an appointment for someone to take your claim over the telephone.

**Question:**

Can I get both Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and Social Security benefits based on my disability?

**Answer:**

Many people eligible for Social Security disability benefits also may be eligible for SSI. The disability decision for one program is the same for the other, but you must meet additional resource and income limits to qualify for SSI benefits. Learn all about SSI and whether or not you may qualify by reading the publication, *You May Be Able To Get Supplemental Security Income (SSI)* at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**DISABILITY**

**Question:**

Is there a time limit on collecting Social Security disability benefits?

**Answer:**

Your disability benefits will continue as long as your medical condition does not improve and you remain unable to work. We will review your case at regular intervals to make sure you are still disabled. If you are still receiving disability benefits when you reach full retirement age, we will automatically convert them to retirement benefits. Learn more by reading our publication, *Disability Benefits*, at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs).

**Question:**

I get Social Security because of a disability. How often will my case be reviewed to determine if I'm still eligible?

**Answer:**

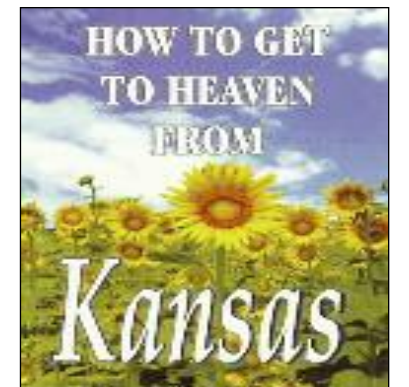
How often we review your medical condition depends on how severe it is and the likelihood it will improve. Your award notice tells you when you can expect your first review using the following terminology:

**Medical improvement expected** — If your condition is expected to improve within a specific time, your first review will be six to 18 months after you started getting disability benefits.

**Medical improvement possible** — If improvement in your medical condition is possible, your case will be reviewed about every three years.

**Medical improvement not expected** — If your medical condition is unlikely to improve, your case will be reviewed about once every five to seven years.

For more information, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).



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.

## senior news/events briefs

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

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

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

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR** - May 10 & 24 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 & beverages provided.

**ACTIVE LIVING, HEALTHY AGING** - May 16, 1-3pm, Marvin Auditorium 101BC, Topeka/SNCO Library. Come watch the award-winning documentary *Age of Champions*, which follows five National Senior Olympics competitors. A panel of local experts, including active older adults, health providers and community leaders, will discuss the film and answer questions afterward

**SENIOR RESOURCE FAIR** - May 5, 10-2., Fairlawn Plaza Mall. Meet with professionals to learn about senior living options and care choices. Register to win gift cards. Free. Sponsored by Topeka Area Continuity of Care.

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# sports



## MASTERS WINNER: GOD DOESN'T CARE ABOUT GOLF

by Benjamin Gill

The son of a British vicar has won the Masters Golf Tournament, but he's not sure God had much to do with it.

Danny Willett earned the victory, thanks in part to a major collapse by Jordan Spieth, who had been winning the contest.

Willett did his part, turning in a tremendous performance with three birdies on the last six holes. But Spieth also blew a five-shot lead, splashing into a three-shot deficit.

"We all go out there and try and play good golf, and at the end of the day, someone has got to win the golf tournament," Willett said. "And fortunately enough, today was my day."

Willett is from Sheffield, England. The British website Premier.org.uk reports Willett's

father is a retired vicar in the Church of England.

While Willett has spoken in the past about his faith, he distanced it from golf in an interview with Daily Express.

"I am a Christian - I was brought up in a Christian family - but a lot of the Americans take it slightly over the top at times," Willett said.



"I think He has bigger things to deal with than whether I shoot 65 or not..."

But his father, the retired Rev. Stephen Willett, told Premier's News Hour he thinks God is blessing his son.

## FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

The NBA playoffs are in full swing with a couple first round series just finishing up and the second round about to begin. Of course, what would the playoffs be without some drama? Well, it just wouldn't seem right.

There are several players missing time during the playoffs because of injuries. First and foremost is Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry. Arguably the best player in the NBA at this time, he hurt his ankle in the opening series against the Houston Rockets. He missed a couple of games then tweaked his knee when he slipped at midcourt playing defense. He may miss a couple of weeks. What's amusing to me is that several people are now counting the Warriors



out. They are so much more than just a one man show. I mean, the team went 73-9 this year. That's the best ever! Klay Thompson is more than capable of putting this team on his back.

He's done it so far in the playoffs when Curry has been out. The thing is, the Warriors appear vulnerable and the games will only get more difficult from here. After a second round series against either the Los Angeles Clippers or the Portland Trail Blazers, the San Antonio Spurs or the Oklahoma City Thunder await. Curry could be back in time for the third round, depending how long the second round series lasts.

Speaking of the Clippers, they are missing Blake Griffin for the remainder of the

playoffs and Chris Paul for several weeks, maybe the remainder of the playoffs as well. Currently, they are tied with the Trail Blazers 2-2 in their first round series and they could find their season over before you read this. While I think that Portland will win this series, I don't think either team can beat a Curry-less Warrior team.

Looking into the East, after sweeping the Detroit Pistons in four games, the LeBron James led Cleveland Cavaliers look like the team to beat. Kyrie Irving, Kevin Love and James are clicking on all cylinders and I don't see anyone standing up to them in the East. Irving is averaging 27.5 points, James is averaging 22.8 points and Love is at 18.8 points in the playoffs. Could Miami or Atlanta challenge the Cavaliers? I doubt it. They are both struggling in the first round. What about second seeded Toronto? They are probably the best option but they have struggled with seventh seeded Indiana so far.

Either way, as the NBA trudges closer to the NBA Finals, the drama will only intensify, especially if teams continue to deal with injuries.

"I believe very seriously in the favor of God and that's what's happening," he said. "In the last two years he's played out of his socks, and I think God is honoring him for being an honorable man."

For Willett, this is a career-changing victory that almost never got started. His first child was due, and he didn't plan to come to the Masters.

But perhaps by divine intervention, Zachariah James Willett came early, on March 30. That allowed the new dad to rebook his ticket to Augusta, so he could play and win the green jacket.

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# 5 Tips to Remove the 'Pain' from Painting

(Family Features) If painting is on your list of home upgrades to tackle this year, you may find yourself procrastinating to avoid a painful process. However, with the right tools and a little preparation, you can achieve the new look you want and a finished product that makes you proud.

plenty of brushes (including extras, if you'll have help), paint trays, masking tape, clean-up rags and drop cloths to protect your floor or furniture. Make a list of any items you need to purchase, and before you head to the store, measure your space one last time to ensure you know how much paint you need to buy.

Before you get started, take inventory of your painting supplies and ensure you have

Follow these additional tips for a painting project that

delivers a big home improvement gain without the pain:

1. Lights on, lights off. Think about lighting when choosing your paint. It is easy to pick a color solely based on a photo or swatch, but it is important to think about your specific room and how the lighting may affect the color's appearance. What is the natural light like? Will you still like the color once the sun goes down?

2. Timing is everything. Prime painting season runs from Memorial Day to Labor Day. One important reason is that when the weather is nice, you can open up the windows and get some circulation running through the room for faster drying times and better air quality.

3. Prepare for everything. Before you begin painting, protect surfaces and ensure sharp lines by masking off your painting area. Pull off a better paint job with new ScotchBlue Platinum Painter's Tape, which tears by hand at a straight, 90-degree angle for fast cornering. The tape is made from advanced poly material that helps prevent paint seepage and removes in one piece without tearing or slivering.

4. Make it fun. Get the whole family involved in the project. Having kids take part will help give them a sense of ownership and responsibility for the family home, and make the end result more personal.

5. Revel in the results. Putting in the legwork in advance will pay off when you get the freshly painted look you want, and you'll want to celebrate the accomplishment. Make sure to take before and after photos to show off your hard work.



Find more tips to pull off a better paint job at [www.scotchblue.com](http://www.scotchblue.com). Photo courtesy of Getty Images

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## NOTO Arts District to hold Chalk Walk

NOTO Arts District is getting out the sidewalk chalk and attempting to cover each square of concrete sidewalk within two blocks with art, and try to beat the past record of 2330 feet of sidewalk. The Chalk Walk will be held May 7 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the 800-900 blocks of N. Kansas Ave.

This time the aim is to cover both sides of the street with chalk art by the community, all the kids, big and small, young and young at heart. There will be a box of chalk in front of each building for com-



munity use. Special guest artists will be featured on designated areas.

The event is free and fun for the entire family. Families are encouraged to bring their favorite chalks and cameras.

Don't forget the First Friday Art Walk, a monthly event where 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.

North Topeka hosts First Friday like no other place in Topeka! Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

Two blocks of historic buildings are bubbling with artists, arts, crafts and creative items to keep you entertained and wanting to bring a piece of the NOTO Arts District home with you.

Other N. Topeka events upcoming:  
 MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays 8:30-11:30am, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church 2014 NW 46th St.

SUMMERFEST - May 27, 3-11pm, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 3601 SW 17th St. Carnival games, inflatables, mechanical rides, used book sale, plant & garden sales, bake sale, raffle, food & entertainment, movie on the lawn. For info: 554-7308

VETERAN'S TRIBUTE - May 30, 12:30pm to 3pm, Great Overland Station, 701 N Kansas. Annual Veterans Lunch and Topeka Area Massing of Colors ceremony to promote patriotism, citizenship and honor our Nation's Veterans.

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# THE FORGOTTEN BIBLE

## Many Christians know 'just enough about the Bible to be dangerous'

by **Kevin Porter**

For some Christians, it's been years since they've cracked open a Bible or carried one to church. While most are familiar with well-known biblical accounts of Moses parting the Red Sea, the extraordinary strength of Samson, or how David conquered Goliath, few build upon these basic Sunday school teachings, resulting in what one apologist calls "biblical illiteracy."

In a portion of his new book *Unanswered*, a volume intended to shed light on several hot-button topics that loom large within the church, apologist and New Testament scholar Jeremiah Johnston addresses biblical illiteracy and Christians who know "just enough about the Bible to be dangerous."

"The Bible can be stripped down, vandalized, added to, taken away [from], and 95 percent of people in the church would not even know you were doing it because they simply do not know the Bible," Johnston says.

"We have the most educated Christians of all time — the smartest believers of all time in our churches, and yet they are the most biblically illiterate. They know little to nothing about the message in the Bible."

Biblical illiteracy is a needless trend in the U.S., it seems, since the Good Book is

so widely available. In fact, 88 percent of American households own at least one Bible, according to a 2015 study by Barna Group. But here's the catch: one in four adults say they never read it.

Millennials have fallen even farther from the faith tree. "Millennials are the first unchurched generation in America," Johnston said. The unchurched, also referred to as the "nones," account for 46 million Americans, according to Johnston's book.

"When you add that poisonous mixture with biblical illiteracy, we're one generation away from an all-out heresy or schism in the Church," he said.

So why does the best-selling book of all time appear to be losing traction with so many Christians? There might be a number of reasons, beginning with the person standing behind the pulpit.

Johnston recalls a visit to a well-known Atlanta megachurch to attend a conference, and a pastor made a shocking comment about the Bible before a room of 4,000 other church leaders. Johnston was in disbelief about what he had heard, writing, "I would not have believed it had I not been present when these words were spoken."

Johnston quoted the pastor as saying, "I do not preach the Bible verse-by-verse, because that is boring." The pastor's

remarks left him feeling deflated. The author noted in his book, "I left disheartened. The subtle message was that if you want to grow your church, become more like Disney and downplay the Bible."

Even one of the nation's most well-known megachurch pastors, Lakewood Church Pastor Joel Osteen, has been accused of dumbing down the Bible.

Osteen recently came under fire for his tendency to avoid preaching about hell. The pastor believes that by not preaching "hellfire and brimstone" messages, he's giving believers a break.

"Most people are beaten down enough by life," he said. "They already feel guilty enough."

But watering down the Bible would be a mistake, since believers sincerely want to be challenged, said Johnston.

"People want to be challenged. They want to know more about why they believe that Jesus is the only way, and why they live their life for Christ," the Bible scholar says. "We need to quit dumbing it down. We need to quit insulting the intelligence of our church. We need to stop it because the church wants to be challenged to have a thinking faith. A holistic faith."

Johnston added that when some evangelists reference the Bible during sermons, it is often in short fragments, void of context, and usually the text is visually displayed for churchgoers so they don't

have to have a Bible, let alone open one — making many Christians all the more removed from the Word of God. So removed that they might begin to lose their appreciation for it, taking the sacred volume for granted, forgetting that its preservation throughout the centuries came with a heavy price.

"Christians don't appreciate how they even have the Bible sitting on their laps — an amazing tale of heroism and bloodshed. ... When you think about for 300 years these Christians were willing to die with their biblical manuscripts rather than turn them over. Today we think we're doing God a favor to barely crack the Bible."

That observation is especially true for some American Christians, whose appreciation for the Gospel is waning due to an un-nurtured relationship with Christ, while other Christians around the globe cling to their faith amid persecution for their religious convictions.

In China, for example, the Communist Party launched a campaign in 2014 to demolish the crosses of Protestant and Roman Catholic churches in the Zhejiang province, claiming they were in violation of zoning restrictions on building heights. It is alleged, however, that the real objective of the effort is to discourage the rise of Christianity in the country. Chinese

Christians rail against the destruction of their crosses, often resulting in them being beaten, bloodied and imprisoned.

Those abuses, however, are relatively mild compared to the atrocities committed daily against countless Christians in many Middle Eastern and Asian countries. The murder, rape and abduction of Christians in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan at the hands of the Islamic State and other terror groups has recently been declared by the U.S. government as genocide.

While many American Christians don't read the Bible as often as they should, some non-believers, ironically, don't hesitate to put the sacred text to good use, Johnston said. Archaeologists are primary among them. They see the Bible's value and veracity, and put it to work.

"If you don't use the Gospels, the archaeologists will in Israel. These archaeologists, by and large many of them are atheists, but they are quite willing to use the Gospels and the book of Acts at their archaeological digs, and that's significant because these digs are very expensive," he said. "They better have that spot right when they're digging in the ground with stratigraphy. And what sources are they using? Matthew, Mark, Luke, John and Acts. I think that's a powerful apologetic for the Gospels."



## RELIGION IN EVERYDAY LIFE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new Pew Research Center study of the ways religion influences the daily lives of Americans finds that people who are highly religious are more engaged with their extended families, more likely to volunteer, more involved in their communities and generally happier with the way things are going in their lives.

For example, 47% of highly religious Americans — defined as those who say they pray every day and attend religious services each week — gather with extended family at least once or twice a month. By comparison, just 30% of Americans who are less religious gather as frequently with their extended families. Roughly two-thirds of highly religious adults (65%) say they have donated money, time or goods to help the poor in the past week, compared with 41% who are less religious.

And 40% of highly religious U.S. adults describe themselves as "very happy," compared with 29% of those who are less religious.

However, in several other areas of day-to-day life — including interpersonal interactions, attention to health and fitness, and social and environmental consciousness — Pew Research Center surveys find that people who pray every day and regularly attend religious services appear to be very similar to those who don't.

For instance, highly religious people are about as likely as other Americans to say they lost their temper recently, and they are only marginally less likely to say they told a white lie in the past week. When it comes to diet and exercise, highly religious Americans are no less likely to have overeaten in the past week, and they are no more likely to say they exercise regular-

ly. Highly religious people also are no more likely than other Americans to recycle. And when making decisions about what goods and services to buy, highly religious Americans are no more inclined to consider the manufacturers' environmental records or whether companies pay employees a fair wage.

Additional key findings include:

Three-quarters of adults — including 96% of members of historically black Protestant churches and 93% of evangelical Protestants — say they thanked God for something in the past week. And two-thirds, including 91% of those in the historically black Protestant tradition and 87% of evangelicals, say they asked God for help during the past week. One-third of religiously unaffiliated Americans say they thanked God for something in the past week, and one-in-four have asked

God for help in the past week.

Nearly half of Americans (46%) say they talk with their immediate families about religion at least once or twice a month. About a quarter (27%) say they talk about religion at least once a month with their extended families, and 33% say they discuss religion as often with people outside their families. Having regular conversations about religion is most common among evangelicals and people who belong to churches in the historically black Protestant tradition. By contrast, relatively few religious "nones" say they discuss religion with any regularity.

One-third of American adults (33%) say they volunteered in the past week. This includes 10% who say they volunteered mainly through a church or religious organization and 22% who say their volunteering was not done through a reli-

gious organization.

Three-in-ten adults say they meditated in the past week to help cope with stress. Regularly using meditation to cope with stress is more common among highly religious people than among those who are less religious (42% vs. 26%).

Three-quarters of Catholics say they look to their own conscience "a great deal" for guidance on difficult moral questions. Far fewer Catholics say they look a great deal to the Catholic Church's teachings (21%), the Bible (15%) or the pope (11%) for guidance on difficult moral questions.

When asked to describe, in their own words, what being a "moral person" means to them, 23% of religious "nones" cite the golden rule or being kind to others, 15% mention being a good person and 12% mention being tolerant and respectful of others.