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THE GETTYS | Grace Comm. Church | Page 13

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Adoption Guide
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November 2016

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



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See inside back cover!

Annual Red Kettle Campaign Kickoff to Begin Nov. 14



The season of giving is right around the corner, and the familiar sound of bell ringing will announce the beginning of The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign. The Campaign kicks off Monday, November 14th at 11:30a, at The Salvation Army, 1320 S.E. 6th Street, on the front lawn. Major Brian Burkett of The Salvation Army and Captain Kettle will be joining Jack Brier, 2016 Red Kettle Chair.

Jack H. Brier is the founder of US Alliance Corporation and serves as its Chairman of the Board, President, and CEO. He also serves in these positions for US Alliance Life and Security companies, US Alliance Marketing Corp., and US Alliance Investment Corp.

Jack was secretary of state for Kansas from 1978-1987 and as president of the Kansas Development Finance Authority from 2000-2003. He attended Shawnee Mission public schools and holds a degree in business administration from Washburn University.

■ Please see **RED KETTLES** page 2



Elena opening her shoebox gift in a Soviet orphanage. Below left, Elena today. Elena recently shared her story in Kansas City.

God's Love...in a shoebox

Operation Christmas Child gifts provide hope to millions of children around the world

Elena Hagemeyer read many fairy tales as a child in an attempt to escape from her reality living in an orphanage in the former Soviet Union. Yet one day after receiving her very first present, she was presented with a story that seemed to top all the fairy tales she had ever read. Could it actually be true? What if it was?

From fairy tale to true reality
About 14 years ago, when she was pre-teen age, Elena received a gift-filled shoebox from Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. Her box was filled with pink items, including pink toothpaste and a pink light-up pen, and she discovered a newfound love

■ Please see **SHOEBOX** page 3



Ministries gear up for service to needy

The numbers are in and they aren't good for the less fortunate among us. Some national economists say the weak recovery begun after the 2008 recession is still very weak. For most it means belt-tightening, with less dinners out and postponement of a new purchase. For at-risk families and individuals it may mean a night on the street or a day without food.

Increased need means that food pantries, soup kitchens and other services offered to our needy neighbors continue to stretch the resources of local organizations. The problem seems most critical as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach and we prepare

for what forecasters are calling a possibly bone-chilling winter.

This year Metro Voice readers can again do their part by answering the call to assist with food and warm clothing donations, finances or just a few volunteer hours.

Metro Voice has annually used our November edition to connect area believers with ministries that serve the homeless and at-risk families in our communities. Through our Ministry Needs Guide, we publish the Christmas "wish list" of these organizations and how you can help them meet the growing needs facing many Topeka area citizens.

These are many of the organizations that serve our poor and homeless but there are countless others across the metro area. Check with your church or area lay clergy organization to see if there is one that serves your community. Plus, don't forget the smaller rural towns that surround Topeka. These communities often don't have the resources or population to keep their pantries well stocked.

We hope through these efforts, our readers and the broader community will find a place to "plug in" and serve our less fortunate neighbors.

See page 8 for our Ministry Needs Guide feature and a list of organizations and their Christmas "wish lists." Take a moment and pray about how you can help.

How can you help? See pages 8 & 9

PARTNERS TO SHARE THE WARMTH



Scotch Cleaners and The Salvation Army have once again partnered to provide coats for those in need through the "Share the Warmth" program. From now through November 18, gently-used coats and blankets will be collected for cleaning at Scotch

■ Please see **COATS** page 2

Community Thanksgiving Dinner begins prepping for the big day

The Community Thanksgiving Dinner Foundation will again this year be hosting a dinner at the Agriculture Hall located at the Kansas Expo Centre. The dinner, free to the public, will be served from Noon to 2 p.m. on Thanksgiving Day. The organizers are looking for volunteers who can sign up at trmonline.org or call 785-354-1744 and be placed on the list.

"Workers are needed from Monday the 21st of November to Thursday the 24th. We are there all day from 8 am to 8 pm collecting canned food donations and generally just preparing the facility for Thursday's big event," said Myron Johnson, who is the president of the Foundation which puts on this event annually. Over the years this event has grown from feeding a few hundred to feeding over 2500 meals each year. The dinner started in 1968 and is now in its 49 year.

"It is our intention to have one heck of a celebration next year as the dinner turns 50, this event has been a staple in the lives of many citizens and the Topeka area as a whole and it is our hope that it continues past our tenure as board members," said



Johnson.

Several members of the board are scheduled to retire after next year's event and are looking for replacement players. Johnson, who is the son of one of the charter members, Pauline Johnson, said "This is fun and very satisfying but it's time to let some new people get involved and drive this into the next 50 years."

Although more than 800 people come down to the Ag hall for dinner, the team realizes not all folks are mobile and have made arrangements for that as well. For years, the CTDF has been delivering meals to folks who can't get to the dinner. A phone line will open November 1st, for those who can't travel, to request a meal. If you are shut-in and can't get

to the Ag Hall on Thanksgiving Day, you can call 785-295-3889 and give your name, address and phone number. The group is asking that meal requests be limited to one person and that a three-

meal limit per household be observed. If you are in one of Topeka's high-rise apartments and normally get a daily meal delivery please check with your building manager before calling.

Donations for this year's dinner can be taken to several locations throughout the city. CTDF has partnered once again with the Topeka Fire Department and they will start collecting at the Topeka area stations on November 16th. Local businesses are encouraged to start food drives, as are the local schools. These donations will then be picked up before Thanksgiving. Cash donations can be taken to any Corefirst Bank location or mailed to CTDF, PO Box 432, Topeka, KS 66601.

Life Lessons From a Little One

GRATITUDE

by **Jessica S. Hosman**

Zechariah and I pray together a lot throughout the day. We're teaching each other that communion with God is a lifestyle, not just something you do before meals or bedtime. We do, however, make a point to share our gratefulness to Him during those times as well. Each night when we pray, we incorporate our "thank you" time to the Lord. Sometimes our list is short, "Thank You for my toys." While others are quite long, starting with a prayer of thanks for the toys and then listing each one, along with everything else in the room. "Thank You for my trains, my stuffed frog, my picture, my Jesus book, my train track, my hat..." You get the idea.

We pray in what we call a prayer cave, which means we kneel and bow our heads and heart, making a personal "cave" so-to-speak, so we can focus on Jesus and not be distracted by the things around us. I can't remember the exact words my five-year old prayed this particular night, but it was the complete comfortability yet seriousness in his voice that made the largest impression. He worded his request in such a way as to thank God in advance for what he was petitioning. "Thank You for helping Mommy to take me someplace special tomorrow" (which was not something Mommy had previously agreed to!). Rather than asking God for the desired outcome he hoped for, he thanked Him for it in advance.

I used to really struggle with anxiety. I memorized Philippians 4:6 to try and help but had a hard time knowing exactly how to "be anxious for nothing" as the verse said. Then one day as I was reflecting on the scripture for the umpteenth time, the lightbulb went on and I finally understood. "... but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Sometimes we have the petition part down pat, but it's the with thanksgiving part we forget. This isn't something my little one forgets.

Rather than just pleading and asking, he also thanks God in advance for doing that which his heart desires. That's an example we can all follow.

When the bills come and the money is not there, "Thank You, God, that You are my provider and I can trust You to meet every need." When we're lacking strength or feeling discouraged, "Thank You, Father, that You are the strength of my life, a shield around me, the lifter of my head." When we pray in this fashion, following the method laid out for us in Philippians 4:6, the outcome is no longer anxiety but the peace of God that surpasses all understanding which guards our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (verse 7).

It might sound a far stretch from our "adult" trials but, in reality, Zechariah could lay away all night worrying about what the events of the next day will hold, or not hold. Instead he makes a point to go to the Lord with a heart of thanksgiving, acknowledging legitimate needs at times, but always doing so in a way that reflects gratitude and thanks for what He's doing – and will do – in our lives.

Most of us will be reflecting on some type of thanksgiving throughout this month. Rather than limiting the reflection of thanks to a single day, let's make it an avid part of our daily life. When we are tempted to worry or fret, let's remember who God is and thank Him for the many blessings that surround us as well as the blessings that are yet to come. If you need help knowing where to start, look around you. I'm confident, even if it's just a picture on the wall or hat on your head, you'll find many things to be grateful for. I pray as you do, that unexplainable peace will flood your soul and fill your heart. Happy Thanksgiving... not just on November 24, but every day you have breath in your lungs.



Jessica Hosman

RED KETTLES

continued from page 1

He has also done graduate study in public administration at the University of Kansas.

Jack is on the board of directors of

Financial Institute Technologies, and he has served on the board of directors of AmVestors Investment Group, Inc., AmVestors Financial Corp., and Columbian National Title Insurance Co. Jack also has extensive community relations experience through his involvement in civic, business, and philanthropic

organizations in the Topeka area.

A new tradition will be kicking off on the front lawn of The Topeka Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th Street. Jack Brier will be in attendance as well as the Topeka Citadel Band to kickoff the 2016 Red Kettle Campaign. Hot chocolate and sandwiches will be provided. Everyone is welcome!

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COATS

continued from page 1

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Over 220,000 coats have been collected in Topeka in the last 3 decades. This year there is a special need for

children's coats, as well as coats for larger adults.

In early December, the coats will be distributed at The Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th Street. Those in need of a warm winter coat are asked to sign-up upon arrival and list the number of coats needed for those currently living in your household.

To volunteer, call 233-9648.

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Veterans Ride Topeka Metro Free During Month of November

Topeka Metro has announced that during the month of November, active duty military personnel and veterans can ride the Topeka Metro fixed route service for free by showing the bus operator their veteran ID when board-

ing the bus. Valid identification includes Military ID, Driver's License with "VETERAN" stamp on it, Form DD-214, and Veteran's Identification Card (VIC).

Service is available to all branches of

the U.S. Military: Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marines and Navy. All of Topeka Metro fixed route buses are A.D.A. accessible.

For route information, call 783-7000 or go to www.topekametro.org.

C5Alive POWER Luncheon to feature global ministry

Trash Mountain and Blue Jazz Coffee to be featured

The monthly C5Alive "POWER Luncheon" will be held at First Southern Baptist Church, 19th & Gage, on November 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Presenting at the luncheon will be Brett Durbin of Trash Mountain Project. They will give an overview and update of the ministry.

Kevin Conard of Blue Jazz Coffee will also be on hand to talk about how his company helps the Trash Mountain Project through fundraisers and other sales of his coffee. He will have samples of his coffee to try and for purchase.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$10 for C5Alive 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.

C5Alive is an organization founded in 2009, dedicated to developing and uniting Christian Leadership in the community, involving businesses, non-profits and churches.

In addition to monthly "POWER" luncheons, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events, including the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fest, held in Gage Park on the day before Easter.

In December, the monthly luncheon will be held at Aldersgate Village on teh 8th, and will feature Christmas music and games. It is a fun event aimed at celebrating the Christmas season.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. For more information about C5, go to C5Alive.org, facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.

SHOEBOX

continued from page 1

for the girlish color.

"My shoebox had every shade of pink I could think of," Elena said.

Yet what caught her attention was not anything inside the box. With her box, she received a booklet in her native language called The Greatest Gift. The booklet told her about the love of God, the problem of sin and the good news of God's plan of salvation through Jesus Christ. It all seemed too wonderful to be true.

"I thought that was the biggest fairy tale I'd ever read," Elena said. "But I was hopeful this fairy tale was actually true."

She held onto that hope and began praying for a forever family. Through a series of events only God could have orchestrated, Elena and her sister were adopted twelve years ago into a family from Wentzville, Missouri.

After growing up in a poor, abusive and alcoholic home, Elena's adoptive father began to show her the love of God, which helped her to see her Heavenly Father in a different light. The first time she ever heard the words "I love you" said to her was at the age of twelve when her father learned how to say the simple but powerful phrase in her native language.

As Elena began realizing the story in the booklet she received with her shoebox was no fairy tale and her new family showed her God's love, and she began her personal relationship with God.

For her, it has been a faith journey that began with a shoebox, and opening that shoebox took some courage.

"I was afraid to open my shoebox because I had been so disappointed so

many times in my life I was afraid the inside wouldn't be as beautiful as the outside," Elena said.

When she saw her sister, who loves art, open her box to find it filled with art supplies, Elena was able to gather the courage to open her box and see that each box has special meaning for the child who receives it.

That courage has taken root and today Elena is a college graduate with plans of going to the mission field one day to bring the love of Christ to others. She also spent time recently touring the Kansas City area sharing her story at various local churches.

In the years since Elena received her shoebox, Operation Christmas Child has also begun a 12-week discipleship course called The Greatest Journey that teaches children how to grow in their faith and share their faith with others. To date, about 7.4 million children have completed the program.

Getting involved

For those interested in making a difference in the life of a child like Elena, November marks shoebox packing season with national collection week this year being November 14 to 21.

Additionally, Operation Christmas Child has teams of year-round volunteers in communities throughout the United States to make the ministry possible. Tracy Brander of Blue Springs, Missouri, is such a year-round volunteer with a heart for the ministry. Her church, Faith Covenant Church in Blue Springs, participates in the ministry, and she is a network coordinator for collection sites in Jackson and Lafayette counties. That means she coordinates with all project leaders at participating churches and drop-off locations to ensure all boxes are collected and



shipped out to processing centers.

"There is a real sense of community," Tracy said of her friendships with other OCC volunteers. "These people love the kids, love the ministry and do what they need to make sure the kids know that Jesus loves them."

Volunteers have other roles as well, including coordinating participation in community groups, mobilizing prayer efforts, media relations and more.

Operation Christmas Child by the numbers

- 1993 The year Operation Christmas Child started
- 135 million The number of OCC shoeboxes distributed since the project began
- 150 The number of countries OCC shoeboxes have been distributed
- 9.5 million The number of shoeboxes OCC hopes to collect from the US in 2016
- 12 million The number of shoeboxes OCC hopes to collect worldwide in 2016
- 72,000 The number of shoeboxes OCC hopes to collect in the Kansas City area in 2016



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opinion

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MANAGING EDITOR



Lee
Hartman
LHartman3@cox.net

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Nick Hartman, Dwight Widaman

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Paige Eckhoff 785-414-0785
paige.metrovoice@gmail.com

Lee Hartman
640-6399; Voice@cox.net

Mike Siebert 215-9503
mjsial@gmail.com

NEWS & FEATURES

Jessica Hosman, Scott Perkins, Fred Hollomon, Carolyn Cogswell, Cristina Fischer, John Potter, Jenny Odermatt, Talitha Martin, Rob Mooney, Katherine Runquist, Phil Boatwright, Marie Asner, Kharissa Forte, Alan Goforth, Leilani Haywood, Dwight Widaman, Lee Hartman

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Joe Boothe, Lee Hartman, Dwight Widaman

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CONTACT INFO

Offices: 2611 SW 17th St.
Correspondence & Payments:
P.O. Box 5724, Topeka, KS 66605
Phone/Fax: 785-235-3340
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WHY THANKSGIVING MATTERS



R. ALBERT MOHLER, JR.
President, Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky

viewpoint

The holiday police are at it again; looking for violations of the nation's new policy of separating faith and civic celebrations. The same folks who will soon be trolling courthouse squares looking for manger scenes are now calling on Americans to have a happy Thanksgiving . . . but leave God out of it.

School textbooks filled with revisionist history tell children that the first Thanksgiving was a celebration at which the Pilgrims thanked the Indians for teaching them how to survive the harsh New England climate and plant successful crops. God is simply not part of the picture.

Some educators, worried that even the word "thanksgiving" might be too controversial, have renamed the holiday "Turkey Day." Of course, this implies that the central thrust of the celebration comes down to poultry.

The revisionist historians want to have it both ways. They present the Pilgrims as wild-eyed religious fanatics--precursors to the Religious Right--and then suggest that the first Thanksgiving was essentially a secular holiday.

The historical basis for the Thanksgiving observance is clear. In 1621, the Pilgrims celebrated "the

goodness of God" as they feasted with friendly local Indians. In reality, the Pilgrims had faced far greater adversity than had been expected. The climate was harsh, the crops were sparse, the native peoples were often hostile, and their ranks were thinning. Hunger, disease, discomfort, and discouragement were ever close at hand.

Aiming for Virginia, these Christians--dissenting from the Church of England and determined to establish a truly Christian community--actually landed in New England. That miscalculation meant that disaster was almost certain. Nevertheless, they "fell upon their knees and blessed the God of heaven who had brought them over this vast and furious ocean," recorded Governor William Bradford.

In 1789, President George Washington declared the first national day of Thanksgiving by asking Americans to "unite in most humbly offering our prayer and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of nations."

Later presidents followed Washington's example. Abraham Lincoln issued moving Thanksgiving proclamations during the Civil War. Franklin Roosevelt, who regularized the holiday on the national calendar, called the nation to thankfulness in the middle of World War II: "The Almighty God has blessed our nation in many ways. He has given our peo-



ple stout hearts and strong arms with which to strike mighty blows for freedom and truth.... So we pray to Him now for a vision to see our way clearly--to see the way that leads to a better life for ourselves and for our fellow men--to the achievement of His will, to peace on earth."

"In 1789, President George Washington declared the first national day of Thanksgiving by asking Americans to 'unite in most humbly offering our prayer and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of nations.'"

Is all this just a demonstration of civil religion? Do most Americans really follow the example of the Pilgrims in expressing thankfulness to God, or is it just another holiday with emotional overtones--and an orgy of overeating?

Millions of Americans will, no doubt, celebrate an essentially secular festival. For them, it might as well be "Turkey Day" or something equally vacuous. This reveals the most important contrast between the Pilgrims and the current generation. The Pilgrims were driven by a worldview that was centered in the worship of the one true and living God, the Creator of the uni-

verse, the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ. They understood His providential rule over the universe to explain everything that happened to them--and everything that blessed them. They did not attribute their survival in New England to their own fortitude--nor to the help of the Indians--but to God.

Secularized Americans are driven by no impulse to give thanks, and wouldn't know to whom thanks should be addressed. They think of themselves as self-sufficient, self-directed, and self-reliant. Their horizon of thankfulness is, to say the least, rather low.

The civic holiday may not mean a great deal to many moderns--but that doesn't mean that it is meaningless. At the very least, it implies that we cannot really take care of ourselves. That is just as true today as it was in Pilgrim New England.

The Pilgrims knew to whom they were praying--and why. Let's follow their example and remember that their dependence upon God was no greater than our own!

—R. Albert Mohler, Jr. is president of The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

America's Only Answer



CLINT DECKER
President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

When we look at the state of America through the lens of news headlines it is not very buoyant. And if our news sources supposedly reflect the true nature of our country then I must say they are only getting half the story.

Typically, alongside the daily bad news they report stories about efforts to turn our country around through elections, new laws, religion, education, conferences, summits, awareness campaigns, improved research and analysis, health-care, poverty relief, volunteerism, social justice and much more. Yet, America

continues to decline and the world with it. All these attempts are good things. They have made pockets of progress and been a genuine help. However, they are lacking and temporal at best. The Scriptures give us the answer saying, "There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12). Jesus is the name, the person, in which America's future rests. When we leave Him out of our efforts for change we do so to our peril.

Prayer is one practical way in which we can bring Jesus into the middle of our nation's woes. Prayer in His name can do the impossible. People are seeing this and during 2016 our national prayer life has grown exponentially. This year we have seen news worthy movements of prayer that have largely been ignored by most of America's top news outlets. Here is just the ones I am aware of: Azusa Now; United Cry; Burlington, North Carolina revival; Harvest America; Decision America Tour; West Virginia revival; The 8-8-8 God Speaking



Together2016 drew hundreds of thousands of young people to the National Mall in Washington D.C. for several days of prayer.

Initiative; Together 2016; The Gathering and Cry Out. I am confident there are more. It is no stretch to say these events have reached millions in America and across the world. Though unconnected they have four things that unite them. 1) The United States is in a moral and spiritual decline. 2) The rate of decline is a cause for serious alarm. 3) There is only one solution -- Jesus. 4) We must seek Jesus in prayer and go announce Him anew boarder to boarder.

These gatherings are producing large swaths of people, scattered all across the nation, to call upon Jesus. Their calling

out for His intervention into the lives of individuals, and for the soul of America. It is a historic time.

The news headlines are only telling half the story of the state of our union. It is a time to believe and persevere. Press onward! Join the movement. Gather together with others and cry out to Jesus for revival in the land. He is our answer. Turn to Him and see Him act.

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



You're self-insured

Dear Dave,
My husband and I are retired, we both receive nice pensions, and we owe \$46,000 on our home. This is our only debt. I'm 65, he is 82, and we have more than \$800,000 in variable annuities, along with substantial cash in savings. We also have \$200,000 combined in life insurance coverage. If we cancel these two policies we can pay down an extra \$10,000 a year on the house. Should we cancel the life insurance policies?
Anna

Dear Anna,
At 82 and 65, you probably won't be able to get any more insurance at a decent price. If you get rid of it, you're going to be without it. The good news is that you have enough money through your pensions, investments, and savings to be what is known as "self-insured."

If I'm in your situation, I'd drop the life insurance policies and pay off the house as quickly as possible. Make sure you keep a good health insurance policy in place, because a hospital stay can eat your savings alive. I hope you have long-term care insurance, too.

Good question, Anna. You guys have done a great job with your money!
—*Dave*

Becoming a holder

Dear Dave,
In 15 months I'll be able to buy in as a shareholder of my firm, about 1.5 percent of the company. I make \$100,000 annually, and it will cost me three times my income, but it could increase my income by as much as \$40,000 a year. I know that you discourage single-stock investing, but do you think this is a good idea?
Mark

Dear Mark,
This sounds more akin to a partnership than a stock. Basically, you'd be a minority shareholder in the business. That means zero power. Whatever money you put up could be lost, because the people running this business could decide to close up shop and you'd be powerless to stop it.

To me, this is way too scary. You'd be making a \$300,000 investment that has no liquidity and that you can't sell on the open market. I'd want to



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

davesays

see at least 30-percent return on my capital in a situation like this, so I wouldn't risk my money.

Keep your good job, but politely decline this shareholder offer. That's my advice.
—*Dave*

Baby Steps, motivation, and retirement

Dear Dave,
I make \$38,000 a year working in the trade show industry, and I'm about to start Baby Step 3. It took 14 months to pay off \$8,000 in debt for Baby Step 2, so I'm wondering how long it should take to save up my three to six months of expenses. I've also not done a lot toward retirement. I'm 52, and I'm worried about that. How can I stay motivated in the Baby Steps and handle retirement worries?
Donna

Dear Donna,
The general time frame I look at for saving up a fully funded emergency fund is six months to a year. Your take-home pay should be about \$3,000 a month, so three to six months of expenses will probably be in the neighborhood of \$8,000 to \$10,000. If it took you about a year to pay off that much in debt, then it should take about a year to accomplish this.

But if you start building retirement right now and have an emergency, you know what you'll use? You'll use your retirement. That's why the emergency fund comes before retirement in the Baby Steps. The average household income in America, which is often two incomes, is around \$52,000. I would challenge you to think about and work toward what you could be doing at age 60 that will make you that much or even more.

You're probably working really hard for that \$38,000. In your fifties, if you're starting over — or if you start making a lot more — we call that an "encore career." So I want you to start thinking fresh again. Don't quit today, but you're going to be making \$38,000 eight years from now unless you start aiming at something else.

All this is as much an answer to your retirement fears as trying to

leapfrog and start doing retirement without an emergency fund. Put your emergency fund in place over the next 12 months, and start doing some goal setting and thinking. Maybe you'd like to own a trade show or events company by that time.

Ask yourself, "What would I do if I could do anything?" Because you know what? You can do anything!
—*Dave*

Generosity or overspending?

Dear Dave,
I've heard you talk about the importance of giving using the phrase "outrageous generosity." But at what point does outrageous generosity become foolish overspending?
Josiah

Dear Josiah,
This is a good question. Your first mandate is to take care of your own household. The Bible says if you don't do this, you're worse than an

unbeliever. So start with your own family. Are you able to take care of the basic lifestyle and needs of your family? The pursuit of giving shouldn't interrupt the food on your own family's table.

The Bible also says in the house of the wise there are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has. You need to be saving, too, in order to be biblically wise. If you spend everything you make, or, for that matter, if you gave away everything you make on an ongoing basis, it would be foolish.

There are individual times where people may be called to give in an extreme way, but I'm talking about a pattern of living or way of life over an extended period of time. If you just say you're going to give away your whole income and let the government support you at the expense of your family, that's not biblical. And it's not a wise way to live your life.
—*Dave*

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Adoption and Foster Care

Mother uses adoption experience to help others

Stephanie Boothe | Metro Voice

For Galen and Teresa Herbic, adoption was the only way to build their family.

“We determined to start our family differently than most. As far as we know we can have children biologically, but we decided we'd rather adopt instead,” Teresa said.

One evening while watching television, the couple started casually discussing adding children to their home. At that moment, an image came across their screen – it was a picture of babies everywhere to accompany a story about babies abandoned in China. After watching a bit, the couple agreed they wouldn't mind doing an international adoption.

“We knew that was God's call on our lives. So, we put in our application to adopt via referral from



China,” Teresa said.

Their daughter, Meyana, was a year old when they adopted her from China. “It was a dream come true,” Teresa said.

Their son, Braxten, joined their family in very similar fashion. Teresa,

a writer, was researching a story about adoption when she saw his picture and knew God was intervening.

“I saw my son (Braxten) and fell in love with him instantly. He was in Kazakhstan and we didn't even know where that was, but we were all in,” Teresa said. “He was about 16 months old when we first visited him. We were in Kazakhstan for a month in the dead of winter (19 below zero), but we were happy and content just to be with our son.”

Teresa is the co-founder and advisor of Families For Adoption, a community-wide support group at the Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Liberty. Founded in 2005, the group helps anyone interested in adoption, foster or orphan care.

The group organizes various activities and meetings through out the year and has leaders to help in vari-

ous aspects of adoption and foster care.

Some of the areas include domestic adoption and foster care, international adoption as well and general adoption and orphan care.

Teresa first got involved with the organization when her friends were talking about starting an adoption support group. Their dream was to start a region-wide support group.

“We agreed to work with them on the founding of the group from the ground up. We first surveyed the church and found there were over 100 families who had been touched by adoption in some way,” Teresa said. “We knew it was a mission from God.”

For Herbic, the most important thing Families for Adoption does is serve God and his orphans.

“Jesus says in John 14:18, ‘I will not leave you as orphans, I will come to you,’” Herbic said. “To me, that is our calling, to reach out and help orphans however we can and to help families, too, in the process, while serving our awesome Savior most of all.”

Metro Voice and National Adoption Month

This is National Adoption Month. In Kansas and Missouri there are more than 1,000 15–18 year olds in foster care. Many of these youth are seeking adoption and permanent, lifelong connections, which are critical to helping them prepare and succeed as they enter adulthood.

National Adoption Month is an initiative sponsored by the Children's Bureau, in partnership with AdoptUSKids and Child Welfare Information Gateway. Each November, National Adoption Month brings awareness to the needs of children and youth seeking and waiting a “forever family.” This year, specific attention is being paid to the needs of the thousands of these older youth, ages 15–18, who face the challenges of aging out of foster care and beginning their independent, young adult lives.

The National Adoption Month website, <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/adoption/nam/>, contains an entire section dedicated to providing adoption and permanency-related resources and tips for families, including families considering adoption and families that have adopted. It also supports child welfare professionals in preparing families for adoption and talking with older youth, who may feel they are too old to be adopted.

Metro Voice is proud to partner in this effort as we bring the issue to the public's attention. This partnership would not be possible without the many sponsors of our special October, November and January editions of the paper.

Every child deserves a loving, caring home. A family they can call their own. A place where they belong. With people who will be there for them always.



Adopt Kansas Kids



• www.adoptKSkids.org • 877-457-5430

Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

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Once in crisis, former group home resident grows up to change lives

In 1985, Jon's family faced a crisis. When his father walked out on the family, his mother and two siblings were left in chaos. Through a church in Columbia, Mo., she found out about a place that could care for her children while she got back on her feet. Jon's mother made the toughest decision of her life: to place her young children at Show-Me Christian Youth Home.



The chance to be just a child

At Show-Me, Jon came alive. For the first time ever, he didn't have to worry about the burdens of life – he could be a boy. "I remember having the freedom to just run across a field and kick a ball and just be free," Jon recalls. His first and happiest childhood memories revolve around his time at Show-Me.

Jon found a good mix of responsibility and the freedom to enjoy childhood. Show-Me provided him with the foundation for good life principles: a strong work ethic, good stewardship, appreciation for what you have, and a personal faith to draw strength.

At Show-Me, Jon made the most important decision of his life: to follow Christ. He remembers standing in the house discussing with his houseparents what Christ meant to him, and receiving Christ in baptism soon after. Although he grew up in church, he never had a faith before Show-Me. A variety of activities and experiences nurtured his young faith. "This is where I made the decision that this is what I am going to live for...grounded in Christ...follow Christ – that is my hope."

A boy forced to be an adult

After a year at Show-Me, Jon's mother reunited the family. Jon reflects, "Honestly, my childhood would have probably been better if I had stayed here longer." The family continued to struggle back in Columbia. As the oldest, Jon was thrown into an adult role to help. While in middle and high school, he worked part time to pay bills and watched his siblings when his Mom was gone. He recounted days the power was shut off, opening the fridge to find no food, and knowing the family was continually on the verge of homelessness. "Somedays, I wish that I had a better childhood, but I'm grateful for going through those struggles because they prepared me for the challenges I would face later in life." Although this time of his life was unstructured and chaotic, Jon credits Show-Me with laying a foundation of confidence for him to overcome any challenge.



him the reputation as the "git'er done" guy. He earned a Master's Degree in Business Management and started his own construction company in Columbia, Mo.

Jon's impact reaches far beyond his job. With a family of his own, he and his wife, Robyn, a dermatologist, strive to raise their three children with the structure, responsibilities, and fun he remembers made such a difference in his life. He contributes greatly to his community and to the Kingdom. He is active in his church, leading a weekly small group. In 2014, Jon accepted a position on the Board of Directors at Show-Me Christian Youth Home. "I never dreamed I would be on the Show-Me Board, able to help kids in the same shoes I was in."

In 2015, he received Show-Me's first-ever Overcomers Award, presented to a former Show-Me child who has reached beyond childhood challenges to become a successful adult. He stands as a testimony of what a place and family like Show-Me can do for a young life. He is an inspiration to the young people who currently call Show-Me "home." In his acceptance speech, Jon concluded, "Show-Me is an arm of God's grace. It was a big influence that helped steer me to the successful life I have now. I am merely one instance of how your efforts have helped change lives."

An Overcomer finds a way

"My guiding compass is that I've got to be seeking God," Jon says. "Through trials and tribulations, sometimes it was a matter of just putting my head down and keep moving forward. I learned resiliency going through challenges as a child."

With that attitude of determination and fortitude, Jon worked construction jobs while going through college. He learned new skills on the job and his attitude to always find a way gained

TFI Family Services Achieves National Accreditation

TFI Family Services has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). TFI Family Services is a child welfare organization that provides family foster care services not only in Kansas, but also in Nebraska, Oklahoma, and Texas along with three visitation and exchange centers, a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility and two Teens Reaching Independent Living programs. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of TFI's programs, services, management, and administration.

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization's administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation

ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

To achieve COA accreditation, TFI Family Services Inc. first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

For further information please contact: Dianne Ensminger, Vice President of Marketing and Fund Development, TFI Family Services, densminger@tfifamily.org; 785-608-3944.

How will adoption impact my other children?

Contributed by Lifeline Children's Services

How will adoption impact my other children? That's a question that all parents ask and must anticipate before bringing a child home. Preparing siblings for adoption can be exciting, but they will be asked to make sacrifices and could be part of new challenges as everyone adapts to having a new child in the home. Lifeline can tell you what we've witnessed as adoption has positively impacted brothers and sisters time and time again. But, you don't have to take our word for it.

Listen to what one teenager wrote for a school essay about adopting her brother with cerebral palsy from Hong Kong:

"Ever since my family made the decision to adopt my little brother Nolan, who has cerebral palsy and

cannot walk or talk, tons of friends, acquaintances, and even family members have been asking me the same questions.

"Why did your parents choose a child with special needs?" Or "Did you guys know that he had problems when you picked him out?" Or even "No offense, but why wouldn't you guys pick a normal kid?"

I know that nobody was trying to be offensive when they asked these questions because, to be completely honest, I kind of wondered too. Wouldn't it be so much easier on my parents and my whole family to have a "normal" kid? Why would we choose a special needs kid when there are completely fully functioning, healthy

■ Please see ADOPTION page 15

Christian Family Adoption

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Does your church have a support group for foster parents?

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MINISTRY NEEDS GUIDE



Each year Metro Voice provides a listing of organizations that serve the most vulnerable in our communities. Whether it is the single mom and her children, our elderly, orphans, the sick, the homeless or incarcerated, our readers respond with prayers, time, items and finances to keep these ministries going throughout the year. "But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?" 1 John 3:17. Let us all work together to show the love of Christ this Christmas and the coming year. Together, we can make a difference.

ALPHA CHRISTIAN CHILDREN'S HOME AND SCHOOL. Perry, Ks; 785-597-5235; www.alphachristianchildrenshome.com; Michelle Kincaid. A ministry for children in need due to abuse, neglect, being orphaned, troubled, or other forms of dysfunction. Alpha provides the children with a loving family and opportunities for healing and growth. A school learning center promotes excellence and success academically, sometimes for the first time, for each child. Alpha is 100% privately funded, and there is no tuition charge for those served. We are always in need of financial support, as well as food, clothing, and toys for the kids. We also have a list of special needs.

BREAKTHROUGH HOUSE, INC. Contact Person for Wish List donations: Lynn Davis: 785-232-6807 ext 108 (Topeka number); 525 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66603 (for drop off). Website: www.breakthroughhouse.org; Facebook: www.facebook.com/Breakthrough-House-Inc-228527173160/. Breakthrough House is a private non-profit that helps support individuals with mental illness. Breakthrough House has been in existence for 38 years, and serves about 350 different individuals every year. We are in need of non-perishable items for our food pantry, as well as personal hygiene items for men and women such as shampoo, soap, shaving cream, deodorant, toilet paper. All items will go to Breakthrough House consumers only. Our food pantry supplies usually remain quite low, and are in constant need of replenishment. Next year, our consumers' medical premiums will be increasing next year, and this will decrease the amount they can budget for food. Thank you so much for anything you can do to help our consumers!



CARING PREGNANCY OPTIONS. 2041 SW McAlister, Topeka, Ks 66604; 249-6130; www.cptopeka.org. Mon-Thurs Noon-4:30. Closed Friday and weekends. Kathy Hart, Executive Director. Provides free pregnancy tests, pro-life counseling, information and education to pregnant women, maternity clothes, baby clothes and items, and referrals for professional counseling. Volunteers and financial support are needed, also formula and blankets. A non-political, non-profit ministry.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF NORTHEAST KANSAS. 234 S Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603. www.catholiccharitiesks.org. Founded in 1956, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas is a non-profit health and human services agency that assists annually more than 85,000 people of all faiths. Our work strengthens both families and communities in the 21 counties we serve. Our vision is that our

neighbors who are challenged by poverty of mind, body and spirit find the open door of Catholic Charities in our communities and are met with help, hospitality and hope. The Topeka location always has a need for food drives and donations.

CHRISTIAN STREET WITNESS and CHRISTIAN NEIGHBOR CENTER. 107 SW 14th St., Topeka, Ks, 66612; 354-8763. James Kincade, House Manager. Purpose is to share the Good News, feed and clothe the hungry, work with ex-convicts, the down and out, alcoholics, drug addicts, widows and orphans, abused women and children, and others going through difficult times; help them find jobs, counsel them and offer them a safe place. Donations/volunteers needed. Current needs include canned goods and help with the chapel window project.

CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE. PO Box 3856, Topeka, Ks, 66604. 267-5777; bakerbarb54130@gmail.com; Barbara Saldivar. Christians for Life, Inc. is the pro-life ministry that facilitates the Heart of America Memorial Wall for the Unborn, located at 1216 SE Republican Avenue. We offer those who lost a baby through miscarriage, still birth, or abortion a place to put their child's name on the wall of remembrance. No godly and appropriate name will be turned down. The cost to CFL for engraving is around \$150 per line. Donations toward this cost are always welcome and needed but not necessary. In addition to the memorial park, post abortion bible studies and pro-life education is offered. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday bi-monthly, starting in February, 7:00 PM at Community Church in the Stone Chapel. The public is welcome. Donations and volunteers to assist with fundraisers and upkeep of the grounds are needed.

DOORSTEP, INC., Doorstep, Inc., 1119 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, Ks, 66604; 357-5341; www.doorsteptopeka.org. Doorstep is an emergency aid agency providing assistance for families and individuals in need for (remove nearly) 50 years. The agency is primarily supported by 56 area member congregations with grants from the City of Topeka, Shawnee County and The United Way of Greater Topeka. Doorstep provides food, clothing, household goods, and assistance for rent, utilities, rx/dental & transportation for thousands of households all year long. Doorstep is in need of donations of food,

clothing and household items (blankets, sheets, pots & pans, dishes, etc.) and monetary funds to provide emergency services to our neighbors in need. Regular office hours are Mon.-Fri. 8am-3pm. Volunteer opportunities also available.

THE DOVETAIL SHOPPE. 12th and Washburn, Topeka, Ks; 234-3004.

The Shoppe has clothing, household items, trinkets, furniture, children's items and even had the kitchen sink! There are no prices at the Dovetail Shoppe we ask that customers give a 'reasonable' donation for the items they choose.

Dovetail is open on Thur, Fri & Sat, 10am-4pm. Donations are accepted at the Shoppe during open hours or at Doorstep. They will pick up large items. Call Dovetail 234-3004 to make arrangements for a pickup. The Dovetail Shoppe is Doorstep's version of a thrift store and is open to anyone who is looking for clothing or household items or shopping for a bargain.

FLINT HILLS BREADBASKET. 905 Yuma St., Manhattan, Ks, 66502; 785-537-0730; www.breadbasket.manhattanks.org. The Flint Hills Breadbasket is a Community Food Network founded to minimize hunger and poverty through the distribution of available food and to nurture projects that will help alleviate hunger and poverty. The Breadbasket's ultimate goal is enabling our clients to gain the skills necessary for self-sufficiency, and we offer programs to aid this process, including a USDA Commodity Program, Community Resource Referral and more. We depend on community support to carry out our mission in various ways: tax deductible cash contribution, food donations, in-kind donations, and volunteerism. We receive no funding from Federal, State, County or City tax dollars.

KANSAS CHILDREN'S SERVICE LEAGUE. 3545 SW 5th St, Topeka, Ks, 66606; 274-3100 or Toll Free 877-530-5275; www.kcsl.org; Email: gcozadd@kcsl.org. A statewide, not-for-profit agency with a mission to protect and promote the well-being of children. Founded in 1893, KCSSL's programs work to help keep kids safe, families strong, and communities involved. Our services

touch the lives of some 40,000 children and their families each year. Among KCSSL's programs in Northeast Kansas are adoption referral services for children in foster care through www.adoptskids.org, foster home sponsorship, infant adoption, parent education, Healthy Families, and a range of child abuse and neglect prevention services including the Community Resource Library and Parent Helpline. Needed items include clothing and toiletries.

KANSANS FOR LIFE. Topeka, KS. Phone: 785-234-2998, E-mail: topeka@kfl.org Website: www.kfl.org. Jeanne Gawdun, Senior Lobbyist and Events Coordinator. Kansans for Life is a statewide non-profit educational organization also engaged in social action. It is dedicated to protecting and fostering the most basic human right...life itself. KFL is a state affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee.

KVC BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE. 2942 SW Wanamaker Dr, Suite 1B, Topeka, Ks; 66614; 267-4530. A private not-for-profit child welfare organization that provides services for children in need. Children separated from friends and family at Christmas time have special needs. You can help with our Holiday for Every Child program by making a cash donation, adopting a child's stocking wish list, or donating to our Toy Drive. The holidays are a special time but foster parents are always needed. To become a foster/adoptive parent call 1 (888) 497-1219. Call today because Children Can't Wait!!!

LET'S HELP, INC. 200 S. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Ks, 66603; www.letshepinc.org; 234-6208. We are a non-profit organization serving Shawnee County and surrounding areas. We provide programs and services through Comprehensive Emergency Services by offering aid with rent, utilities, and medication; Food & Clothing Banks, to include professional attire; Adult Basic Education & GED;



Pre-Employment Training & Job Placement Coordination; and a Community Lunch. Let's Help collaborates with many other service agencies in the community and provides appropriate referrals. Let's Help is known as an agency that is committed to building a better community by inspiring hope, promoting self-sufficiency and breaking the cycle of poverty one person at a time.

LIFE CHOICE MINISTRIES. 1445 Anderson Ave., Manhattan, Ks, 66502; 785-776-9406. A ministry to women and families facing challenging pregnancies and related issues. We offer free pregnancy testing, life affirming options consultations, private adoption facilitation, abortion information, post-abortion help, friendship room (baby and maternity items), professional counseling, emotional and spiritual support, and prenatal, childbirth, and parenting education. Diapers all sizes, volunteers and financial support are needed.

LIFELINE CHILDREN'S SERVICES. Jessa Swearingen-785-783-4577. Jessa.swearingen@lifelinechild.org. Our wish list is 1. VOLUNTEERS and FAMILIES. We would love help with connecting to prayer partners, adoptive families, host families and those who would love to work with families in need. 2. diapers, formula, and bottles. Our volunteers serve a lot of babies and we like to help supply them with these items when we can! To learn more about Lifeline Children's Services and all the ministries God has given us to serve in, please visit this link: www.lifelinechild.org.

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PREGNANCY CARE CENTER. Leo Center, One Riverfront Plaza, 6th & New Hampshire, Suite 100, Lawrence, Ks, 66044; 842-6499; pcc_lawrence@yahoo.com. Hours: 10am-5pm Mon. - Thu., 10am - 12 pm Fri. PCC is a non-profit, non-denominational, non-political outreach supported by concerned evangelical Christians throughout the Lawrence area. We are here to reach out with Jesus' love to women in our community facing unexpected or unplanned pregnancies. All Services Provided at No Charge: Pregnancy Tests, Post-Abortion Counseling, Baby and Maternity Items, Adoption Counseling, Women Caring for Women, Compassionate Listeners. We are still raising financial support, and also accept donations.

RANDEL MINISTRIES, INC. FOOD PANTRY & FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH CLOTHING BANK located at 1231 NW Eugene, Topeka, KS 66608, 234-1111, Open Tues & Thurs 10:30-2pm. www.FOGchurch.com or www.RandelMinistries.com, contact Leilah Randel, FOGsecretary@gmail.com.

SALVATION ARMY, 1320 SE 6th Ave., Topeka KS 66614; 785-233-9648. Majors Brian & Lee Ann Burkett, Corps Officers. Website: www.topeka.salvationarmy.us.



Facebook: The Salvation Army Topeka Kansas. Emails: brian_burkett@usc.salvationarmy.org or leann_burkett@usc.salvationarmy.org. The Salvation Army mis-

sion is to meet basic human needs in the name of Jesus Christ. Volunteers are needed for bellringing - signup online at www.ringbells.org. Sponsor a virtual kettle at www.onlineredkettle.org or donate at www.DonateTopeka.com. Wish list includes non-perishable food items, toys, and sports equipment.

TFI FAMILY SERVICES. Topeka-217 SE 4th Street, Topeka, Ks. 66603; 785-271-6657. Lawrence-910 W 24th Suite A, Lawrence, Ks. 66047; 785-749-2664. www.tfi familyservices.org. Contact-Mary McClellan 785-271-6657 ext. 1336 or mmcclellan@tfifamily.org. TFI Family Services is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for youth and families through Behavioral Health and Child Welfare Services. TFI offers services that include: Foster Care, Adoption, Family Permanency, Reintegration, Behavioral Health, Drug and Alcohol Counseling and Transitional Living Programs for young adults. TFI continues to strive to place children close to their biological home. We are "in need" of caring people willing to become Foster Parents for children in their community. The Holiday Season is a difficult time for the Foster Care Children, to be able to provide a sense of normalcy. TFI is in need of businesses and individuals to adopt the Children for Christmas. Kids range from 0-18 years of age.

TOPEKA NORTH OUTREACH, INC. 210 NW Menninger Rd. Topeka, KS 66617. 785-286-1370. topekanorthoutreach@gmail.com, www.topekanorthoutreach.org. "Christian Churches United in Service." EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE: Limited financial help to families to assist in paying utilities, rent and prescriptions. Food baskets, Hygiene baskets, Bibles. VIP LUNCHEONS: Free lunch served to Senior Citizens every Friday at 12 noon at North Topeka Baptist Church. YOUTH PROGRAM: Operation Backpack program provides "Weekend Snack Sacks" to area students in need. Each Snack Sack contains nutritional kid-friendly and easy to prepare snacks. Scholarship assistance for school, medical or emergency expenses. CHRISTMAS PROJECT: Families adopted by our member churches through the



Topeka Christmas Bureau. Also providing Holiday Food Baskets with Bibles, Blankets, Towels and Hygiene Baskets, Hats and Gloves. Toy Room with donations from Toys for Tots and American Sawdusters Club. Donations of funds, food, time and prayers are needed.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION. 600 N. Kansas Ave., Topeka, Ks, 66608; 357-4285; trm@trmonline.org; www.trmonline.org; On Facebook at Topeka-Rescue-Mission. Barry Feaker, Executive Director. The Mission provides shelter, food, clothing and other necessary services to individuals and families who are homeless or in need. This Christmas we are in most need of: new clothing (all sizes), bath/cologne gift sets, pots/pans, coffee makers, crock pots, small appliances, cooking utensils, towels, tool sets, men's & women's gifts & accessories, educational gifts and VOLUNTEERS!

TOPEKA YOUTH FOR CHRIST, INC. Bob Hanson, Executive Director; 2714 N. Topeka Blvd., # 103; Topeka, KS 66617; 785-232-8296; http://topeka.yfc.net; TYFC is looking for additional volunteers, prayer warriors, and donors who want to share the love of Christ with local youth. Click on the website or call the office to explore our ministry opportunities.

TOYS FOR TOTS. Topeka area: email Keith R. Viau at keith.viau@usmc.mil; Manhattan area: email: Lee A. Jones at lajones_66531@yahoo.com; Lawrence area: go to www.toysfortots-dgcoks.org or email: Mary Jones at maryjones@askmcgrew.com. Marine Toys for Tots Foundation, an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit public charity. We collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted.

THE URBAN MINISTRY INSTITUTE OF TOPEKA. 8th and Clay. Mary Flin, Site Coordinator; 785-431-6000; maryflin@hotmail.com. Our wish list for the holiday season is for STUDENTS! TUMI-Topeka is here to come alongside the Church to equip leaders who have a passion for advancing the Kingdom of Christ, especially in the heart of the city. Second to our wish for an army of new leaders, we also welcome money for scholarships for these leaders, and are happy to provide homes for quality reference books for our library.

How Iraq Taught Me to Pray

by John Potter | Military Chaplain

My first deployment was to Iraq in 2006. It made several things clear. Before Iraq, my faith was comfortable. It had been tried, tested, and proven, but in a very clean and simple way. My faith was comfortable in seminary, at home, at work and in the church. But that all changed in Iraq. I saw what it was like to constantly be under attack and understood what it was like to be under the threat of death. Iraq gave me something that most Americans do not experience. Iraq also gave me something that most Christians in the western world do not experience. Iraq changed me, but it also changed my faith for the better.

One of the major discoveries from my time in Iraq was truly learning the power and importance of prayer. While seminary gave me the tools and the knowledge regarding a solid prayer life, Iraq was the furnace that forged my prayer life into a solid existence.

Here are four lessons on prayer that helped me down range.

Share your heart. Be transparent with God. Big or small, lift your prayers to the Lord. The night before flying into the combat zone, I spent two and a half hours in prayer. This was the longest span of time I had ever spoken to God in one setting. I had a lot of ground to cover if this was potentially my last night on earth. Cry out no matter what the concern may be. Philippians 4:6 reminds each of us "... in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God."

Pray now, not later. Be immediate with prayer. Time is precious, especially in a war zone. If someone shared a prayer request, my new practice was to

stop and immediately pray with the person. The location may be on the sidewalk, in the parking lot, at the chow hall, or in the office. There was no reason to wait and the soldier had a need that deserved to be addressed. Hebrews 4:16 shares "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

Keep it simple. There is no need to be fancy. Wordsmiths have their place, but not on the battlefield. I felt God calling

me to pray for aircraft, well the crews and passengers on board. I crafted a simple three point prayer to say every time I heard a helicopter or aircraft departing the base. Jesus reminds us not to have babbling prayers in Matthew 6:7. Prayers are not heard for the sake of many words.

Have a consistent pattern. My routine was very disjointed in Iraq. The start and end of every day lacked consistency. Unit operations had to happen 24 hours a day and the war didn't stop. The best time to pray was right before I went to sleep. I could make time to pray once my boots came off. It took a while to find that right recipe, but once I found it the routine stuck. Find a time or habit that can help you make space for prayer. Colossians 4:2 encourages us to, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

There are many lessons a veteran will find down range. These lessons can benefit our Christian walk. The trials of yesterday make us stronger for tomorrow. May God grant us the calling of Romans 12:12, to "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer."



Topeka YFC Presents 3rd Annual Comedy Cafe

When was the last time you laughed so hard it hurt? Topeka Youth for Christ will host its third annual Comedy Cafe featuring nationally known comedian David Dean on November 18 at Fellowship Bible Church (6800 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS).

David Dean honed his talent in the late 80's at the famous Second City School of Improvisational Comedy in Chicago. It was there that he learned to think quick on his feet and respond to and with the audience. God has blessed David Dean with the gift of making people laugh for over 22 years. David's comedy is family friendly, fast paced and most importantly—comedy with no side effects (No blushing, no blushing, no cringing, no embarrassing situations or language).

David is a frequent performer, friend and trusted opening act for some of today's biggest clean comics and speakers. Ken Davis, Chonda Pierce, Mark Gungor and more call on him for many of their shows. David's latest CD, "Clap For Me" can be heard on Laugh USA, Sirius Satellite Radio, iTunes and Pandora radio.

David is more than comedy. Over the past 10 years, David has hosted week-long mission trips 4-5 times a year to the Dominican Republic. He and Craig Gross, founder of XXXchurch.com, co-wrote a

book for parents titled Touchy Subjects.

The YFC Comedy Café is a perfect blend of food, fellowship, fun and laughter, with a purpose that inspires people to make a difference with teens. The evening includes delicious coffee and desserts, a program that highlights young people and tells the Topeka YFC story, and, of course, the hilarious comedy of David Dean.

The YFC Comedy Café starts at 6:30 PM (doors open at 6:15). Limited free admission tickets (two per request) are available, and reservations required. The Comedy Café is a fundraising event underwritten by individual table sponsors so seating is limited. To make your reservation or sponsor a table go to the YFC website at www.topekayfc.org/comedy_cafe or call the YFC office at 785-232-8296.

For more than sixty years, Topeka Youth for Christ has partnered with local churches, businesses and individuals to build transforming relationships with middle school and high school teens. Topeka YFC builds relationships with teens through a variety of ministry programs particularly designed for today's at-risk and high-risk teens. YFC currently ministers to hundreds of teens in the greater Topeka area through Juvenile Justice Ministry, YFC Core, City Life Clubs and YFC Camp.

Topeka Rescue Mission

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Celebrate the Holidays in Downtown Topeka!

As we enter the Holiday season, the downtown renovations have been pretty much completed! It's a new look for Topeka! People are getting in the Christmas Spirit!

Christmas shopping in Downtown Topeka can be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air. It might remind you of a time when shopping was more exciting, more personal, and less of a chore.

Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly downtown merchants. Why not take a trip downtown and visit them?

Delicious Treats for All to Enjoy

No one wants one of their guests to feel left out during the holiday gatherings and by shopping for your baked goods at Shana Cake, 435 S Kansas Ave, you can find delicious items that are safe for all to enjoy! From donuts and pound cake, cookies and cupcakes and waffles and loaves of bread - you can find allergy-friendly items for all your gatherings at Shana Cake.

All products are made from scratch, in house, and are free of wheat, gluten, dairy, corn, soy, nuts, tree nuts, casein, artificial colors and flavors and



GMO's. Frostings and cakes are made with real fruit and taste so amazing that your guests without dietary restrictions won't even notice and those with special dietary needs will be thrilled to join in on the fun!

Call 408-1272 or order online at shanacake.com for all your holiday gatherings!

A Full-Service Florist & Gift Shop

Absolute Design by Brenda, 629 S. Kansas Avenue, offers hand-selected flowers and exquisite designs with delivery throughout the Topeka area. They have an



expansive line of gifts, jewelry and home decor for all your holiday and year-round needs.

Save \$5.00 by using the coupon on this page!

You can also order or wire flowers 24 hours a day at the website: www.absolutedesignbybrenda.com.

Personalized screen printing

You can get those personalized tee-shirts you've been wanting at Reliant Apparel, located at 631 S Kansas



Avenue. Check them out for all your holiday creative printing needs!

A little bit of Heaven

Working side-by-side at Cashmere Gourmet Popcorn, Bill and Angie Anderson's goal is to create a high-



quality product in every handcrafted batch of popcorn, and provide it to you with unmatched customer service. Faith and family is the driving force behind this amazing company.



In fact, their family motto has always been, and will always be, "Thanks Be To God!"

Along with daughters Aleigha and Emily, they produce, package and market the popcorn. With about twenty flavors to choose from, you'll find a little bit of heaven in every bag.

Hard to describe...

Have you been in to see Fabtastic Furniture at 628 S. Kansas Avenue? It's an amazing place! It seems owner Renee Herrera always has something new and unique each time we stop in. It might be something RePurposed, Shabby Chic, Rustic or just something completely amazing. The store specializes in chalk painting and repurposing, but they also reupholster and refinish.

The quaint store has both finished and unfinished pieces of furniture. You can pick out the piece you want, she will work with you to design a one of a kind statement piece for your home or office. You can also bring in



a piece of your own, or something you have that you never had time to work on yourself and she will finish it for you. Fabtastic Furniture is open Tuesday through Friday 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday from 11 to 3. Stop in for a fun time. You can also find them on Facebook.

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Holiday Memories, Events, & Gift Ideas!

Check out the many Downtown Renovations and all the Holiday Events!



Get a souvenir!

Ginny's Gift Shop, at 929 S Kansas, is a quaint little shop that has some great "KANSAS" items for Christmas gifts for family or friends. Ginny, the owner, also features T-shirts, jewelry,



Wizard of Oz items, shot glasses, cards of all kinds, and a selection of KU & K-State mugs & other items.

When you need a break...

Juli's Coffee & Bistro located off 8th & Kansas in the Gizmo/Thacher Building is the place to be in downtown Topeka! Serving legit coffee & espresso drinks, breakfast & a global lunch menu with daily specials. For



your special events, Juli's offers boxed lunches, full catering menu & a beautiful historic venue. Order online or see our menus at www.juliscoffeeandbistro.com. Open M-F 7 AM – 5 PM & Saturdays 8 AM – 2 PM.

Diamonds are Forever

With the Christmas season in full swing, you'll find many specials and gift ideas at David's Jewelers, 623 S. Kansas - a family business that has served Topeka for four generations. Diamond rings, pendants and earrings usually top the list but they also offer vivid colored gemstones in unique settings, watches, clocks, statues and fine crystal.

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go



from there," said Mitzi from behind the counter at David's. "We will be glad to help you find that special gift for that special someone."

One of a kind

For an eclectic selection of new and used items, check out Trails Market & Gallery at 109 S. Kansas Ave. Jeff Hisey has assembled a large selection on two floors, where artists and



traders can come together, create and share their ideas and passions with others and provide a unique experience and gifts for everyone. A wide variety of items, many of which are one-of-a-kind! You owe it to yourself to check it out!

While you're making your way around the downtown area, check out all of the new features! And watch for these downtown events coming up:

FIRST FRIDAYS ART WALK – Nov. 4. Various locations Downtown and in NOTO arts district. Enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and treats.

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

BALLET MIDWEST'S MASQUERADE – Oct. 29, 7-8:30pm, TPAC. Enjoy an evening of heavy hors d'oeuvres and wine, a short Ballet Midwest presentation of "Les Sylphides," followed by a dessert and coffee bar. For children 4-10 there is a costume (optional) party that includes crafts, snacks, ballet instruction, and a backstage tour with meet and greet of dancers. Silent Auction. Tickets: \$30 adult; \$10 child, from Barbara's Conservatory, 4300 SW Huntoon

SILVER ANNIVERSARY SOCK HOP – Nov. 4, 7-10:30pm, TPAC, 214 S E 8th Ave. Break out the poodle skirts and letter jackets while we dance the night away to the classic 50's hits. Only \$12/person or \$20/couple. 785-234-2787

SALUTE OUR HEROES VETERANS FESTIVAL, PARADE & CAR SHOW – Nov. 5, 9-2 Kansas State Capitol. Parade at 11am; Staging begins at 9am. Bike Show, Food Truck Festival and Kids Fest! Benefitting the Military Veteran Project. Free event. www.militaryveteranproject.org

militaryveteranproject.org

INVITE A VETERAN TO BREAKFAST – Nov. 5, 8-11am, The Celtic Fox Irish Pub and Restaurant. Shawnee Co. Parks & Recreation and Perkins Restaurant will host breakfast. Invite a Veteran to free Breakfast when accompanied by a paid participant. Tickets \$6.50 include a pancake and sausage breakfast for the participant and one veteran. Info: 251-2967

GINGERBREAD HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS – Nov 11 - 9am-7pm; Nov 12 - 10am-5pm; Nov 13 - 11pm-4pm. TPAC. Gingerbread Homes Display - The houses built for the GHH Contest and those donated to the auction are on display the entire weekend. Graham Cracker Junction - Families, students, youth groups and scout troops enter the Junction to build their own houses out of graham crackers, icing and candy; Holiday Boutique - crafts, gifts & more; Sweet Tooth Lane - delicious fresh baked goods and homemade candy. Adm. \$3. 785-234-2787

PARADIZE BAND 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT – Nov. 12, 7pm, TPAC. Benefit concert for the Holy Family Music Department. 234-2787

WINTER DANCE PARTY – Nov. 18, 7:30pm., TPAC. John Mueller's Winter Dance Party is the official live and authentic re-creation of Buddy

Holly, Ritchie Valens & Big Bopper's final tour **TOWER & TOUGH TOWER RUN** – Nov. 12, 8:30-11am, 534 S Kansas – start in the lobby, finish at Top of Tower Club – run 16 flights of stairs to the top, or add some additional pain with basement sprint, or parking garage run before you finish with 16 flight climb. 234-9336

ANNUAL RESCUE RUN – Nov. 26, 5-6pm, 534 S. Kansas Ave., Downtown Topeka. Proceeds benefiting the Topeka Rescue Mission Ministries. Register at trmonline.com. Early registrant's may pick packets up and late registrations will be accepted on Friday, Nov. 25, 12 to 3pm at the Topeka Tower building. Race day Registrations accepted inside the Topeka Tower building, 534 S Kansas Avenue 2-4pm, Nov. 26.

MIRACLE ON KANSAS AVENUE PARADE – Nov. 26, 5:30pm - Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony; 6:00pm - Parade – Starts at 4th and Kansas Ave. For info: downtown-topekainc.com

THE CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER MIDWEST, Nov. 26 at 7pm and Nov.27 at 3pm; TPAC. Presented by It Takes A Village, taking the original Nutcracker and giving it an urban, multicultural twist including a variety of dance styles – Hip-hop, Jazz, African, Praise, Contemporary, Stepping and Ballet. 383-9373 or 580-9707



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Celebrate the Holidays in North Topeka!

Lots going on in North Topeka during Holidays

The North Topeka area has a lot going on this time of year! Of course, NOTO Arts District has been a hub of activity for a while now, but there are also many other events going on north of the river:

TRUNKS & TREATS - Oct. 31, 5:30-7:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, Hwy 75 and N. 46th St. Trick or treating in the parking lot, and games and treats in the church.

At Vintage Vibe, 833 N Kansas Ave. the artist of the month will feature Momma's Bee's Keys. Momma's Bee's Keys features unique key necklaces. This month Vintage Vibe will be serving Southern Chipotle Dip featuring Texas Chipotle Savory Cracker Mix, served 5pm-9pm on First Friday Art Walk. The 3rd Annual "We're Thankful Sale" will take place on Sunday, November 13th, 10a-3pm. Vintage Vibe will be open until 9pm on November 18th for Candlelight Christmas.

CLOVERTON - NIGHT OF HOPE - Nov. 6, 6pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. A Night of Hope fundraiser. Also Mitch Langley's "Avalanche of Hope" CD release. Adm \$10. For info: www.Northland.cc

Veterans Day Celebration on Nov. 11, 2-3:00 pm, at Great Overland Station.

Honor the service of the men and women of America's Armed Forces. The ceremonies will take place outside on the All Veterans Memorial and Corridor of Flags.

GIVING THANKS & FINDING HOPE: REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES - Nov. 13, Great Overland Station. Free.

Sponsored by Grace Hospice. Program begins at 3pm. A service remembering and honoring loved ones who have passed from this life. Featured speaker, Dr. Harold Ivan Smith, noted grief author and professor, will provide practical help on coping with the holidays. Music by Shawnee Heights High School Choir and bagpiper Richard Gannon. Refreshments provided.

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS Nov. 18, 5-9pm. in NOTO Art District. Grab your Christmas shopping list, family and holiday spirit and join us for an old fashioned Christmas! Pictures with Santa, Free photo booth in front of the Christmas Tree, carolers, shopping by luminaries,



carriage rides and so much more! Free.

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR - Nov. 19, 9am-4pm, Sunrise Optimist Activity Center at 720 NW 50th St. Original hand crafted gifts for the Holidays. Free adm. Concessions available.

SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY - Nov. 26. Support local merchants

Of course, there is also the monthly NOTO Market on First Friday with arts, antiques, crafts and flea market items, as well as entertainment.



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the events calendar

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

CONCERTS

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

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

REND COLLECTIVE: AS FAMILY WE GO TOUR - Oct. 29, 7pm, Lied Center, University of Kansas, 1600 Stewart Dr., Lawrence, KS. Rend Collective Live in concert, also featuring Urban Rescue. Doors at 6pm. www.echoconcerts.com

THE WRIGHTS - Oct. 30, 6pm, United Methodist Ch., 647 Elm. St, St. Marys. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

CLOVERTON - NIGHT OF HOPE - Nov. 6, 6pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. A Night of Hope fundraiser. Also Mitch Langley's "Avalanche of Hope" CD release. Adm \$10. For info: www.Northland.cc

THE WRIGHTS - Nov. 11, 8pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. thewrightsministries.com. 289-8905.

ELMONT OPRY - Nov. 11 at 7pm; and Nov. 12 at 1pm, Elmont UMC, 6635 NW Church Ln. With Special Guest Charlie Heavin. Doors open 90 minutes early for lunch or dinner. Tickets \$10 - call John at 246-0156.

PARADISE BAND 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERT - Nov. 12, 7pm, TPAC. Benefit concert for the Holy Family Music Department. 785-234-2787

KEITH & KRISTYN GETTY IRISH CHRISTMAS - Dec. 3, 7:30-9:30pm, Grace Community Church--Overbrook, 310 E. 8th St, Overbrook, KS. Accompanied by the Getty's band of top bluegrass and Celtic folk musicians and step-dancers, the evening is a unique blend of modern hymns, Irish folk music, and some favorite Christmas carols. 785-665-7117

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 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

LIFEFEST - 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

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or office@hctoepka.org

FALL FESTIVAL - Oct. 29, 5-8pm, Fairlawn Nazarene, 7th & Fairlawn. Trunk or Treat, food, Hayride, inflatables, candy, games. Free

NOAH'S ARK TRUNK OR TREAT - Oct. 29, 3-6pm. New Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church. There will be candy, music, face painting, etc. For info: 221-7223

FALL FESTIVAL - Oct. 29, 3-6pm, Covenant Baptist, 5440 SW 37th

FALL FESTIVAL - Oct. 29, 5-9:30pm, 4100 SE California Ave. The fun begins at 5pm and will include a bonfire, wiener roast and games for all ages. Sponsored by Crossroads Wesleyan Church.

TRUNK 'R TREAT - Oct. 29, 5:30-7:30pm Lighthouse Bible Church, 4110 NW 62nd St.. 246-0138 Trick or treating in the parking lot.

TRUNK 'R TREAT - Oct. 30, 5:30-7pm Topeka Bible Church. Trick or treating in the parking lot.

TRUNK 'R TREAT - Oct. 30, 4-5pm, Stull UMC. For kids birth to 6th grade

TRUNK 'R TREAT - Oct. 30, 3-5pm, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 3625 S.W. Wanamaker. Trick or treating, bounce house in the parking lot.

TRUNK 'R TREAT - Oct. 30, 5:30-7:30pm, Faith Lutheran church parking lot, 17th & Gage. Kids can walk from car trunk to car trunk trick-or-treating.

TRUNK OR TREAT - Oct. 30, 2:30-4pm, Highland Park UMC. Games, hot dogs, chips, drinks and popcorn. Open to the public.

TRUNK OR TREAT - Oct. 31, 6-8pm, Perry UMC. Also food, candy & books.

TRUNK OR TREAT - Oct. 31, 5-7pm, Town & Country Christian Church

TRUNK OR TREAT - Oct. 31, 6:30-8pm, Asbury Mount Olive UMC

TRUNKS & TREATS - Oct. 31, 5:30-7:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, Hwy 75 and N. 46th St. Trick or treating in the parking lot, games and treats in the church.

HALLELUJAH NIGHT - Oct. 31, 6pm, Antioch Family Life Center, 1921 SE Indiana Ave. Fall Family Festival Alternative to Halloween. Games, Food, Candy for the entire family. (785) 232-4856, churchadmin@anti-

ochtopeka.org

ALL YOU CAN EAT DINNER - Nov. 2, 4-6:30pm, Oakland UMC, 801 N.E. Chester Avenue. Includes Ham & Bean/Vegetable Soup, Cole slaw, cornbread, and choice of cake or pie for dessert. Adults \$8, children \$4. For info: 785-357-5290 or 785-235-1010.

COMMUNITY DINNER - Nov. 2, 5 to 6:30 pm, Tecumseh UMC. Ham, au gratin potatoes, veggie, dessert & drink for a free will donation.

6TH ANNUAL WOMEN LUNCHEON - Nov 4 at 7pm & Nov. 5, at 8am; True Holiness Family Church, 1408 SW 32nd St. Women's Dept., annual luncheon with a guest speaker on Fri. eve at 7pm and Sat. morn at 8am with special break-out classes, a guest speaker & lunch. Theme: "Seasons of a Woman's Life." Contact (785) 233-9545 or pfoston@sbcglobal.net

FAMILY FUN DAY FUNDRAISER - Nov. 5, 9am-12pm. Northland Christian Church. Funds raised will go to Christ First Counseling Center. Pancake feed, cake walk, facepainting, bounce house, petting zoo, games, story time, clown, horse rides etc. For info: 272-0778

CLOTHING EXCHANGE - Nov. 5 & 12, 10am-2pm, Topeka First Free Methodist Church, 3450 SE Indiana Ave. Free clothing and small household items. People may also bring gently used clothing to share. 266-6610

PANCAKE FEED - Nov. 5, 7am-noon, Berryton UMC. Blueberry pancakes available!

ELECTION EVE PRAYER SERVICE - Nov. 7, 6pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Prayer and Worship Service for the election.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP - Nov. 12, 5:30-7:30pm, 7-8pm, Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene

FAMILY ADVENT NIGHT - Nov. 16, 5:30-7:30pm, First Presbyterian Church. Here's a chance to focus on the reason for the season! After a soup supper, enjoy an Advent-related craft and short educational activity. Everyone is welcome

ANNUAL FALL CRAFT AND BAKE SALE Nov. 18, 9am - 6pm; & Nov. 19, 9am - 3pm. Mother Teresa Catholic Church, 2014 NW 46th St. Fellowship & shop for hand crafted gifts created by Mother Teresa Parishioners and Friends at 2014 NW 46th Street.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & LUNCHEON - Dec. 2, 10:30am, St. John's Lutheran Church, 9th and Fillmore. Bazaar and Luncheon Booths open 10:30 am - 1:00 pm. Crafts, gift items, Baked Goods, Sweet Shop, and "The Cookie Walk". Luncheon served: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm. Dine in or carryout. Luncheon Tickets: Adults: \$8.00; Children under 12: \$3.00. (785) 354-7132. stjohncmstoepka.org, ntaylor713@aol.com

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS - Nov. 1 & 15 at 6:30pm; and Nov. 3 & 9 at 1pm. 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 are free & open to the public, and will be held at Century Health Solutions, a division of Stormont-Vail Healthcare, 2951 SW Woodside Dr. For info: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Light snacks & beverages provided.

2016 ANNUAL FARM & FOOD CONFERENCE - Transforming Our Farms, Our Food and Our Future: Building the Road as We Go - Nov. 18 - 19, Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Manhattan, Ks. info@kansaruralcenter.org, or 866-579-5469.

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 rnonl@tscpl.org

WOW - WORKIN' OUT ON WEDNESDAYS - 5:30 pm every Wed., south steps of the Capitol building. Free, fun and family-friendly. A combination of aerobic & strength training exercises, coupled with a fun line dance to end

each experience. www.makinmoves.com

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. Open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods and more.

SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH - Every Sat., 11am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker

SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS - Wednesday's, 7pm, Croco Hall, 6115 SE Highway 40, Tecumseh. Call Don at 785-966-2765

TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES - Sundays, 2-4pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968.

GARY'S PUMPKIN PATCH & FALL FESTIVAL - Sept. 23-Oct 30, Fri. - Sat. - Sun., 5991 17th St. Grantville, KS. 8 Acre Corn Maze, Pig Races, Corn Pit, 2 Jumping Pillows, Giant Slides, Animals, and more. Home Made Curly Fries, Hamburgers, Brats, Turkey Legs, Apple Cider Slushy and more. Admission \$10.95; Season Pass - \$27.95 at garysberries.com

BOO AT THE ZOO - Oct. 29, 9-3. Topeka Zoo. Hold out your basket to collect candy and visit with the zoo animals who will also be in the holiday spirit.

THE REDEMPTION (FORMERLY JUDGEMENT HOUSE) - Oct. 29, 30, 6-8:40pm, Wanamaker Woods Nazarene Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. A live production. Suggested donation \$4/person. Reservation Hotline: 785-491-1829. (PG)

2016 SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES PUMPKIN RUN - Oct. 29, 9-11am. Sunflower Soccer Complex, 4829 NW 17th St. One mile run for kids, preschool through 6th grade. To register: 235-2295

4TH ANNUAL PUMPKIN RUN 5K - Oct. 29, 7:30-10am. Shelter House #1 3400 SE Leisure Lane. \$25 before, \$30 day of, \$50 family stroll. Proceeds go to the eradication of Polio. Costume contest following the 5k. For info: 266-8333 or register.chronotrack.com/tr/23422

RUNNING DEAD 5K - Oct. 29, 11am. KC Renaissance Festival. \$3. Free zombie makeup beginning at 8am. Costume contest at 10:30. To register: 913-721-2110

Advertisement for Keith & Kristyn Getty's 'Irish Christmas: A Celebration of Carols' at Grace Community Church on Saturday, December 3 at 7:30 PM for \$25 general admission. Includes photos of the performers and church logo.

Advertisement for C5 Alive 'Developing and Uniting Christian Leadership' featuring Power Luncheons on Nov. 10 at First Southern Baptist Church. Includes contact info and dates for Christmas events.

entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

I'm Not Ashamed movie: Columbine victim's inspiring story hits big screen

entertainment

 by **Rusty Wright**

The 1999 Columbine High School massacre became etched in a nation's collective consciousness. Shooters Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold murdered twelve fellow students and one teacher. Rachel Joy Scott was their first victim. This new film tells her inspiring story.

And what a touching and powerful story. A young woman with typical middle-class teenage struggles morphs into a beacon of caring, faith, and – eventually – international impact for good.

I'm Not Ashamed opened last month to praise. Stars include Masey McLain as Rachel, Ben Davies (Courageous), Sadie Robertson and Korie Robertson (both of TV's Duck Dynasty; Sadie of Dancing with the Stars), singer Jaci Velasquez, and Jennifer O'Neill (Summer of '42).

Love, hormones

(Spoilers ahead.)

At first, boys and dating consume Rachel's conversations with her girlfriends. Will she win her idol's heart? Well, yes, sort of. Err, at least she wins

film411

Rated PG-13 (USA) "for thematic material, teen drinking and smoking, disturbing violent content and some suggestive situations."

www.ImNotAshamedFilm.com/IAMHOPE

his hormones.

Can she sneak out at night without her parents knowing? Yes...and nope. She escapes through her bedroom window, but guess who's waiting when she returns.

Will she ever adjust to her parents' divorce and mom's new husband? This one's going to take some time.

Why do some of her classmates bully a disabled teen? What's her purpose in life? How does faith fit in?

Compassion chain reaction

Rachel's personal journals inform much of the film. "If one person could go out of their way to show compassion, it could start a chain reaction," read one entry. She's especially kind to the marginalized at school and beyond, befriending a homeless teen who becomes her "big brother."

Her journals authentically portray

her struggle with personal faith. One entry reads, "I don't understand why having a walk with God is so hard for me. I'm so weak. At school, with friends, at work."

A cousin helped clarify for her something that many – myself included – have confused. Genuine faith involves a personal relationship with God. Rachel establishes this, and becomes known at school for her faith and compassion. Her dedication echoes a New Testament statement: "I am not ashamed of this Good News about Christ. It is God's powerful method of bringing all who believe it to heaven."

Diabolical plot

During all this, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold developed their diabolical plot. According to some reports and research, Harris was a brazen psychopath with global infamy dreams, while Klebold was hotheaded, depressive and suicidal. They placed homemade bombs in the school cafeteria, to be ignited by timers.

When the bombs didn't ignite, the two approached the cafeteria, first shooting Rachel and a male friend (who survived) as they sat outside. The film depicts what became an iconic scene. Harris asks the not-yet-dead



Rachel if she still believes in God. When she responds, "You know I do," he replies, "Then go be with Him." He shoots her in the temple.

Questions exist about whether the encounter really happened that way. For instance, the Denver Post reported that the closest witness to her murder later expressed uncertainty about what had been said. Yet evidence exists of that witness shortly after the shooting recounting a story similar to the film's. (So far as I know, no one alleges Rachel denied her beliefs; concerns focus on items like whether Harris mentioned faith when he killed her.)

I Am Hope

I won't attempt to resolve that debate. Rachel's life impact doesn't

hinge on this point. She had prayed, "Father, use my life to touch the world and let your light shine through me." Through her life, plus postmortem publications, family speaking and media appearances, millions have been pointed toward faith and compassion. Now, with this movie, millions more will be.

The film's related "I Am Hope" movement aims to mobilize students for outreach and service.

–Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. He holds Bachelor of Science (psychology) and Master of Theology degrees from Duke and Oxford universities, respectively. www.RustyWright.com

Excerpt from Chip and Joanna Gaines' "The Magnolia Story"

Chip and Joanna Gaines are the founders of Magnolia Homes, Magnolia Market and Magnolia Realty in Waco, Texas. Together, they also host HGTV's Fixer Upper, where Joanna serves as the lead designer and Chip handles construction. They appreciate the old ways of living, simple and hard-working, with home at the center of it all. Here's an excerpt from their new book *The Magnolia Story*.

Blessings in disguise

Have you ever looked at the bud of a magnolia flower? It's a tight little pod that stays closed up for a long time on the end of its branch until one day, out of nowhere, it finally bursts open into this gigantic, gorgeous, fragrant flower that's 10 times bigger than the bud itself. It's impossible to imagine that such a big beautiful thing could pop out of that tiny little bud. But it does. And that's sort of what getting "discovered" and sharing our lives on Fixer Upper feels like to us.

We never could have imagined being on TV together, touching the



lives of so many people, especially back when we were two broke newlyweds sleeping on the floor of our eight-hundred-square-foot house while we renovated it, or when I first opened and then had to close my little Magnolia shop on Bosque Boulevard. I have to wonder, though, if it was just a happy coincidence that we decided to name that shop Magnolia. Or was it something more? Because it's staggering to think just how much it has blossomed.

As we finished up writing this book, HGTV was airing the third season of Fixer Upper, and we'd started filming seasons four and

five. And that's only part of the excitement. Thanks to the show's popularity, we outgrew our beloved "Little Shop on Bosque." In 2015, to make room for all our new customers, we moved the shop into a converted, early 20th-century cotton-oil mill. Our new property is marked by two giant, rusty, abandoned silos in the heart of downtown Waco—easy to spot from miles away. It's a place where we're proud to welcome our out-of-town visitors.

To get how exciting this is for us, you have to understand where it all started: a little shop, one employee, and a shopgirl who was happy to

see eight customers a day. The reality that thousands of visitors are coming to our town to experience Magnolia Market at the Silos is not only an honor, it's one of the single greatest accomplishments of our careers.

We've also had the great thrill of seeing our friends' businesses

boom, since we've gotten to incorporate their work and artistry into the shop and the show. That was our goal from the beginning—to bless our community, our friends, and our viewers through this unbelievable platform we've been given.

–*The Magnolia Story* hit bookstores on October 16.



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PLENTY TO LOOK FORWARD TO WITH FALL MUSIC RELEASES

As mentioned in last month's music news, Tenth Avenue North will come to the KC area in November. What wasn't reported last month was Hawk Nelson will be on the "What You Want" tour with them. Also touring with both bands is Dan Bremnes. Embarking on a 15-city tour to support their newest release, Followers, Tenth Avenue North and company will be in both Kansas (Hutchinson, Nov. 4) and Missouri (Farmington, Nov. 5). Hopefully, you're reading this before it's passed!

For more information on the new album and tour please visit tenthavenue-north.com.



enorth.com.

P.S. Hawk Nelson's front man Jon Steingard produced Tenth Avenue North's recent video, "What You Want," too... just sayin'.

Selah comes to Blue Springs Assembly Sunday, Dec. 4. It's the church's special Christmas with Selah event and promises to help get you in the spirit as one of the earliest Christmas concerts in the area. The concert kicks off at 6pm that evening. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and available at itickets.com or \$25 at the door. More info at bluespringsassembly.org.



bly.org.

Also recently mentioned in this column, All Sons and Daughters has released a new recording, Poets & Saints, which was inspired by the artists' travels through Europe last year, to "take you on an epic journey into the lives and stories of a handful of Christ-followers God used to wake up the world... C.S. Lewis, John Newton, Saint Theres, Saint Francis, William Cowper, Saint Augustine, George MacDonald, and many more; mining for undiscovered

gems, something God could use to connect these individuals to modern believers."

The album can also be purchased with a companion devotional, Poets & Saints: Eternal Insight, Extravagant Love, Ordinary People written by their pastor, Jamie George, and published by the nonprofit David C. Cook.

Laura Story's new album, Open Hands, won't be out until Spring of next year, but you can purchase her newly released single, of the same name, featuring Mac Powell, right now.

Lastly (for this month, any how), long-time Christian rocker Geoff Moore has released The Next Thing, his first recording in quite some time.



"From the earliest days of writing these songs with my producer and friend, Don Chaffer, to the final stages of releasing my first crowdfunded record," Moore said, "it has been an amazing journey."

For more information about the album, tour dates, and even a free song-sample from his newest album, please visit geoffmoore.com.

Lastly, Decyfer Down will be in Marshall, MO. on November 4, supporting "The Other Side of Darkness" Tour. Also on tour with Decyfer Down will be Ilia, The Protest, and Jeremy Greene. For more info, and to purchase tickets, please visit decyferdown.com.

Tim Tebow's 'Shaken': Top 5 shocking revelations in new book

by Rusty Wright

In the first chapter of Tim Tebow's new book, *Shaken: Discovering Your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms*, the athlete reveals the raw emotions that have been buried behind his trademark smile for years.

The book, released in late October by WaterBrook Press, is not a memoir, but a personal account of some of the challenging moments in Tebow's career and how he overcame them with his faith in God.

Tebow fans and naysayers alike will be shocked to discover some of the revelations that are shared in just the first 30 pages of his newest book. Below are five of the most shocking revelations Tebow shares in the book.

1. Tim Tebow reveals utter shock after being cut from New England Patriots

In 2013, Tebow didn't make it past the preseason to play for the New England Patriots. Before his former Denver Broncos coach Joshua McDaniels — who later became the offensive coordinator for the Pats — sat down with him and head Coach Bill Belichick to let him know that he didn't make the cut, the team's owner made him think otherwise.

"Sometime earlier, Robert Kraft, the owner of the Patriots and a man I respect and really like, had told me he was looking forward to seeing me at his get-together the next day," an excerpt from Tebow's book reads. "He was hosting a barbecue for the team and the staff at his home. Thinking about his words, I felt like it was a good sign."

Tebow, however, was subsequently cut from the team. He describes that moment as a "sucker punch."

"I didn't see it coming," he said.

2. Tim Tebow passed up a \$1 million endorsement deal to impress Bill



Denver Broncos quarterback Tim Tebow prays after the Broncos defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers in overtime in the NFL AFC wild-card playoff football game in Denver, Colorado, January 8, 2012.

Belichick.

The former Heisman Trophy winner has a knack for attracting media attention and corporate sponsors that are interested in endorsing him. Around the time he expressed interest in being a part of the Patriots team, one company offered him \$1 million for one day's worth of work by appearing in a commercial.

"I remembered when I had signed with the team in June. Then I'd had an offer on the table to make a one-day appearance endorsing a product for a million dollar paycheck," Tebow reveals in the book. "I'm sure you'd agree that a million bucks is a lot to make in just twenty-four hours. But I wasn't quick to say yes."

It is widely known that Belichick is not a fan of the media circus that takes place off of the football field and advised Tebow to pass up on the opportunity.

"He thought for a moment and then shook his head. 'Timmy, I would really

appreciate it if you didn't,'" Tebow recalled the coach saying. "Highly respecting the man, I turned down the deal. I didn't even think twice about it."

While some may question why, Tebow believed he had a chance to live his NFL quarterback dream with one of the most respected coaches in the game. However, he later came very close to regretting his decision after Belichick cut him with little explanation.

"I thought of the endorsement deal I had turned down two months earlier, questioning and maybe even regretting my decision," Tebow said. "Was it the wrong choice? If I had said yes, would that have put me in a better situation than where I am right now — sitting in front of two coaches who are firing me without telling me exactly why?"

3. Tebow felt betrayed after the Denver Broncos traded him to the New York Jets

After being drafted by the Broncos in 2010, Tebow became a starting quarter-

back who led the Broncos to a playoff run in 2012. Later that year, he was traded to the New York Jets before things got rocky and he bounced from preseason teams like the New England Patriots in 2013, followed by the Philadelphia Eagles in 2015.

However, being traded by the Broncos seemed to hurt Tebow the most.

"In the spring of 2012, I was traded from the Broncos to the New York Jets, a move that felt like a betrayal of sorts," he said. "A year later, the Jets let me go. This was a pattern I did not like."

4. Tim questioned God's plan after Patriots cut him

Although Tebow has been a major voice for Christian athletes, even he questioned God's plans after the pain of being cut first hit him.

"I shifted my thoughts toward God, the One I believed had led me to New England. I thought this was going somewhere special," he recalled telling God. "I thought this was a plan You designed for me. If that was true, then why, God, why is this thing crashing and burning?"

But Tebow soon realized that God was still with him.

"I knew God hadn't left me. I knew He still had a plan for my life," he said. "I knew He still had a purpose. And though my foundation in Him was solid, much of what rested on top of that was shaken."

5. Tebow refused offers from NFL teams that wanted him to play other positions

After he was cut by the Patriots, offers poured in for Tebow to play for other

teams. The only problem was, none of them were interested in him as a quarterback.

"Timmy, a bunch of teams are calling and hoping you'll play for them," Tebow



New York Mets outfielder Tim Tebow speaks with the media after his workout at the Mets Minor League Complex, Port St. Lucie, Florida, September 20.

recalled his agent telling him. "So this one wants you to play tight end. That one wants you as an HB ..."

Although Tebow acknowledged there were some "really big selling points," he had no passion for those offers and insists his decision wasn't made out of arrogance.

"I wanted to continue to fight for what I was passionate about, for what I believed in. Since I was 6 years old, I didn't just want to play football; I wanted to be a quarterback," he said. "I didn't want to be in the NFL for the sake of being in it, or to make a lot of money, or to get famous. I wanted to pursue my passion of playing as a quarterback."

The book is available at a Christian bookstore near you and online.



3 Factors That Impact Homeowner Happiness

(Family Features) It is said that as you get older you become wiser, but as homeowners grow older, do they become happier? According to a nationwide homeowner happiness survey conducted by HomeAdvisor, the answer is yes. This was the case of Bob and Joanie Johnson, who dropped their youngest child off at college in August 2015.

Although they needed time to adjust to their children no longer living at home, they soon realized they had extra time and money to devote to home projects. Many parents who become empty nesters have this revelation and start focusing on projects that have been placed on the backburner while kids were in the house.

“It makes sense that empty nesters have the highest happy home scores,” said Dr. Karen Ruskin, HomeAdvisor’s Happiness Advisor. “They have likely settled in a community they enjoy and plan to stay. This group also gener-

ally has the most economic stability and time to make their house a happy home.”

The survey shows that individuals in the empty-nester stage have higher happy home scores across the board compared to all other stages of life. The main factors that contribute to their happiness are their communities, location and features of their homes. Compared to other stages of life, empty-nesters feel the safest in their communities, most connected to their neighbors and are also the happiest with the condition of their homes.

Overall homeowner happiness boils down to a combination of three important factors: accessibility to attractions and services, community and dwelling. Interestingly, research shows that accessibility and community play a far bigger role in happiness than dwelling.

“A homeowner’s identity and quality of life is much more likely to depend on aspects like weather,

for example, as that influences activities accessed in one’s community and affordability over how many bedrooms and bathrooms they have,” Ruskin said. “Homeowner happiness is really about location, location, location.”

This rings true for the Johnsons, who are far happier with the accessibility of services in their community and their neighbors than other life-stage groups.

Ruskin offers these four tips to make your home a happier place:

1. Upgrade and remodel your home. Update the landscaping or change out cabinet hardware. These modest to moderate changes can transform your home into a place that fits your needs.

2. Make sure you have adequate gathering space. Family rooms, living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens and patios are great areas to focus on to create an entertainment experience for you and your guests.

3. Get to know your neigh-

bors. Research shows that the happiest homeowners enjoy and feel comfortable, as well as safe, with their neighbors and community. To reach this comfortability, try organizing a neighborhood event.

4. Make your home a place you want to stay. The happiest homeowners feel their home is their favorite place and somewhere they want to stay long term. Get comfortable, hang art, put up those family pictures that are sitting in a box, paint the walls or plant a garden.

Find more tips for becoming a happier homeowner and further survey information when you visit



homeadvisor.com/survey.

Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Medicare Open Enrollment Facts to Know

(Family Features) As autumn progresses, it’s important to keep your health in mind. Medicare’s fall open enrollment period will allow you to review your plan options.

Maybe you have a new prescription that is not covered by your current drug plan or you have a new health condition. To ensure you get the most from Medicare in 2017, you should research your Medicare plan options during Medicare open enrollment.

Open enrollment begins Oct. 15 and closes Dec. 7. Changes made during this time will take effect on Jan. 1, 2017.

During open enrollment, you can:

- Adjust Medicare Advantage or Medicare prescription drug coverage.

- Change from original Medicare to a Medicare Advantage plan (or vice versa).

- Switch between Medicare Advantage plans.

- Join a Medicare Prescription Drug Plan.

- Switch existing drug plans or drop Medicare prescription drug coverage.

If you’re unsure where to start, your local State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) can

help.

SHIPs offer free one-on-one assistance year-round to Medicare-eligible beneficiaries, their families and caregivers. Trained counselors in your area can help with understanding Medicare benefits and the enrollment process. Assistance is personalized, so SHIP counselors can help you find available options that fit

your unique situation.

The program – funded by the Administration for Community Living, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – provides services in every state as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Learn more at ACL.gov.

Don’t wait until the last minute. Take care of your health now and find your SHIP at shiptacenter.org, or contact Medicare directly at 1-800-633-4227 or Medicare.gov.



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SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question:

Although I stopped working a few years ago, I had additional seasonal earnings after my retirement. Will my monthly Social Security retirement benefit increase?

Answer:

Possibly. And, you can get Social Security retirement or survivors benefits and work at the same time. Each year, we review the records for all working Social Security recipients to see if additional earnings may increase their monthly benefit amounts. If an increase is due, we calculate a new benefit amount and pay the increase retroactive to January following the year of earnings. You can learn more about how work affects your benefits by reading our publica-



tion, How Work Affects Your Benefits, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs.

Question:

My aunt is disabled as a result of a car accident. Does Social Security have a special program for people who are obviously physically or mentally disabled?

Answer:

Social Security is committed to

expediting the application process for people with severe disabilities. Through our Compassionate Allowances program, we can quickly identify diseases and other medical conditions that qualify, based on minimal objective medical information, and that allows us to make payments much sooner than the usual review process allows. Compassionate Allowances is not a separate program from the Social Security disability insurance or Supplemental Security Income programs. People who don't meet the Compassionate Allowances criteria will still have their medical conditions reviewed by Social Security.

Learn more about our Compassionate Allowances at www.socialsecurity.gov/compassionateallowances

Question:

How do I apply for disability benefits? And, how long does it take to get a decision after I apply for disability ben-

efits?

Answer:

You can apply for disability benefits online at www.ssa.gov/disabilityssi/apply.html. Getting a decision on your disability application usually takes three to five months. The time frame can vary depending on:

- The nature of your disability;
- How quickly we can get your medical evidence from your doctor or other medical source;
- Whether it's necessary to send you for a medical examination; and
- Whether we review your application for quality purposes.

Question:

I'm going to visit relatives outside the country for two weeks. Can I still get Supplemental Security Insurance (SSI) payments while I'm there?

Answer:

Your SSI usually will stop if you leave the United States for 30 consecutive days or more. Since you are going to be away for only two weeks, your SSI should not be affected. However, it's important that you tell Social Security

the date you plan to leave and the date you plan to come back, no matter how long you expect your travel to last. Then we can let you know whether your SSI will be affected. For more information, visit www.socialsecurity.gov or call our toll-free number, 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

Question:

Are Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments paid only to disabled or blind people?

Answer:

No. In addition to people with disabilities or blindness, SSI payments can be made to people who are age 65 or older and have limited income and financial resources. For more information, read our publication, Supplemental Security Income, at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/11000.html.

For more information, Contact your local Social Security office (www.socialsecurity.gov/locator). In Topeka, it is at 600 SW Commerce Pl., Topeka, KS 66615. The local office phone number is 1-888-327-1271.

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

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

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or office@rhctopeka.org

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS - Nov 1 & 15 at 6:30pm and Nov. 3 & 9 at 1pm. 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 provided.

SILVER ANNIVERSARY SOCK HOP - Nov. 4, 7-10:30pm, TPAC, 214 S E 8th Ave. Break out the poodle skirts and letter jackets while we dance the night away to the classic 50's hits. Only \$12/person or \$20/couple.

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.

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

sports

Faith first, then football

A typical afternoon for a Kansas football player includes meetings and practice that starts at 2:45 and ends at 6:30 p.m. After practice most players will go relax or do their homework. That is not the case for sophomore defensive end Josh Ehambe.



"It is the perfect balance," Ehambe said. "God will never give you anything you can't handle. If that's what He wants, of course I'll do it. If that's what He wants, I know for a fact that it won't be too hard. It may get stressful, but just because it's stressful, it doesn't mean it isn't doable."

A few days a week after football practice, Ehambe, a devout

Christian, goes to Nexus Church in Lenexa, Kansas, to be a youth minister, where he serves as a leader and a mentor.

Ehambe got involved last summer when a friend and fellow KU student-athlete asked for help.

"(Nexus) asked my friend, (KU track and field athlete) Kai Shean, if he knew any student-athletes who would like to come and talk to the youth and share their testimony," Ehambe said. "And I said, 'Of course I would love to do it.' So they invited me to church that Sunday and I fell in love with it."

What Ehambe did not know is that before he joined the church, his family had a connection to the church from a long time ago.

Ehambe's father, Alex, a prominent pastor who used to preach on Christian television networks such as TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network) and Day Star, preaches all over the world.

"As it turns out, the pastor of the church's dad is named Mike Purkey, who preached with my dad back in the day on Day Star," Ehambe said. "So I was like, 'Man, this is where God wants me to be.'"

It didn't take long for Ehambe to become a fixture at the church.

"I started going to it daily, so they asked if I could help out and be a youth leader and bring the Word and I said, 'Of course,'" Ehambe said. "Whenever I can go, I am always there for the kids. Sometimes I will go eat lunch with them, I'm there to pray for them, if they need any advice -- I'm there for them whenever I can be. I'm always there on Sundays, but if we do any events, like outside on a Saturday, I'll try to get there and help them out."

There are some student-athletes who never really find that right balance of being an athlete and a student at the same time. Add the element of ministry work into the mix for Ehambe, and he still thrives at all three.

The National Football League (NFL), as it is for hundreds of collegiate football players, is still a goal for Ehambe, but he knows that someone will be there for him if the NFL is not.

"My goal is to hopefully play professional football, but I know that football is not my identity. My identity comes from Christ. My goal after football, and even now at KU, is to continue to spread the Word of God, continue to spread His love and continue to be there for people."

If professional football does not work out for Ehambe, he knows he will have a future in something.

"If I go to the NFL, I go to the NFL. If I don't, I don't," Ehambe said. "I know God has something better."

Ehambe will always have faith in one being who will take him where he needs to go.

"It's up to God. Wherever He leads me," Ehambe explained.

With three solo three stops and one forced fumble on the season, he has played in four of the five KU games so far in 2016. As a sophomore, Ehambe has not gotten as much time on the field as he would like, but of all the things his work in ministry has taught him, one thing stands above the rest.

"Faith. Just have faith and keep going no matter what problem you're going through, just have faith that everything is going to be all right and everything is going to work out for the best," Ehambe said.

Now that he is in his third year in the program, one coach would say Ehambe is a leader not only on the field, but also through his religion.

"Josh is a religious man. He has beliefs that are pretty strong," said KU defensive coordinator Clint Bowen. "He is one of the leaders in terms of putting together opportunities for the players who want that (religion) in their lives. Kids know that they can go to him for that type of

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

October is traditionally a time when the little tykes will dress up and go trick or treating. Seeing all of those kids in their costumes is a fun time for adults, however, not everything I saw in October was cute. No, I didn't see any clowns, thankfully, but I did witness some things will haunt me for quite awhile.

• Anyone who watched the Oklahoma-Texas Tech game knows how scary that was. Well, scary for anyone who likes defensive football. Oklahoma won 66-59 in regulation. 17 combined touchdowns and only two field goals. Combined, the two teams accounted for 1708 total yards, 76 first downs and not a whole lot of defense. The amazing thing about that game was the fact that there were a combined 124 passing attempts and only 1 interception.



• The next day I watched the second half and overtime of the Seattle Seahawks-Arizona Cardinals game. They played to a 6-6 tie. This game was actually good from a defensive standpoint, but in the overtime it got pretty scary. Arizona's kicker, Chandler Catanzaro hit the goal post and missed a 24 yard field goal that would have won the game. Seattle then marched down the field and set up for a game winning field goal of their own only to see their own kicker, Stephen Hauschka, miss wide left from 19 yards out.

• What should be scary to college football is the fact that Alabama keeps crushing their opponents and their engine is fueled by a true freshman at quarterback. He's quietly putting up some Heisman

type numbers through 8 games, (12 passing td's, 9 rushing td's, 1578 passing yards and 521 rushing yards). Did I mention he's a true freshman? That means he has 2 years of college left before he's able to go to the NFL. Watch out SEC. Can you imagine this guy two years from now?

• Speaking of scary, how about those Golden State Warriors? After the year they had last year I wasn't sure if they would get any better this year, but when they signed Kevin Durant, they showed me that they could get better, on paper at least. I expect them to run through the regular season this year like they did last season on their way to a 73-9 record. Will they top that? I doubt it, but it's possible. These guys are equipped to make a deep run in the playoffs and I think anything less than a championship for them will be a major disappointment.

So now that Halloween is past we can gear up for Thanksgiving and Christmas and all the food we'll consume and the weight we'll gain. That in itself is a scary thought as well!

stuff."

"What I've been going through has taught me a lot about perseverance. With ministry, that's what God talks about is perseverance," Ehambe said.


"What I'm going through teaches me that I just have to push through. I'm

able to share that with youth at my church; that not everything in life is going to go your way, but you have to persevere and fight through it and hope the best is going to come."

While football has been an important part of Josh Ehambe's life for

many years and has gotten him an education and memories to last a lifetime, the reason that he has been able to be the man and football player he is today has been his faith in God. That is why he always says, "Faith first, then football."

★



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- Active Member of Northland Christian Church
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Getting Prepped for Winter

(Family Features) The onset and arrival of colder temperatures means that it's time once again to brace yourself – and your home – for everything that winter weather threatens to throw at you. From cool, drafty air wafting into your house to friends and family bringing snow and sand inside with them, it's important to remember the preparation to go through before winter strikes.

In order to help keep your home warm, cozy and clean throughout the winter months, follow these seven tips to get started:

Check the Roof

With warm days dwindling, it's never too early to look over your roof for damaged shingles or other various problems. Because winter brings along cold weather and plenty of precipitation, cracks in the roof can cause major issues down the road. If heights and ladders aren't your thing, try using binoculars from ground level to check things out.



Clean the Gutters

After the trees shake loose of their

leaves throughout the fall, it's always imperative to keep the gutters clean of debris. If your gutters fill up with leaves and other junk, the runoff from rain and snow has nowhere to go except in unwanted crevices in your roof.

Seal Leaks Around Windows and Doors

Caulk is a cheap, simple solution to one of winter's most annoying little habits – sending cold drafts into your house. Look closely as you check around windows and doors for small cracks then carefully seal up the problem.

Install Door Sweeps

Another way to keep warm air in and cool air out is to use door sweeps on the bottom of all exterior doors. A door sweep is a simple device that can be attached to the door frame to help seal the space between the bottom of the door and the floor.

Reverse Ceiling Fans

While some ceiling fans require flipping blades, most new fans simply have a reverse feature to make the blades spin clockwise. This easy fix can help pull room air upward and cause warm air – which has risen to the ceiling – to be forced back downward.

Keep Out Sand and Snow

Rather than sweeping and vacuuming your entryway every evening, place rugs and storage bins close to your front door, garage and any other entrance to the home so that you and your guests don't track sand and snow into the house when inclement weather hits.

Stock Up on Winter Gear

Unfortunately, it's impossible to know exactly what each winter will bring. Rather than trying to fight the

elements on a snowy day to find salt for your sidewalk or a new shovel to clear the driveway, stock up on these items and other winter essentials long before Mother Nature strikes.

homeowners, but staying on top of your preparation and being ready for cold weather's reach can help make snow season easier to handle. For more tips to get your home ready for winter, visit livingtoday.com.

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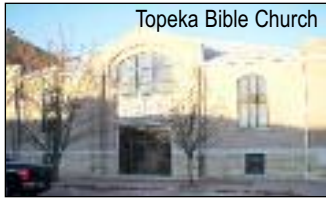

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FALL IS FOR PLANTING!
 Annette's tip
 If tiny chickweed or henbit weeds are appearing on the surface of your lawn, it's time to use Ferti-Lome Weedout or Weed-Free Zone (as recommended by K-State) to kill these weeds now while they are young. It will also kill clover and dandelions if they are still present.
 It's time to plant spring-blooming bulbs and time to fertilize trees and shrubs. Plant perennials, trees and shrubs now for better growth next year. Finally, it's time to NOT plant a yard. Wait until after Thanksgiving to overseed using the dormant seed method.

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

- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
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272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
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- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
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www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**
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- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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Sun. 10:30am - Worship & Word, Children
Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult
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- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**
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Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavely 760-3513
 - 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**
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Children's Worship 9 & 11 am
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6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University
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 - 15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
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- 17. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
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- 18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**
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- 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm
- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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Junior Church for kids: Sun 10am
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Fr. Jaime Zarse, Associate Pastor
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
Meets at 522 SW Polk
785-220-5418
Pastor Rey Rodriguez
Sun. Worship 10 am
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com
- 22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**
5221 SW West Drive
Topeka, Kansas 66606
Sunday Services - 10:00 am
Pastor Kathy Crofford
- 23. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.
Sunday Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.
See our website for info on our
Student Ministries & Kid City
www.esbcks.org

classified

PLACE YOUR CLASSIFIED AD WITH US! CALL 235-3340

Email your ads to Voice@cox.net. Payment in advance required: \$12 for the first 25 words; 25 cents for each add'l word. (classified ads also go immediately online)

WANTED: EMPORIA DELIVERY PERSON - Metro Voice needs someone to take 2 bundles of papers to Emporia each month. If you're going that way, we'll give you \$20 for gas and your trouble. Baldwin City and Ottawa also possible.

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

WANTED: VOLUNTEER WRITERS - Metro Voice needs volunteer writers or interns who can

serve as area correspondents for church and community news around the metro area. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net. Some perks.

WANTED: DELIVERY PERSON - Metro Voice needs someone to help distribute papers to churches and other locations in Topeka for gas money and some other perks involved. Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net.

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

PART-TIME ACCOUNT REP - Work your own hours. Generous commission on all ads you place; no base. Call on businesses, churches &

non-profits about their ads in Metro Voice. Call 235-3340 or email Voice@cox.net.

FOR SALE: KANGAROO GOLF CART - Self-propelled push cart for your golf bag. Seat included. Hillcrest model. \$75. Call 640-6399.

HAIR, NAILS, WAXING, FACIALS, MASSAGE - You'll get the best service ever...or it's FREE! Avenue Hair Styling...630 S. Kansas Ave...785-233-5225

GOSPEL SINGER: I sing gospel for donations only, (big band, country, etc.). Please call 785-220-1636.

WORDS DELIGHT & PICTURES PLEASE Photography and Composition by Richard Nelson - 785-273-6050

TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH
1101 SW Mulvane, Topeka, KS 66604
1135 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66604
234-5545 www.discovertbc.com



Leading People to Life in Christ

First Service: 8:00 - 9:10am
Second Service & Sunday School: 9:30 - 10:40am
Third Service & Sunday School: 11am - 12:10pm
Senior Pastor: Jim Congdon



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Focus Workforces is currently seeking to interview candidates for warehouse positions in Topeka, KS.

Shifts: 1st / 2nd / 3rd
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Apply online at www.workatfocus.com, or call 785-228-1555.




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Call 235-3340 or email voice@cox.net






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ENROLL TODAY!

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

Pay Your Tax Bill with Cash at a Retail Partner

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

The quickest, easiest way to make a tax payment is online. If you prefer to pay in cash, the IRS offers a way for you to pay your taxes at a participating retail store.

It generally takes five to seven business days to process your payment. Be sure to plan ahead of your due date to ensure your payment is posted timely.

Step 1

Visit the Official Payments site (www.officialpayments.com/pay-1040-taxes.jsp) and follow the instructions to make a cash payment with PayNearMe.

Step 2

You'll receive an email from Official Payments confirming your information. The IRS will then verify your information. This process may take two to three days.

Step 3

After the IRS verifies your informa-

tion, PayNearMe will then send you an email with a link to your payment code and instructions. Either print the payment code at home or send it to your smart phone.



Final step

Go to the retail store listed in the PayNearMe email and ask the clerk to scan or enter your payment code. You will receive a receipt from the store after they accept your cash. This receipt is confirmation of your payment and should be kept for your records. It usually takes two business days for your payment to post to your account.

Frequently asked questions

- **Is there a fee?** The cash payment option is \$3.99 per payment.
- **How long does it take for my payment to post?** It usually takes two busi-

ness days for your payment to post to your account. Be sure to make your payment in plenty of time before your due date to avoid interest and penalties.

• **Is there a limit to how much I can pay?** Payment limits are up to \$1,000 per day. Other limits may apply.

• **Where can I make my cash payment?** This cash option is only available at participating 7-Eleven locations in 34 states. Visit <http://paynearme.com> to find a location near you.

• **What should I do if I received an email from the IRS about making a cash payment but have not attempted to do so?** The IRS continues to remind taxpayers to watch out for email schemes. Taxpayers will only receive an email from OfficialPayments.com or PayNearMe if they have initiated the payment process. Report all unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS or an IRS-related function to phishing@irs.gov.

• **Who do I call if I have an issue?** Contact PayNearMe customer service (888-714-0004) if you have issues making your payment.

Get Rockstar Detailing without Rockstar Prices

Rockstar Detailing is a family run auto detailing business that was started in 2008 and has been serving the needs of Topekans ever since. At Rockstar Detailing, they make it their business to continually research and find the most effective and beautifying auto detailing products, according to owner Trevon Ewing.

"We will rejuvenate and restore your car to its original luster and help make you proud of your vehi-



cle," Ewing said. "Whether you have kids, pets or are planning on some-

one special riding in your car...let Rockstar Detailing in Topeka clean your vehicle to its very best condition. We promise you will drive away with a smile and come back again!"

Rockstar Detailing is located at Squeaky Clean Car Wash, 2010 SW Ashworth Place, behind Sonic Drive In. You can call them at 554-9302 or visit their website at www.rockstardetailing.com.



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Paige Eckhoff
 Account Representative
 Cell: 785-414-0785
paige.metrovoice@gmail.com



Office: 2611 SW 17th St. (By appointment only)
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Whether you are just starting out, or ready to grow your business, we have solutions for you.

GINGERBREAD HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Fri, Nov 11 ~ 9am - 7pm
Sat, Nov 12 ~ 9am - 5pm
Sun, Nov 13 ~ 11am - 4pm

Graham Cracker Junction
Sweet Tooth Lane
Holiday Boutique

WWW.TOPEKAPERFORMINGARTS.ORG/QBHH







You're invited to attend a

TRASH MOUNTAIN PROJECT Ministry Overview

at the C5Alive "POWER Luncheon"
 First Southern Baptist Church, 19th & Gage
 November 10 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.




Durbin

Brett Durbin of Trash Mountain Project will present an overview and update of the ministry. Kevin Conard of Blue Jazz Coffee will also be on hand to talk about how his company helps the Trash Mountain Project through fundraisers and other sales of his coffee. He will have samples of his coffee to try and for purchase.



Conard

\$10 for C5 members and first-time guests • Non-members \$15. C5 luncheons are open to the public.
 RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org



Pro-Life Endorsements for the 2016 General Election

GET A SHORTER, ADDRESS-SPECIFIC PRO-LIFE BALLOT THAT YOU CAN TAKE RIGHT INTO THE VOTING BOOTH

www.VoteProLife.net

President & Vice President

Donald Trump/Mike Pence
(Hillary Clinton openly supports abortion through the 9th month and not limited to health of the mother situations as she claimed in the last debate. She also supports tax funding of all abortions.)

56 Lane Hemsley
 57-59 No Endorsement
 61 Francis Awerkamp
 64-68 No Endorsement
 70 John Barker
 76 Eric Smith

County Offices

Shawnee County
 Commissioner: Bob Archer

U.S. Congress

1st District - Roger Marshall
 2nd District - Lynn Jenkins

KS State Board of Ed.

4 Sue Mollenkamp
 6 No Endorsement
 7 No race this year

Judiciary

The following Judges are not in ELECTED positions. The voter is given the option to vote "Yes to Retain" or "No to NOT Retain" these judges. It is important to cast all of the Yes AND the No votes.

<h4>Kansas Supreme Court</h4> <p><i>In order as they appear on ballot</i></p> <p>Beier - NO, Do NOT Retain Biles - NO, Do NOT Retain Nuss - NO, Do NOT Retain Luckert - NO, Do NOT Retain Stegall - YES, Retain</p>	<h4>District Magistrate Judges</h4> <p>Anderson: YES, do retain Hendricks: NO, do not retain Theis: NO, do not retain Parrish: NO, do not retain</p>
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KS State Court of Appeals


In order as they appear on ballot

Leben - NO, Do NOT Retain
 Pierron Jr. - NO, Do NOT Retain
 Bruns - YES, Retain
 Atcheson - NO, Do NOT Retain
 Burger - NO, Do NOT Retain
 Gardner - YES, Retain

District Attorney

Mike Kagay

* Statewide list of candidates and endorsement status now available online at www.voteks.org. Election Day is Tuesday, Nov 8. Early Voting going on now.



Vote Nov. 8

Endorsements made are not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.

Paid for by the Kansans for Life Political Action Committee, Clair Schulte, Treasurer, P.O. Box 4749, Wichita, Kansas 67204. 800-928-5433. www.voteprrolife.net.