



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, appreci-

■ See HOPE page 5

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 Hagemeier 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 new-found love for the girlish color.

■ See SHOEBOX page 22

Ministries gear up for service to needy at Thanksgiving

by Dwight Widaman

The numbers are in and unemployment is up in both Missouri and Kansas—including Kansas City. The situation reflects many areas of the country, and some economists say it's a warning sign the weak recovery begun after the 2008 recession is faltering—or worse yet—reversing. For most it means belt-tightening, with less dinners out and postponement of a new purchase. For Kansas City's at-risk families and individuals it may mean a night on the street or a day without food.

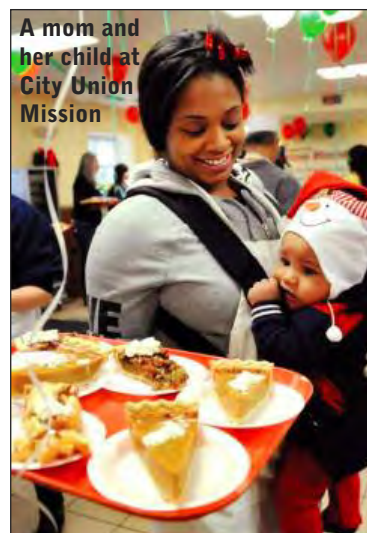
Increased need means that food pantries, soup kitchens and other services offered to our needy neighbors continue to stretch the resources of local

organizations. The problem seems most critical as Thanksgiving and Christmas approach and Kansas City prepares 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 volunteer.

Here are several of the major organizations that serve Kansas City's poor and homeless but there are countless others across the metro. 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

■ See THANKSGIVING page 17



Signature red kettles will be located all across Kansas City

They're an iconic sign that the Christmas season has begun—the bell ringers of the Salvation Army outside area stores.

The 2016 Red Kettle Campaign in Kansas City kicks off Friday, Nov. 11 and continues through December 24 every day except Thanksgiving and Sundays. Volunteers are the difference between an empty kettle and one that raises about \$30 per hour—enough to provide a family with two

■ See SALVATION ARMY page 22

newsbriefs

France plans ban on pro-life websites

(WNS)—The French government announced in September that it plans to ban pro-life websites found guilty of “deliberately deceiving” women with the appearance of neutrality. Under an amendment to a current “Equality and Citizenship” law, owners of pro-life sites could face a 30,000 euro fine (about \$33,600) and two years in prison, the same penalties that currently apply to “the offense of obstruction to abortion,” which has been illegal since 1993. “Being hostile to abortion is an opinion protected by the civil liberties in France,” Laurence Rossignol, minister of families, children, and women’s rights, told Rue89. “But creating websites that have all official appearances to actually give biased information designed to deter, guilt, traumatize is not acceptable.”

**EnArts launches with premiere of The Toymaker and Me**

Introducing itself to the KC Arts community, EnArts will present its first major production, a play called The Toymaker and Me.



WAYNE

The Toymaker and Me tells the story of a precocious young orphan girl, who, in spite of her many setbacks, is determined to find love and acceptance in a new home; and of a cranky old toymaker who lost his “spark” for life when his wife and unborn child died during childbirth (10 years earlier). When these two unique personalities come together, we experience the discovery of our true value and rediscover that life is worth living—in spite of the dark valleys we sometimes have to journey through. Paraphrasing Paris, one of the characters in the play: When a gift meets a need, sparks fly and life happens. In Marc Wayne’s The Toymaker and Me, that life comes in surprisingly moving ways.



“I can’t wait to see this story,” Marc said in an interview about the show. “Every time I tell it, I get so excited about the beauty and the grandeur of it. All the color and the richness of each of the characters...” Show dates are November 17, 18, 22, and 23 at the Vineyard Church (www.vineyardkcnorth.com) in

the Kansas City Northland (for more information, see www.EnArts.org).

The production is written and directed by Kansas City’s Marc Wayne. Wayne is a multi-talented professional artist who has performed and directed for over 30 years. Among his many accomplishments, Wayne previously danced for the contemporary Christian artist Carman and was a guest performer in Kansas City’s annual production of The Mystery of Christmas.

The Toymaker and Me is family-friendly and appropriate for all ages.

“The story reminds us that even though it can go undiscovered or be extinguished, everyone has a spark that makes them something special,” stated a spokesperson for EnArts. “The bringing together of that gift and a life-pressing need ignites the very presence of God.”

EnArts is planning several events for 2017, culminating in the premiere of a new musical based on the Bible book of Ruth called Sweet Dreams: The Biblical Story of Naomi and Ruth.

newsbriefs

Massachusetts churches sue over ‘anti-bias’ law

(WNS)—Four Massachusetts churches and their pastors filed a pre-emptive lawsuit in October in an attempt to halt application of a newly amended state law requiring pastors to temper their speech and churches to allow transgender persons to use the bathroom of their choice. In July, Massachusetts legislators amended General Law 272, known as “Crimes against Chastity, Morality, Decency and Good Order,” to add gender identity to the list of protected classes. Neither the law nor the amendment offer religious exemptions from compliance or name religious institutions as places of public accommodation. But in their interpretation of the law, the Massachusetts Commission against Discrimination (MCAD) and Attorney General Maura Healey declared “houses of worship” can be subject to the rule and its penalties if they host a “secular” event. The law also prohibits speech that “discriminates” or “incites” discrimination, which could apply to church staff offering biblical teaching about God’s design for men, women, and human sexuality. Violators could be fined up to \$2,500 and face up to one year in prison—or both.

Missouri unemployment rates continues to climb

Missouri’s unemployment rate has increased for the fourth straight month. Missouri’s September unemployment figure was 5.2%. That’s up a full percentage point since the March low of 4.2%. The figure is also above the national unemployment rate of 5%.

Archaeologists uncover city gate destroyed by Hezekiah

King Hezekiah’s seal

(WNS)—King Hezekiah abhorred the idol worship rampant in Judah. When he began his reign as the nation’s 12th king, Hezekiah “removed the high places and broke the pillars and cut down the Asherah” according to the biblical narrative in 2 Kings 18:4. Now, the Israel Antiquities Authority reports archaeologists have uncovered a city gate-shrine they believe Hezekiah’s men demolished at the city of Lachish in the eighth century B.C. “Before our very eyes these new finds become the biblical verses themselves and speak in their voice,” said Ze’ev Elkin, minister of Jerusalem and Heritage and Environmental Protection. Lachish, a walled city that guarded a main road between Jerusalem and Egypt, was the second most important fortified city in the kingdom of Judah, second only to Jerusalem. It fell to Assyria during King Sennacherib’s siege in 701 B.C. The siege is documented in several sources, including the Bible, Assyrian documents, and in a series of reliefs that once decorated King Sennacherib’s palace at Nineveh.

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Kansas woman's lawsuit says police stopped her from praying in her own home

A former nurse who claims she was threatened with arrest after a complaint about her noisy radio also says she was told by police officers she could not pray in her own home before going to jail.

Now, Mary Anne Sause – who is Catholic – has filed a lawsuit with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit, alleging Louisburg, Kan. police violated her First Amendment rights.

The case is on appeal because the district court dismissed her first filing, executed without the aid of an attorney, with prejudice. That means Sause could not amend her original complaint and refile it with the aid of legal counsel. The district court also said the case contained "allegations far from stating a plausible claim."

The appellate court will have to decide if Sause can move forward with the claim.

In the suit, which stems from an encounter in 2013, Sause alleges two police officers arrived at her home late at night and demanded entry. According to her account, the officers continued to knock, but she refused to let them enter because they did not identify themselves.

When they returned later, Sause did admit them to the home and they de-



"No American should ever be told that they cannot pray in their own home."

Stephanie Taub, First Liberty Institute

manded to know why they were not let in before. She replied that they had not identified themselves. Sause then claims she showed the officers a copy of the U.S. Constitution, and one of them replied that it was "just a piece of paper" which "doesn't work here." Once in the home, the officers also told her to

prepare to go to jail and searched for an offense with which they could charge her.

Sause, who is on permanent disability and lives in government housing, claims she then asked an officer if she could pray. He said she could and she got on her knees to pray. When the other officer came back into the room, Sause alleges she was ordered to stop praying.

The two officers named in the complaint are Jason Lindsey and Lee Stevens.

"The police are supposed to make you feel safe, but I was terrified that night. It was one of the worst nights of my life," Sause said in a statement from First Liberty Institute and Gibson Dunn, the law firms representing her.

"No American should ever be told that they cannot pray in their own home," Stephanie Taub, associate counsel for First Liberty Institute, said. "The right to pray in the privacy of one's own home is clearly protected by the First Amendment."

Sause's attorneys claim she "seeks a meaningful day in court" to vindicate her rights and the lower court was wrong to dismiss her first lawsuit.

Sause was eventually ticketed for "Interference with Law Enforcement" and "Disorderly Conduct."

The Louisburg Police Department and the city have not responded publicly to the complaint.

Churches continue outreach to Muslims despite bomb plot



GARDEN CITY, Kan. – Garden City is still reeling after the news broke about the planned attack that targeted Somali refugees, but local churches are coming out to support their Muslim neighbors saying an attack on one religion is an attack on all.

"We were helping refugees before this happened, and this hasn't stopped it," said Kevin Larson, a youth minister at Garden Valley Church.

For two years now, he's been helping the International Rescue Committee to resettle refugees in Garden by collecting donations, mostly household goods.

"Linens and Tupperware and clocks and kitchen appliances," he said.

Larson says the attempted attack has only strengthened his church's willingness to help, even after hearing that court documents revealed the group was considering targeting churches that reached out to Muslim communities.

"I'm a little surprised," said Larson, "I'm a little shocked, but I guess we're doing what we need to be doing if the world hates us."

"No, I'm not frightened at all," said Pastor Denise Pass with the Presbyterian Church. "I have no fear of any harm that might come to me."

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7PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11



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AUTHOR OF:



ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD

was once a tenured professor of English who identified as a lesbian and worked to advance the cause of LGBT equality. After her conversion to Christ in 1999, she came to see the sinfulness of having any identity apart from Him.

Rosaria is married to Kent Butterfield, pastor of the First Reformed Presbyterian Church of Durham, and is a home-school mother, pastor's wife, author, and speaker. She is helping Christians to better understand their LGBT neighbors and loved ones so that we can lovingly look past labels of sexual identity and share the gospel effectively.

In 2012 she published her conversion memoir, *The Secret Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert: An English Professor's Journey to Christian Faith*. Her second book is *Openness Unhindered: Further Thoughts of an Unlikely Convert on Sexual Identity and Union with Christ*. She writes about sexuality, identity, Christian community, and seeks to encourage all in faithful Christian living and service.

7PM FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

WITH GUEST SPEAKER

ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD



Want to live to 100? Don't bet on it

New research shows truth of what God told us in Genesis

(WNS)--Scientists are just beginning to believe what the Bible tells us in Genesis 6:3. "Then the Lord said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.'" With that, God declared there would be no more Methuselahs, and new research published in the journal *Nature* is bearing that out.

Researchers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine have concluded the maximum human life span has a ceiling of about 115 years—and we've already reached it.

The researchers analyzed data from the International Database on Longevity and the Human Mortality Database, which compiles mortality and population statistics from more than 40 countries. Since the 19th century, average life expectancy has continued to rise. Those born in America in 1900 could only expect to live a short 47 years. Today that figure has risen to nearly 79 years. Since the 1970s, the age to which the oldest people live also has risen.

Demographers and biologists traditionally believed the increase in maximum life span would not end



soon.

"But our data strongly suggest that it has already been attained and that this happened in the 1990s," Jan Vijg, senior author of the new research, said in a statement.

According to the study, the percentage of people who survive to old age, defined as 70 and older, increases with their calendar year of birth, suggesting a continuing increase in average life expectancy. But when the researchers analyzed data from 1900 on, they found the life span of people who live beyond one century peaks at about 100 and then declines rapidly no matter the year of birth. In other words, for people who managed to collect 100 candles on their birthday cakes, the average life expectancy peaked right around that birthday, whether they were born in 1800 or 1900.

"This finding indicates diminish-

ing gains in reducing late-life mortality, and a possible limit to human lifespan," Vijg said.

Next the researchers analyzed data for people who have lived to be 110 or older in the four countries with the largest number of people who have attained that age—the United States, France, Japan, and the United Kingdom. Between 1968 and 2006, the average age at death for these people increased rapidly between the 1970s and early 1990s but plateaued around 1995, further evidence of a lifespan limit. The researchers also calculated the chance of any one person anywhere in the world living to age 125 is less than 1 in 10,000.

To date, the oldest living person in modern recorded history, other than in early Biblical accounts, was Jeanne Calment, a 122-year-old French woman who died in 1997. The oldest man was Jiroemon Kimura of Japan, who died in 2013 at the age of 116.

Although medical advances against infectious and chronic diseases may continue to boost average life expectancy, the researchers do not believe the maximum life span will increase.

"Such advances would need to overwhelm the many genetic variants that appear to collectively determine the human life span," Vijg said.

Largest sex trafficking sting shows MO, KS not immune to crimes



A screen shot of video taken of an officer comforting a victim who has just been rescued in a hotel.

The largest international sex trafficking and prostitution operation in the FBI's history has led to the recovery of five trafficking victims and the arrests of 13 people in Missouri. Law enforcement rescued 123 children and arrested more than 200 traffickers and their associates as part of the international sting. Kansas City FBI division spokesperson Bridget Patton says no state is immune to this type of crime.

"Especially in the Midwest, people think we are in the heartland, we are in the middle of America. This type of crime doesn't happen here," says Patton. "That is one of the reasons why we do this across the nation in a concentrated effort."

Eight cities across Kansas and Missouri were targeted including the cities of St. Louis, Kansas City, North Kansas City and Independence, MO and Kansas City, Kan, Wichita, Topeka and Junction City. Locations like hotels and trucks stops were targeted. The child victims rescued in both states range from 15 to 17 years old. In Kansas arrests also included 12 pimps and 14 johns.

"Every year the operation grows in size and support for this program," says Patton. "The more bodies, the more we can do."

The initiative included 55 FBI field offices and 74 Child Exploitation Task Forces representing more than 400 law enforcement organizations. Dozens of operations also occurred in Canada, Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines.

Two of the men arrested have been charged in the U.S. District Court in Kansas City with sex trafficking of three of the victims. Calvin Anthony Miller, 34, and Henry Dailey, 36, are in federal custody. One of the victims told law enforcement that she did not believe the police could provide enough security to protect her from "these guys." She stated, "If I tell you anything he will kill me" and started crying.

This is the 10th operation of this nature that the FBI has led. The initiative, pegged as Operation Cross Country, began in 2003. Since its inception, there have been more than 6,100 rescues of children from sex trafficking across the United States.

FCA names new leader

Fellowship of Christian Athletes' (FCA) National Board of Trustees has named Shane Williamson as the sports ministry's eighth president/CEO, effective Jan. 1, 2017.

Williamson is currently the FCA Executive Director of Field Ministry.

FCA's current president/CEO, Les Steckel, will retire at year-end after 12 years of service.

Williamson has served in his current post since 2014 and was also the ministry for the Carolinas (2011-2014), multi-area director for Metro Atlanta (2005-2011) and the area director for Upstate South Carolina (2002-2005).

Before Williamson's employment

with FCA, he was involved as a sponsor while working as a teacher and coach from 1992-2002 in four South Carolina high schools.

"I am honored and excited to serve alongside such wonderfully committed teammates, coaches, athletes, supporters and volunteers in leading the Fellowship of Christian Athletes as president," said Williamson.

"FCA is a ministry uniquely positioned, through the influence of coaches and athletes, to impact our world by promoting in sport the life-changing message of Christ."



WILLIAMSON



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Adoption and Foster Care

A CHILD ONCE IN CRISIS BECOMES A MAN OF INFLUENCE

HOPE

continued from page 1

ation 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.

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 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 struc-

ture, 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."

Metro Voice & 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.

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THE PATHWAY

The Missouri Baptist Convention's Christian Life Commission and *The Pathway*, the official newspaper of the Convention, are proud to work side-by-side other Missourians in the effort to promote adoption and foster parenting.

THESE MISSOURI CHILDREN NEED YOU!

In October we featured Kansas children who needed adoptive families. This month we feature several Missouri kids who need forever homes through adoption. They are full of life and love and so desperately want families to love them in return.

For more info contact Kristin Gilgour, Cornerstones of Care at (816) 508-6206 or email Kristin.gilgour@cornerstonesofcare.org

Alex

Alex is a 10-year-old little boy with short black hair and wondrous eyes.



Alex is a very active little boy who likes to be on the move, but don't let his energy fool you. Alex loves structure and routine. He loves to play outside and swim. Alex loves to eat. One of his favorite snacks is peanut butter, and his favorite treat is ice cream.

Alex can play with other kids but typically prefers to play independent of others. Alex enjoys being around people, but needs reminders on how to set boundaries regarding personal space. Alex responds best to a nurturing yet firm voice, and a calm demeanor.

Alex is in need of a forever family that

will provide him with consistent structure and routine. Alex thrives in this type of setting. Alex needs a forever family who can be patient and understanding with him and his needs. Alex's forever family will need to understand that Alex also needs age appropriate boundaries and discipline that reflect his developmental age rather than his chronological age.

Alex's forever family will need to have knowledge and access to resources that support Alex's developmental delays. Alex will need to attend a school with specialized services to help him thrive at school. Alex's forever family will need to continue all support services for Alex. Alex is legally free for adoption.

Anna

Anna has a fun and playful personality. She enjoys laughing and likes to make other people laugh. Her hobbies include "Live Action Role Play", baking, watching movies and debating. Anna enjoys being outdoors and loves all kind of animals. Her favorite holiday is Halloween, and she enjoys dressing up and going to costume stores.



Anna is currently in ROTC, which

she greatly enjoys. She has reported her goal is to be in the military and continues to work towards becoming physically fit to do so.

Anna understands what adoption means and is open to the idea of being adopted. Anna would like to remain in the Kansas City, Missouri area. Anna has connections to some of her birth family members and would like to maintain those relationships as long as they are safe and appropriate.

Anna is legally free for adoption.

Emily

Emily is a beautiful young lady with big brown eyes and brown hair. One of Emily's most endearing qualities is her



loyal nature. Emily is a determined and intelligent young lady. Emily is looking forward to earning her high school diploma in May 2017.

Emily is a first-time mom to a handsome baby boy born in the fall of 2016. Although she knows this will come with difficulties as a first-time parent in addition to her young age it is important for her that she keep her family together. Emily has a desire to stay in the Kansas City area in an effort to maintain stability in a transition.

Emily needs a family that is understanding and supportive of what she has experienced in her past, as well as what her needs will be in the future; both as a child and as a mother. She needs the support to make safe decisions and have a sense of independence as she grows into young adulthood. Emily needs a family who is willing to be flexible as she deals with normal teen adjustments in addition to the transition into becoming a parent.

A family will also need to understand and support Emily's close bond with her family of origin and the father of her child. Emily would feel most comfortable in the home of a single woman based on her past experiences.

Emily is legally free for adoption.

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BEING PRO-LIFE MEANS VOLUNTEERING

Robert Zornes | Mother's Refuge

So often we hear people say they are pro-life. When we ask them what they are doing about it, they say, "Nothing." I believe that being pro-life takes an active stand. It's something that we do to actively show that we believe all life is valuable. Being pro-life means helping in many ways including volunteering at a maternity home.

We have several volunteers that help relieve the mothers while they are studying in school or just relaxing for a few minutes.

Another way that someone could help is to volunteer their needed professional services. We often need carpenters, plumbers, electricians, handymen, cooks, hairdressers, and many more. If there is not something for you to do right then, you will be put on a call list of people that are willing to help. So, when the garbage disposal isn't working, the door is jammed,



or a room needs painted, you can be called to come repair it. Many pro-life ministries are on a very tight budget, and having a list of volunteer professionals to call is a blessing.

Another way for volunteers to help these young mothers is to be a House-

parent Helper. That is someone that comes one or two days a week and assists the Houseparent. At Mother's Refuge we call them "life savers", because they are there to help watch the babies, cook a meal, get girls ready to go on an outing, or just being an extra hand. There are many times when every mother wishes she had an extra hand.

It is a blessing to help these young moms turn their lives around. As Jesus said, "As you do unto the least of these, you do also to me". Being a pro-life volunteer truly ministers to those in need who are there to get a second chance at life.

If you would like to volunteer at Mother's Refuge, contact Katie@MotherRefuge.org or call her at 816-800-0453.

Support/Resource for Adoptive & Foster Families

ADOPTION BY G.R.A.C.E.

Provide information and encouragement to those exploring adoption options and adoption grants to qualifying applicants, as funds are available.

adoptionbygrace@lscckc.org
Karen Miller

ADOPTION RESOURCE FOUNDATION/ FRIENDS OF ADOPTION

Woods Chapel UMC, Lee's Summit MO
Friends of Adoption Meets Quarterly (dates determined in January)

The Adoption Resource Foundation provides monetary grants to families adopting domestically, internationally, or private. Friends of Adoption is a support group.
dcoffman1498@comcast.net
adoptionresourcefoundation.org
Dave Coffman 816-213-8941

CAREPORTAL

Local Churches, dates & time varies
Network of churches connected through technology to meet the needs of hurting children and families in their communities.
kristen@goproject.org
careportal.org
Kristen Trumpp

FAMILIES FOR ADOPTION

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, Liberty, MO
Meeting dates & time varies
Provides adoption, foster and orphan care support, information, resources, training, and fun events for the family
familiesforadoption@gmail.com
pleasantvalley.org
Kimber Daniels, Susan Eason, Teresa Herbic

■ See SUPPORT page 22

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 various 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."

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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"Trustworthy: able to be relied on to do or provide what is needed or right, dependable, reliable." For over 30 years Christian Family Services (CFS) has been that trustworthy resource for both birth and adoptive families. Adoption is a life-changing event and often a frightening prospect when not much is known about it. Birth parents are always treated in a non-pressured, warm and supportive manner that respects the tough decisions they are facing and honors their commitment to make a good plan for their baby. If adoption is the choice they believe is best, they can choose and meet the adoptive parents and decide what type of ongoing relationship they want. Caring support to birthparents doesn't end at placement but continues long after if desired.

Adopting a child also requires much consideration. Fears are normal, but with education and support and reminders that God is ultimately the designer of their family, adoptive parents can safely navigate their journey to parenthood as well. CFS received Hague accreditation in 2012 and this allows us to provide home studies and post-placement supervision for international adoptions as well. Many families have listened to the call to care for the orphan

and have seen God enrich their families with children from the United States but also all over the world.

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Our annual fund-raising dinner is November 3rd at 6 p.m. at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. Please RSVP to Shelley@cfskc.org or call 913-383-3337. Donations can be mailed to



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2016 Metro Voice Election Guide

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Tony Perkins: 'This is not a time to stand on the sidelines'

by **Charles Chandler**

Tony Perkins gets indignant when he thinks about Christians refusing to vote for either of the two major party presidential candidates because they believe both are undesirable.

"I want to go into some of our churches and overturn a few tables because we probably had the best selection of primary candidates in the history of presidential politics," said Perkins, president of the Family Research Council. "Half of them were born-again, Bible-believing, evangelical Christians.

"But many people didn't get involved in those primaries and sat back to see what would happen, so the conservative vote got chopped up and split in many different directions. I don't think they have a lot of room to complain when the choices for the general election are not the best ones. I'm not sympathetic, and it doesn't absolve us from the obligation we have to vote. It's part of being salt and light."

Voting for a third-party candidate, or writing in someone not on the ballot, does nothing to address the dire state of the nation, according to Perkins.



Young Afghani women show the proof they voted—a purple finger tip. Will American Christians not exercise the right American soldiers fought and died to give Afghanistan? —Photo: Sabah Arar/AFP/Getty Images

"We're a two-party system in this country," he said. "We may not like it, but that's a reality. A third-party candidate is not going to win. The reality is that one of the candidates representing the two major parties is going to be elected president—period."

Perkins said electing Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton will result in "four more years of liberal anti-family, anti-faith policies that we've seen under [President] Barack Obama." At the same time, he acknowledged that there are

many unknowns with Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Trump, a career businessman and entrepreneur, "has not spent his adult life thinking about public policy or any kind of ideologically driven agenda," Perkins said.

"He's just not been engaged. But I can say firsthand from my interaction with him that he's not hostile to conservative ideas. He is open, even though he hasn't thought through these things, so if you can help him connect the dots, I think

he's willing to learn and listen."

Perkins can relate to believers who are unsettled about character issues with Clinton and Trump. "Both have significant problems," he said.

In his years as a Louisiana state representative, Perkins fought diligently against legalized gambling, yet Trump is a casino owner who has made millions from that industry.

"Pretty much everything I have stood for is in contrast to what Donald Trump has done in the past," Perkins said. "Now the question is: What would he do going forward?"

Perkins was among more than 900 evangelical leaders who attended a June 21 meeting with Trump in New York City. There has been skepticism about the gathering, partly due to questions about whether Trump was merely trying to charm a major voting bloc.

"Nobody can know another man's heart," Perkins said. "But he was willing to meet with us."

Perkins said a more important question about the meeting is what was—and is—the motive of the church leaders.

"Our role is not to get a seat at the table," Perkins said. "We're not a special interest group that simply wants our boxes checked. We are a prophetic voice

to those in power reminding them that they, like us, are held to a higher standard of accountability. We present transcendent truth that no vote can overturn, that no man can avoid."

Perkins believes it's time for the church, for all believers, to take a brutally honest self-inventory and repent for years of apathy and compromise.

"In many ways, the reason we're where we are as a nation—and the reason we have the candidate choices that we have—is because we have failed," he said. "The church in America has been in retreat. If we do not stand up and exercise our freedom to protect our freedom, I see a spiritual dark age descending upon us."

Though only God can turn America around, Perkins said this election will have a major impact on whether or not the country can regain its moral standing.

"Our problem is not political, it's spiritual," he said. "We've got to get our spiritual state in order. But part of that is making a political choice in this election that will either give us the breathing room to get it right or it will make it even more difficult for Christians to collectively be a faithful public witness in this country."

Where do the two major candidates stand on life issues?

Abortion on Demand

The 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton Supreme Court decisions legalized abortion on demand throughout the United States. There have been more than 59 million abortions since then.

Donald Trump has said, "Let me be clear -- I am pro-life... I did not always hold this position, but I had a significant personal experience that brought the precious gift of life into perspective for me."

In 2003, Hillary Clinton voted to endorse Roe v. Wade, which allows abor-

tion for any reason. In 2016, Clinton said, "The unborn person doesn't have constitutional rights," later adding she believed this to be true even on the unborn child's due date.

Partial-Birth Abortion

The partial-birth abortion procedure -- used from the fifth month on -- involves pulling a living baby feet-first out of the womb, except for the head, puncturing the skull and suctioning out the brain. The Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in 2007, in a 5-4 decision.

In 2000, in his book *The America We Deserve*, Donald Trump wrote that after consulting with doctors about the partial-birth abortion procedure, he concluded that he would support a ban on that method.

In 2003, Hillary Clinton voted against the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act (voted to allow partial-birth abortions to continue) every chance she got.



Nominations to the U.S. Supreme Court

The next president may have the opportunity to appoint three or four justices to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In May 2016, Donald Trump released a list of eleven conservative judges whom he would consider for a Supreme Court vacancy, saying, "By the way, these judges are all pro-life."

Hillary Clinton has said that she would only nominate Supreme Court justices who would uphold the decision that legalized abortion on demand. "I would not appoint someone who didn't think Roe v. Wade is settled law."

Mike Pence

Mike Pence had a solid pro-life voting record on abortion during 12 years in the U.S. House, including votes for passage of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act. As governor of Indiana, Mike Pence championed many pro-life measures.

Tim Kaine

Tim Kaine voted against the pro-life

position in the U.S. Senate every chance he got. He voted against the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act. Tim Kaine co-sponsored a bill (S. 217) that would nullify virtually all state limits on abortion, including late abortions.

The Party Platforms

The Republican Party Platform affirms "that the unborn child has a fundamental right to life," opposes using government funds to perform or promote abortion or to fund abortion providers, and supports legislation to assist babies who survive abortion.

The Democratic Party Platform supports abortion on demand, and calls for repeal of the Hyde Amendment (which restricts the use of federal funds for abortion). The platform also supports government funding of abortion providers, including Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider.

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Missouri voters to decide on 6 proposed amendments to state constitution

Six ballot measures have been certified by the office of the Missouri Secretary of State (SOS) to appear on the ballot statewide in Missouri on November 8.

AMENDMENT 1: According to the SOS website at sos.mo.gov, Constitutional Amendment 1 will ask, "Shall Missouri continue for 10 years the one-tenth of one percent sales/use tax that is used for soil and water conservation and for state parks and historic sites, and re-submit this tax to the voters for approval in 10 years?"

The measure continues and does not increase the existing sales and use tax of

one-tenth of one percent for 10 years. The measure would continue to generate approximately \$90 million annually for soil and water conservation and operation of the state park system.

The tax has done what it was suppose to do: decrease soil erosion. It is an important tax that helps all Missourians enjoy the outdoors and represents 75% of the parks division's entire budget. Consider supporting it.

AMENDMENT 2: Amendment 2 would establish limits on campaign contributions to candidates for state or judicial offices. Missouri is the only state in the nation with no limit on campaign

contributions or lobbyist gifts. During this year's primary and election cycles, statewide candidates have received tens of millions of dollars cumulatively in contributions to their campaigns, with millions coming from out of state and Political Action Committees, which can conceal the source of contributions.

Question 2 states, "Shall the Missouri Constitution be amended to establish limits on campaign contributions by individuals or entities to political parties, political committees, or committees to elect candidates for state or judicial office; prohibit individuals and entities from intentionally concealing the source of such contributions; require corpora-

tions or labor organizations to meet certain requirements in order to make such contributions; and provide a complaint process and penalties for any violations of this amendment?"

Recent primary election results show that buying elections rarely happens as many big money candidates lost. Amendment 2 wants to play on emotions and media perceptions that it is money, and not the actual candidate that dirties elections. Not being allowed to donate to one's candidate may mean in the future that only rich candidates will run. Think carefully before you decide to limit how elections are funded.

AMENDMENT 3: Constitutional Amendment 3 proposes to increase taxes on cigarettes each year through 2020, at which point this additional tax will total 60 cents per pack of 20; create a fee paid by cigarette wholesalers of 67 cents per pack of 20 on certain cigarettes, which fee shall increase annually; and deposit funds generated by these taxes and fees into a newly established Early Childhood Health and Education Trust Fund.

If approved by voters, when cigarette tax increases are fully implemented, estimated additional revenue to state government is \$263 million to \$374 million annually, with limited estimated implementation costs. The revenue will fund only programs and services allowed by the proposal.

Many observers see Amendment 3 as one of the most deceitful measures ever to be put before the public. Big tobacco is actually FOR this amendment because it increases taxes by 400% on their competitors. Furthermore, as Missourians have seen, funding for schools is a bait and switch. Sure, the taxes supposedly go to schools but on the other end, the state has decreased money from schools from other sources. The funding of something as important as education should not depend on how many and how much people smoke.

AMENDMENT 4: A "yes" on Amendment 4 would amend the Missouri Constitution to prohibit a new state or local sales/use or other similar tax on any service or transaction. This amendment only applies to any service or transaction that was not subject to a sales/use or similar tax as of January 1, 2015. Potential costs to state and local governmental entities are unknown, but could be significant. The proposal's passage would impact governmental entity's ability to revise their tax structures. State and local governments expect no savings from this proposal.

The truth? It sounds good but is another example of special interests trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist. This amendment hopes to prevent a future vote of the people to eliminate the state income tax.

AMENDMENT 6: Photo ID for voters is the basis of the hotly contested Constitutional Amendment 6, which ask, "Shall the Constitution of Missouri be amended to state that voters may be required by law, which may be subject



to exception, to verify one's identity, citizenship, and residence by presenting identification that may include valid government-issued photo identification?"

Democrats contend that voter fraud does not exist, but multiple cases of voter fraud have been documented in Missouri and around the nation. While Voter Photo ID has passed in other states, liberal courts have repeatedly struck down those measures passed by voters under the guise of being called unconstitutional.

Confidence in the election process is central to democracy. Photo ID is required for many basic actions in the country from boarding a plane, buying alcohol and tobacco, opening a bank account, applying for food stamps, Social Security benefits and welfare, students taking the ACT for college, getting a mortgage, renting or buying a car, adopting a pet, getting married, renting a hotel room, get a fishing or hunting license, buying a cell phone, blood donations and purchasing certain cold medicines. Why would something as important and central to democracy as voting be an exception?

PROPOSITION A: Proposition A would amend the Missouri Constitution to increase taxes on cigarettes in 2017, 2019, and 2021, at which point this additional tax will total 23 cents per pack of 20; increase the tax paid by sellers on other tobacco products by 5 percent of manufacturer's invoice price; use funds generated by these taxes exclusively to fund transportation infrastructure projects; and repeal these taxes if a measure to increase any tax or fee on cigarettes or other tobacco products is certified to appear on any local or statewide ballot.

If voters approved Prop A, state government revenue would increase by approximately \$95 million to \$103 million annually when cigarette and tobacco tax increases are fully implemented, with the new revenue earmarked for transportation infrastructure. Local government revenues could decrease approximately \$3 million annually due to decreased cigarette and tobacco sales.

Proposition A is a counterproposal to Amendment 3. But this time the proposed tax increase is smaller and does not give Big Tobacco a competitive advantage as they seek in Amendment 3. The proceeds of the increased tax on tobacco products would be dedicated to transportation infrastructure but as with any tax we must always ask "How is the money we currently spend being used?" The only way our roads will ever improve will be to invest in them. Until the legislature adequately funds them this may be the only answer.

—By John Wright

Pro-Life Endorsements for the 2016 General Election

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www.VoteProLife.net

U.S. President

Donald Trump
(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.)

U.S. Vice President

Mike Pence

U.S. Senate

Jerry Moran

U.S. Congress

1st District - Roger Marshall
2nd District - Lynn Jenkins
3rd District - Kevin Yoder
4th District - Mike Pompeo

Kansas Senate Districts

- Dennis Pyle
- Meredith Richey
- Echo Van Meteren
- No Endorsement
- Steve Fitzgerald
- No Endorsement
- No Endorsement
- Jim Denning
- Julia Lynn
- Mary Pilcher-Cook
- No Endorsement
- Caryn Tyson
- Rob Olson

Kansas House of Representatives Districts

- Jene Vickery
- Keith Esau
- Erin Davis
- Amanda Grossrode
- No Endorsement
- Eric Jenkins
- 19 through 25: No Endorsement
- Larry Campbell
- Sean Tarwater Sr.
- No Endorsement
- James Todd
- Randy Powell

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.

31 through 35: No Endorsement

- Kevin Braun
- No Endorsement
- Willie Dove
- Shelee Brim
- John Bradford
- Tony Barton
- Jim Karleskint
- Bill Sutton
- 44 through 46: No Endorsement
- No Endorsement
- No Endorsement
- Ronald Ellis
- Marvin Kleeb
- Scott Schwab
- Mike Kiegerl

Kansas State Board of Education

Even Districts ONLY in 2016

- Steve Roberts
- Sue Mollenkamp
- No Endorsement

County Commissioner

Dist. 2, 3 and 6 ONLY in 2016

- No Endorsement
- Hodge Preferred over Klika
- John Toplikar

Sheriff

Johnson Co.: Calvin Hayden

Judiciary

The following High Court 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.

Kansas Supreme Court

In order as they appear on ballot

Carol A. Beier - NO, Do NOT Retain
Dan Biles - NO, Do NOT Retain
Lawton R. Nuss - NO, Do NOT Retain
Marla Luckert - NO, Do NOT Retain
Caleb Stegall - YES, Retain

KS State Court of Appeals

In order as they appear on ballot

Steve Leben - NO, Do NOT Retain
G. Joseph Pierron Jr. - NO, Do NOT Retain
David E. Bruns - YES, Retain
G. Gordon Atchenson - NO, Do NOT Retain
Karen Arnold-Burger - NO, Do NOT Retain
Kathryn A. Gardner - YES, Retain

Judicial District Court

Vote for ONLY Vano, Sutherland and Wonnell

District Magistrate Judges

Not enough information available.

District Attorney

Dist. 10: Not Endorsed

* 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

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- Fought out of control and extreme bureaucratic regulations. Supported initiatives like the Small Business Credit Availability Act so that small businesses can grow and add jobs.

REFORMING *out of control* FEDERAL SPENDING

- Co-sponsored and voted for the Balanced Budget Amendment to require the federal government to balance its checkbook just as Missouri families do.

STANDING UP FOR *our* MILITARY

- Ensuring that our military is fully funded, ready to respond and that each dollar is spent effectively, as chair of an Armed Services subcommittee.
- Co-sponsored legislation to reform the VA and ensure timely access to care.

PROTECTING *our* FREEDOMS

- Vicky is a passionate defender of our constitutional rights, and is **A+** rated by the NRA, and is 100% pro-life
- Is fighting to repeal and replace our nation's new healthcare law with more patient choices and options.

VickyHartzler.com



Paid for by Vicky Hartzler for Congress

Vicky grew up on a Cass County farm, where faith and hard work were values instilled at an early age. Vicky graduated from Archie High School, earned a bachelor degree at the University of Missouri – Columbia and a post-graduate degree from the University of Central Missouri. Vicky worked as a teacher in the Belton and Lebanon schools for more than a decade. She made it her daily mission to inspire young people toward better and fuller lives. Vicky and her husband, Lowell, now operate a small business, creating jobs in the community. The Hartzlers reside on their farm in Cass County.



Kansas City's most complete guide to the events and concerts you want to see!

the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

Submit Your Events Online for FREE! Visit www.metrovoicenews.com

FREE LISTINGS in the Metro Voice Calendar!

Metro Voice, PO Box 1114
Lee's Summit, MO 64063
metrovoicecalendar@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE: Your item must be in by the 3rd Wednesday of each month for following month's issue.

Family Events, Christian Concerts, Theatre, Youth Events, Meetings, Clubs, Bible Studies, Family Fun, Speakers and More!



NOV. 4 THE OTHER SIDE OF DARKNESS TOUR WITH DECYFER DOWN. 7:00 PM, AT FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER, MARSHALL, MO. 417-894-8225

CONCERTS

TRIUMPHANT QUARTET. November 3, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-6653.

DAVID SMART. November 4. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W. 80th St., Overland Park, KS 66201. 913-381-6022.

THE OTHER SIDE OF DARKNESS TOUR. November 4, 7:00 pm. Family Worship Center, 225 Drake Rd., Marshall, MO 65340. Decyfer Down, ILIA, The Protest, and Jeremy Greene in concert. 417-894-8225.

WORSHIP WITH DANIEL BRYMER. November 6, 6:00 pm-7:00 pm. Hillcrest Covenant, 88th St. & Nall Ave., Prairie Village, KS.

THE COLLINGSWORTH FAMILY IN CONCERT. November 6, 6:00 pm. College Church of the Nazarene, 2020 E. Sheridan, Olathe, KS. 913-764-4575.

CAFÉ WORSHIP. November 11, 7:00 pm. New Hope Church of the Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64116. This month we are featuring Justin Webb, an accomplished guitarist. 816-868-6977.

LOVEFISH CONCERT. November 19, 7:00 pm. Mainstreet Coffeehouse, 107 S. Main St., Independence, MO 64050. CD Release party! Free Admission! 816-888-0426.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THE MORGANS. November 29, 7:00 pm. Rutlader Outpost Cowboy Church, 33565 Metcalf Rd., Louisburg, KS 913-377-2722. December 3, 7:00 pm. Paola Community Center, 905 E. Wea St., Paola, KS, 417-437-6971. December 4, 6:15 pm. Nall Avenue Baptist Church, 6701 Nall Ave, Prairie Village, KS, 913-432-4141. December 9, 7:00 pm. First Baptist Church, 2 NE Douglas, Lee's Summit, MO, 816-525-0700.

CHRISTMAS AT BSA WITH SELAH. December 4, 6:00 pm. Blue Springs Assembly, 2501 NE Duncan Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64029. 816-847-0200.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

FOURTH FRIDAY ALPHA OMEGA CHRISTIAN MUSIC ASSOCIATION MONTHLY MEETING, PRAYER, DEVOTION, POTLUCK AND JAM. FIRST FRIDAY, 7pm. 10035 E. Westport Rd., Indep., MO 64052.

Gospel sing.

PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH. SECOND SUNDAY, 6 p.m. Pot luck dinner at 5 p.m. Paradise Missouri. 816-591-1020.

CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT: MEDICARE & YOU. Through December 7. JFS Kansas Office, 5801 W. 115th Street, Suite 103, Overland Park, KS 66211. 913-327-8250. JFS Missouri Office, 9233 Ward Parkway, Suite 125, Kansas City, MO 64114. 816-333-1172. Sponsored by Jewish Family Services. Have questions about Medicare? Kansas or Missouri residents can contact Kelly G. Loeb, Older Adult Care Manager at kloeb@jfskc.org or 913-327-8278 to schedule a free appointment for counseling.

AVOID PROBATE. November 1, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. November 4-6. If Not For Grace Ministries. Struggling after having an abortion? If Not For Grace Ministries provides a safe, confidential place to work through the pain and loss of an abortion experience. For more information contact Vicki at vgregg@infgr.org or www.infgr.org

LIFE ISSUES CONFERENCE DEATHWATCH AND THE ATTACK ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM. November 5. Risen Savior Lutheran Church, Basehor, KS. No Charge. Sponsored by Lutherans For Life of Kansas. Featured Speaker: Mr. Francis Szarejko. The pro-death forces are gaining momentum through efforts to legalize assisted suicide, even in Kansas and Missouri. How can we take a stand against this erosion of religious freedom? For adults and senior high teens. www.lfokansas.org

NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE. November 5. Stephens College Campus, Columbia, MO. Sponsored by: Next Generation Ministries. Featuring Craig Jutila, 7 Choices that will change your leadership life.

OPEN RANGE FELLOWSHIP 10 YEAR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. November 5th (6:00) & 6th (10:00) Open Range Fellowship, 509 W. Lone Jack/Lee's Summit Road, Lone Jack, MO. Entertainment of old west re-enactments at our new location. (816) 697-2002.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY. November 6, 9:00 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Biscuits & Gravy Brunch. Avondale United Methodist Church. Sponsored by the Contemporary Life Class. (Donations Accepted) Avondale Methodist.org

POTLUCK DINNER FOR JOLENE HURLEY. November 6, 2016, 5:30 PM. Northwest Bible Church, 6520 NW 64th St., Kansas City, MO. Everyone is invited to a special potluck dinner for our missionary Jolene Hurley. We'll have music by Shoal Creek Revival and a presentation by Jolene. (816) 587-6169.

FALL REVIVAL SERVICES. November 6, 10:30 am & 6:00 pm. November 7-8, 7:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's

Summit, MO. Speaker Chesten Tomlin. 816-246-7625.

PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH FAMILIES FOR ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP. November 11, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in the Well, 1600 N 291 Hwy., Liberty, MO 64068. Speaker Lebekka Shin, LCSW will present and Identity Workshop for Adoptive Parents. www.pleasantvalley.org

SEXUAL IDENTITY AND THE CHRISTIAN FAITH WITH GUEST SPEAKER ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD. November 11, 7pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 1600 North 291 Highway, (I-35 and 291 Highway), Liberty, MO 64068. Free. PleasantValley.org 816.781.5959

KC WOMEN BRUNCH & CONFERENCE FEATURING: DR BETH GRANT, CO-FOUNDER OF PROJECT RESCUE. November 12, 10: am-1:00 pm. Blue Springs Assembly, 2501 NE Duncan Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64029. \$10/\$12 after November 6th. Bring a pair of fuzzy socks for their Christmas gift bags. www.bluespringsassembly.org

SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS. November 12, 9:00 am. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. The holidays can

■ calendar continued on next page

MO-KAN GOSPEL MUSIC ASSOCIATION POTLUCK AND JAM. FOURTH FRIDAY (except for Nov. & Dec. when we meet on the 3rd Fri.). Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th St., KCMO. 913-432-0359.

PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE CHURCH. SECOND SATURDAY, 6pm. 341 S. 72nd St., Kansas City, KS 66111. Praise and Worship songs of Zion. 913-334-1009.

CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK. SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo, MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ¼ mile. pegcla@msn.com.

MOMENT OF TRUTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH. THIRD SATURDAY in January, May, September & October, 7pm. 310 Randolph Rd, Claycomo, MO. Gospel music sing. 816-452-4426.

RADIANT LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD. LAST SUNDAY, 6:30 p.m. Hwy. 33, Kearney, MO. Open mike.

Christmas at BSA

with *Selah*



SUNDAY
DEC 4
6 PM

Doors open @ 5:30 pm

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

\$20 General | \$25 Artist Circle | \$25 At the Door

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BLUE SPRINGS
ASSEMBLY

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www.bluespringsassembly.org

FALL

... a season of celebration & thanksgiving

Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, November 12

9 am to 4 pm

♦ 90+ vendors ♦ gifts, jewelry ♦

♦ many unique items ♦

♦ concessions





Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23

7 to 8 pm

Communion Served



Sunday Services

8:00 am, 9:15 am

10:45 am, 6:00 pm

Northland Cathedral

J. Lowell Harrup, Pastor

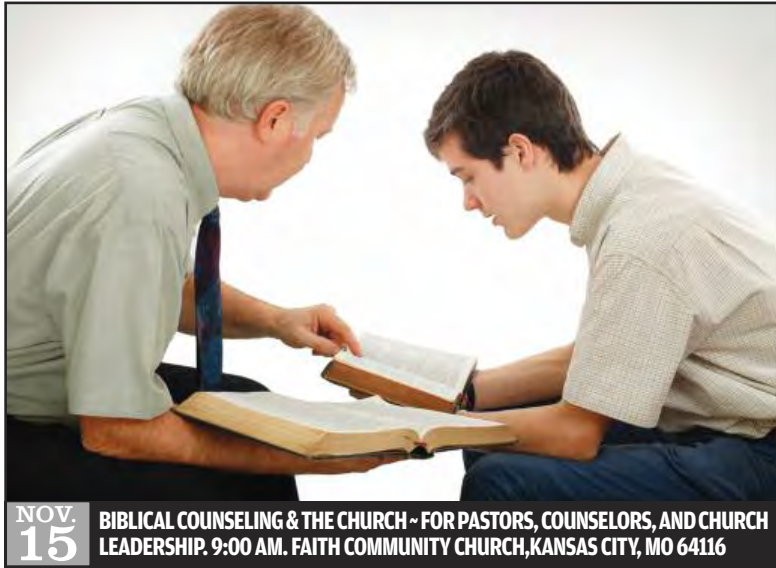
101 NW 99th St.

Hwy 169 & Tiffany Springs Pkwy

Kansas City, MO 64155

816.455.2555

www.northlandcathedral.org



NOV 15

BIBLICAL COUNSELING & THE CHURCH ~ FOR PASTORS, COUNSELORS, AND CHURCH LEADERSHIP. 9:00 AM. FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH, KANSAS CITY, MO 64116

be difficult for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. This seminar offers comfort and practical tips for surviving this holiday season. 816-942-9022.

BIBLICAL COUNSELING & THE CHURCH. November 14, 7:00 pm. Faith Community Church, 3500 Prather Rd., Kansas City, MO 64116. Speaker Dr. Heath Lambert. 816-377-5593.

BIBLICAL COUNSELING & THE CHURCH ~ FOR PASTORS, COUNSELORS, AND CHURCH LEAD-

ERSHIP. November 15, 9:00 am. Faith Community Church, 3500 Prather Rd., Kansas City, MO 64116. Presenter, Dr. Heath Lambert, is the Executive Director at the Association of Certified Biblical Counselors. 816-649-1677.

SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW MEETING. November 16, 9:30 am. Grandview Assembly of God, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030. Speaker, Patty Ziegglemeyer of Tulsa, OK. 816-540-2590.

Marc Wayne's

The TOYMAKER & Me

On stage for the first time!

A moving story of the discovery of value & love.

Come share the "season...ing" with us as we experience the power that awakens hearts and brings people together.

November 17, 18, 22 & 23 - 7 pm

VENUE

Vineyard Auditorium
12300 NW Arrowhead Trfy.
Kansas City, MO 64165
www.vineyardkcnorth.com

FOR TICKETS

WWW.ENARTS.ORG



LIFE-PRODUCING PERFORMING ARTS

AVOID PROBATE. November 17, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

PASTOR, CHURCH, & LAW SEMINAR. November 19, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Heart of America Christian Fellowship, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Sponsored by, Heart of America Bible College & Theological Seminary. 816-356-6380.

REAL 127. November 19, 4 p.m. Heart of Life Church, Lee's Summit, MO. Kids have a fun evening in a VBS setting while you enjoy a much-deserved break. Dinner and snacks served. real127@heartoflife.org

REV. TOM STAMMAN. Nov. 20th 6:00pm. Pickering Place Clubhouse, 18813 Main Street, Belton, MO 64012. Impact Ministries International. Anointed Preacher, Prophetic Ministry, Individual Ministry. www.tstamman.com

ULTIMATE CHRISTMAS PARTY TRAINING. November 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Oak Ridge Baptist Church, 9301 Parallel Parkway, KC, KS. Register by November 27. December 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Where: Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., KC, MO. Register by November 29. Choose one location to attend. Register by phone or e-mail. Spon. by Child Evangelism Fellowship of the Greater Kansas City. (816) 358-1138 staff@cef-gkca.org

CONVENTION WITH MARY K BAXTER. December 2, 7 PM; December 3, 7 PM; December 4, 11 AM, 7 PM; December 5, 7 PM. First Love Ministries, 4747 Hadley Ave., OPKS. 913-403-9644. See Ad.

ABORTION RECOVERY CLASS, HER CHOICE TO HEAL. January 2017, 9-week class. Sponsored by, If Not For Grace Ministries. Contact Jama at jedlund@inf.org or call 816-847-2911.

MOUNTAIN TOP MARRIAGES WITH ROGER AND LAUREN TRAVEL. Jan. 15 & 16, 2017. Chateau Avalon, 701 Village West Parkway, KC, KS. \$152.00 per couple for the complete package! Reservations: Call Travers @913-780-3423

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. If Not For Grace Ministries. Whether you have a few hours once per month, quarter, or year, this could be a place for you to invest in the lives of the abortion wounded. inf.org, Jama at jedlund@inf.org, 816-847-2911.

KID'S FALL FESTIVAL. October 29, 4:00 pm. New Hope Church of the Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64116. Come and enjoy games, bounce house, treats and have lots of FUN. 816-868-6977.

ENGLEWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH CELEBRAT-



NOV 6

SAT 7 DAY OF PRAYER. LIFT UP REFUGEES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAT7USA.ORG/DAYOFPRAYER.

ING 60 YEARS. October 31, 10:45 am. Englewood Baptist Church, 1900 NE Englewood Rd., Gladstone, MO 64118. Guest preacher, Dr. Wallace S. Hartsfield II. Worship service at 10:45 am. 816-453-0975.

TRUNK OR TREAT. October 31, 3:00 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 N. Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Join us for food, inflatable's, and a petting zoo! We will have lots of candy and prizes. 816-524-6120.

FOOD PANTRY. Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am-11:00 and 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Englewood Baptist Church, 1900 NE Englewood Rd., Gladstone, MO 64118. For referral, please contact a community partner agency, such as United Services Community Action Agency, NKC School District, or Mental Health Services. 816-453-0975.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE. Through November 6, 7:00 am. Vigil Site - Center for Women's Health, 4840 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. Join one of the largest nationwide pro-life campaigns - 40 Days for life. More than 700,000 volunteers across 36 nations and 50 states come together to peacefully pray, fast, and publicly stand for life. With God's help, 40 Days for Life saved almost 12,000 babies, converted 133 abortion workers, and closed 75 abortion facilities. The local Vigil is the Center for Women's Health at College and Roe in Overland Park from Sept. 28 through November 6, 7 AM thru 7 PM. For more information: www.40daysforlife/overlandpark.com . 913-609-9635.

CITY-WIDE PRAYER RALLY. November 2, 7:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. 816-246-7625

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF MINISTRY CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICES ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET. November 2, 6:00 pm. Double Tree Hotel, 10100 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS

66210. 913-383-3337.

FUNDRAISER FOR MOTHER'S REFUGE. Nov. 5, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Junior Service League Clubhouse, 3122 S. Crysler Ave., Independence, MO 816-353-8070

LIFE NETWORK OF CENTRAL MISSOURI WALK4LIFE AND 5K RUN. November 5, 9:00 am registration & 10:00 am Walk/Run. Stephens Lake Park in the Gordon Shelter, Columbia, MO. www.lifenetworkfriends.com

CELEBRATION FOR NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH. November 6, 9:00 am. Waterfall Park, Independence, MO. Sponsored by Foster Adopt Connect. 816-379-3947.

SAT7 DAY OF PRAYER. November 6. Lift up refugees in the Middle East and North Africa. Find out how at www.sat7usa.org/dayofprayer

"ELECTIONS" PRAYER SERVICE. November 7, 7:00 pm. New Vision Church of the Nazarene, 4330 N. Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64116. 816-868-6977.

ELECTION DAY PRAYER VIGIL. November 8, 1:00 pm-7:00 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. Please come at any time and stay as long as you are able. The day will conclude with a time of communion together at 7:00 pm. 816-942-9022.

STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION. November 8, 2016. Vote Pro-Life!

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR. November 12, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. New Vision Church of the Nazarene, 100 S. Sunrise Dr., Raymore, MO 64083. Fund raiser event to provide clean water for an African Village. 816-348-0303.

LOVE'S OUTREACH COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION. November 12, 10:00 am -11:00 am. Church of the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Mar-

■ calendar continued on next page

AND THE WINNER IS...



Who will be there?

Charles Reinhard, of MainStay Investments, will be discussing what the economy might look like with the newly Elected President. Charles is a regular guest on Business & Investing Television.

TUESDAY
November 15th

4:30-6:00 p.m.
Doors open at 4

Gamber Community Center
Lee's Summit, MO

RSVP at BaconFA.com
Call 816-246-8450 for more details

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ket St., Lee's Summit, MO. Free and open to the public. Free food for families in need. Valid ID and proof of residency needed to participate. 816-246-7625

BOUNTIFUL BLESSINGS GIFT & CRAFT FESTIVAL. November 12, 9:00 am-3:00 pm. Bethany Lutheran School Gymnasium, 9101 Lamar, Overland Park, KS. Free Admission. Supporting their class/mission trips. 40+ vendor booths, live entertainment, and concessions. 913-754-5888.

HONORING THOSE DEFENDING COUNTRY & FREEDOM. November 12. Colonial Presbyterian Church, EPC, Kansas City Campus, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO. Family-friendly event pay tribute to our service men and women. 816-942-3272.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR. November 12, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St., Kansas City, MO. 90+ vendors, gifts, jewelry. 816-455-2555.

35TH ANNIVERSARY OF CALVARY BAPTIST CHURCH OF BLUE SPRINGS. November 13, 10:45 am morning service. Calvary Baptist Church of Blue Springs, 900 NW 22nd St., Blue Springs, MO 64015. 816-228-5540.

ORPHAN SUNDAY. November 13. Find many resources for your church and community. cafo.org/orphansunday

THE ROAD CHURCH THANKSGIVING BANQUET. November 13, 5:30 p.m. The Cotillion, 1717 NW Burdett Crossing, Blue Springs, MO 64015. (816) 228-7620

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE. November 23, 7:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO. Join us in thanksgiving as we set aside time to honor God. 816-246-7625.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE. November 23, 7:00 pm-8:00 pm. Northland Cathedral, 101 NW 99th St., Kansas City, MO. Communion served. 816-455-2555.

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK. November 23, 5:00 pm. Longview Lake, 11100 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO. Help to raise money for If Not For Grace Ministries by handing out candy. 816-847-2911.

FREE THANKSGIVING DINNER. November 24, 12:00 am. Saint Mark's United Methodist Church, 6422 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS 66202. Please reserve your places by calling 913-722-2310 by November 13, 2016. 913-722-2310.

DRIVE-THRU LIVING NATIVITY. December 9-11, 6:00 pm. Lone Jack Baptist Church, 202 S. Bynum Rd., Lone Jack, MO 64070. No donations accepted. 816-423-5463.

MOTHER'S REFUGE. COOKIES AND COCA OPEN HOUSE. December 6 and 11. Thursday, 4 pm. to 7 p.m. Sunday, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. 3721 Delridge, Independence, MO 64151. 816-353-8070

THE ROAD CHURCH CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 5:30 p.m. The Cotillion, 1717 NW Burdett Crossing, Blue Springs, MO 64015 (816) 228-7620

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE. December 24, 12:00pm. New Beginnings Church at Chipman Commons, 214 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Midnight a candle light ceremony for proclaiming the birth of the Christ child. Families are encouraged to bring the children. 816-525-7403.

44TH ANNUAL NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE. January 26-27-28, 2017(Thurs-Fri-Sat). Washington, DC. Join us and thousands of others from across



DECEMBER 2, 3 & 4 CHILD OF HOPE. VARIOUS TIMES. WHITE THEATER AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER, LEAWOOD, KS

the nation for this huge pro-life gathering in the nation's capital! www.missourilife.org

FINE ARTS

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER: THE MUSICAL. November 8-December 31. Crown Center, 2450 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-474-6552.

SCROOGE THE MUSICAL. November 10, 7:00 pm Family Day. November 11, 10:00 am School Day. November 11, 7:00 pm. November 12, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. November 13, 2:00 pm. Bell Cultural Events Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. 913-681-3318.

THE GLASS MENAGERIE. November 10-12. Maranatha Christian Academy, 15000 W. 63rd St., Shawnee, KS. 913-631-0637.

RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK. November 10 & November 12, 7:00 pm. Kansas City Symphony, 1703 Wyandotte, Suite 200, Kansas City, MO 64108. Kansas City Symphony performs John Williams' epic score live. 816-471-0400.

THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST & CHRIST LAG IN TODESBANDEN COMBINED COMMUNITY & CALVARY CHORUS. November 11, 7:30 pm. First Baptist Church of Lee's Summit, 2 NE Douglas St., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. \$10 for Adults. Presented by Calvary University Masterwork Series. 816-425-6180.

YUVAL YAIRI: SURVEYOR. November 13 through January 22, Tuesday-Friday 11:00 am-4:00 pm & Sunday 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Epsten Gallery Village Shalom, 5500 W. 123rd St., Overland Park, KS 66209.

THE TOY MAKER & ME. November 17, 18, 22, & 23; 7:00 pm. Vineyard Auditorium, 12300 NW Arrowhead Trfy., Kansas City, MO 64165. Presented by www.enarts.org. Experience the power that awakens hearts and brings people together.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL. November 18-December 24. KC Rep, 4949 Cherry St., Kansas City, MO 64110.

THE SINGING TURTLE. November 25 & 26. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. 816-833-9777.

A CAPPELLA OPEN-CALL. November 25-December 23, 12:30 pm. Nelson Atkins Museum, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO. Calling all choral groups! Transform iconic museum spaces through the power of your acapella performances and help us celebrate the exhibition Janet Cardiff Forty-Part Motet. One choral group will be featuring each day during a 15-minute performance. Choral groups may have up to 50 members. nelson-atkins.org/sing 816-474-2112.

CHRISTMAS IN SONG. November 25-December 24. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 W. 10th St, Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-421-1700.

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING. December 2-4 & 9-11. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E. 350 Hwy.,

Raytown, MO 64138. Free tickets for the 2016 Heart of America Christmas Pageant. A dazzling blend of heart-string music, drama, and dance. 816-778-1153.

CHILD OF HOPE. December 2, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. December 3, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. December 4, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. White Theater at the Jewish Community Center, 5801 W 115th St., Leawood, KS 66211. Tickets: 25, \$10 (5 & under). Presented by: Störing Dance Theater & Culture House. The richness and inspiration of Christmas and the Nativity story brought to life as only Störing Dance Theater and the Culture House can do it. 913-393-3141.

MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS. Dec 16-18. Fri 9:30 am student show; Fri 6pm dinner gala event begins; Fri 7:30 show only; Sat 2pm matinee; Sat

7pm; Sun 2pm matinee. Goppert Theatre, Avila University, 11901 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO 64145. www.dramatictruth.org 816-767-9222

FAMILY OUTINGS

NATIVITY PLANT SCHOOL: MIDWESTER SHADE AND EVERGREEN TREES. November 2, 9:00 am. Powell Gardens, 1609 NW U.S. Hwy 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. 816-697-2600.

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION PLEASANT HILL PET & LOVESTOCK CENTER. November 5, 8:30 am-5:00 pm. Pleasant Hill Pet & Live Stock Center, 1007 High St., Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. Bring the family to enjoy an on-site yarn spinning demo complete with alpacas as-well-as a kiddie area. 816-987-2097.

■ calendar continued on next page

3 4 t h A N N U A L

Best Little Art and Crafts Show IN INDEPENDENCE

November 18, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
November 19, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

4 floors with 120 booths all with original works of art and crafts



No admission!
Free parking and shuttle service

Roger T. Sermon Community Center
201 North Dodgion Independence, MO
Southeast corner of Truman & Noland Roads
816.325.7370 for information

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life **88.5** **Kansas City's Home for Christian Music**
Uplifting LOVE Hope Encouragement Weather COMFORT



NOVEMBER 17-18 & 22-23
THE TOY MAKER & ME.
7:00 P.M. VINEYARD
AUDITORIUM, 12300
N.W. ARROWHEAD TRFY., KANSAS CITY

THE WILDERNESS RUN. November 5, 9:00 am. Shoal Creek Living History Museum, Hodge Park, 700 NE Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64156. Participants will run through the village, around fields, up and down hills, over logs, through the woods, across creeks and more! Friends and family are welcome to come enjoy the museum the day of the run. 816-513-7624.

VETERANS DAY SALUTE. November 6, 12:00 pm-5:00 pm. Harry S. Truman Library and Museum, 500 W. US Hwy. 24, Independence, MO 64050.

VETERANS DAY WITH BREAKFAST MEMORIALS TOUR. November 10, 8:30 am Breakfast. Matt Ross Community Center, 8101 Marty, Overland Park, KS. Veterans eat free. Sponsored by Johnson County Parks & Recreation District. Tour will leave the Center at 10:00 am. 913-642-6410.

HOLLY FESTIVE CRAFT FAIR. November 12, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. & November 13, 11:00 am-3:00 pm. Bernard Campbell Middle School, 1201 NE Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64086. Sponsored by LS CARES and benefits the Lee's Summit DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program. 816-213-8370.

BEST LITTLE ART AND CRAFT SHOW. November 18, 10:00 am-7:00 pm & November 19, 10:00 am-6:00 pm. Roger T. Sermon Community Center, 201 N Dodge, Independence, MO (Southeast corner of Truman & Noland Road). 4 floors with 120 booths all with original works of art and crafts. 816-325-7370.

LAKE QUIVIRA HOLIDAY BAZAAR. November 18-19, 1:00 pm. Lake Quivira Country Club, 100 Crescent Blvd., Lake Quivira, KS 66217. 913-248-8458.

SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS-PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE. November 25-December 30, Monday-Saturday 10:00 am-4:00 pm & Sundays 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. TWILIGHT TOUR. December 4, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W Pacific Ave., Independence, MO.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, 13720 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS. For local mothers of children in early childhood, elementary school, middle school, high school, and for single moms, with both day and evening meeting times available at the Leawood campus. www.cor.org 913-897-0120.

DIVORCECARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS. 6:00-7:30 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Blue Springs, MO. Help for those going through or having gone through divorce. 816-228-5300.

WEEKLY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS MEN'S COMMITTEE. Meets weekly in various parts of the city. Call Jim Mathis, 913-269-6709, for time and location.

WEEKLY - FAITH BASED 12-STEP PROGRAM OF RECOVERY FROM COMPULSIVE OVEREATING. Call Overeater's Anonymous 913-383-5933 or visit www.kansascityoa.org for more information and to access the schedule of various meetings in the metro area.

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MONTHLY - MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE CHAPTERS 816-353-4113.

3RD SUNDAY - CANCER SUPPORT GROUP. 6:30-8:00 pm. Beacon Free Baptist Church, 10825 E. 79th Street, Raytown, MO 64138. Connect with others who share your journey, you are not alone. 816-353-7447.

MONDAY - MOMS AND TOTS COMMUNITY. 10:00-11:00 am. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. A different activity each week - story time, play time, Mom's bible studies and fellowship, or special outing. A great way to connect with other moms and young children. Contact amyviets@holycross-elca.org for more info.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 3:00-6:00 pm. Healing Rooms of Olathe, 1548 E Spruce, Olathe, KS 66061. M-T-W by appointment. www.healingroomsofolathe.com 913-563-2413.

MONDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 4:00-6:00 pm. Hope City, 5101E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO.

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS. 9:30 a.m. MOPS. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO Support groups for mothers of pre-
calendar continued on next page

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TUESDAY - IF NOT FOR GRACE PRAYER. 9:30 am. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. kmiller@infgr.org

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7:00 pm. Lakeland Community Church, 913 NW Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support group for anxiety and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. www.heartland-healingrooms.org.

1ST TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN NIGHT. 6 - 8 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

1ST TUESDAY - CREATION SCIENCE ASSOCIATION FOR MID-AMERICA. 7 p.m., Westbrooke Church, 9777 Antioch, Overland Park, KS. Presentation followed by Q&A; Answers to your questions regarding Science and the Bible; "Creation Safaris" (Res. Req'd); www.csama.org (includes link to FB page) 816-246-4517.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - FIBROMYALGIA SUPPORT GROUP MEETINGS. 7:00 pm., Life Springs Church, Neos Youth Center, 206 N. Webster St., Suite 112, Spring Hill, KS. Contact Kim: fibrohopeandhealing@yahoo.com or 337-852-5052.

1ST & 3RD TUESDAY - GRIEF SHARE. 7-8:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Ministries, 425 NW RD Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO. 816-228-5300.

2ND TUESDAY - EQUIPPING BELIEVERS MID-WEST. 7:00 pm. Blue Spring, Hampton Inn, 900 NW S. Outer Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Prayer for healing and freedom from addiction, Free training to heal the sick, evangelize the lost, set the oppressed free. 913-488-6749.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - "WINGS OF HOPE." Blue Springs Christian Church, 7920 S. 7 Hwy, Blue Springs, MO. A Christian based ministry to provide support for families grieving loss through miscarriage or infant death, because every life matters. Email: wingsofhope@bscc.org.

2ND & 4TH TUESDAY - MOPS. 9:00 am. Emmanuel Baptist Church, 10100 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. 913-649-0900.

3RD TUESDAY - LUNCH & LEARN. 12:00 pm. KC First Church of Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd. Kansas City, MO 64114. Each session will focus on a different geographical area or skill set. Please bring your own sack lunch; desserts and beverages will be provided. 816-942-9022.

WEDNESDAY - HEALING ROOMS MINISTRIES. 1:30-3:00 pm. Hope City, 5101 E. 24th St., Kansas City, MO.

vironment for older adults with mental and/or physical limitation. 816-228-5300.

WEDNESDAY - AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP. 11:30am-12:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 601 E. Oak St., Pleasant Hill, MO (please use North basement entrance off Myrtle Street). Are you troubled by someone else's drinking? 816-540-6179

WEDNESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 6:30 pm. First Baptist Raytown, 100500 E. 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO. Please enter through the rock entrance. Meet in room B-116. For info call: 816-778-1156 or www.firstbaptistraytown.com

WEDNESDAY - CATCH THE FIRE SOAKING PRAYER CENTER. 7-9pm. 816-804-8283.

WEDNESDAY - DELIVERANCE - BREAKING CURSES WORKSHOP. 7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley St., Overland Park, KS. 913-403-9644. Call Tues. - Fri. after 1 p.m.

2ND WEDNESDAY - LEE'S SUMMIT WOMEN'S PRAYER CONNECTION. 9:00 -10:30 am. In a comfortable setting, we get to know each other better and take time to pray (silently or audibly) for our nation, families, Lee's Summit Women's Connection, and our national organization. Call Millie Mathews for meeting location: 816-537-9898.

**For a Complete List of Monthly Meetings, visit
www.MetroVoiceNews.com**

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY - LIVING FREE, CHRIST-CENTERED 12 STEP PROGRAM. Front Modular, 6:30-8:00. Abundant Life Baptist Church, 414 SW Persels, LS, MO. 816-554-8181.

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY - CHRISTIAN BUSINESS CONNECTIONS NETWORK. 3:00 pm, Gusto! Coffee, 3390 SW Fascination Dr., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. 816-767-1100.

WEDNESDAY - BREAK TIME CLUB. 9:30am-1:30pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW R.D. Mize Rd., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Enriching en-

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THANKSGIVING

continued from page 1

Kansas City in Missouri and Kansas. These communities often don't have the resources or population to keep their pantries well stocked.

If you know of an organization that isn't listed here, let Metro Voice know so we can help share their needs in our December issue.

City Union Mission

City Union Mission works hand-in-hand with individuals, churches, schools and businesses to make the holiday season from Thanksgiving to New

Year's a little brighter for low-income or homeless families and men, nursing home residents, and Jackson County Jail inmates. The Mission distributes over 40,000 new items and about 275 food baskets during the Christmas season.

CUM also shares the message of hope God delivered through Christ's birth with the men and women in their care and struggling families and individuals in our community during Thanksgiving. The thousands of food and other items the community donates in November and December are an important part of this process, which gives their staff, volunteers and faithful donors many opportunities to show

homeless and hurting people of all ages they're worthy of love, acceptance and respect.

Deliver food to City Union Mission's Food Warehouse at 1020 E. 10th Street (10th & Troost), Kansas City, Mo. If donating prepared food items, please bring them to their Men's Center at 1108 E. 10th Street; or to arrange for pickup call (816) 222-5062. For food delivery info call 816-329-1490. Hours are 8 to 4pm, Monday-Friday.

Metro Lutheran Ministries

Every year Metro Lutheran Ministry (MLM) provides critical help to the poorest of the poor in greater Kansas

City. They distribute millions of pounds of food, hot breakfast each Saturday at two locations and assist with employment and GED assistance. Volunteers with MLM are crucial in making Thanksgiving possible for thousands of area families. Working throughout the year, money is raised through special events to purchase gifts through corporate and individual donations.

A Thanksgiving packing party is planned for Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Grandview. Volunteers of ALL ages are needed. Help MLM pack Thanksgiving baskets for needy families!

For information call 816-931-0027 or info@mlmkc.org.

Kansas City Rescue Mission

Kansas City Rescue Mission (KCRM) wants to make it easy for you to reach out to our neighbors in need. In November, KCRM and partnering churches will continue the tradition of providing feasts for the homeless

through their onsite nine-day Celebration of Thanks.

Volunteers will also deliver over 550 hot, single-serving, turkey dinners to poverty-stricken families, elderly and injured on Thanksgiving Day. Three different volunteer units will help cook the meals, assemble and deliver them throughout Kansas City to families who need a reason to give thanks. Don't have time to volunteer? Donate food or cash to help them purchase food.

Another component of the outreach will provide multi-meal food baskets to families in need all over the city. In all, the Mission anticipates feeding 2,600 needy people this Thanksgiving, despite the challenge of working around construction.

For a list of things needed or to volunteer contact thanksgiving@kcrm.org or call 816-421-7643.

—Metro Voice encourages you, your family and friends to get involved this year. For more info visit us online at www.metrovoicenews.com



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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 priase. 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 his hormones.

Can she sneak out at night without

film411

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

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 hot-headed, 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.Rusty-Wright.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 hardworking, 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-

■ See BOOK page 19

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

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 Belichick.

■ See **TEBOW** page 20

BOOK

continued from page 18

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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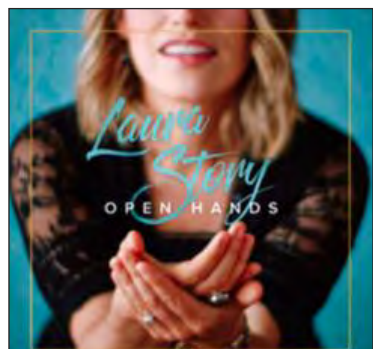
PLENTY TO LOOK FORWARD TO WITH FALL MUSIC RELEASES



D.C. JEANES
Metro Voice
music critic

musicscene

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.

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 blue-springs-assembly.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.



geoff moore
the next thing



Lewis, John Newton, Saint Therese, 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 Illia, The Protest, and Jeremy Greene. For more info, and to purchase tickets, please visit decyferdown.com.

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TEBOW

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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.

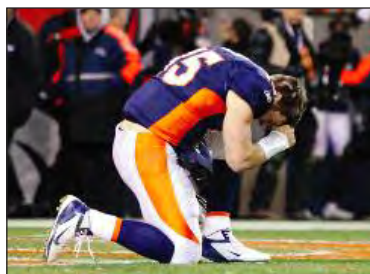
"I remembered when I had signed with the team in June. Then I'd had an offer on the table to make a one-day

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 re-

■ See **TEBOW** page 21



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.

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(from left) Jim Daly, Focus On The Family; Chuck Swindoll, Insight For Living; John MacArthur, Grace To You; June Hunt, Hope In The Night; Alistair Begg, Truth For Life; Tony Evans, The Alternative with Dr. Tony Evans; James MacDonald, Walk In The Word; David Jeremiah, Turning Point; Adrian Rogers, Love Worth Finding; Crawford Loritts, Legacy Moment, And More! Visit BRN Online for Program Schedule.

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Photography

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Buy a New Camera on Black Friday (or Cyber Monday)

EVERYONE wants the best and the newest. Look, I'm a bit partial to Canon, but Nikons are great too. Problem is they are all so different and PRICEY! This might help. When shopping for a camera, know this – a bundle that includes a lens and a memory card might be a great deal, but if its a lens you wont use or a low quality card its not worth the bundle price. Often manufacturers (Canon or Nikon online) will offer refurbished pieces for a song this time of year. Honestly your best bet is to ask a pro – and I don't mean the teenagers that work for minimum wage at the electronics counter. We are thrilled to answer your questions. Call us!

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IS GOD CALLING YOU TO CHANGE THE WORLD ONE CHILD AT A TIME?

TEBOW

continued from page 20

called 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 quarterback 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 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



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.

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 did-

n'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.



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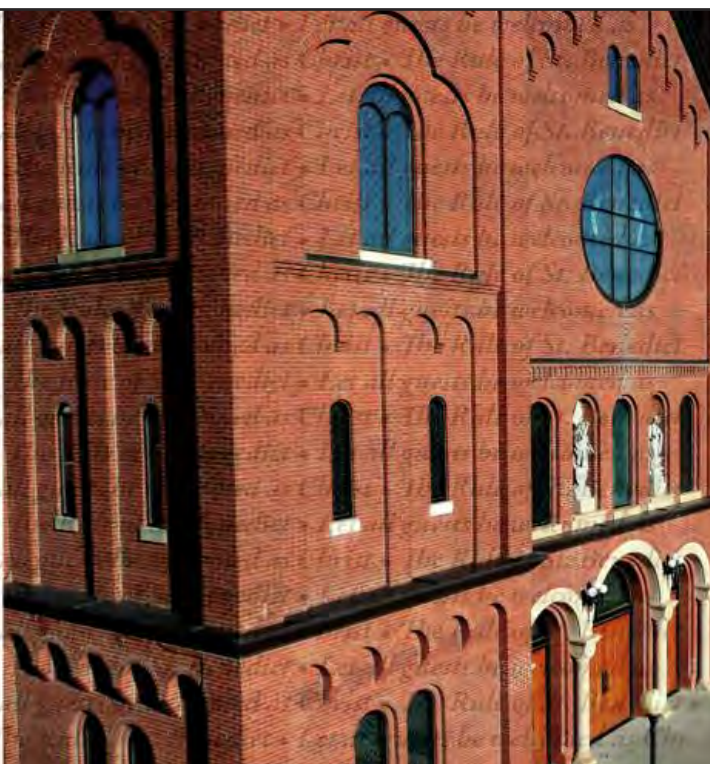
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SHOEBOX

continued from page 1

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

Yet what caught her attention most 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

■ sidenote

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



Elena in Uganda

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.

i moreinformation

More information about volunteer opportunities can be found on-line at samaritan.org/cc

■ SALVATION ARMY

continued from page 1

bags of groceries, or shelter an individual for a night. This year, volunteers will be ringing bells at more than 250 locations in the Kansas City area. To volunteer to be a Salvation Army bell ringer, go to www.ringkc.com or call 816-756-1455.

Volunteers may choose the day, time and location most convenient to their schedule. A minimum two-hour shift is required.

"Bell ringing is a great way to get into the spirit of the Christmas season and give back to the community," said Major Charles Smith, divisional commander of The Salvation Army in Kansas City. "We have lots of families sign up each year, as well as students needing community service hours, and small groups looking for service projects."

The money collected during the Red Kettle Campaign supports a number of Salvation Army programs in the Kansas City metropolitan area including emergency rent and utility assistance, homeless services, youth and senior programs, substance abuse services and disaster response.

"As always, volunteers are critical to the overall success of our Red Kettle



Members of the Mustang Club of Greater Kansas City helping as bell ringers at Christmas.

Campaign," said Major Smith. "Every cent dropped into a Red Kettle allows us to meet the on-going and ever-increasing demand for the services we provide."

Anyone wishing to donate to The Salvation Army by credit card may call 1-800-SAL-ARMY or go to www.salvationarmy.us. Checks may be mailed to The Salvation Army, P.O. Box 412577, Kansas City, MO 64141.

The Salvation Army will also soon launch its Online Red Kettle Campaign, which allows individuals, groups and businesses to host a "virtual red kettle" on the internet and invite their family, friends and colleagues to donate.

To sign up, go to www.onlineredkettle.org.

■ SUPPORT

continued from page 7

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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 people 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.'"

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, healthcare, 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



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

God Speaking 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

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DECEMBER 2-4, 2016

DECEMBER 2: 7:00PM

DECEMBER 3: 2:00PM & 7:00PM

DECEMBER 4: 2:00PM & 7:00PM

WHITE THEATER AT THE JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER
5801 W 115TH ST, LEAWOOD, KS 66211

TICKETS: \$25 (\$10 FOR AGE 5 & UNDER)

TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

WWW.CULTUREHOUSE.COM OR 913-393-3141

From the artists that brought you...

Underground

*"Top 10 of the Decade", "Best dance theater
ever to grace a Kansas City stage."*

- Paul Horsley

Suspended Grace

"A Master Piece" - Bobette Buster

*"There's nothing like Storling to open up
the scriptures in a fresh and moving way."*

- Pastor J. Candelin