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**CHRISTMAS WITH THE WRIGHTS** | Page 13

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**NEW RESIDENT churchguide**



Buck Creek Bible Church

*See inside back cover!*

**Shoe Drive to benefit Central Americans**



The Hospitality Committee at Faith Temple Church -Topeka is doing an on-going shoe drive to raise money for a remodeling project within the church. The church is partnering with an organization called Funds2Orgs, who will purchase each pair of shoes collected. For this reason, Faith Temple's goal is to collect as many pairs of "gently used or new shoes" as possible. The shoes can be brought to the church or by contacting Cookie at 785-640-415 for a "free pickup!" Just call and leave your name, telephone number and a brief message regarding a convenient time for your donation to be picked up. The shoes can be for men, women or children.

Donated shoes will be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of partners in developing nations, such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America. Funds2Orgs will in turn help impoverished people to start and maintain businesses within their countries to sell the refurbished shoes. The proceeds will be used to feed, clothe and house their families. So

■ Please see SHOE DRIVE page 2

**ANGELS AMONG US**



Gifts and Bibles offered to families of men and women who are incarcerated

A volunteer assists the child of an inmate with gifts

For American children with an incarcerated parent, Christmas can be bittersweet as they are separated from their imprisoned parent – often by more than 100 miles. Prison Fellowship is working hard through local churches to make a difference in the lives of these children. The nation's largest prison ministry is offering over 140,000 families of incarcerated men and women a free kid's Adventure Bible this Christmas season. Through the Angel Tree program, local church volunteers are able to present gifts to the children on behalf of their imprisoned parent. For the first time ever, Prison Fellowship is now able to offer every family of incarcerated prisoners that it serves through its Angel Tree

■ Please see ANGEL page 3

**Memorial Wall to add names**



The Heart of America Memorial Wall for the Unborn will be getting more names added soon.

Barbara Saldivar of Christians for Life, the facilitator of the wall, announced that another batch of names will be engraved in the next few weeks. She is asking for anyone who wants to place a name on the wall to contact her now.

The cost to engrave a name is around \$125, but Saldivar said that for those who can't afford it, a donation of just \$5 will be sufficient.

If you are interested in placing a name on the Memorial Wall, call 785-267-5777 to request an application. The Wall is located at 1216 SE Republican in Topeka. For more information go to [www.heartofamerica-wall.org](http://www.heartofamerica-wall.org)

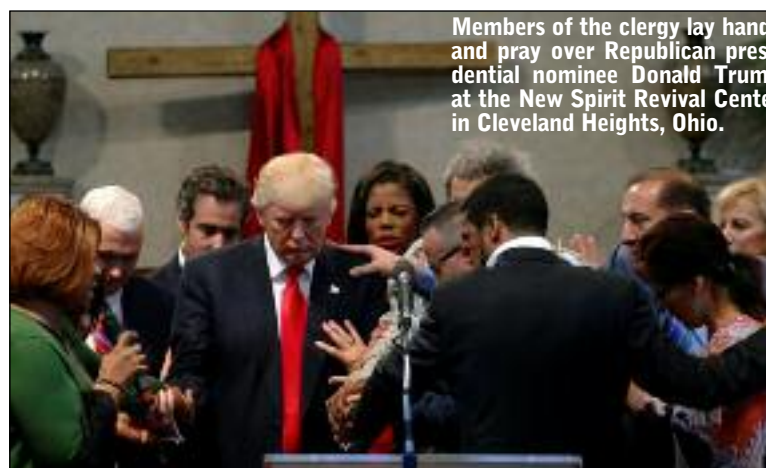
**Evangelicals Vote in Record Numbers in 2016 Election**

Self-described evangelicals likely helped the GOP nominee to an upset victory

**Jamie Dean & Dwight Widaman**

In a stunning rebuke of polls and pundits, Donald J. Trump has won the presidency of the United States with the most evangelical votes in this election; more than any election in polling history. Exit polls show he did it with the support of 81 percent of white Evangelicals and 60 percent of white Catholics.

But the victory was also fueled by evangelicals and Catholics of color. Trump saw a 20 percent increase in support from Hispanic Catholics over Mitt Romney in 2012 and out-performed other previous Republicans. Surprisingly, Trump out-per-



Members of the clergy lay hands and pray over Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump at the New Spirit Revival Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

formed Bush and McCain among Jewish voters. Exit polls also show that Trump out-performed Mitt Romney among

black voters and earned almost 30 percent of all Hispanic votes cast in sharp contrast to media predictions. In addition to

Christian and Jewish voters, Trump also performed better among other faiths, beating every Republican nominee since 2000. The lone exception is Muslim voters.

Despite those predictions that Democrat Hillary Clinton held an Electoral College advantage heading into Election Day, the Republican nominee swept a bevy of key swing states with 306 Electoral votes – more than John F. Kennedy received in 1960, Nixon in 1968, Carter in 1976 and the 2000 and 2004 elections of President George W. Bush. In fact, Trump's electoral count is just 24 shy of President Obama's 2012 rout of Mitt Romney.

Another group that supported Trump: rural voters. In Missouri, Clinton won just three counties, and in Kansas she won

■ Please see EVANGELICALS page 24





## Which companies made the naughty list this Christmas?

Have you grown sick and tired of national retail chains bowing to the very small anti-Christmas minority?

If so, then take a good look at the list below, and use it to fight back when you do your Christmas shopping!

The American Family Association and Liberty Council have each released their annual "Naughty-or-Nice" list that categorizes retailers and how they approach the Christmas season.

Some of the names that made the "nice" list are well known companies such as Walmart, JCPenney, Kmart, and Lowe's. Others fell into a "marginal" list, meaning that they rarely or infrequently referred to Christmas.

The two organizations reviewed up to four areas to determine if a company was "Christmas-friendly" in their advertising: print media (newspaper inserts), broadcast media (radio/television), website and/or personal visits to the store. If a company's ad has references to items associated with Christmas (trees, wreaths, lights, etc.), it was considered as an attempt to reach "Christmas" shoppers.

If a company has items associated with Christmas, but did not use the word "Christmas," then the company is considered as censoring "Christmas."

AFA continually updates the list, so check afa.net for updates. Want to report a company? Send your detailed report to

christmas@afa.net.

AFA has also begun its "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign. AFA President Tim Wildmon announced that his group is offering wristbands with messages about the battle against "secular liberals." There are also yard signs and buttons featuring the "Merry Christmas" message available at [www.afa.net](http://www.afa.net)



"You might ask why we think this is an important battle. Well, secular liberals in our nation are bent on minimizing and even removing any mention of Christianity from the public square. And no other time of the year reminds people of Jesus Christ and America's Christian heritage more than the Christmas season," Wildmon explained.

Liberty Counsel also monitors cases across the U.S. where there is intimidation by officials and groups to remove the celebration of Christmas in public and private spaces.

These threats include atheist groups seeking to ban nativity scenes from public property, senior living centers that prohibit residents from singing

Christmas carols, public schools that ban students from wearing the Christmas colors of red and green, school officials who censor religious words from Christmas carols, and retailers which profit from Christmas while pretending it does not exist, according to the group's statement.

Liberty Counsel provides a memorandum to offer guidance regarding publicly and privately sponsored religious holiday displays, religious holidays in public schools and the rights of public school students in the context of religious holidays. For example, publicly sponsored nativity scenes on public property are constitutional so long as there is a secular symbol of the holiday in the general context. Privately sponsored nativity scenes or religious symbols are also permissible on public property that has been opened to the general public for expressive activity. No secular symbol is necessary.

"Celebrating Christmas is legal in public schools and in public venues. In the private retail market, consumers can choose to patronize stores that recognize Christmas and refuse to buy from those that pretend it does not exist," said Mat Staver, founder and chairman of Liberty Counsel.

More information is available at the website, [www.lc.org](http://www.lc.org). You can also stay up to date on the subject and participate in the discussion by visiting the Liberty

## 2016 listing of top retailers and how they recognize Christmas

*Companies in All CAPS and BOLD enthusiastically acknowledge Christmas*

### Companies FOR "Christmas"

- Ace Hardware
- AFA ONLINE STORE: AFA.NET**
- Banana Republic
- Barnes & Noble
- Bass Pro Shops
- Bath & Body Works
- Bed Bath & Beyond
- Belk
- Big Lots
- Books-A-Million
- Bronner's CHRISTmas
- WONDERLAND
- Cabella's
- Christmasplace.com
- CRACKER BARREL**
- Dillard's
- Dollar Tree
- HSN.com
- Hallmark
- HOBBY LOBBY**
- Home Depot
- Hy-Vee
- JC Penney
- JoAnn Fabrics & Crafts
- Kmart

- Kohl's
- KIRKLANDS**
- Kroger
- LOWE'S**
- L.L. Bean
- Lehman's
- Macy's
- Marshall's
- Mejer
- Menard's
- MICHAEL'S STORES**
- Neiman Marcus
- Pier One Imports
- QVC.com
- Rite Aid
- Sam's Club
- Scheel's Sporting Goods
- Sears
- Super D Drug
- Toys R Us
- True Value
- WAL-MART**
- Zappos.com

### Companies marginal on "Christmas"

- Amazon.com

- Best Buy
- CVS Pharmacy
- Dick's Sporting Goods
- Old Navy
- Starbucks
- TJ Maxx
- Walgreens
- Whole Foods

### Companies AGAINST "Christmas"

- Academy Sports
- American Eagle Outfitters
- Barnes & Noble
- Dollar General
- Family Dollar
- Foot Locker
- Gap Stores
- Limited Brands
- Maurice's
- Nordstrom's
- Office Depot
- Office Max
- Petsmart
- Radio Shack
- Stein Mart
- Victoria's Secret



## Life Lessons From a Little One

### A GIFT FOR JESUS

by **Jessica S. Hosman**

Christmas lights are starting to frame houses as trees begin to sparkle proudly in the windows. The stores have been encouraging "the perfect gift" for two months and somehow lists seem to grow longer and longer with each passing day.

My son and I got out the old nativity set today. One by one the figurines were unwrapped and he gently placed them in the bed of hay. We talked about the shepherds and wise men and noticed how they all held gifts in their hands to present to Jesus. I asked my five-year old, "If you would have been there along with these men, what gift would you have brought for Jesus?" Zechariah didn't hesitate; his gift would be his love.

Most of us can attest that Christmas seemed magical as a child. So much wonder to behold with all the tinsel and glitz, and of course the great anticipation of what would be found under the tree early Christmas morning. As adults, I think many of us long to feel the same excitement we felt during the season as a child. We think of what we can do different this year to make sure we slow down long enough to enjoy, instead of bustling constantly to and fro. We might also ponder how we can make our holidays more Christ-centered, determined to not get caught up in the modern-day commercialism and burnout that goes along with it. Instead, we think, we'll plan deeds of goodwill that will surely show Christ how much we care about Him and the celebration of His birth. Perhaps we adopt a family in need or volunteer to serve at an organization reaching out to those who are homeless or poor. Maybe we attend a special Christmas program or make a point to make it to a church service on Christmas Eve. We might even forgo gifts for ourselves to bless others instead. While those

are all wonderful things that might make us feel good and cause us to catch a glimpse of that childlike glee, do they really have lasting significance? Just as the Christmas lights will eventually come down, so will the high we felt when we did something extra for someone else. But there is one thing the Bible says will never fade away. It's the one gift we can all give, to Jesus, and to others.



Jessica Hosman

It's the gift my little boy would have given on the day of Christ's birth, and the gift he still wants to give today. Love. According to scripture, it never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8).

What does that look like for you today? Perhaps it means devoting your life to Jesus, not just

during this season, but throughout the year. Perhaps it means demonstrating that devotion through daily relationship with Him, not just through ritual on a Sunday morning. Perhaps it means extending that love towards another... an enemy, a stranger, a forgotten relative, an estranged friend... not just with a Christmas card or gift, but an action that will change the course of your relationship and possibly their lives. What happens when we step out and love in this way? I believe it brings the abundant life that Jesus came to give. And along with it comes joy, peace, and an abundance of fruit birthed through relationship with Him.

If you feel as though something is missing each year as Christmas comes and goes, maybe it is. And maybe this is your time to fully embrace the gift of life that Jesus was born to give. Talk to Him. Give Him your life. Give Him your love. And watch as your Christmas is transformed once again to a time of childlike wonder and joy, freely given for all to receive.



## SHOE DRIVE

continued from page 1

don't "throw them away" - "give them away," and help someone less fortunate!

Most people have shoes in their closets

that they no longer want and/or have outgrown. This fund-raiser will not only benefit the church's remodeling project, but will also aide those who are less fortunate in becoming self-sustaining. It is a "win-win" for everyone! By donating your gently used and/or new shoes, you

are also partnering with Funds2Orgs to support micro-enterprises in those countries to positively impact the lives of others by giving them opportunity to have a "second chance" in life! For more information contact Cookie Johnson at 785-640-4165, or [jassieone55@gmail.com](mailto:jassieone55@gmail.com)

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## Topeka Metro Announces Free Ride Promotions

Topeka Metro has announced two promotions. First, Topeka Metro has already begun the holiday campaign, "Shop and Ride – Free After 5," effective through December 31, 2016. This is a great way to get a couple of hours in to do your holiday shopping and have someone else do the driving.

Secondly, the 4th Annual Winter Fling/Families Ride Free campaign is coming back by popular demand. Families can ride all fixed routes free of charge from December 21, 2016,

through January 3, 2017. Topeka Metro partners with businesses throughout the city of Topeka to provide either free or discounted entertainment and food for families over the holiday break. Families of at least one adult and one child can board the bus for free and obtain the coupons for family-friendly things in Topeka.

"During this busy season, let Topeka Metro make life a bit easier for you. Hop on the bus, take the stress out of dealing with traffic and searching for a parking



space," Topeka Metro General Manager Susan Duffy said. "During our Families Ride Free, visit our promotional partners for family fun time. We'll see you on the bus!"

For route and scheduling information, visit [topekametro.org](http://topekametro.org) or call (785) 783-7000.

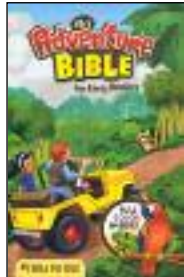
## ANGEL

continued from page 1

Christmas program a free copy of the Adventure Bible by Zondervan's children's imprint, Zonderkidz, to go along with the donated gifts they will receive.

"What better way to show kids the true meaning of Christmas than to offer them God's word as they open their Angel Tree gifts?" said James J. Ackerman, president and chief executive officer of Prison Fellowship. "We are appreciative of Zondervan, which has partnered with Prison Fellowship to make this possible."

Every Christmas in all 50 states, Angel Tree mobilizes churches to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by delivering a gift and the gospel message on behalf of their incarcerated parents. Last year, the program provided more than 300,000 children with Christmas gifts. Since 1982, Angel Tree has delivered more than 10 million gifts to children on behalf of nearly 4.2 million imprisoned parents.



"Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program has always been near and dear to the hearts of our team at Zonderkidz," said Annette Bourland, senior vice president of publishing. "To be able to present The Adventure Bible, in both English and Spanish, to young readers who will find comfort and strength in God's message for them is a tremendous joy for our team."

In addition to the gifts that the over 300,000 children will receive this year, the 140,000 households that they live in will



A child shows joy after receiving a Christmas gift donated by a volunteer through Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree Christmas program.

receive a voucher to receive a free copy of the Adventure Bible, either in English or Spanish.

All the caretakers or children have to do to receive the bible is fill out an information card and send it back to Prison Fellowship by mail.

Ackerman said that providing a kids Bible provides a better chance that the bibles will be read by multiple members of the family, as opposed to a more advanced Bible where higher literacy skills are required to comprehend the message.

"It is a really beautiful Bible. It has lots of graphics and lots of fun facts and lots of maps and pictures and things like that," he said. "Hopefully because the Adventure Bible is so engaging, the children will read it as a regular thing, not just as a Bible but as an exploration of God's truth."

Ackerman credits the thousands of donors who chip in to make Prison Fellowship's goal to provide a Bible to each Angel Tree household this Christmas a reality.

"It ranges from people who donated \$25 to people who donate hundreds of

thousands of dollars," Ackerman explained. "But look, \$25 buys a few bibles. So, it's money well spent."

In organizing the Angel Tree Christmas gift-giving program, Ackerman said that each year there are more and more kids that are in need of gifts because the prison population keeps increasing. Some churches, Ackerman said, provide as many as 800 to 1,000 kids with gifts.

Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree is the only nationwide, year-round program that reaches out exclusively to children who have a parent in prison. Through collaborations with local churches and community organizations, hundreds of thousands of children receive a gift each Christmas on behalf of their incarcerated parents. In addition, partner churches meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of prisoners' families through year-round ministry, such as camping events and mentoring.

"We are doing really well this year but there is still a gap to be closed and we are still looking for donations," Ackerman said.

If your church does not yet have an Angel Tree program, you can find out how to start one. To learn more about how to get involved, visit [www.angeltree.org](http://www.angeltree.org) or [www.prisonfellowship.org](http://www.prisonfellowship.org).

In both Missouri and Kansas, the Salvation Army also operates an Angel Tree Program locally. To get involved through them, visit [www.salarmymokan.org](http://www.salarmymokan.org) or call 816-756-1455. In Topeka, the local number is 785-233-9648.

### CHANGING PRISON CULTURE

Prison Fellowship, through a partnership with World Impact's The Urban Ministry Institute, equips prisoners to be spiritual leaders who help transform prison culture and the urban areas to which they return after incarceration. The four-year program includes 16 ten-week courses in the following subject areas:

- Biblical studies
- Urban mission
- Christian ministry
- Theology and ethics

Each of the 16 seminary-level curriculum modules requires students to study for approximately 30-40 hours outside of class. Upon completion of the program, students receive a Certificate in Christian Leadership Studies.

For more information contact Mary Flin in Topeka at (785) 431-6000 or [maryflin@hotmail.com](mailto:maryflin@hotmail.com)

## C5Alive Christmas Luncheon to celebrate with music, games

Mitch Langley to provide music, devotional

The monthly C5Alive "POWER Luncheon" will be a Christmas Celebration held at Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr., on Dec. 8 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Christmas music, games and fun will be the order of the day.

Mitch Langley, worship pastor at Northland Christian Church, will provide a devotional and music for the occasion.

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



Langley

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

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

The luncheons are held in different locations around the Capital City each month.

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

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### ABOUT ANGEL TREE

- Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree is a ministry that serves incarcerated parents by strengthening and restoring prisoners' relationships with their kids and families.
- There are 2.7 million American children with an incarcerated mom or dad — that's one out of every 28 kids.
- Holidays like Christmas are bittersweet as children are separated from their imprisoned parent—often by more than 100 miles. Angel Tree programs mobilize churches to minister to hundreds of thousands of children by delivering a gift and the gospel message on behalf of their incarcerated parents.
- Last year, the program provided over 300,000 children with Christmas gifts.
- This year, Prison Fellowship's Angel Tree program is able to offer every angel Tree

### KANSAS CRIMINAL JUSTICE OVERVIEW

- 1 in 55 adults are in the criminal justice system
- Taxpayer burden: \$18,207 per prisoner per year
- Adults in prison: 9,763
- Adults in jail: 6,971
- Adults on probation: 17,021
- Adults on Parole: 5,126
- Rate of juveniles (per 100,000) in residential placement: 254



# ISIS taking newborns, young children in rampage to annihilate Christians, says Catholic priest

A Roman Catholic priest who has been helping Christians, Yazidis and other religious minorities facing genocide in Iraq and Syria said Islamic State militants separate families who live in terrorist occupied land by taking newborn babies and virgin girls while killing fathers and forcing young boys to plant bombs on the streets.

Father Patrick Desbois, a Paris-based priest who for decades has been researching the Holocaust and fighting anti-Semitism through his Yahad-In Unum global humanitarian organization, has in recent years turned to helping minority victims of the ISIS genocide in Iraq and Syria, specifically the Yazidi people.

Desbois said in a phone interview with a Christian news organization that ISIS, which he noted has also killed thousands of Shia Muslims and Christians, uses a "very special" strategy to carry out its decimation of entire people groups.

"They dislocate the families, they take the newborn babies, and they put them in Islamist families," Desbois said, noting that elementary-age children are trained as terrorists, and "forced to put bombs" on streets.

"The young girls who are virgins are selected by doctors and sold," he added, referring to the terror group's human trafficking and sex trade, which has seen many thousands of



**Yazidi youngsters, terror on their faces, huddle in a camp near the Iraq-Syrian border as ISIS terrorists advance. It is not known what happened to these children after the photo was taken.**

women and children sold to jihadists.

The men, on the other hand, are often shot in pits, he said, evidence for which are the many mass graves being discovered in territory newly liberated from ISIS' grasp.

The priest, who is a professor at Georgetown University in Washington D.C., explained that ISIS "dislocates families according to age, sexuality," and said that "every member of the family" is used "in a special

way."

"I've never seen that, it's very organized, there is no improvisation," he added.

Desbois and his organization have interviewed hundreds of Yazidi survivors who have escaped ISIS captivity, including some who have managed to flee the besieged city of Mosul, currently the target of a coalition military campaign seeking to liberate it from ISIS control.

Many of these interviews are shared in Action Yazidis, an initiative of Yahad-In Unum, which as it explains on its website, does not seek to advocate for "political, economic or military action," but serves to uncover "facts of genocidal practices wherever they are found and provide

**"Christians have a responsibility to help refugee families that are fleeing the war zones, and call on the government to help victims."**

a voice of protest on behalf of all victims and potential victims of genocide."

Desbois, who recently released his book *The Fabric of Terrorists: Into the Secrets of Daesh*, based on his investigations into ISIS, shared eye-witness accounts that confirm reports that the terrorist organization is using human shields in its attempts to hold on to Mosul — including civilians.

He shared that the jihadists "use prisoners as human shields," and that his organization has "many testimonies of girls who say they have been used as human shields."

These eye-witness accounts have been cross-referenced with other sources, the priest explained, in order to paint an accurate picture of the atrocities that people are being subjected to.

The plight of Christians under the extremists has also been a heavy one — hundreds of thousands of believers have left their ancestral homelands across Iraq and Syria, with Desbois noting that "there are nearly no more Christians under ISIS," except those held as prisoners in cap-

tured territory.

He said that all signs of Christianity are actively being destroyed, explaining, "any Christian symbol is being erased," with Christians also losing their houses, their belongings, and everything that ISIS demands, which is leading to a "total destruction" of the faith group.

Comparing the ongoing genocide to those of the past, like the Holocaust, Desbois said ISIS is using "very modern" methods, such as their heavy reliance on social media, where the jihadists spread propaganda messages, including graphic images and videos of human rights abuses.

Desbois suggested that Christians "have a responsibility to help" refugee families that are fleeing the war zones, and called on the government to help victims find work, and help those that have been traumatized by forced conversions to Islam.

The priest emphasized that today people can help in many different ways, with one option being donating to organizations that are working hard to assist people suffering as a result of ISIS' actions.

"We try to help concretely," he said, and pointed out that in the Bible, God asks people to help their brothers and sisters.

## more information

**Organizations Serving Victims of ISIS**  
[SamaritansPurse.org](http://SamaritansPurse.org)  
[WorldVision.org](http://WorldVision.org)  
[Rescue.org](http://Rescue.org)  
[PreemptiveLove.org](http://PreemptiveLove.org)

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## North Star Steakhouse Has Reopened Under New Ownership and Is Now Presenting Interactive Murder Mystery Comedies

North Star Steakhouse has announced that they have reopened and will continue to present family-friendly, interactive murder mystery comedies. Their holiday show, on December 11, 2016 will be presented by Levity Players Group. The title of the show is "Beefing with the Wellingtons." The Wellingtons are an eccentric, wealthy, hilariously dysfunctional family who combine their annual family holiday party with the annual shareholders meeting of their large ranching corporation. Before the shareholders meeting can truly get underway, Fillmore Wellington, the C.E.O. of Wellington Enterprises, makes an early exit. Each family member must present to the shareholders his or her arguments regarding why he or she should be elevated to the C.E.O. position.

Greg Marino, the Producer of Levity Players Group, states, "Beefing with the Wellingtons is a funny, witty, heartwarming show for the holiday season. We are thrilled to

again be performing at North Star Steakhouse. They have delicious food and this will be a memorable show!"

The show includes a delicious three course dinner from North Star Steakhouse featuring House Salad, Entrée Choice of K.C. Strip, Fried Shrimp Extraordinaire, or 3S

(Super-Sized) Sizzling Chicken, all served with North Star's famous fries and gravy, New York Style House Made Cheesecake for Dessert, and Complimentary soft drinks and coffee. Admission price is forty dollars. To make reservations, call 785-354-8880.

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# FINANCIAL PLANNING

## You can carefully have the Christmas budget you've always wanted



Christmas is the best. You get to hang stockings, shop for your favorite people, and potluck like a champ. There's no other time of the year quite like it. That's why it's so easy to get carried away with your seasonal shopping!

In fact, 2014's annual Gallup poll found that nearly a quarter of Americans anticipated spending \$1,000 or more on Christmas. That's a decent chunk of change for any budget. While it's perfectly okay to spend extra money around the holidays, you don't want to end up with the unwelcomed gift of credit card debt come Christmas morning.

Be prepared for the holiday season with Dave's online budget tool, EveryDollar. Now you can plan, save and track every dollar online. No more pen and paper needed! And when you're out and about shopping, you can see how much you have left to spend on Aunt Sally with your EveryDollar app. Talk about an upgrade!

Here's how you can use

EveryDollar to make your Christmas budget brighter:

1. Figure out how much you can spend on Christmas. Let's go ahead and address the question on everyone's mind: How do you figure out your Christmas budget? This is where EveryDollar shines. Start by plugging in your normal monthly expenses, like gas, utilities, insurance and groceries. Then take a closer look at your flexible spending budget groups, like dining out and fun money.

If you typically spend \$300 on restaurants in a month, why not cook a few extra meals at home and divert an extra \$200 toward Christmas savings? Or if your personal money is partying it up at \$150 a month, why not hold off (temporarily) and put an extra \$100 into your Christmas stash? Smart budgeting now can free up more money for what you want later—like Christmas presents!

2. Divide your Christmas budget into categories.

Once you've figured out how



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

**davesays**

much you can spend on Christmas, do some dividing. Take your number—let's say \$500—and think over your seasonal expenses. You'll need money for travel (\$50), a tree and trimmings (\$50), a few potlucks and parties (\$50), and some extra giving (\$50). Then there's the Big Kahuna: Christmas gifts (\$300).

As long as you plan where your money will go before you spend it, there's no right or wrong way to split up your Christmas budget. Plus, if that evergreen goes on sale, or you economize on your potluck groceries, that means more money to splurge on your loved ones.

3. Write down who you need to buy gifts for. Now that you know exactly how much you can spend on gifts, decide who gets what. Make a list of everyone you'll buy for this year. And we mean everyone—coworkers, church friends, your parents, your kids, your grandkids. Next to each name (or category, if you're budgeting a treat for the office), write a specific dollar amount.

If you don't have enough money to cover everyone on your list, rethink how much you'll spend on each person. Maybe you can agree to only buy for the kids. Or perhaps you can draw names, instead of buying for multiple families. And then there are always baked goods or homemade crafts! Who doesn't love a gift that comes fresh out of the oven or straight from the heart?



## Some Tax Refunds to be Delayed in 2017

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



Beginning in 2017, a new law approved by Congress requires the IRS to hold refunds on tax returns claiming the EITC or the ACTC until mid-February. The IRS must hold the entire refund - even the portion not associated with the EITC and ACTC -- until at least Feb. 15. This change helps ensure that taxpayers get the refund they are owed by giving the agency more time to help detect and prevent fraud.

"This is an important change as some of these taxpayers are used to getting an early refund," IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said. "We want people to be aware of the change for their planning purposes during the holidays. We don't want anyone caught by surprise if they get their refund a few weeks later than in previous years."

As in past years, the IRS will begin accepting and processing tax returns

once the filing season begins. All taxpayers should file as usual, and tax return preparers should submit returns as they normally do. Even though the IRS cannot issue refunds for some early filers until at least Feb. 15, the IRS reminds taxpayers that most refunds will be issued within the normal time-frame, less than 21 days, after being accepted for processing by the IRS. The "Where's My Refund?" tool on IRS.gov and the IRS2Go phone app remains the best way to get this status of a refund.

If you cannot wait for your refund or are just looking to start the year off with some cash flow, then look to a Taxpayer Refund Advance from Peggy's Tax & Accounting. (300 SE 29th, Suite C, Topeka, KS 66605) There are three tiers you can qualify for: \$500, \$800 or \$1,200.

The advance can be direct deposited, added to a prepaid card, or a check can be sent to Peggy's Tax. There are fees associated with all Advances, and any of Peggy's Tax preparation fees will be deducted from the Advance. Contact Peggy's Tax & Accounting, at (785) 286-7899, for more information.

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# opinion

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## Post-election protesters enabled by colleges

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**DWIGHT WIDAMAN**

Publisher and Managing Editor of the KC Metro Voice Newspaper

### viewpoint

If you are like me, there's relief that the election is over, if only for the lack of television commercials or robo calls. For some there was jubilation Wednesday morning, Nov. 9, as the news networks called it for Trump. For others there was sadness and trepidation. Trepidation that continues on the streets as young people protest the outcome of a time-tested democratic process.

A lot of the focus seems to be on America's college campuses where "snowflakes" (a term describing young people who, for the first time in their lives, didn't get their way and can't cope) are being offered "crying rooms", counseling or comfort dogs as was the case at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Other universities cancelled classes and provided rooms where college students could play with children's building blocks or fill in coloring books featuring Barney, My Little Pony and other comforting images from their childhood.

But the response of many of these spoiled, self-centered offspring is in contrast to their contemporaries in other parts of the world—areas of our globe where tears are shed by young people not for an election loss but for the loss of family members at the hands of ISIS, hunger, disease or bombs raining from the sky.



Anti-Trump protesters carry the Communist flag in Seattle.

For me that's what is most embarrassing about this election. While the media tells us a world of "haves" is aghast at a Trump victory, I see a world of suffering masses, the "have-nots", looking with confusion as entitled and naive American protesters riot only to return to homes that are NOT burned-out, with Chipotle carry-out in hand, to lay in a warm bed for an evening of Netflix binging.

Yeah, these American youth have it so bad.

So how has the election result been received in some of these areas that many college students cannot find on a map?

The New York Times reports that Iraqis, who endured years of Islam being used to justify mass killing, publicly voiced optimism in "Mr. Trump as a truth-teller in calling out Islam — or a certain brand of it — as the problem."

The Times shares how Iraqi Shiites believe Trump will take a harder line on Saudi Arabia, which is seen as fomenting an extreme form of Islam—Wahhabism.

"The victory of Trump is the beginning of the end of extremist Islam and Wahhabism," said Mouwafak al-Rubaie, an Iraqi lawmaker and the country's for-

mer national security adviser.

"We have no concerns about the policy of Trump because he is against extremism," said Saad al-Hadithi, the spokesman for Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi of Iraq. "We think we are facing one enemy, and that is fighting ISIS. Therefore, I do not think there are fears or concerns about a new American policy."

Mr. Abadi made it a point to call President-elect Trump and affirmed their cooperation against the Islamic State.

Then there are the regular folks on the front line and pay with their lives.

According to the Haym Salomon



Baby Trump.

Center, a Yazidi couple in Iraq whose family suffered at the hands of the Islamic State named their newborn child "Trump" within minutes after Republican nominee became the U.S. President-elect. The new mother was reportedly in labor as the U.S. presidential election vote count rolled in. An hour before Trump officially won, she gave birth to a baby boy.

"We have been going through a never-ending genocide over the last two years at the hands of ISIS, and Obama failed to take out ISIS or help liberate the thousands of Yazidi women and children that are still enslaved by ISIS," said the father of the new baby boy Trump. "I hope President Trump will at last take out ISIS so we can return home and rebuild our lives."

And in India, also suffering from a wave of terrorism at the hands of Islamic insurgents, President-elect Trump has become somewhat of a hero. So much so that Hindus declared Trump the winner even before the voting ended.

A news report says that "with drums banging and speakers blaring, the Hindu Sena, or Hindu Army, gathered at Jantar Mantar - New Delhi's answer to London's Speakers' Corner - to proclaim to a knot of TV crews that Trump had 'already won' the Nov. 8 vote."

"Trump's victory is confirmed early, due to his thoughts against Islamic terrorism and love for India and Hindus," said Vishnu Gupta, the Hindu Sena's national president.

In October, Trump had uttered the memorable phrase "I love Hindu", a kind of Two Corinthians moment, at an event organized by Indian supporters of his candidacy. While awkward, his sincere

continued on next page

## LOOKING FOR A KING



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

### hopefortoday

On the eve of history's first Christmas, the Jewish people were filled with centuries of hope, rooted in the prophecies of their religious writings. Hope that one day a King would rise up from among them to deliver their people from the occupation of the Romans. All the non-Jewish people in the world did not have such a hope. If they faced a similar oppressive government, all they had to rest on was their own efforts at forging change. In a sense, for all the world, it was truly the dark ages. Outside of an inward hope or personal heroism, how would

the darkness of the nations be turned to light?

In approximately 4 B.C. a divine earthquake caused a split right down the middle of human history – the birth of Jesus Christ. It was like the rising of the sun that meant a new day, a new era for mankind.

The Jewish prophet Isaiah, 700 years earlier, foretold about the coming of a Messiah who would become the hope of all nations. Isaiah wrote, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end" (Isa. 9:6-7).

As Jesus grew up and settled into His heaven-sent role, the public responded and a movement was built around Him that evolved into a revolution of sorts. However, His followers became disillusioned at His messaging. He was not becoming the national Savior they envi-

"He came to govern the lives of precious souls, not a nation."



sioned.

He told the crowds His purpose was to "seek and save the lost". He said if they wanted to follow Him they must "deny themselves", meaning give up pursuing their agenda and take up God's. All this was much different than what they expected.

Jesus' focus was the hearts and souls of mankind. He purposed to deliver them from the bondage of sin and lead them to spiritual freedom. He came to govern the lives of precious souls, not a nation.

Still today, the world is looking to

political leaders and government for societal change. And if that does not satisfy they escape into entertainment, addiction or self-determination. The lesson of Christmas teaches us that real and lasting hope is found in one place, Jesus. He brings us spiritual freedom, where we no longer have to be a slave to our sin. This kind of freedom the world longs for. It can only be found in the Christ child.

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



# Rep. Mike Pompeo, Wichita Republican, is Trump's pick for director of the CIA

Rep. Mike Pompeo, Wichita Republican, chosen by Trump to head CIA

President-elect Donald Trump announced on Nov. 17 his nomination of U.S. Rep. Mike Pompeo, a Wichita Republican, for the position of Central Intelligence Agency director.

"He has served our country with honor and spent his life fighting for the security of our citizens," Trump said in a statement, calling Pompeo "a brilliant and unrelenting leader" for the intelligence community.

Pompeo said, "I am honored and humbled to accept the President-elect's nomination to lead the Central Intelligence Agency. This was a difficult decision. I have genuinely loved representing the people of Kansas in Congress—working to make our community stronger and more prosperous. But ultimately the opportunity to lead the world's finest intelligence warriors, who labor tirelessly to keep this nation and Kansas safe, is a call to service I cannot ignore.

Pompeo has a reputation as a hard-line conservative with hawkish views on Iran, and opposition to the closure of a prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. During an interview with The Topeka Capital-Journal in April, Pompeo stressed the importance of keeping Guantanamo Bay open for intelligence gathering.

Pompeo must be confirmed by the U.S. Senate before taking office. Kansas' senior senator, Pat Roberts, a former chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said he supports Pompeo, calling his nomination a "good and wise selection" by Trump.

"Kansas can be proud Mike Pompeo will lead the Central Intelligence Agency and will be in a



position to protect our national security at a time of increasing and varying global threats," Roberts said.

U.S. Rep. Lynn Jenkins, a Kansas Republican, said Pompeo's "experience and Kansas roots will serve him well as the director of the CIA." Former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole said Trump "couldn't have made a better pick."

Gov. Sam Brownback, a Republican and former senator, called Pompeo "a wonderful pick" and predicted he will likely be confirmed by the Senate.

"I think so, but nothing's easy anymore," Brownback said. "Mike was number one in his class at West Point. He was number one in his class at Harvard. He's been a congressman. He's been on the Intelligence Committee. He's smart and tough. I think it's a tremendous pick by the incoming Trump administration."

Pompeo is a stalwart defender of the Patriot Act and bulk surveillance who considers National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden a traitor deserving of the death penalty. He has opposed efforts to reform the nation's surveillance gathering in the wake of Snowden's revelations.

The American Civil Liberties Union said Pompeo's positions on surveil-

lance and Guantanamo Bay raise civil liberty concerns.

"These positions and others merit serious public scrutiny through a confirmation process," said ACLU executive director Anthony Romero. "His positions on mass surveillance have been rejected by federal courts and have been the subject of several lawsuits filed by the ACLU."

Pompeo, as a member of the House Select Benghazi Committee, co-wrote a report, which accused the Obama administration of misleading the public and failing to protect Americans. He called former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's behavior "morally reprehensible."

Pompeo is an Army veteran who graduated first in his class from West Point in 1986. He later graduated from Harvard Law School, where he was editor of the Harvard Law Review. After returning to his roots in South Central Kansas and founded Thayer Aerospace, where he served as CEO for more than a decade providing components for commercial and military aircraft. He then became President of Sentry International, an oilfield equipment manufacturing, distribution and service company.

Pompeo's past comments about Islam may draw questions during Senate confirmation hearings. He has said Muslim religious leaders can be considered "potentially complicit" in terrorist attacks for failing to denounce violence.

Pompeo, 52, was elected to Congress in 2010 and has been re-elected by sizable margins every two years since. A special election will be held to choose his successor.

Under state law, the governor must announce the date of a special election five days after a congressional seat becomes vacant. The Republican and Democratic parties in Kansas will each choose a candidate.

Other Kansas politicians rumored to be in contention for positions in the Trump administration include Brownback, Sen. Jerry Moran and former Reg. Tim Huelskamp for Secretary of Agriculture; and Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach for an unknown position. Kobach was an adviser to the Trump campaign on immigration issues. Brownback would name Kobach's replacement if Kobach joins the Trump administration.

continued from previous page

meaning was understood by Hindus.

As far as Hindu Sena is concerned, the feeling is mutual.

Its celebration featured posters bearing the slogans, "India Loves Trump" and "Trump Our Only Hope".

"One supporter held up a portrait of Trump with a tilak, or religious mark, on his forehead and held a sweet to his mouth," the news story reported, along with photos of birthday cakes with

Trump's name on them.

So why do the world's most oppressed see hope in Donald Trump? Just as he ran a campaign on representing America's forgotten middle-class, the world's most vulnerable also see him as representing them—listening to them. Strange, I know. Or maybe not so strange.

Perhaps America's privileged college liberals can stop crying for a moment long enough to listen themselves.



Hindus celebrate Trump victory with a birthday cake

## newsbriefs

### Canadian court: Law Society must accept Christians

(WNS)--The Law Society of British Columbia must recognize Trinity Western University's (TWU) future law school graduates, according to a unanimous opinion the British Columbia (B.C.) Court of Appeals issued Nov. 1. "The TWU community has a right to hold and act on its beliefs, absent evidence of actual harm," a five-judge panel wrote. "To do so is an expression of its right to freedom of religion." The decision is the latest chapter in TWU's years-long battle to open Canada's first Christian law school. In December 2013 the provincial law society approved the university's plans, but a 2014 members referendum revoked it over concerns that the TWU community covenant—which holds students to orthodox Christian behavioral standards, including heterosexual marriage—is discriminatory. The B.C. appeals court ruled Law Society that discriminated.

### Danger follows Christian refugees to Germany

(WNS)--The situation of Christian refugees in German shelters is "unbearable" according to an updated report released in October and co-authored by Open Doors Germany. The report documents 743 cases of discrimination, death threats, and physical



assaults against Christians by Muslim refugees between February and May of this year and claims the findings are only "the tip of the iceberg." The study also highlights the challenges of reporting about religiously motivated attacks. European politicians have cultivated a climate with two extremes: Much of the political and media establishment ignores or whitewashes attacks carried out by Muslim refugees under the guise of political correctness, while the far-right wants to exploit the statistics for its own political gain. Open Doors said those risks should not lead to silence: "The human right of religious freedom and protection of victims in a country like Germany—that is a constant admonisher of human rights abuses on an international scale—should not be sacrificed for political objectives or the interests of individual groups."

### Euthanasia advocates celebrate victory in Colorado

(WNS)--Coloradans voted to legalize physician-assisted suicide on Nov. 8, a decision critics call a "dangerous step for Colorado's medically and socially vulnerable citizens." Nearly 65 percent of voters said "yes" to the measure with almost all votes counted the next morning. The controversial initiative will allow terminally ill adults with six months or less to live the right to access a physician-prescribed lethal drug. Colorado joins Oregon, California, Montana, Vermont, and Washington in legalizing assisted suicide. All six states modeled their measures after Oregon's Death with Dignity Act, passed in 1997.

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.



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## Readers share special memories

### CELEBRATING A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS AT HOME

By Zeta Davidson

Little did I know in 1975 the impact attending a “Celebrating a Christian Christmas At Home” coffee would have on all our family’s Christmases to follow. Since then, planning activities and decorating for the holidays are focused. No, we are not fanatics. Pure joy has been ours to hunt and find Christ-honoring ways to celebrate the Savior’s birth. In those early days, when our children were small, their father and I were intentional in conversations. When our young son, Jay, exclaimed, “What pretty lights,” we explained the very first Christmas decoration was a star shining brightly over the manger.

Our daughter, Paige, remembers only when we tell her, “You were baby Jesus in our home drama in the manger scene with friends and their children.”

Now, a generation later, the grandchildren have grown up knowing that lighting an Advent wreath, reading verses from Isaiah, Matthew and Luke, plus sharing how we might have felt if we were a shepherd or angel on that long ago night are part of Christmas at grandparents’ house.

Another delight and blessing has been searching for Christian motifs to use in decorating. Our first nativity scene—ceramic—had been a craft project done by elderly at a local nursing home. At our house we love snowmen, reindeer and Santa Claus; however, you simply won’t find them as you go from room to room. You will find a collection of manger scenes, a Scripture tree, and a missions memory tree. The Scripture tree is the result of each family member identifying six favorite Bible verses, printing them on small cards then placing them among the branches of a miniature evergreen tree. The missions’ tree? Trinkets from missions we’ve supported and photos of missionaries we know have become the ornaments—our way of remembering.

So it has been and will again be in 2016—“Celebrating a Christian Christmas” at home is a tradition, a habit and also our goal!



### THE FAMILY GIFT OF A SIMPLIFIED CHRISTMAS

By Dee Chestnut

It happened to me. The year Grinch tried to steal Christmas. We warm-hearted people in Whoville are on guard for the conspicuous Grinch; that grumpy, cave-dwelling creature with a heart “two sizes too small.”

On this particular year the Grinch’s masterful plan evolved around my perfect storm. Seasons of holiday retail work to cover gift costs for a house full of people, while working in education, wasn’t a problem since it was my idea to contribute in this way. But the tedium of store holiday music, crowds, conspicuous consumption, theft, mess at shift’s end, driving home in dark, working weekends and doing my best NOT to push opening store credit onto customers crept up on me.

Putting so much emphasis on giving perfect gifts, gift exchanges at work, office parties, white elephant gifts, ugly Christmas sweaters and event dressing, exchanging baked goods with neighbors, church activities, juggling calendars to schedule family visits, baking, meal prep, added grocery expense, housekeeping and monitoring checking account balance carefully took its toll.

Mandatory exposure to extended family who were Grinches in training; Last Straw

Digging heels in, I declared I wasn’t celebrating Christmas. That felt great. Then I pulled my emotional resources together and declared I’d change the holiday game instead. Minimize and give practical gifts. Be selective regarding people and their energy. Know thyself. Decompress. Allow myself to be less involved. Spend less time in the kitchen. Meditate. Pray.

On Christmas Day we packed one door wreath, kettle of chili, cornbread, Frito bag, brownies and one, wrapped gift for each child. After driving forty-five minutes to a modest cabin in the woods, my family tried to warm up with a chili feast. Waiting for cabin to get toasty, we walked through the woods, laughed, tumbled down hills, listened for wildlife and synchronized both chilled air and sunshine on faces.

Returning to hot chocolate in a warm cabin wrapped up our family gift of a simplified Christmas. Soon we evacuated the cabin and drove home slowly. Turning to my husband I slowly said, “Best... Christmas... Ever!”



### MOM’S LAST CHRISTMAS GIFT

By Dave Gordon

Sacrifice is an attribute of the single-mom. So it was for Nellie Mae, an unmarried, 39-year old professional woman, expecting her first child. In the mid-1960’s, there was nowhere to hide.

After Davey arrived, Nellie Mae only had her aging mother and a couple of close friends to help out. So, she made the choice to give up her career and focus on raising her son.

Dedication was Nellie Mae’s plan as she invested all of her limited

# Remember the true reason for the season

What’s Christmas without the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ? He is the true meaning behind the reason we celebrate this special occasion. Now you can read the biblical account yourself.

### The Birth of Jesus Foretold

In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a village in Galilee, to a virgin named Mary. She was engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of King David. Gabriel appeared to her and said, “Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you!”

Confused and disturbed, Mary tried to think what the angel could mean. Don’t be frightened, Mary,” the angel told her, “for God has decided to bless you! You will become pregnant and have a son, and you are to name him Jesus. He will be very great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. And he will reign over Israel forever; his Kingdom will never end!”

Mary asked the angel, “But how can I have a baby? I am a virgin.”

The angel replied, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the baby born to you will be holy, and he will be called the Son of God. What’s more, your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age! People used to say she was barren, but she’s already in her sixth month. For nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary responded, “I am the Lord’s servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true.” And then the angel left.

### Mary Visits Elizabeth

A few days later Mary hurried to the hill country of Judea, to the town where Zechariah lived. She entered the house and greeted Elizabeth. At the sound of Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth’s child leaped within her, filling with the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth gave a glad cry and exclaimed to Mary, “You are blessed by God above all other women, and your child is blessed. What an honor this is, that the mother of my Lord should visit me! When you came in and greeted me, my baby jumped for joy the instant I heard your voice! You are blessed, because you believed that the Lord would do what he said.”

### The Magnificat: Mary’s Song of Praise

Mary responded, “Oh, how I praise the Lord. How I rejoice in God my Savior! For he took notice of his lowly servant girl, And now generation after generation Will call me blessed. For he, the Mighty One, is holy, And he has done great things for me. His mercy goes on from generation to generation, To all who fear him. His mighty arm does tremendous things! How he scatters the proud and haughty ones! He has taken princes

from their thrones and exalted the lowly. He has satisfied the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands. And how he has helped his servant Israel! He has not forgotten his promise to be merciful. For he promised our ancestors — Abraham and his children — to be merciful to them forever.”

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back to her own home.

### The Birth of Jesus

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David’s ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, his fiancée, who was obviously pregnant by this time.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her first child, a son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the village inn.

### The Shepherds and Angels

That night some shepherds were in the fields outside the village, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terribly frightened, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news of great joy for everyone! The Savior — yes, the Messiah, the Lord — has been born tonight in Bethlehem, the city of David! And this is how you will recognize him: You will find a baby lying in a manger, wrapped snugly in strips of

cloth!”

Suddenly, the angel was joined by a vast host of others praising God:

“Glory to God in the highest heaven, And peace on earth to all whom God favors.”

When the angels had returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Come on, let’s go to Bethlehem!” Let’s see this wonderful thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

They ran to the village and found Mary and Joseph. And there was the baby, lying in the manger. Then the shepherds told everyone what had happened and what the angel had said to them about this child. All who heard the shepherds’ story were astonished, but Mary quietly treasured these things in her heart and thought about them often. The shepherds went back to their fields and flocks, glorifying and praising God for what the angels had told them, and because they had seen the child, just as the angel had said.

### Jesus is Presented in the Temple

Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.

Then it was time for the purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. The law of the Lord says, “If a woman’s first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord.” So they offered a sacrifice according to what was required in the law of the Lord.

When Jesus’ parents had fulfilled all the requirements of the law of the Lord, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom beyond his years, and God placed his special favor upon him.

—Taken from The Book, Luke chapters 1:26-2:40.



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# Celebrate the joy of Christmas during trying times

Christmas still comes when we don't feel like celebrating, and that may be the best part

by **Jenny Rapson**

I am a girl who loves Christmas. I love the day, I love the season, I love reveling in the wonder that God's Son came to earth to save us as a tiny baby. My third child was born on December 17, and when I cuddled him as a newborn, it made Christmas extra-special. I tried to imagine Mary cuddling and nursing her newborn child and trying to wrap her mind around the fact that this tiny baby whose life for nine months had totally depended on her would now be saving her. And all of us. The Messiah as a swaddled babe! Incredible.

I have never had a Christmas season that was not filled with joy. But I know, as life twists and turns, that one day there may come a December when I don't feel like celebrating. Where life will be hard. Where I will be in such turmoil that Christmas lights and tinsel might seem

like an assault to my very being.

I've never celebrated such a Christmas. But I know someone who has.

Seven years ago, my sister-in-law's father was diagnosed with leukemia on December 5. It was a "do-not-pass-go, head directly to the hospital to start chemotherapy" deal. By the time Christmas came along, he had been close to death several times. His family had said their goodbyes once even ... but he hung on. For our whole extended family, it was hard to feel exultant joy that Christmas. My niece who was nine at the time, wrote "Please, Jesus Please" on the chalkboard in my parents' home. My mother left it there for years, that sweet plea of a child to her Savior. It was a Christmas of intercession more than anything else.

Christmas evening that year, I arrived home weary after our multiple family Christmas celebrations. We had a wonderful day, but we were all "Christmased out."

Then I sat down at the computer and read these words from my sister-in-law's mother. They are words I will never, ever forget.

She wrote:

"Our family Christmases have always been filled with traditions. That is not a bad thing. It helps bind families together.

This year all the traditions that were so important have been set aside. Nothing is the same. And yet, Christmas came. Quoting from Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, "It came without ribbons. It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags! He hadn't stopped Christmas from coming. It came! Somehow or other it came just the same."

We know the reason it came is because of God's indescribable gift to us. Jesus left the glory of heaven to come as a baby in a manger. His every physical need had to be cared for by another. What humility! He came to go through the ugliness of death on the cross so that we can have life everlasting.

We understand a little more this year about what Jesus did for us. Jerry's physical needs have to be met by others. It is

humbling. We have seen physical death all around us in the Marrow and Blood unit at the hospital. It is ugly! All of which makes the birth and death of Jesus more dear to us as we focus on the hope (certainty) of heaven.

We are rejoicing with you this day that Christmas is so much more than what we usually make it. It really is all about Jesus, God's indescribable gift to each of us."

Christmas is so much more than we usually make of it.

We make it about presents and lights and amazing Pinterest creations.

But it is about Jesus, God's indescribable gift to each of us.

Maybe this year you are experiencing a trial at Christmas. Maybe you have lost a loved one, or are yourself fighting for your life. Maybe one of your children or your spouse has broken your heart.

My friends, what I learned from my sister-in-law's courageous family is this: It is the trying and devastating times in our lives that make Christmas all the more joyful, beautiful and wondrous.

Because of Christmas, all those trials



will work together for good. Because of Christmas, we will one day be in a place where none of earth's ill can befall us. Because of Christmas, what's broken can be made whole.

Because of Christmas, we are blessed when we mourn! This is the good news we can cling to in the midst of trials ... even when we are covered in tears at the foot of our Christmas tree.

— By Jenny Rapson

## Why I'm not waiting to celebrate Christmas this year

by **Rachel Dawson**

I've always been a strict "no Christmas until after Thanksgiving" kind of person. Maybe it's because Thanksgiving is my favorite holiday, or because I love the fall and don't want to rush it, but I've just never wanted Christmas to creep into November. This year, however, was different.

It's been a hard few months, and I've found myself turning on Christmas music on the days when I just needed a little extra cheer. I've wandered into the Christmas sections of stores (which went up right after Halloween...) and even

picked up a few things to get a head start on decorating.

I've found myself craving Christmas.

"I don't want to wait to celebrate the Joy to the world," Stephanie Bryant, (in)courage writer, said in her recent article "Permission to Celebrate Christmas Early This Year." I don't want to wait this year either. It feels like our weary world needs a reason to rejoice. We need a thrill of hope. We need to be reminded that our soul only finds its worth when Jesus appears. We need to daily celebrate that holy night that Christ was born, because that night changes everything for us today.

"I'm not going to hold Christmas back to its spot on the calendar post-Thanksgiving," Bryant writes. "Instead, I'm flinging the door open wide to our hearts and home for Christ and His coming. There will be room here. Christmas isn't a 25-day countdown, but an adventure in celebrating that gives this divine moment the time and attention it deserves."

Every year, I look forward to the Advent season that paves the way to Christmas. It always feels like I need to slow down this time of year and really reflect on the gift that Jesus coming to earth is for me as a believer, and intention-

ally moving through Advent helps me do that. While as a kid, it was fun to break open a new square on the calendar every day to get to the treat inside, I now find that Advent really is an adventure in celebrating Christ daily and giving him my time and attention.

While I'm still trying to intentionally practice gratitude every day (which feels especially relevant as Thanksgiving nears), I'm also daily celebrating the divine moments as Christmas draws close.

"I'm extending the time I have to refocus on that holy night and giving thanks right in middle for all the goodness God is and brings to my life," Bryant says.

"Grace to savor as long as I need to. I want to encourage you to not dread this advent season but enjoy the beautiful adventure leading to THE miraculous day. Whether that's starting in November or December."

The holidays can often rush by in a hurry, and we can easily get distracted by all of the hustle and bustle, but I want to better carve out time to spend celebrating my Savior in this season.

This year, I'm not waiting to celebrate the true Joy of our world. I'm not waiting to think about that holy night when Christ was born-- I'm going to daily enjoy this glorious season both of gratitude and celebration, starting now.

## Celebrate the holidays with 24 days of Christmas fun

by **Stephanie L. Boothe**

Christmas with little ones is always an exciting time. There are Christmas lists and Santa visits and more Christmas dinners than should be humanly possible to eat. With a brand new baby and 6-year-old, my husband and I are just starting getting started on our own Christmas traditions.

We want to be careful with teaching our children the reasons we celebrate Christmas and how our church celebrates the message of Christmas all year -- not just December 25. We want to

make sure our daughter and our son understand that Christmas is not just about the presents under the tree. It's a time to celebrate family and a way for us to share our many blessings with those less fortunate.

We have a calendar that counts down the days to Christmas, which our daughter eagerly changes every day beginning Dec. 1.

We also do the elf on a shelf. Seeing her face light up each morning as she sees what her silly elf, Sprinkle Heart, did the night before has provided us with so many memories.

We've also done a new book each day, but her book shelf is bursting at the seams.

This year I wanted to do something more involved. Something more family oriented. Something that encourages us to turn off the television and do things as a family.

So I devised a plan, broke out the construction paper and popsicle sticks and created a Christmas activities calendar -- 24 days of Christmas activities. Each day, she will pull the popsicle stick with the right date on it, unfold the activity. We'll do the activity as a family and hopefully create some "core memories."

Here are the activities we came up with. Some of them are a little less involved -- particularly on days that she has a school or sporting event. And, this is only a fraction of the activities we have planned this year. Taking in the Christmas lights and productions will pop up too.

First and foremost, we'll include a daily Bible verse -- focusing on doing for the others and Jesus, the greatest gift of all.

**Operation Christmas Child** -- Prepare a shoebox to donate to children in need. We deeply want our children to understand how important it is to give back. This is a great opportunity to teach her about children who feel real needs.

**Popcorn Garland** -- Make garland for one of the trees out of popcorn. This was an activity I remember doing with my mom and something I think my daughter will love doing as she sneaks a few kernels here and there.

**Christmas Crafts** -- We have about 10 days of various Christmas crafts. Everything from ornaments to homemade gifts and our own wrapping paper.

**Random Act of Kindness** -- My daughter will get to do something nice for someone she doesn't know. We'll lay out the parameters for her while teaching her again that we should always seek to do for others.

**Christmas Karaoke** -- My husband and I love Christmas music and will listen to it in our cars for weeks. So a night of singing Christmas songs is right up our alley.

**Red and Green Dinner** -- Our supper

this night will be all red and green foods -- on our red dishes.

**Scavenger Hunt** -- Our kids will have a list of Christmas-oriented items to find.

**Sleepover under the tree** -- Our daughter loves camping out in the living room, but this one will include the twinkling of the Christmas tree lights.

**Gingerbread House** -- We'll get a kit to make our traditional gingerbread house.

**Hot Cocoa for Breakfast** -- Our daughter loves hot chocolate and will be over the moon at the prospect of having it for breakfast.

**Pet Treats** -- Our pets are important members of our family, so we'll make treats to put in their stockings.

**Cookies** -- Baking is an important part of Christmas, and we always have fun making cookies

**Christmas Memories** -- Each of our Christmas activities will be in a box that on Christmas Eve we will fill with our new memories. Each of us will write our favorite memory from the holiday season so we can revisit them in years to come as we add more each year.

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# Holiday Memories, Events, & Gift Ideas!

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

### Get a souvenir!

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



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

### When you need a break...

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



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

### Diamonds are Forever

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

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go



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

### One of a kind

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



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



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

**FIRST FRIDAYS ART WALK** – Dec. 2. Various locations Downtown and in NOTO arts district. Enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and treats.

**COOKIE WALK** – Dec. 2, 5 - 8 pm, Downtown Topeka, part of First Friday Art Walk

**GOD GETS THE GLORY LITURGICAL DANCE CONCERT** - Dec. 2, 8pm. Topeka Performing Arts Museum. Free will donations accepted.

**FREE CHRISTMAS DANCE CONCERT** - Dec. 2, 8 pm, TPAC. Free concert of Liturgical dance. The beauty of movement to contemporary Christian music lifts & encourages all ages for a joyous holiday. Barbara's Conservatory of Dance.

**A CLASSIC ROCK CHRISTMAS** - Dec. 3, 8pm, TPAC. Classic carols in the style of your favorite classic rock bands performed by some of

the top classic rock musicians of all time. Fun for the entire family. 785-234-2787

**TOPEKA WINTERFEST** - Dec. 3, 10-3, Downtown Topeka. Have a family photo with live reindeer before visiting local shops & vendors. Take a horse-drawn carriage ride for \$1 then sip some cider as you chat with Tiny Tim & other favorite characters. Free adm. Info at [bit.ly/2fadyfo](http://bit.ly/2fadyfo)



Topeka. Dinner, readings, and a concert. Tickets and information: [greatspaces.org](http://greatspaces.org)

**THE NUTCRACKER - PRESENTED BY KANSAS BALLET** - Dec. 9: 8pm; Dec. 10: 2pm & 8pm; Dec. 11: 2pm, TPAC. Tickets available through TPAC, Ticketmaster or at Barbara's Conservatory of Dance. Featuring a Live Choir and the Topeka Symphony Orchestra

**HEARTSTRINGS BALLROOM DANCE** - Dec. 16, 7 to 10 pm, 6th Avenue Ballroom, 117 SW 6th Ave. Couples \$30; singles \$15. Free for members of the dance club. 215-6615



**CHRISTMAS WITH CANTUS** - Dec. 4, 3-5pm. Grace Cathedral



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*Celebrate the Holidays in North Topeka!*

**Christmas is Special in North Topeka!**

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

All the stores are decorated for the holidays, Christmas lights are on, and many of the shops are open extended hours. The holiday spirit is in the air!

Here are just a few of the special events going on in December:

WINTER CRAFT FAIR - Dec. 2-3, 9-3pm. The Cottages of Topeka Clubhouse.

SANTA ARRIVES ON UNION PACIFIC TRAIN - Dec. 4, 1-3pm, Great Overland Station, 701 North Kansas Avenue. Children can explore the station, ride the mini handcar, have fun balloon twisting, face painting, make a special holiday craft, sing Christmas carols and have their



photo taken with Santa. 785-232-5533

THE GIVING TREE - Dec. 7, 8am-5pm. Mother Teresa Catholic Church.

Coordinated by the MTCC Youth Group, an opportunity to support those who will be celebrating Christmas at the Topeka Rescue Mission and Hands of Hope this year. Each item will benefit an individual in need. Take one or more

ornaments from the tree and return the unwrapped item to the Giving Tree on or before December 7th

NORTH STAR CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATRE - Dec. 11, 6pm. North Star Steakhouse. \$40. For info and reservations: 354-8880

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



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# the events calendar

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

## CONCERTS

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

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

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

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE WRIGHTS** - Dec. 4, 10:45am, Oakland Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland St. 289-8905. [thewrightsmministries.com](mailto:thewrightsmministries.com)

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE WRIGHTS** - Dec. 4, 7pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church Banquet, 2021 SW 29th St. 289-8905. [thewrightsmministries.com](mailto:thewrightsmministries.com)

**TOPEKA A CAPPELLA UNLIMITED SWEET ADELINE'S SHOW** - Dec. 10, 2pm. Topeka VA Hospital, 21st and Gage, building 24

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE WRIGHTS** - Dec. 10, 7pm, Christ Comm. Church, 1100 Kasold Dr., Lawrence. 289-8905. [thewrightsmministries.com](mailto:thewrightsmministries.com)

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM** - every Mon., Wed., &

Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or [office@rhctopeka.org](mailto:office@rhctopeka.org)

**SHOE DRIVE** - Faith Temple Church's Hospitality Committee is doing an on-going shoe drive to raise money for a remodeling project within the church, and partnering with Funds2Orgs. Donated shoes will be redistributed throughout the Funds2Orgs network of partners in developing nations, such as Haiti, Honduras and other nations in Central America. Funds2Orgs will in turn help impoverished people to start and maintain businesses. The shoes can be brought to the church or a "free pickup!" The shoes can be for men, women or children. For info contact Cookie Johnson at 785-640-4165, or [jassieone55@gmail.com](mailto:jassieone55@gmail.com)

**FIRST FRIDAY EXPLOSION!** - Dec. 2, 7pm, 1162 SW Lincoln St., Faith Temple Church (Corners of Lincoln & Munson Streets). Old School Holiness being brought back to the church! There will be testimony service, choirs; good old Holy Ghost Preaching and Teaching, all wrapped up in Praise and Worship of our Lord, where JESUS IS THE MAIN ATTRACTION! Pastor R. K. Lassiter, Jr., and First Lady Chantel Lassiter will be the featured speakers.

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & LUNCHEON** - Dec. 3, 9-1pm. Crestview United Methodist Church, 2245 SW Eveningside Dr. Chili or soup and a sandwich. \$7 per meal. Cookies and candy \$7 per pound. Crafts, silent auction, and theme baskets.

**CHRISTMAS DINNER** - Dec. 3, 5-10pm. Mother Teresa Catholic Church. Must register in advance, and only 2 spots are still available! To register: 246-0207

**CHRISTMAS WITH CANTUS** - Dec. 4, 3-5pm. Grace Cathedral Topeka. Dinner, readings, and a concert. Tickets and information: [greatspaces.org](http://greatspaces.org)

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY LOL CHRISTMAS** - Dec. 5-6, 6-10:30pm. Two locations: Mulvane Auditorium(live) and College Auditorium(simulcast). Tickets are free but must be picked up in advance.

**COMMUNITY DINNER** - Dec. 7, 5 - 6:30pm, Tecumseh United Methodist Church. Lasagna, salad, vegetable, dessert and drink. Free will donation

**ANNUAL COOKIE WALK** - Dec. 10, 8 am to noon, Wanamaker Woods Nazarene Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. \$6 per pound. Proceeds support missions. For info: 273-2248

**ANGELIC CHRISTMAS SWEET SHOPPE & CRAFTS** - Dec. 10, 9am-3pm, Highland Park UMC, 2914 S.E. Michigan. Cookies by the pound, Candy/Crafts. Purchase your baked items and gifts for the holiday. Contact: Donna Beaver at [dmbeaver@swbell.net](mailto:dmbeaver@swbell.net)

**GERMAN LANGUAGE CHRISTMAS SERVICE** - Dec. 11, 4pm. First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins. Authentic German dinner to follow at 5pm. \$10 in advance, \$12 at door. Children under 12 are half price. For info: 233-1786

**DRIVE-THRU LIVING NATIVITY** - Dec. 11, 5 to 7pm, First Lutheran Church, 1234 S.W. Fairlawn. (785) 272-5302, [1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1stlutherantopeka@sbcglobal.net)

**QUARTER MANIA** - Dec. 13, 7pm, Potwin Presbyterian Church, 400 SW Washburn Ave. Quarter Mania is a cross between an auction and BINGO where people "bid" to win a product/prize of brand new goods donated from various home business vendors participating in the event. Bids on these new items are from 1 to 4 quarters. So Don't Forget to Bring Your Roll of Quarters.

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM** - Dec. 15, 10:30am. Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N Kansas Ave. For info: 286-0467

**LHCT CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AND SILENT AUCTION** - Dec. 16, 10:30-2. Lowman United Methodist Church, 4101 SW 15th St.

**AN EVENING OF HOLIDAY CHEER** - Dec. 16, 7-9 pm, First Lutheran Church, 1234 SW Fairlawn. Cole Bellamy, Kolby Van Camp, & Samantha Williams. Free Adm. Non-perishable food items will be collected on behalf of Harvesters Community Food Network

**LASER TAG** - Dec. 17, 3pm, Antioch Family Life Center, 1921 SE Indiana. Play some laser tag during Christmas Break. Bring your friends & family for a totally different way to play laser tag - no vests, multiple game styles. \$7.50 each

**JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM DRIVE THRU INTERACTIVE NATIVITY SCENE** - Dec 17-18, 6-8pm, Meriden Threshing Bee Grounds Northeast of Meriden on Hwy 4. A drive thru progressive and interactive Nativity Scene put on by Jefferson Assembly of God of Meriden. (785) 484-1010; [jagfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:jagfellowship@gmail.com)

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** - Dec. 18 & 25, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. . On the 18th - children's Christmas program at 10:30 am. and on Christmas Day a special service at 10:00 am. For info call 286.0467.

**ADORE: CHRISTMAS NIGHT OF WORSHIP** - Dec. 18, 5pm & 7pm. Topeka Bible Church, Mulvane Auditorium. Tickets must be picked up in advance.

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** - Dec. 24, at 5pm, 7pm & 10pm, Prince of Peace Lutheran, 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd. 785-271-0808

**CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE** - Dec. 24, 6-7pm. CrossRoads Wesleyan Church, 2121 SW Harrison.

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** - Dec. 24, 3pm(Mulvane), 4pm(College), 5pm(Mulvane), 6pm(College) and Dec. 25, 10am(Mulvane). Topeka Bible Church.

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP SERVICE** - Dec. 24, 5pm. Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame Rd. With communion. For info: 266-6263

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES** - Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd.

Sat, Dec 24, 2016 2:30p

Christmas Eve Traditional Service w/Communion

Sat, Dec 24, 2016 4:00p

Christmas Eve Contemporary Service w/Communion

Sun, Dec 25, 2016 11:00a - 12:00p

11:00 AM Christmas Day Worship Service

For info: 286-1204

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** - Dec. 24, 4 PM Family Pageant Service, and 11 PM Candlelight Service. Christmas Day service begins at 10:30 AM on Sunday. We invite everyone to bring their pets! First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins. 785-233-1786

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS** - Dec. 1 at 1pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all of its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare as well as those considering making a change during open enrollment. Seminars are free & open to the public, and will be held at Century Health Solutions, a division of Stormont-Vail Healthcare, 2951 SW Woodside Dr. For info: 233-1816 or [info@century-health.com](mailto:info@century-health.com). Light snacks & beverages provided.

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

**MEDICARE MONDAYS** - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or [rhnl@tsccp.org](mailto:rhnl@tsccp.org)

**WOW - WORKIN' OUT ON WEDNESDAYS** - 5:30 pm every Wed., south steps of the Capitol building. Free, fun and family-friendly. A combination of aerobic & strength training exercises, coupled with a fun line dance to end each experience. [www.makinmoves.com](http://www.makinmoves.com)

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FESTIVAL OF TREES** - Dec. 1-2, 9am-4pm, Dec. 3, 8am-4pm; Dec. 4, 11am-3pm, Ag Hall. Features trees & wreaths beautifully decorated by talented designers. Enjoy performers from local schools and groups. Holiday décor and gifts for sale. Tickets \$5, seniors \$3, 12 & under free. 233-2566.

**GOD GETS THE GLORY LITURGICAL DANCE CONCERT** - Dec. 2, 8pm. Topeka Performing Arts Museum. Free will donations accepted.

**BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD TOUR** - Dec. 3, 7-10pm. White Concert Hall, Washburn University. Tickets: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/behold-the-lamb-of-god-tour-tickets-26485731536%20t%20lank>

**WINTER CRAFT FAIR** - Dec. 2-3, 9-3pm. The Cottages of Topeka Clubhouse.

**FREE CHRISTMAS DANCE CONCERT** - Dec. 2, 8 pm, TPAC. Free concert of Liturgical dance. The beauty of movement to contemporary Christian music lifts & encourages all ages for a joyous holiday. Barbara's Conservatory of Dance.

**COOKIE WALK** - Dec. 2, 5 - 8 pm, Downtown Topeka, part of First Friday Art Walk

**WINTER CRAFT FAIR** - Dec. 2-3, 9-3pm. The Cottages of Topeka Clubhouse.

**3RD ANNUAL BRYSON'S BATTLE BOWLING TOURNAMENT & SILENT AUCTION** - Dec. 3, 1 pm, Gage Bowl, 4200 SW Huntoon. \$20 a person or \$80 for a team of 4.

**3RD ANNUAL SWEET SHOP AND CRAFT SHOW** - Dec. 3, 8am-2pm, Mater Dei School in the gym, 10th & Clay. Breakfast served 8:30-10:30am: biscuits & gravy, donuts, coffee, juice & milk. Santa will be there 9-10:30am! Lunch served 11am-1:30pm: burritos hot dogs, chili dogs, chili & nachos. 8th grade class will be holding a craft shop for the little ones as well - donations accepted. All sweets sold at \$6/lb.

**36TH ANNUAL KARATE SPECTACULAR** - Dec. 3, 9am - 3pm, Central Park Community Ctr, 1534 SW Clay. Tots (7 years & under) Mini Pee Wee (8-9years old) Pee Wee (10-11years old) Junior (12-13years old) Teen (14-16 years old) Adults (17 years & over) Lightweight (Lt) is 165 pounds & under; Heavyweight (Hvy) is 166 pounds & over. 785-251-2965

**CRITTER CARE SANTA PICTURES** - Dec. 3, 10-5; Dec. 4, 1-4, Fairlawn Plaza. Bring your dog, your cat, your kids... climb in the big red sleigh with Santa Claus for a visit or a \$5 photo! Such fun to watch... and proceeds go to fund low-cost spay and neuter services for animals through Critter Care.

**A CLASSIC ROCK CHRISTMAS** - Dec. 3, 8pm, TPAC. Classic carols in the style of your favorite classic rock bands performed by some of the top classic rock musicians of all time. Fun for the entire family. 785-234-2787

**KANSAS PRAIRIE QUILT SHOW** - Dec. 3, Oskaloosa Middle School, Oskaloosa, Ks. Kansas Prairie Quilt Club show in conjunction with a holiday open house & craft show. In addition "Not a creature was stirring" is an opportunity quilt that will be given away that day. Show is free and chances on the quilt are available @ the door. 785-331-7017.

**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight  
Service**

First Southern Baptist Church  
1912 SW Gage Blvd, Topeka, KS 66604  
785-272-0443 | [fsbctopeka.org](http://fsbctopeka.org)

**4:30 pm**

**Ride w/ Roger Show!**  
Monday-Friday 7:00-9:00am

KFGB 97.7 FM  
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Local  
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**C5Alive** Developing and Uniting  
Christian Leadership

• Business • Non-profits • Churches

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

**C5Alive POWER Luncheons - (2nd Thur. ea. mo.)**

**Dec 8, 11:30-1 -- "Christmas Luncheon"**  
at Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr. Public is welcome! • Christmas music, fun & games!  
Music & devotion by Mitch Langley!  
Great food and our most fun luncheon of the year!  
RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or call Lee at 785-640-6399

Save the Dates!  
• Jan. 12, 11:30-1, Details to be announced.  
• Feb. 9, 11:30-1, Details to be announced.

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/C5Alive](https://www.facebook.com/C5Alive)  
For info: [www.C5Alive.org](http://www.C5Alive.org) or [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org)





**Red Stocking Breakfast**  
**Dec. 10, 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.**  
**Carlos O'Kelly's Mexican Cafe**

**ADOPTION EVENT AT BRIGGS SUBARU** - Dec. 3, 10am-1pm. Join Helping Hands Humane Society & celebrate the Share the Love campaign. The HHHS Mobile Adoption Unit will be there with adoptable pets looking for a new home in time for the holiday season. If you purchase or lease a new Subaru now through Jan. 3, you can have \$275 donated to HHHS!

**TOPEKA WINTERFEST** - Dec. 3, 10-3, Downtown Topeka. Have a family photo with live reindeer before visiting local shops & vendors. Take a horse-drawn carriage ride for \$1 then sip some cider as you chat with Tiny Tim & other favorite characters. Free adm. Info at bit.ly/2fadyfo

**KIDS IN THE KITCHEN: HOLIDAY TREATS** - Dec. 3, 11am-12:30pm and 3-4:30pm, Hy-Vee. Deadline to register: Dec. 2. Join your Hy-Vee dietitian for this hands-on cooking event. You will get to make and eat Santa Sandwiches, Banana Snowmen, Mini Bagel Vegetable Ornaments, Rudolph Energy Bites, and you will get to decorate your own Gingerbread Man. Plus, you will get to make a Hot Cocoa Gift jar to take home and give to someone special! Earn an "I Tried It!" sticker by sampling everything we prepare. Recommended age range is 4-11 years old. Tickets are only needed for the child. Adults are welcome to stay & help their child.

**OLD FASHION CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR AND BAKE SALE** - Dec. 3, 9-3pm. Crestview Community Center, 4801 SW Shunga Dr. For info: 251-2960

**CHRISTMAS IN CARBONDALE** - Dec. 4, 11am-5pm, downtown Carbondale. Vendors, lunch, Santa, Library open house and more!

**SELF-DEFENSE FOR WOMEN** - Dec. 6, 6-7:30pm. BG Academy of Martial Arts, 6500 SW 26th Ct. Hands-on self-defense class for women. \$10. Ages 13 and up.

**RMHC ANNUAL COOKIE WALK** - Dec. 6, 8-Noon; Dec 9, 9am-5pm, Ronald McDonald House Charities, 825 SW Buchanan. Cookie Walk & Confectionery Delights sale. Homemade cookies & candies \$5/dozen. Specialty cookies, cupcakes, cakes, pies & breads individually priced. Donated items can be baked off-site and dropped off at the Ronald McDonald House. All proceeds support keeping families close to their hospitalized children! For info or to donate baked goods, contact Mindee Reece at mindee@rmhctopeka.org or 785-235-6852.

**HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE** - Dec. 6, 4-6pm, Mulvane Art Museum. Check out the Museum Open House, plus hors d'oeuvres & hot apple cider!

**THE GIVING TREE** - Dec. 7, 8am-5pm. Mother Teresa Catholic Church. Coordinated by the MTCC Youth Group, an opportunity to support those who will be celebrating Christmas at the Topeka Rescue Mission and Hands of Hope this year. Each item will benefit an individual in need. Take one or more ornaments from the tree and return the unwrapped item to the Giving Tree on or before December 7th

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** - Dec. 7, 7-8pm. White Concert Hall, Washburn University.

**NIGHT OUT SHOPPING SPREE** - Dec. 8, 5-9 pm at the Auburn Civic Center. Featuring home-based businesses. Hosted by Auburn Lion's Club.

**TBC LIGHT SHOW** - Dec. 9 - Jan. 1, Topeka Bible Church. A free live performance combining talented singers, musicians and a spectacular light display. Our gift to the Topeka community! Live shows at 6, 7, 8, and 9 PM, Fri.-Sun. 12/9-12/11; automated shows at the same times 12/12 thru 1/1.

**THE NUTCRACKER - PRESENTED BY KANSAS BALLET** - Dec. 9: 8pm; Dec. 10: 2pm & 8pm; Dec. 11: 2pm, TPAC. Tickets available through TPAC, Ticketmaster or at Barbara's Conservatory of Dance. Featuring a Live

Choir and the Topeka Symphony Orchestra  
**RED STOCKING BREAKFAST** - Dec. 10, 7:30-10:30am. Carlos O'Kelly's Mexican Restaurant. \$15 in advance, \$18 at door. Children 10 and under eat free.  
**SWEET ADELINES ACAPPELLA CHRISTMAS** - Dec. 10, 2pm, Colmery O'Neal VA Center Auditorium, 2200 SW Gage Blvd. Sweet Adelines, Topeka Acappella Unlimited presents an Acappella Christmas Celebration. \$15 Adm., \$12 Seniors & Students. Special guests include: Capital City Chorus men's barbershop. For info: 785-286-1946 or www.acappellaunlimited.com

**OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARTY** - Dec. 10, 6-6:30pm, Auburn Community Center. Fun for all ages! Chili cook-off and feed. Suggested donation of a can of food or cash to benefit the Auburn food pantry.

**CANDY CANE HUNT/S'MORES WITH SANTA** - Dec. 10, 5:30-7pm. Crestview Community Center. Children under age 7 welcome. \$7 per family.

**NORTH STAR CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATRE** - Dec. 11, 6pm. North Star Steakhouse. \$40. For info and reservations: 354-8880

**MEMORY TREE COMMUNITY MEMORIAL SERVICES** - Dec. 11 at 11:30am, 1pm, 2:30pm and 4pm at Midland Care, 200 SW Frazier Circle. For grieving families to remember their loved ones. For more info call 785-232-2044 or visit www.midlandcare.org

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH** - Dec. 12, 11am, Perry Community Bldg. Ham & scalloped potatoes. Bring a covered dish to share, your table service and \$1. Entertainment by the PLHS Singers. Christmas cookies & punch follow concert. Health screenings begin at 10:15 am.

**GO RED FOR WOMEN LUNCHEON** - Dec. 13, 10am-1pm, Capitol Plaza Hotel Maner Conference Center, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd. help fight Cardiovascular disease! Tickets \$80. Attire is business casual, red attire encouraged. Silent "Purse-onality" Auction! Plus guests can relax and be pampered in the Diva Lounge and have their photos taken in the Picture and a Promise area before the luncheon presentation which will feature the success stories of the BetterU Challenge women as well as a survivor story. For info or tickets: www.topekagoredforwomen.org or Lance Wilson at 785.228.3435 or Lance.Wilson@heart.org.

**KSDE DRIVE-IN WORKSHOP - HEALTH, BIOMEDICAL & BIOCHEMISTRY** - Dec. 14, 9:00 am. Free Workshop @ Flint Hills Technical College in Emporia, KS for all Health Science, Biomedical and Biochemistry teachers. Lots of networking opportunities and sharing of lessons & projects. https://goo.gl/forms/YNm9YUaAqAA9kn1I

**WOMAN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION MEETING** - Dec. 15 at 1pm, at the home of Frances Wood, 3342 SW Chelsea Circle. The program will be "Christmas Memories." Come, share your memory and view almost 50 nativities. Guests welcome. Info - call 271-9320.

**ANYONE CAN COOK** - Dec. 16, 4-5 pm, Lingo Story Room., Topeka Library. Kids. For anyone who loves to eat but can't cook. Learn to follow a recipe, plan healthy and delicious meals and snacks and explore different styles of cooking. [All ages]

**HEARTSTRINGS BALLROOM DANCE** - Dec. 16, 7 to 10 pm, 6th Avenue Ballroom, 117 SW 6th Ave. Couples \$30; singles \$15. Free for members of the dance club. 215-6615

**HARK! TOPEKA CHRISTMAS SPECTACULAR!** - Dec. 17, 4:30-9:30, Capital Plaza Hotel. Event tickets \$50, or \$75 with wine tasting. For info: 230-0795

**MEETINGS & CLASSES**

**C5Alive "CHRISTMAS" LUNCHEON** - Dec. 8, 11:30-1 at Aldersgate Village. Christmas music, fun & games! Music by Mitch Langley!

• Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who

RSVP, \$12 at the door  
 • \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.

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

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

**SAVE THE DATE:** Jan. 12, 11:30-1, C5Alive "POWER" Luncheon. Details to be announced.

**WOMEN'S CONNECTION "Merry Christmas" LUNCHEON** - Dec. 8, 11am, T&SC Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. \$14 for lunch, no charge for program. Open to all women. RSVPs by Dec. 5 to Ann at 785-554-3617. **SPEAKER:** Andy Vogel, Director of Young life. **MUSIC:** Seaman Show Choir under the direction of Andrew Huff, will share Christmas music. **FEATURE:** Brenda Price with Absolute Design by Brenda will bring beautiful Christmas designs for us to enjoy.

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

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING** - Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee County and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or go to ks.cwfa.org.

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

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

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

**BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPE** - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs kids age 5-18. Register at cornerstonetopeka.com. 478-2929.

**INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA** - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGTopeka.com - go to Event page to see meetings, locations & register

**TIBA NETWORKING GROUP** - 2nd Tues, 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. MUST RSVP: taradimick@gmail.com. Lunch is \$10. www.topekatiaba.org

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

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

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

**THE FIRST PLACE 4 HEALTH PROGRAM** - Mon., 6:30pm or Sat., 8am, Topeka First Assembly, 500 SW 27th St. This program points members to God's strength & creates a compassionate support group that helps members stay accountable in a positive environment & delivers faith-based health & weight management instruction. To join or start a new group, contact Jan Norris, 972-0582 or norris.jan@sbcglobal.net or visit firstplace4health.com.

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

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

**TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB** - 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

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

**OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL** - Every 1st Tues.,

6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthefaithful@gmail.com. Facebook: "Our Lady of the Faithful."

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

**MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES** - Tuesdays Noon -1pm. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study group for Year One of Flo Menninger's course on Four Years through the Bible. Read and discuss Genesis through First Kings. Nominal charge for materials. For info call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache at 785-408-5433.

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

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

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

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

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

**MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB** - 1st Wed., 9am-3pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (east door). Anyone with an Embroidery machine is invited to attend, there are no dues or formal meeting agenda. Lunch is on your own. Teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call 379-5159.

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

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

**CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE** - Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for col-

lege students.

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

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

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

**OPERATION BACKPACK** - 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

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

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

**KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP** - 3rd Thu., 11:30am, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 357-6278 x19.

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

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

**VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS** - Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch

If you want to keep up-to-date on important issues and news from a Christian perspective, concerts & seminars, and uplifting stories & accounts of what others are doing in ministry

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

**BIBLE QUIZZING** – 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun with area Christian youth age 9-19. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. 913-593-6427 or biblequizzing.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT** Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle

Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss

1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm—Ongoing Adult Group

1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age)

For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. For info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

**ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT** – Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. . . we can help mend a broken heart! For info: Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

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

**PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY** – Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

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

**"HEALING HEARTS" support group/Bible study** – For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addictions or have had affairs. Videos & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Jane Goble, 249-0983.

**BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE** – NE Kansas Chapter

(B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

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

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

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

**COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS/BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP** – Meets 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 272-4895

**GRIEF SUPPORT** – Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss:

1st Mon., 5:30-7:30pm, Individual appointments; other times are available. Call Terry Frizzell at (785)230-6730.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

**OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS:**

MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

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

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

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.ia.org.

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

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

**GRANDPARENT/RELATIVE CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** – 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 2nd floor meeting room, St. Francis Hosp., 1700 SW 7th. For info: Sharla, 286-2329; Jennie (English/Spanish) 231-0763.

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

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

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

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

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

**MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP** – Every Wed., 2:30-

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

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

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

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

WED. – 6:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. No Cost. 286-1204, www.northland.cc

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

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

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

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

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

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

## MEMORIES

continued from page 8

resources into giving him a chance. To her, she had no option but to sacrifice the free life of a single-woman and focus every waking hour on caring for her son's wellbeing and potential.

She taught Davey the difference between a need and a want; buying the warm coat he needed – not the more expensive leather jacket he wanted.

She made sure he never missed a sports event; cheering with him for pro-wrestlers, racecar drivers and demolition derbies. If a boy should be there, Nellie Mae made sure Davey was there. She was both Mom and Dad to her son.

So, it only figures that Davey's lasting Christmas memory involves Nellie Mae...my mom.

Mom was getting weaker and weaker. She told me it was the lingering flu. The phone can hide the truth when you live a thousand miles apart. A September 25th call from her neighbor revealed she was gone.

Growing up, Christmas was a small but, extraordinarily special time. Mom made it that way. So, I wanted the same for my family. I wanted to be the kind of Dad my Mom was.

That first Christmas without Mom was hard. It was before our boys were born, so Kerry and I were with her family in Indiana. Gifts had been opened, hugs and laughs had been shared, when Kerry said, "there's one more present."

As she passed it to me, I could tell it had been wrapped with care. Kerry shared how she found it hanging in Mom's closet – still wrapped in the department store bag. She knew it was for Davey.

Inside was a leather jacket. Three months after leaving, in a room full of tears of joy, I received my Mom's last Christmas gift. No longer a want – in my heart, that special jacket was a need.

# Target sales decline as sex crimes increase in stores

Transgender Bathroom Policy Leads to 10 Crimes Targeting Girls

As the year's busiest shopping season begins, the American Family Association has compiled a list of 10 cases to showcase why Target's bathroom policies that allow male customers who identify as female to go into women's bathrooms and dressing rooms is a threat to women and children.

"The overwhelming evidence continues to pile up against Target's policy to allow men into women's restrooms and dressing rooms in its stores," AFA President Tim Wildmon wrote in November..

Target has defended its decision by stating: "We welcome transgender team members and guests to use the restroom or fitting room facility that corresponds with their gender identity. ... Everyone deserves to feel like they belong."

But Wildmon argued that what this means is that a man can simply state that he feels like a woman on any given day, and go in to use the women's restroom.

"Target's policy is exactly how sexual predators get access to their victims. And the proof keeps mounting," he said.

"Clearly, Target's dangerous policy poses a threat to wives and daughters. Over 1.4 million people have pledged to boycott Target stores until protecting women and children is a priority."

AFA then listed 10 headlines this past year of men found recording, taking photos, or peering into women's restrooms at Target stores nationwide:

- Man wanted for taking photos inside Target changing room
- Transgender woman caught filming in Target changing room
- Man seen reaching under stall

with phone in Target dressing room

- 'Peeping Tom' reported in Target dressing room

- Teen girl reports dressing room peeper at Target

- Police Looking for Target Peeper

- Target peeping Tom pleads guilty

- Man Arrested for Taking Photos of Woman in Target Bathroom

- Peeping tom caught filming women in Brentwood Target dressing rooms

- 'Peeping Tom' took pics of people in Target bathroom

In one case, a transgender woman was arrested in Idaho back in July for recording an 18-year-old girl in the Idaho Falls Target store. Shaun Smith, the accused, later admitted to having recorded the videos for "the same reason men look at pornography."

AFA has said that it will not be ending its boycott until Target reverses its policies, and said that the proposed plan by the retail giant to add one unisex bathroom at each of its 300 stores in the United States that don't already have one still doesn't do anything to protect women and children.

"Unisex bathrooms are fine, but our request has always been that Target maintain the gender-specific bathrooms as well — if the company is interested in guaranteeing the safety and privacy of women and girls who patronize the retailer's stores," Wildmon previously said.

Target's same-store transactions, which is how traffic is measured, fell 2.2 percent in the second quarter of this year. Overall, sales fell 7.2 percent to \$16.2 billion.

## Sixty kids find their 'forever homes'

Families across Kansas finalized their adoptions on National Adoption Day, Nov. 19. Following tradition, many judges opened their courthouse to complete adoptions and bring smiles to the faces of children and adults alike. In total this November, nonprofit KVC Kansas helped to facilitate the adoptions of nearly sixty children in the Kansas City area, Topeka and other parts of eastern Kansas.

There are more than 100,000 U.S. children in foster care waiting to find permanent, loving families. In Kansas, there are approximately 350 children who need adoptive families. In Missouri over 1,000 children were available across the state. One happy story is that of Bob, a 17-year-old who was in foster care and wondered if he was "too old to be adopted." Thanks to a video shared on social media that showed his easygoing personality and his desire for a family, his

story reached the perfect couple. Jerry Gross and Keira Jones responded immediately and Bob became a permanent part of their family this fall. The heart-touching story of how the family surprised Bob with their desire to adopt him is online at <http://bit.ly/2eHWBSR>.

"For the adoptive families and especially for the children, it is the culmination of a lot of hoping, waiting and hard work," said Danielle Bartelli, President of KVC Kansas. We are thankful for the families that step up to the plate to become a permanent, loving family for children who have experienced abuse and neglect. We're also thankful to the judges throughout Kansas who bring attention to the need for more adoptive families."

To learn more, visit [www.kvckansas.org](http://www.kvckansas.org) or contact Kerry Hamel at (913) 956-5370 or [khamel@kvc.org](mailto:khamel@kvc.org).

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# entertainment

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## Hacksaw Ridge makes us confront the brutality of war, and the redeeming work of God

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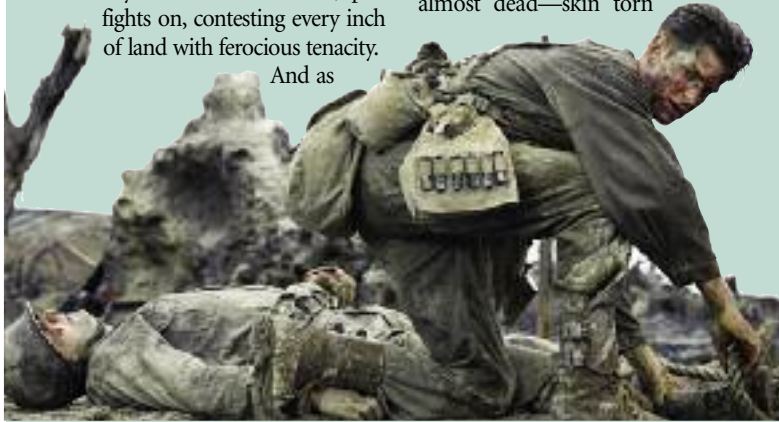
[Editor's Note: Metro Voice does not make it a habit to review R-rated films. At times, though, a film is important enough to review because of its portrayal of historical events in which the atrocities and violence of the subject matter cannot be ignored. It is part of a story that must be told. We realize that if accurately told on film, most of the Old Testament would also receive a similar rating. It is rare that an A-lister Hollywood director presents faith and sacrifice in such an outstanding production, that event the most liberal of his or her peers stand in a 10-minute ovation and cheer at its premiere. Such was the case with Mel Gibson's "Hacksaw Ridge." This is not a film for the faint of heart nor for children. It is a story that shows the brutal sacrifice that our fathers (my own father Ellery Widaman served in the Pacific in WWII and re-enlisted to serve in Korea) and grandfathers gave in preserving our freedoms. For that reason, a film like this cannot be judged solely by its film rating. —Dwight Widaman]

The Bible calls it a burning lake, a blazing furnace. Dante imagined it as nine circles of Sisyphean torture. Bosch colored it with our darkest nightmares. It's been called Abaddon, Gehenna, Tophet, Hades.

Perhaps those who took part in the Battle of Okinawa have another name for hell: Hacksaw Ridge.

It's the waning months of World War II. Germany has surrendered but Japan fights on, contesting every inch of land with ferocious tenacity.

And as


**film411**
**HACKSAW RIDGE**
**STARRING:** Teresa Palmer, Andrew Garfield, Sam Worthington,

**RATING:** R

**RUNTIME:** 135 minutes

**DIRECTOR:** Mel Gibson

the United States military pushes ever closer to the Japanese homeland, the fighting grows more desperate, more horrific.

The U.S. turns its guns on Okinawa, just 340 miles from Japan. It pounds the island with fire as soldiers and marines scurry ashore. Japanese soldiers hide underground, determined to push the Americans into the ocean. Hacksaw Ridge is one of the island's most contested points, and soon the ground lies smoking. Bodies litter it like autumn leaves; blood pools in foxholes and footprints; sounds of agony fill the sky. Countries may fight for this patch of land, but it's Death that rules here. Death that wins.

But into that black, blasted game board scurries one slight, skinny man. He carries no gun: Indeed, he fought the U.S. Army for the right not to. Bandages, not bullets, fill his pockets. He alone seems to walk upright in this land of crawling, screaming flesh. He alone dares all in this doomscape of the dying.

"Please Lord," he prays, his clothes soaked in the blood of others, his hands ripped open from the burn of rope. "Let me get one more."

Desmond Doss finds another man, almost dead—skin torn

away, muscles ripped open, bone exposed. He gives the man a shot of morphine—American, Japanese, doesn't matter—and hoists him to his back, returning to the face of a cliff where, below, lies sanctuary. There, at the top of the ridge, he secures the man to a rope and slowly lowers him down, the rope cutting deeper into his hands as he does. Once the man is down, Desmond breathes deep and turns his head again to the smoking ruins of Hacksaw Ridge.

"Please Lord," he says again. "Let me get one more."

And into hell he goes again.

Hacksaw Ridge is based on the true story of Desmond Doss, the first conscientious objector to receive the Medal of Honor. The character that we meet here is pure, unalloyed hero.

Like many young men of the day, Desmond took the bombing of Pearl Harbor "personal" and was on fire to volunteer. Even though he could've stayed home if he wanted to, Desmond didn't think it was right to stay behind while others fought in his place.

But Desmond also promised God that he'd never carry a weapon or kill another human being. And as you might expect, that creates a few problems once he and his squad move to the shooting range, preparing for war. Desmond explains to his superiors that he volunteered to save lives as a medic, not take them.

And even under threat of a court martial, and despite the pleas of those closest to him, Desmond refuses to violate those personal convictions.

"With the world so set on tearing itself apart, it don't seem like such a bad thing to me to put a little bit of it back together," he says.

Desmond's commander, sergeant and the rest of his company find the pacifist soldier's stance to be peculiar at best, cowardly at worst. But Desmond proves, through his actions at Hacksaw Ridge, that he is no coward.

Desmond's stance on killing people stems from his deep religious convictions. As a fervent Seventh Day Adventist, he keeps his Saturday Sabbath. He reads his Bible constantly, even asking someone to retrieve it for him from a battlefield. His fellow soldiers sometimes mock him



for his piety—sometimes it's friendly teasing, sometimes more serious—but he never wavers. The closest Desmond comes to a spiritual crisis is amid the battle on Hacksaw Ridge after seeing a close friend die.

"What is it You want from me?" he asks of God. "I don't understand. I can't hear You."

And then he hears the cry of "Medic!" and Desmond knows what he has to do.

Desmond's convictions took root early. A poster featuring the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments adorns the family home. And as a boy, Desmond is particularly drawn to the commandment "Thou shalt not kill," which his mother tells him is the worst sin.

But it's also clear that other deeply faithful people have come to different conclusions about that commandment. One tells Desmond, "I believe in [the Bible] as much as any man."

Desmond's brother volunteers for the Army and, apparently, has no such anti-weaponry qualms. Dorothy, his love interest back home, cautions Desmond about his stubborn streak: "Don't confuse your will with the Lord's," she says.

Desmond's mother sings in a church choir. Desmond compares the choir to angels ... though not necessarily musical ones. A bombed-out church stands on a bleached battlefield. Someone wears a cross, putting it in his mouth during battle. Desmond recites a portion of Isaiah 40.

And then there's the gore. Hacksaw Ridge features some of the most brutal

depictions of war ever put to screen. It's impossible to overstate the level to which we see men turned to meat.

Okinawa's battlefield provides a fitting stage for director Mel Gibson, given his proclivity for violence in his movies. From Braveheart to The Passion of the Christ to Apocalypto, Gibson bathes the screen in blood, often using pain and destruction as a catalyst for stories about freedom and redemption. Gibson, a longtime Catholic, seems to believe quite literally in the saving power of blood.

Which makes Gibson's selection of his newest on-screen hero—the conscientious objector Desmond Doss—an interesting one.

A director long fascinated by violence tells the story of a man who eschews it. Instead of giving us a hero who would die for his people, he gives us a hero who lives—and lives to save others.

Hacksaw Ridge is riveting cinema. But it's also bloody—as bloody as we've seen on screen for a long, long time. And while the horror and gore we see may impress upon us the depth Desmond's heroism, these images nevertheless assault us with their unblinking depiction of this hellish battle's carnage.

[From the editor: There is a strong and undeniable Christian message of sacrifice here. If one can make it past the graphic depiction of the brutality of war, it is worth seeking that message and remembering those that sacrificed for it. —Dwight Widaman]

## Christmas film 'Believe' brings families of all races together through faith

**'Believe,' A story of family, loyalty and love, comes out in December**

The upcoming family-friendly Christmas movie "Believe" is about a close-knit Virginia community whose hardships bring them together.

"Believe" will be in select theaters nationwide on Dec. 2.

The movie's synopsis reads, "For

years, the fictional small town of Grundy, Virginia, has relied on the Peyton family to provide the highlight of the year — the annual Christmas pageant. When Matthew Peyton (Ryan O'Quinn) inherits the family business, the responsibility of

**“His newfound friends impact Matthew's life in a way he never thought possible and teach him to believe and give faith a chance.”**

the Christmas pageant also falls on his shoulders."

As the movie progresses, viewers will see financial hardships fall on the town and the main character Matthew finds himself overwhelmed. His business profits plummet and his workers begin a strike.

When Matthew is forced to make a decision between selling the family business and cancelling the beloved pageant, he faces a rapidly declining loss of popularity in the community and is attacked.

That's when Matthew meets Clarence (Issac Ryan Brown), a boy who believes in God and miracles, and his mother Sharon (Danielle Nicolet). "His newfound friends impact Matthew's life in a way he never thought possible and teach him to believe and give faith a chance."





# CHRISTMAS MUSIC RELEASES AROUND THIS YEAR

And don't forget the live concerts to ring in the season

Wow, it's that time of year, already? Can't say, at this writing, it's beginning to look a lot like anything other than spring, but maybe it's changed when by the time you're reading this.

Regardless, there are some fun things to get excited about, in line with enjoying the celebration of Christ's birth. For one, the K-Love Christmas 2016 tour, including Crowder, Mac Powell of Third Day, and Unspoken will be here on Dec 10, at 7 pm at the Sheffield Family Life Center! This will be a great opportunity to gather with friends and family and enjoy a celebration of our Savior's birth with some wonderful music. For more information, please visit [klove.com/events/christmastour](http://klove.com/events/christmastour).

And you won't want to miss Selah's Christmas Tour coming to Blues Springs Assembly, Dec. 4 at 6 pm. Selah's music



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

has a unique ability to touch lives and transform hearts. Over the course of 17 years in ministry, Selah has seen that power over and over again. For Todd Smith, Allan Hall, and Amy Perry, it's both humbling and exciting to be part of a force that inspires, entertains, and encourages and it shines through in this must-see Christmas celebration. Tickets available at [itickets.com](http://itickets.com).

Another great thing about this time of year is pulling out all of those classic albums to listen to while making hot chocolate, or decorating the tree, or... decorating the

tree with hot chocolate.

From Amy Grant to Andy Williams; Bing to Bono, there are some incredible recordings worth checking out. Here are a few to consider this holiday season...

Michael Crawford: Christmas Album reveals some of the most incredible pipes ever set to a recording. Crawford, known originally for his performance in Phantom of the Opera, weaves a beautiful tapestry of Christmas music on this album. His rendition of "O, Holy Night" gives me chills every year.

Another one not to miss this season is MercyMe The Christmas Sessions. Including the songs 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen', 'Silent Night', 'White Christmas' and 'Winter Wonderland,' MercyMe puts their spin on some wonderful holiday classics, with a few special guests thrown in. It's also



listed as a "Highly Recommended" release on Amazon.

Amy Grant, Steven Curtis Chapman, Third Day, Chris Thomlin, Pentatonix, Michael Buble all have some festive Christmas albums to offer, too.

Lastly, but surely not the least of the list, is Cellofourte's newest release, A Cellofourte Christmas. Currently on tour in Europe with Skillet, Carnegie Mellon University Cellist Tate Olsen offers his second solo recording, this one for the holiday season. Cellofourte was founded in 2004 "with the goal of blending high level classical music training with a modern performance aesthetic and sound."

A Cellofourte Christmas presents a collection of

beautifully re-imagined classic instrumentals with a modern twist (okay, that sounds a little corny). Honestly, when I was sent this release, I wasn't sure what to expect, but dynamic wasn't something I expected to feel when I popped it in the CD player. Olsen's mix of upbeat rhythms and traditional stylings truly makes this a classic.

It is the type of Christmas album one could easily have playing in the background during a holiday party, but at the same time it would jive with any of the Trans-Siberian Orchestra albums, too. This disc is highly recommended. For more information on Cellofourte, please visit them at [cellofourte.com](http://cellofourte.com)

Have a wonderful Christmas, and take a moment to dwell on the incredible gift God sent us.



## Lecrae suggests books for white Americans to read in effort to heal racial divide

Since the killings of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling by police officers, Lecrae has openly become an advocate for racial reconciliation and has used his voice and gifts to spread awareness. Despite his efforts, the Texas native says he's often misunderstood for his position even by fellow Christians, as can be seen by responses to his book suggestions.

"Not sure why as a Christian, you continue to let race define you," one Facebook user wrote on his post.

Another defended Lecrae and responded, "It impacts him, his children and brothers and sisters in Christ in very practical ways....race defines him partially because others including the system have defined him by race...being a Christian doesn't automatically take that away".

In a recent open letter to Huffington Post, he talked about seeing "so much fakeness" in his brothers and sisters as he traveled on tour.

He also shared about where he currently is in this season of his life, and confessed that he has been battling depression because of the loss of black lives.

"I can't even read comments on social media anymore. All the slander is too much for any one person to digest. They don't get me," he penned.

The Anomaly emcee went on to clarify his stance on police and white people despite what his critics might think. He shared that his mother and others in his family work in law enforcement.

"Just as I don't hate cops, I'm not mad at white people. But I am disturbed at the supremacy and disparities that still exist. And what's ironic is that I'm so bothered because JESUS actually challenges me to

"Books that have helped my white friends 'get it,'" Lecrae captioned a photo on Facebook with the names of all the books listed below.

A DIFFERENT MIRROR: A History of Multicultural America Revised Edition by Ronald Takaki

BETWEEN THE WORLD AND ME by Ta-Nehisi Coates

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE by James H. Cone

DIVIDED BY FAITH: EVANGELICAL RELIGION AND THE PROBLEM OF RACE IN AMERICA by Michael O. Emerson

JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION by Bryan Stevenson

LET NOBODY TURN US AROUND: AN AFRICAN AMERICAN ANTHOLOGY BY Manning Marable

MORE THAN JUST RACE: BEING BLACK AND POOR IN THE INNER CITY (ISSUES OF OUR TIME) by William Julius Wilson

THE NEW JIM CROW: MASS INCARCERATION IN THE AGE OF COLORBLINDNESS by Michelle Alexander and Cornel West

THE WARMTH OF OTHER SUNS: THE EPIC STORY OF AMERICA'S GREAT MIGRATION by Isabel Wilkerson

WHY ARE ALL THE BLACK KIDS SITTING TOGETHER IN THE CAFETERIA: AND OTHER CONVERSATIONS ABOUT RACE by Beverly Daniel Tatum



not only care for the souls of all humanity, but to feed the hungry, aid the sick, regard the stranger, visit the prisoner, and love my neighbor in tangible ways," he stated.

He added, "Honestly, the pains of humanity have been draining me."

The 37-year-old wrote a song about his rough season and released it as his latest single.

The song is called, "Can't Stop Us," and according to Billboard, Lecrae has never been more honest on a track.

"I've wanted to quit. I told myself I can't be a leader and a figure of integrity

and wisdom until I become whole and not have to always be the one with answers. I'm not who they want me to be. I never will be. That's where I found myself. And that's where God found me. I'm only one man. I stress MAN. Human.

Fallible. Fallen. Susceptible. Vulnerable. Hang out with me long enough, and I'm bound to let you down. But I'm working on me. Well, God is. And as He is, I hope for grace and mercy and prayers from all those who really care," his letter maintained.

## Mariah Carey Is 'Deep Into the Bible,' Says Ex-Husband Nick Cannon

Actress Mariah Carey, star of the film "Precious: Based on the novel 'Push' by Sapphire," poses with her husband Nick Cannon at the AFI Fest 2009 gala screening of the film in Hollywood.

Nick Cannon has revealed that along with making him wait until they were married before they had sex, his ex-wife, Mariah Carey, is "deep into the Bible."

During an interview with the New York City-based "Breakfast Club" morning show on Thursday, Cannon was asked whether or not the international superstar made him wait until marriage to have sex. He responded by saying, "absolutely."

"We were both on the same page because I was in a place where I was being celibate at the time, and I think that's one of the ways that we bonded for the first time," Cannon told co-host Charlamagne that god who insisted on hearing all of the details behind their decision to wait.

Carey never talked about her vow of abstinence until marriage, but Cannon has often shared their story in hopes that it might inspire other girls who look up to Carey.

"The first time we actually sat down and met it was on some spiritual stuff. We were praying and all that type of stuff and I was like, 'Whoa, I didn't know Mariah had this side to her.'"

Cannon said Carey often joked during their six-year marriage that she would leave him for a billionaire, and now she's engaged to one.

Although the Grammy Award-winning singer often talks about romance and heartbreak in her music, Cannon says many don't really know the real Carey.

"A lot of people don't know, she's really a good girl and conservative when it comes to that and deep into the Bible. People just wouldn't think about that, so we had that connection," the successful television host said of his ex-wife.

Cannon and Carey were divorced this year and have twin children together,



Monroe Cannon and Moroccan Scott Cannon.

Even though Carey isn't a Christian singer, she occasionally features a gospel number on her extensive catalog of music. On her latest album Me. I Am Mariah...The Elusive Chanteuse, the singer showcases "Heavenly (No Ways Tired / Can't Give Up Now)" a passionate gospel number encouraging those listening to not give up. Carey can also be heard singing the Bible verse, "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit," found in Psalm 34:18.

Carey has credited her faith with helping her recover from a breakdown after the failure of her 2002 album Glitter. It has been widely reported that after losing her record deal with Virgin Records, she was picked up by Rev. Clarence Keaton who helped her rebuild her life.

According to an article in American magazine Cosmo Girl, Carey said: "I do believe that I have been born again in a lot of ways. I think what I've changed are my priorities and my relationships with God."



Lecrae





## Conversation Starters: 20 Questions to Ask Your Parents

We care for our parents every day, in the most intimate of ways. But how well do we really know them? Our parents are the most familiar people in the world but also, sometimes, the most mysterious. Who are they as a person? What were they like when they were growing up? What experiences most impacted their lives? What were their hopes and dreams and regrets?

As adults, so many of us don't ask enough about our parents. Yet there's no better way to become closer to a person, even if you've known her all your life. AgingCare.com has gathered a list of questions that our elder care experts and editors would most like to ask their own parents. Try them out for yourself. You might gain a new perspective on your parents and learn something new about yourself.

### Interview Questions for Elders

In what ways do you think I'm like you? And not like you?

Who is the person who influenced your life the most?

Do you have a lost love?

Which new technology have you found most helpful in your life? Which do you find to be the most annoying?

Is there anything you have always wanted to tell me but never have?

Is there anything you regret not having asked your parents?

Do you wish anything had been different between us, or would you still like to change something?

What was the happiest moment of your life?

What are you most proud of?

How did your experience in the military mold you as a person?

What are the most important lessons you've learned in life?

What is your earliest memory?

Did you receive an allowance as a child? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?

Who were your friends when you were growing up?

What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?

What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects?

What school activities and sports did you participate in?



Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothing?

What world events had the most impact on you?

How would you like to be remembered?

## 5 Tips for Good Gut Health During the Holidays

(StatePoint) The holiday season can be one of the most stressful times of the year and you may have noticed you're more prone to colds and upset stomach when you're stressed. Stress tends to slow the digestive process. What's more, 70 percent of the immune system lies in the digestive system, according to findings reported in "Clinical & Experimental Immunology."

Unfortunately, one of the most stressful seasons coincides with one of the most indulgent. To help, Vincent Pedre, MD, author of the new book, "Happy Gut: The Cleansing Program to Help You Lose Weight, Gain Energy, and Eliminate Pain," is offering useful tips to lessen digestive upset and keep your gut healthy over the holidays.

- Pack healthful snacks. When traveling, people tend to grab unhealthy foods for convenience. Pack nutritious foods like carrots, apples, almonds and frozen yogurt to keep the body strong. Foods like yogurt, which contain probiotics, not only address digestive issues, but are said to help stave off colds. One study found that those who took a probiotic supplement with

Lactobacillus rhamnosus, a type of healthy probiotic bacteria, recovered earlier and reported less severe symptoms.

- Eat mindfully. Eating in a hurry is a major no-no for good gut health, and makes you more likely to overeat, since it takes the brain about 20 minutes to recognize when you're full. Plus, eating quickly can cause gas, acid indigestion and bloating.

"When we stop and really enjoy what we're eating we're less likely to overdo it, and we'll avoid issues like emotional eating," says Dr. Pedre.

- Relieve stress. Take some "me time." Maintaining an exercise routine and practicing deep breathing relaxation techniques can do wonders for mental and digestive health, and help alleviate stress' negative effects on the digestive system, such as gas, acid reflux and stomach cramps.

- Maintain a sleep routine. Get an adequate night's rest of at least eight hours nightly. Your body and gut like predictability. Plus, staying up late could make you more likely to visit the fridge and eat that piece

of chocolate cake that'll lead to an upset stomach.

- Help your body naturally. Overeating or drinking is easy to do this time of year, but it can cause stomach distress. Check out local natural product retailers, which offer homeopathic medicines like Nux vomica to relieve nausea, heartburn, acid indigestion or fullness associated with overindulgence of food or drink. While these uses have not been evaluated by the Food and Drug Administration for efficacy, Nux vomica is one of the most popular homeopathic medicines. It's also easy to take. The pellets are quickly absorbed under the tongue without water, as opposed to being absorbed through the stomach, which may not be functioning at its peak. As a homeopathic medicine, it has no known side effects such as constipation, diarrhea, gas or drowsiness.

To learn about relieving a variety of acute stomach issues, explore the Boiron Medicine Finder app. This free resource, available on Android and iOS devices, allows users to find the right homeopathic medicine for many everyday conditions.



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# SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

**Question:**

Can I complete business with Social Security online?

**Answer:**

There are many things you can do on Social Security's website. You can conduct most of your Social Security business with us online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/onlineservices). You can get an estimate of future benefits, find out if you qualify for benefits now, and even apply for benefits. You can complete a number of other tasks online, too. You can estimate your retirement benefit using our Retirement Estimator, which allows you to get an instant, personalized estimate of your future benefit based on different retirement ages and scenarios. You can even open your own my Social



Security account to plan for and manage your benefits. In some areas, you can even request a replacement Social Security card using your my Social Security account. Open or access your my Social Security account today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).

**Question:**

I am receiving Social Security retirement benefits and I recently went back

to work. Do I have to pay Social Security (FICA) taxes on my income?

**Answer:**

Yes. By law, your employer must withhold FICA taxes from your paycheck. Although you are retired, you do receive credit for those new earnings. Each year Social Security automatically credits the new earnings and, if your new earnings are higher than in any earlier year used to calculate your current benefit, your monthly benefit could increase. For more information, visit [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov) or call us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778).

**RETIREMENT**

**Question:**

I want to estimate my retirement benefit at several different ages. Is there a way to do that?

**Answer:**

Use our Retirement Estimator at [www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator) to

get an instant, personalized retirement benefit estimate based on current law and your earnings record. The Retirement Estimator, which also is available in Spanish, lets you create additional "what if" retirement scenarios based on different income levels and "stop work" ages.

**Question:**

I plan to retire soon. When are Social Security benefits paid?

**Answer:**

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

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

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

**Wednesday**

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

**DISABILITY**

**Question:**

I am expecting a child and will be out of work for six months. Can I qualify for short-term disability?

**Answer:**

No. Social Security pays only for total disability — conditions that render you unable to work and are expected to last for at least a year or end in death. No benefits are payable for partial disability or short-term disability, including benefits while on maternity leave.

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

## senior news/events briefs

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

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

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

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

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

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS** - Dec. 1 at 1pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all of its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare as well as those considering making a change during open enrollment. Seminars are free & open to the public, and will be held at Century Health Solutions, a division of Stormont-Vail Healthcare, 2951 SW Woodside Dr. For info: 233-1816 or [info@century-health.com](mailto:info@century-health.com). Light snacks & beverages

**SENIOR CITIZENS LUNCH** - Dec. 12, 11am, Perry Community Bldg. Ham & scalloped potatoes. Bring a covered dish to share, your table service and \$1. Entertainment by the PLHS Singers. Christmas cookies & punch follow concert. Health screenings begin at 10:15 am.

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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of god." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "The wages of sin is death." Sin brings both physical & spiritual death. "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death." (Rev. 20:14).

2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the only One who could pay for our sin, He is the only Way to Heaven.

3. Repent of your sin and receive Jesus as your Savior. In order to go to Heaven from KANSAS, or anywhere else, you must accept Christ by calling on Him in prayer. He tells us in Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Use the following prayer, or one similar to it, to receive Him now:

Dear Lord Jesus, I know I am a sinner. I believe that you died and rose again for me. Please forgive me of my sin, become Lord of my life, and take me to heaven when I die. I am trusting you completely, and in nothing I can do. Thank you Jesus! Amen.

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



# sports

## World Series MVP Ben Zobrist: 'God Doesn't Measure Us by What We Do'

Samuel Smith  
Christian Press

Even though Chicago Cubs all-star Ben Zobrist has won two World Series in the last two seasons and even earned the title of World Series MVP last Thursday, he knows that God does not measure his success by the number of championship rings on his fingers.

After the Cubs won the World Series last Thursday, the evangelical nonprofit organization Awana published an audio interview with Zobrist that was conducted before the end of the regular season in which Zobrist talked about his Christian upbringing and what it is like to be a famous and devout Christian athlete.

The 35-year-old Zobrist, who also won the World Series in 2015 as a member of the Kansas City Royals and is a three-time all-star, explained that even though he has earned much success in his 13-season MLB career, he does not place his hope solely in baseball.

"As a ballplayer, there is no Christian way to swing a bat. There is no Christian way to swing or throw," Zobrist explained. "You are either good or you're not at whatever your job is. And it is more important that you understand the grace and love and peace you have in Christ, whether you are good or bad at whatever you are doing every day."

"We are just so thankful that Christ does not measure us by what we do. God is not measuring us by that, He is measuring us by our faith in Christ," Zobrist added. "We are perfect. According to God, we are perfect, yet we know that we are sinners. We believe in the fact that we are both saints and sinners at the same time as we live in this world."

Even though Zobrist is the son of a pastor and has a national platform as a major league baseball player, he said he doesn't feel like he needs to always walk around proclaiming his faith in Christ, saying that "if you are walking with Christ, they can tell."



USA TODAY Sports/Charles LeClaire

"My hope is not in how well I am living or how glorifying I am being to the Lord," he continued. "[My hope] is in what Christ has already accomplished for me. If that is my hope, then I will worship the Lord and I will want to live the life that He wants me to live."

As many parents strive to groom their children to become successful athletes, lawyers, doctors or business professionals, Zobrist warns that people shouldn't be so willing to sacrifice their families and even their faith just to achieve their own personal dreams.

"I think the goal for us is to be faithful, not famous," Zobrist said. "Our culture wants us to be famous. Everybody wants to be famous. You want to be the best you can possibly be and I want to be the best I can possibly be but only within what makes sense for a believer."

"I think people sacrifice for their job. They sacrifice their family, they sacrifice their faith, they sacrifice everything that should be near and dear to them for their success in this life, and for money and fame and whatever else they are seeking after," Zobrist added. "That is a tragedy. I think we have to remember that we do want to give our kids privileges and pursue something but remind them that more than anything, success is what God says it is."

Zobrist reminded listeners that the biblical definition of success is sacrificing one's self for the benefit of others. "According to the Lord, the most glorified person in the Bible is Jesus. What did He come to do? He came to sacrifice and suffer for our sake," Zobrist said. "Success is really not about us rising to the occasion as much as it is about us dying to the occasion and giving to someone else."

"To me, if I play baseball and I become a great athlete and I win World Series and I'm an all-star and all this stuff that I have accomplished, and yet I sacrificed other people or I sacrifice my family on the altar of my own personal success, then I have just really

## FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

The end of the college football season is fast approaching which means teams are jockeying for position and the yearly coaching carousel has already begun.

It actually began earlier in the season when LSU fired Les Miles and moved defensive line coach Ed Orgeron into the top spot on an interim basis. LSU stood at 2-2 overall when he took the reins and they went 5-2 after he took over, for a current record of 7-4.

As soon as Texas finished their game against TCU in yet another loss, the Longhorns fired coach Charlie Strong and hired Houston coach Tom Herman, who immediately brought several of his assistants with him from Houston. This is

where I have a problem.

How can a school recruit and hire a coach from another school during the season? Why are there no penalties for doing so? Last I saw, Houston was gearing up for a bowl game. They announced that defensive coordinator Todd Orlando will be the interim coach.

This just doesn't seem right to me. If a player moves to another school, he has to sit out a year, but coaches can come and go as they see fit. In addition how many times have we seen a program, basketball or football, get into trouble with the NCAA and put on probation or fined and the coach leaves and the sanctions don't follow him? I guess it's all about the

money, which is why Texas let Strong go.

Strong inherited a team of players with questionable character. He cleaned house and now, at least from the outside looking in, his players are more accountable for their actions. As a result, they went 5-7 and Strong is 16-21 overall at Texas. It's no secret that big money and big boosters drive big time programs. I guess that your leash is short when championships are the goal. This guy is a good coach. Remember, he built up the Louisville program where he went 37-15 in four years, including 23-3 his last two years there. He will coach again and he will be successful.

So now that leaves us with Houston looking for a coach. Do they hire from within or do they go out and make a splash by signing a big name, like Miles? Would Miles even go there? He will probably be the most sought after coach this offseason. Will he jump to the NFL? So many questions concerning the coaching carousel that's about to hit full speed. I wonder which coaches will get thrown off!

blown it," Zobrist emphasized. "[God] can rescue anybody, but the point is that is not my goal. My goal has got to be a godly view of what does God want me to use this gift and ability for. It should be to give to others and to sacrifice and to bear my cross for whatever



er He has called me to."

His wife, Julianna Zobrist, is a Christian musician, and Zobrist uses her song "Alive" as his walk-up song. Julianna Zobrist could be seen closely watching Ben at bat during the World Series matchups.

The couple has written a book together about their Christian faith



and career journeys titled Double Play. "The biggest thing is, I'm still learning," said Zobrist. "I still have a lot to learn about what the love of Christ is like - that it's not just knowledge ... but it's allowing the truth to change you - allowing Christ's message of grace and hope and love through the cross, that that message is the message that changes the way we look at everything in our lives."



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## Prepare Your Home for Holiday

(Family Features) As the holiday season approaches and you're tasked with hosting family and friends, it can be a little overwhelming to imagine all the work that has to take place for a successful celebration.

However, there's no reason the host can't join in the fun. To help keep calm and have your home ready for the party, follow these tips.

### Cleaning

More often than not, the first step to readying your home for a house full of guests is to clean. Start by going room to room seeking out trash, recyclables and things that can be stored away – anything to clear up much-needed space. Once the clutter is cleared, work from the top down to clean surfaces, so any dust or debris that hits the floor can be vacuumed or swept neatly away.



Remember to steer clear of harsh or highly fragrant chemicals, which may be an irritant to some guests.

### Upgrading

Don't try to sneak by with old appliances this time around. Instead, upgrade your most important resources throughout the house in order to find success when it comes to playing host. For example, swapping out your old, cluttered refrigerator for a Whirlpool French Door Refrigerator with industry-first infinity slide shelves is a useful way to create more space in the kitchen. Its pantry-inspired layout lets families fit and find all their edible favorites. Every section, shelf and bin in the refrigerator was redesigned to deliver smart organization with panoramic shelves and unique features to store 30 percent more than other leading French door bottom mount refrigerators. Perfect for a big shopping run before a party, the refrigerator features dedicated spaces places like the Treasure Bin, Platter Pocket and Small Items Bin to give maximum visibility and easy access when it's time for the food prep to begin.

### Planning

Staying organized and having a precise plan are vital to putting together the perfect night with family and friends. Make sure to nail down the specifics, such as the number of guests, what food will be brought, what needs prepared in advance and what can wait until the big day. Making lists and involving others in the family to help can make a seemingly insurmountable volume of work feel instantly manageable. As you think through your plans, remember to anticipate the unexpected and have an emergency party kit on hand to quickly respond to pitfalls, like spills or broken glass, before they derail the festivities.

### Decorating

With all the energy you put into planning and upgrading, don't overlook the importance of taking time to make

your home shine with a creative touch. Go festive with holiday-specific decor or keep it classic with timeless decorations placed throughout the home to make it really sparkle. For close family and friends, consider adding personal touches like mementos of holidays

past. Or go with a themed approach with similar colors and textures that you carry throughout the house.

For more ideas to upgrade your kitchen, visit [whirlpool.com](http://whirlpool.com).

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Topeka, KS 66608 (across from fire station)  
Monday-Friday 8:30 - 5:30PM  
Sat 8:30 - 5:00PM  
Sunday 10:30 - 4:30PM





First Southern Baptist Church

# New Resident Church Guide



- 1. THE GREAT I AM CHURCH**  
Breaking Traditions  
Non-Denominational  
Pastor Cordell Fischer  
2523 SE Indiana  
(785) 861-0422  
www.greatIAMchurch.com
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**  
Pastor Beau Bryant  
c/o Seaman Baptist Church  
2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka Ks 66608  
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org  
Sun. School 9:30 am  
Sun. Service 10:45 am  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**  
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka  
785-234-5545  
Worship: 8:00 - 9:30 & 11am  
Sunday School & Bible Studies:  
9:30 & 11am  
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka  
286-1204  
Wed. 6:15 pm: Children/Youth/  
Adult programs  
Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am  
www.northlandcctopeka.org
- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
730 SW Fairlawn Rd., Topeka, KS  
(785) 272-6322 • www.FairlawnNaz.org  
Sunday Worship: 10:40 am  
Adult, Youth & Children's Sun. School 9:15

- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**  
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS  
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org  
Sunday Services:  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Bible study--all ages  
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"  
Sunday Worship 9:30 & 10:45am, 5pm  
~ Sunday School for all ages ~  
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka  
785-862-0988  
www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"  
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka  
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com  
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm  
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm
- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)  
Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117  
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor  
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am  
www.gccinoverbrook.com  
office@gccinoverbrook.com
- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**  
300 SW Roosevelt, Topeka KS 66606  
Pastor Marilyn Hahn McGinnis  
10 a.m. Sunday (Non-traditional Service)  
See "About Us" at our website  
www.kawriverlordshouse.com  
Questions? kawriverlordshouse@att.net
- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka  
233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com

- Sun. 9:30am - Sunday School for all ages  
Sun. 10:30am - Worship & Word, Children  
Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult  
~ Nursery care for all services ~
- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**  
Meeting at Buck Creek School House  
5 mi. east of Perry on Hwy 24, 13th & Phillips Rd.  
Childrens Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.  
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,  
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
  - 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**  
Serving Christ - Loving People  
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248  
Dr. L.D. Holmes, Sr. Pastor  
www.wwnaz.org  
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am  
Children's Worship 9 & 11 am  
Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs  
6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service  
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups  
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University  
~ Nursery care at all services ~
  - 15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616  
235-1010 • oumc@att.net  
Shawn O'Trimble, Pastor  
Sunday School 9:15am, Worship 10:30am  
Children's worship time 10:30am  
Hear us on WREN Radio Sun. 10-11am  
Like us on Facebook!  
All are welcome - Come and see us!
  - 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**  
A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church  
2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka  
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm  
Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm  
785-266-LOVE (5683)  
J. Michael Borjon, Pastor

- 17. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM  
785-379-5642  
Jars of Clay Children's Center now open  
Taking registrations: 785-379-9098  
2930 SE Tecumseh Road  
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542
- 18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
Voted 2015 Best Church in Topeka!  
5973 SW 25th St.  
Topeka, KS 66614 • 273-0710  
Reconciliation: Sat 3-4pm  
Weekend Masses: Sat 4:30pm  
Sunday 7:30, 9, 11am, 6pm  
www.cktopeka.org  
Fr. Mitchel Zimmerman, Pastor
- 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church  
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS  
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com  
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am  
Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am  
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm
- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1937 NE Madison St,  
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594  
Pastor Dale Stockburger  
Sunday Worship: 10 am and 6pm  
Junior Church for kids: Sun 10am  
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm  
Fr. Jaime Zarse, Associate Pastor
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
Meets at 522 SW Polk  
785-220-5418  
Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
Sun. Worship 10 am  
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com
- 22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**  
5221 SW West Drive  
Topeka, Kansas 66606  
Sunday Services - 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathy Crofford
- 23. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.  
Sunday Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm  
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.  
See our website for info on our  
Student Ministries & Kid City  
www.esbcks.org

# classified

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**HOUSE FOR SALE** - Owner occupant of 57 yrs selling well-maintained & neat 2 (potentially 3) bdrm, 1 ba for \$63,500. Full bsmt & floored attic add much space, along w/detached garage on deep 2-lot grass property. Move in ready w/many upgrades. 2240 SE Maryland Ave in Highland Park, Topeka, KS (785)832-9289

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

**WANTED: VOLUNTEERS** - Caring Pregnancy

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

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

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

**SPACE AVAILABLE FOR CHURCH SERVICES** - Free space available for a small or growing church to use for services on Sunday mornings, with other small rooms available for breakouts or

small groups. For info call Will at 430-1657.

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1135 SW College Ave., Topeka, KS 66604  
234-5545 www.discovertbc.com



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Third Service & Sunday School: 11am - 12:10pm  
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Sometimes you can get more for your money with locally-owned businesses by having a local person to deal with when you have problems later.

Jim Driggers, owner of The Computer Store, says he offers quick turn-around time on your computer repairs and the most experienced technicians in Topeka. Most big-box stores send your computer out of town for repairs, and you never even get a chance to talk directly to the technician doing the work on your computer.

"It's the difference between getting your computer back in a few days by us or a few weeks!" Driggers said.



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

The Computer Store now also repairs all mobile devices like cell

phones, tablets and iPads, including damaged screens. Driggers said the new service is available at a very reasonable price, and has been very well received.

The Computer Store has been in business since 1999, and is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at [www.thecomputerstoreks.com](http://www.thecomputerstoreks.com).

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

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## Why is CAGE Gymnastics right for your child?

The management team at CAGE Gymnastics is there because they love the sport of gymnastics, love the athletes and are thrilled to pass on their knowledge and passion to the next generation of future coaches and athletes. CAGE has been operating under their current name and ownership since 2001. The facility itself has been serving Topeka since 1987.

CAGE Gymnastics offers programs designed to promote age-appropriate skill development in a fun and safe environment. Your child will be able to build an athletic foundation for all sports through the strength, flexibility, and coordination that only the challenge of gymnastics can offer. As your child progresses, CAGE seeks to develop such principles as goal setting, time management, sportsmanship, dedication and discipline – all of which are important life-skills taught in each and every one of their programs. All of these aspects of

learning contribute to a positive self-image and personal success.

From beginners to advanced students, the friendly staff will help you find the class or activity to meet you and your children's goals.

CAGE Gymnastics preschool classes and lesson plans were designed with the developmental milestones of your preschooler in mind. All of their preschool gymnastics classes are taught in their "tots" room with some introduction into the main gym which will allow your child to feel more secure and to better maintain focus. Your child will participate in age-appropriate activities designed to enhance coordination, strength, flexibility, hand-eye coordination and exploration while learning gymnastics on specially-designed equipment just their size.

Once your child enters Kindergarten, they will be part of CAGE Gymnastics' recreational program. All of their care-



fully thought-out classes are designed to foster your child's love of physical fitness and gymnastics in a fun, challenging environment. Emphasis is placed on body awareness, speed, agility, flexibility and strength. The athletes will train on all four gymnastics apparatuses every week & be evaluated on their progress 4 times per year as they move up through our program.

If you are looking for a way to get your child to engage with others in a fun, physically active environment, then CAGE Gymnastics is the answer for you.



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# Evangelical Turn-Out Seen as Key to Election Victories Across Nation

## ■ EVANGELICALS

continued from page 1

just two counties.

Trump's triumph was an emphatic exclamation point at the end of nearly 600 days of a brutal presidential campaign that divided family, friends, and countrymen, and upended every notion of a traditional political campaign.

There have been questions about how pollsters define "evangelical." In this case, it appears they allowed voters simply to self-identify as evangelicals or say they'd been born again. It is possible that the support among Evangelicals is even higher since the term, as used in the media, is often derogatory and some voters may not have self-identified as such just as many pundits now say Trump supporters kept their support private until they voted.

Still, it's likely that plenty of true evangelicals joined the Trump constituency, whether reluctantly or enthusiastically. It's an issue that has deeply divided many evangelicals grappling with whether they should support a candidate with a deeply compromised moral character. Even as Trump considers how to build coalitions in a fractured Republican Party, many Christians face breaches to repair among themselves.

For those wondering whether the thousands of Trump supporters showing up at rallies would show up at polls, the answer appeared to be a resounding yes.



Among Trump's many challenges now: balancing his populist vision that captured many blue-collar workers with the more traditionally conservative approach of some Republican lawmakers

— including those who distanced themselves from him during his campaign.

In an acceptance speech, Trump struck a conciliatory note, even with Clinton, saying, "We owe her a major

debt of gratitude to our country." He appealed to voters who hadn't supported him in the past: "I am reaching out to you for your guidance and help so we can work together and unify our great coun-

try." And he ended his speech with the kind of lofty promise he began his presidential bid with last year: "America will no longer settle for anything less than the best."


## NATIONAL REACTION TO ELECTION IS DIVIDED

“Donald Trump is elected President in stunning repudiation of the establishment” - New York Times Headline. 3 A.M. Nov. 9


**“People have to Die”**  
—Anti-Trump protester calling for violence on CNN.



"I'm going to kill the President Elect. Bring it secret service."  
— Former CEO of cyber security firm Packetsled, Matt Harrigan in a Facebook post. He was subsequently visited by the Secret Service and forced to resign by his board of directors.




"One thing is for sure, we need to pray for our new president, vice president, and our other leaders every day — whether we agree with them or not. They need God's help and direction. It is my prayer that we will truly be 'one nation under God.' Will you commit with me to pray for them every day?"  
—Franklin Graham




"The triumph of Donald Trump may signal 'the last hurrah' of white male evangelicals in America, or it may mean that their influence is once again on the rise. We will have to wait and see."  
—Tony Campolo, former spiritual adviser to President Bill Clinton,

"This response to Trump's victory reveals why Trump was victorious. Because those who do politics these days — the political establishment, the media, the academy, the celeb set — are so contemptuous of ordinary people, so hateful of the herd, so convinced that the mass of society cannot be trusted to make political decisions, and now those ordinary people have given their response to such top-down sneering and prejudice."  
— Brendan O'Neill writing for the U.K.'s The Spectator on the response to the Trump victory.




"As a Christian who believes in the ultimate sovereignty of God, I have to believe He allows our circumstances to fulfill His plans. As the prophet Daniel said, 'He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.' The nation has spoken. I pray that God grants us the grace and wisdom to seek His heart for all people made in His image, the preborn, the elderly, progressive and conservative, each one of us. I am reminded His son Jesus Christ died for all."  
— Jim Daly, president of Focus on the Family


"Clinton Wins!" —Turkish paper



Chris Evans @ChrisEvans  
This is an embarrassing night for America. We've let a hatermonger lead our great nation. We've let a bully set our course. I'm devastated. 11:16 PM - 8 Nov 2016  
—Captain America actor Chris Evans in a tweet



"Now is the time to rise up as people of faith and as an independent voice that holds political leaders on both sides of the aisle accountable to policies that don't aim left or right, but toward righteousness and justice, for all. Chief of which remains our concern for religious liberty, the sanctity of life, immigration reform and racial unity. We pray for the safe keeping of our democracy as we transition to the new Donald Trump administration and we pray that God will continue to bless and prosper our nation in the coming months and years ahead."  
—Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference



"We commit to pray for the new Trump administration. We pray that God might have mercy on our nation and that our leaders might know and fear Him, for as the Scriptures say, blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord. This is a time when we must hold fast to our calling to be good citizens and to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world, pointing those around us toward our hope in Christ and breathing life wherever there is despair. Presidents come and go, but our God remains forever and he will be on his throne on November 9 as he was on November 8 and as he will be for all of eternity."  
—David Jeremiah, founder of Turning Point, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in California and member of Trump's evangelical advisory board.

Let's remember that God has the final say in who ascends to seats of power and who does not. God has decided the outcome. "We the People" have voted in 2016, advancing a shift for the sanctity of life, family and community. The election is over. Now what?

"Everyone must submit to governing authorities; for all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished." Romans 13:1-2

For "in spirit and in truth" Christians what happens moving ahead is our focus. Yesterday is now history.  
—Dr. Alveda King, neice of Martin Luther King, Jr. and active supporter of the candidacy and presidency of Donald Trump

