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RANDY STONEHILL AT TBC | Page 13

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VOICE

LEGO BATMAN



Is the new Lego Batman movie good for kids?
SEE PAGE 16

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VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 7

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



House of the Lord Church

See inside back cover!

EasterFest grows in fourth year



Preparations are well under way for the third annual EasterFest - the Topeka Easter Parade & Family Fun Fair, and organizers say requests for participation and information are coming in at a much faster pace than last year. They say the interest in being involved in the parade has increased, and over 80 vendor booths are planned. Several thousand people are expected to make their way to Garfield Park the day of the event, as dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit groups take part in the parade and fun fair.

The expansion this year to Garfield Park in North Topeka, with the parade taking place on North Kansas Avenue, allows for increased space for more vendors - both in the park and inside the Garfield Shelterhouse and Gym - as well as more convenient setup for entertainment and food trucks on site.

Bubble soccer was a big hit last year, and new activities planned for this year include mobile laser tag and an archery

■ Please see EASTER page 3



You visited me in prison

Faith groups partnering with states to help make released convicts productive citizens

by **Dwight Widaman**

Jesus' words in Matthew 25:36 are among the most quoted from the New Testament: "I was in prison and you visited me." However, although prison ministries in Kansas and Missouri have had increasing access to prisoners for decades, their presence in publicly funded prisons faces opposition.

Detractors have cited the Establishment Clause in the First Amendment as requiring separation of church and state. Even so, the vital role of such organizations has become increasingly prominent in the criminal justice system over the last half-century. The number one reason? Results.

Faith-based organizations have many advantages in mobilizing volunteers to serve in prisons. Their methods and messaging often also have superior impact on prisoners over comparative secular pro-

"As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me."

■ Please see PRISON page 3

Still, small voice brings miraculous results for KS accident victim

"I felt like the Holy Spirit told me that I needed to do something"

by **Dan Van Veen**

It was Saturday, Sept. 17, and it was surreal — like driving by a movie set or re-enactment. A motorcyclist, who was not wearing a helmet, had apparently clipped the back of a trailer being towed by a pickup truck on a two-lane high-

way. The impact caused the biker to lose control, putting the bike into a slide, and throwing the man from his seat and rolling him down the road like a rag doll. As Geoff McLarty drove up moments later, the man was lying on his back, motionless. The skin of his bare head had been ripped open, blood soaking the pavement where he had come to rest.

McLarty, 31, the creative arts pastor at Evangel Assembly of God in Wichita for the last four years, has no formal medical

training, was unsure of how to perform CPR, his wife and young son were in the car with him, and it appeared someone was already calling for help.

It was decision time . . . it would be easy to simply keep on going.

"But I felt like the Holy Spirit told me that I needed to do something, even though I didn't know what I could do," McLarty says.

Surprising his wife, Kylie, — and

■ Please see ACCIDENT page 15



“You Have Always Been There For Me”

What Love Looks Like, From Heaven to the Streets



by **Barry Feaker**

The night of the neighborhood Christmas dinner a woman, appearing to wear the hardships of life, approached the uniformed police officer and exchanged a few words. One of the things I heard her say to him was, “Thank you... you have always been there for me.”

The Hi-Crest gymnasium was filled with an overflow crowd that evening comprised of men, women, children and families from one of our cities most economically and socially challenged neighborhoods. For decades, these individuals and families have struggled with the devastating effects of economic, physical, social and spiritual poverty. For some this means no heat in the winter, nor cooling in the summer. It means water turned off, sewer lines collapsed, rain coming through the roof, mold in the walls, and insects and rats coming in as uninvited tenants. For many years, this has been simply a forgotten neighborhood of broken windows, tattered hearts and shattered lives. However, on this night, two weeks before Christmas, you would have thought you were at an enormous family reunion. Nearly 350 neighbors and friends gathered with singing, laughing, hugging and enjoying a marvelous Christmas meal with gifts for all.

No, it hasn't always looked like this. Run the clock back four years earlier to

that first community meal at the Avondale East Elementary School building we now refer to as the NET Center. Thirty people from the neighborhood attended that first meal four years ago with the Mission's NET Reach division, our homeless prevention initiative. There was little conversation. Mistrust was in the air. Who were these outsiders? Why were they really here? Was this just another bunch of “do-gooders” who would leave us once they learned of how difficult it is here?

I remember earlier on, one dear lady who had lived in Hi-Crest for many years coming up to me with a bit of a grin on her face saying, “You won't stay. Others like you have tried this before and they left. You all will be gone in a year.” She went on to tell me how in order to sleep at night she has to move from one side of the house to the other, picking up her mattress to avoid the possible bullets that might enter through a window or a wall. She told me that she had two little dogs and when they go to one side of the house and begin barking, that's when she knows they are hearing gunshots. That's her cue

to pick up her mattress and move to the other side of the house to try to sleep a little bit as she cries herself to sleep. “No,” she assured me, “You won't stay!”

I was determined at that moment; we must stay and not be one more disap-



pointment to these precious neighbors of ours who had suffered so much for so long. It is with great joy in my heart I now recall the day, about one year later, the same lady came up to me with tears in her eyes as she threw her arms around me and said, “You stayed, you didn't leave!”

So now, more than four years later, we have seen the beginnings of transformation in a neighborhood once forgotten, where neighbors felt isolated from the rest of the city, as well as each other. Neighbors once afraid to come out at night, now beginning to feel safe and connected to each other and to others outside their neighborhood. A neighborhood showing the signs of hope. A neighborhood daring to dream.

We have traveled from 30 mistrusting neighbors to now nearly 350 men, women and children enjoying their time together in celebration, peace and love. How has this happened? It's really quite simple and may be best summed up in the statement I heard from the lips of a woman that spoke to the Hi-Crest community police officer. As people were enjoying their meal and having great conversation I was visiting with Officer

Rescue Mission Needs List - 2017

Food Items:

- Gallon Cans of Vegetables & Fruits
- Coffee
- Granulated Sugar
- Mustard & Ketchup
- Sack Lunch Items (i.e. Pudding Cups, Fruit Cups, Granola Bars, etc.)

Supply Items:

- Purex Crystals
- Arm & Hammer Washing Soda
- 20 Mule Team Borax
- Fels Nephth Laundry Soap
- Trash Bags (Tall Kitchen & 30 Gallon)
- Blankets
- Storage Bags (Quart & Gallon)
- Sheet Sets (Full, Queen & King sizes)
- Bath Towels
- Diapers (Sizes 4, 5&6)

- Pull Ups (Sizes 3T, 4T and 5T)
- Baby Wipes
- Razors (Men's & Women's)
- Deodorant (Men's & Women's)

Clothing:

- Men's Winter Coats (Sizes Med. & Up)
- Men's Pants & Jeans (All Sizes – Especially 30 – 40)
- Men's Underwear (Sizes 30 to 38)
- Men's & Women's Shoes (All Sizes)
- Plus Size Clothing (Men & Women)
- Women's Underwear (Sizes 5 – 9)
- Children's Clothing & Shoes (2T & Up)

Furniture (in good condition)

- Furniture – i.e. Couches, Recliners, Love-seats, Dressers, Tables, Mattresses, etc.
- Large & small appliances – i.e. Washers, Dryers, Ranges, Refrigerators & Microwaves

Morgan Bracken, a seven-year veteran of the Topeka Police Department. He was attending this event in full uniform as I witnessed many children coming up to him, curious, but beginning to understand that the men and women in blue could truly be their friends, and a growing awareness that people like Officer Bracken were actually friendly, engaging and safe.

Officer Bracken and I had just been visiting about the numerous challenges people face in our community and around the nation. We were marveling about the peace and joy that filled the gymnasium that night. I was explaining to him about the various initiatives for both adults and children that helped to bring this night of joy and peace about. That was when a woman, appearing to be hardened by the challenges that a life of poverty can produce, asked to speak with him. I could not hear all of their conversation but, as she was leaving, I did hear her say, “Thank you... you have always been there for me.” I gathered that this woman had encountered law-enforcement on a number of less than positive occasions. We resumed conversation and I asked him, “Did you hear what she just said to you? She said, ‘You have always been there for me.’” I thought for a moment, that's what love looks like from Heaven's view, down to the street view.

Jesus said that the greatest form of love is when someone lays down their own life for their friends (John 15:13). He didn't say we would always have the right answers, the best programs or even a solution to someone's problem. Oftentimes we shy away from those who suffer because we don't know what to do or say. How often we then miss out blessing others and receiving a blessing in the

process.

In a way, Officer Bracken's approach with this woman might be compared to a similar approach that God takes with us when the Bible says: “While we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). The Just (Jesus) for the unjust (me) (1 Peter 3:18). The woman I saw that night may have made many mistakes in her life. She may have broken the law numerous times. She may have been arrested and jailed more than once by Officer Bracken. However, despite her failures, he saw someone of value. And the woman saw someone who must really care, someone she could trust, someone who, in spite of her failures, believed in her value in life.

Whether it's in a shelter for homeless people, a long food line for the hungry, on the streets, under bridges, abandoned homes, a challenged neighborhood, reaching those who have been trapped in sexual slavery, and even a place called a Palace for little homeless children – genuine transformation begins with loving our neighbor, just like we love ourselves (Mark 12:31). Sometimes that love is simply just showing up in someone's life.

As we contemplate this month when we often more intentionally show love to those we care about, let's consider the transformational power of a smile, an encouraging word, a hand up, or a prayer toward the ones in front of us. I would invite you to join an ever-growing army of compassionate soldiers in our community who volunteer, mentor, give, and pray... those who are witnessing a little bit of what love looks like, from Heaven to the streets... those who are making a difference, one person at a time.

– Barry Feaker

Reprinted from the Topeka Rescue Mission monthly report, February, 2017.



Karen Andrews
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experience as a
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“I work with men, women and kids, specializing in haircuts, hair coloring, permanents, beard trimming & facial waxing. I enjoy working with the entire family and love seeing their smiling faces when they leave.”

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Series addresses pornography

Over the last several decades, pornography has emerged as a pervasive force in American culture. Many experts agree that the toxic, relentless objectification and violence portrayed in pornography has seeped into mainstream society where it adversely affects the development of girls, boys, young women and young men as well as the harmful effects on men, women, marriages and families. Unfortunately, the church is not immune to this problem. Pastor Chuck Swindoll says that pornography is “the greatest cancer facing the church today.”

More and more people are becoming aware of the harms of pornography. In fact, the states of Texas, Utah and South Dakota have officially recognized the public health harms of pornography and unanimously passed resolutions declaring it as such. Late last year, the Canadian parliament passed a motion to conduct a large-scale study on the public health

harms of pornography.

One of the most effective ways to combat this societal and church problem is to increase our awareness, broaden our knowledge through education and learn about solutions and gain tools to prevent and conquer pornography.

In light of this, Topeka Bible Church will be presenting a cinematic teaching series on pornography. The Conquer Series, unrivaled in its scope and authority, is not about behavior modification but heart transformation. This 5-week non-denominational discipleship curriculum provide insights from top Christian leaders who lay out biblical strategies and scientific facts about the use of pornography.

The Conquer Series will begin March 5th in Topeka Bible Church’s Mulvane Building, 1101 SW Mulvane St, at 6 pm. Each session is about one hour in length.

This series is not necessarily just for those who may struggle with this issue. If



you are a single or married man, father, grandfather, church leader or counselor and concerned about our families and our nation, please attend. This material is intended for men over 18, however young men, 15-18 years, are welcome if attending with their fathers.

For more information, call Topeka Bible Church at 785-234-5545.

Gov. Brownback to speak at C5-Alive Luncheon

Governor Sam Brownback will be the featured speaker at the C5-Alive “POWER” Luncheon March 9, from 11:30 am to 1 pm, at the Governor’s Row House, 811 SW Buchanan. A special meal will be catered in by Aboud’s Catering. The luncheon is sponsored by Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5).

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

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

and churches.

In addition to monthly “POWER” luncheons held on the second Thursday of each month, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events, including the annual EasterFest, an Easter Parade and Family Fun Fair held on the day before Easter. This year’s event is April 15 in Garfield Park.

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, facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.



Brownback

EASTER

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course. The Easter Egg Hunt, which will immediately follow the parade, has been

“Food trucks will be on hand again this year.”

enlarged and will include even more eggs this year. The fun fair will once again include many free kid’s activities, and pony rides and inflatables will be part of the fun this year as well.

This year’s event will take place on Saturday, April 15. The Easter Parade itself will start at 10:00 a.m., while the Fun Fair will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Staging for the parade will start at 8 a.m. in the parking lot directly east of NOTO Arts District. The Parade will move through NOTO and north to Garfield Park.

Many of the floats in last year’s parade had a definite Easter flavor, featuring crosses, empty tombs and Biblical characters, fulfilling the purpose of reminding observers of the true meaning of the holiday. Others featured more of a fun-loving, lighthearted theme, including classic cars, big trucks and other types of motorized and walking entries.

Live performers will be on hand all day, including musical acts, dance troupes, praise bands, fitness & gymnastics demonstrations, martial arts and more, performing both inside and outside.

The event is coordinated by the Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce



(C5). For more information, email info@C5Alive.org or call 785-640-6399. Updated details about the 2017 event can be found at www.C5Alive.org, TopekaEasterParade.com or on Facebook.

PRISON

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gramming. As a case in point, Jackson County became just the second county in the nation to operate a drug court for non-violent offenders as an alternative to incarceration.

Although recidivism rates for repeat offenders is 45 percent in Kansas and 75 to 80 percent nationwide, the Kansas City Drug Court boasts a recidivism rate of just 4 percent, with 96 percent of graduates remaining conviction free from repeat offenses after graduating. Drug Court classes include stringent accountabilitys as a condition for graduation, and involve anger and case management; individual and group counseling; prevention; substance abuse treatment; and employment training and placement. According to the Jackson County website, “100 percent of Drug Court graduates are employed full-time or in school full-time at the time of their graduation.”

George Williams, assistant director for faith-based and community initiatives for Kansas, was a founding partner in helping facilitate the Kansas City Drug Court in the 1990s. He emphasizes that the court was not in formal partnership with faith-based organizations, although faith-based leaders and organization had contributing roles.

“I believe as many others that the faith community is essential in addressing the social needs of the most vulnerable people in our communities,” he said.

Even though Kansas City’s Drug Court, which has become a national and global model for success, represents alternatives to incarceration of prisoners, the challenges facing inmates in Kansas and

Missouri are formidable.

Rev. Gene Purtle, Chaplain for the Jackson County Detention Center, is encouraged by Greitens’ comments. “Faith based programs in jails and prisons bring proven positive outcomes, not just in the long term rehabilitative impact on the inmates, but in the day to day interaction between staff and inmates in the facility,” Purtle told the Metro Voice.

On the Kansas side, many faith-based organizations are providing support to prisoners while they are incarcerated, as well as assistance upon reentry into society. Thomas A. “Artie” Lucas serves as executive director of Brothers in Blue Reentry Inc., an offshoot of the InnerChange Freedom Initiative and Prison Fellowship, which was founded by the late Charles Colson.

Lucas leads his organization in helping prisoners in the Lansing Correctional Facility. According to Lucas, Brothers in Blue sees a recidivism rate of just 7 percent among inmates participating in their faith-based and Christ-centered” programming.

Working Men of Christ Ministry Inc. is another faith-based prison ministry serving inmates in Kansas. Executive Director Spencer Lindsay told the Metro Voice that this ministry serves inmates at the Topeka Correctional Facility, the state penitentiary in Lansing and at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility.

Like Brother in Blue, Working Men of Christ Ministry provides both program supports to prisoners during incarceration and transitional supports upon release from prison and reentry into society. According to a recent newsletter, Working Men of Christ operates four transitional homes in Wichita and one in Topeka.

“I know that after almost 40 years as a rebellious law breaker, and now 33 years as a completely different person, that real change comes from the inside out,” says Bill Corum, founder of Prison Power Ministries.

Corum echoed the sentiments of the others; “lasting change comes through faith in Jesus and an ongoing relationship with Him.” He said one way to accomplish this is to “have Christian mentors going into the prisons and meeting regu-

larly with the inmates who desire that change.”

Lucas and Lindsay both emphasized the importance of transitional supports, such as housing, education and employment assistance for released prisoners reentering society.

Chaplain Purtle says the church must get involved and understand the need for such involvement. “This is our problem to address.”



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Adults on Vacation

by John Potter | Military Chaplain



Protests, riots, general strikes, and shouting matches, oh my! Where did all the big boys and big girls go in America? Every time I watch the news or read a story, it seems that all the adults are on vacation.

Coastal elites are burning more American flags than the Iranian Revolutionary Guard. Today's coalition of discontent wants to make a lot of noise, set things on fire, and boycott their jobs. Everyone is entitled to shout and protest.

But worse yet, no one seems willing to listen to each other.

We cannot plug our ears and run away if we do not agree with the message. No matter which protest you attend, those protesting must be willing not only to shout, but also to listen. Folks should be civil and respectful.

When people behave in a purely secular manner, we will witness a purely secular response. The ultimate result is a place more destructive and bitter than what we have today. There is a better way.

In John 13, Jesus shares this with his followers, "A new command I give

you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Jesus teaches a meaningful and difficult lesson for people to learn in the first century and in 2017 – love those around you. Jesus was frequently criticized for the company that he kept. Jesus acquired a reputation for being a wild child. Jesus knew tax collectors, fishermen, zealots, and other rowdies.



Jesus went to their homes and befriended them.

Jesus was a loving, laughing, Lord, someone who enjoyed a good time. He befriended the leper, the lame, the outcast, the down-trodden, the soldier, and the saint. It was done out of pure, perfect, and heavenly love. He showed the kind of affection that transforms lives and honors God.

When people are given that kind of respect and love, they are willing to listen to each other. The challenge is demonstrating the love that Christ commands. May God empower us to love one another, no matter what others say or how they express it.

KU safe-space language off limits to criticism

Flyers have appeared this semester at the University of Kansas calling the Trump campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again," an example of coded neo-Nazi language and urging students to remove materials posted by "hate groups."

The flyers were found in a learning hall on campus with the title "Resist" and allege that hate groups have been recruiting students on campus and must be stopped.

"Opponents of safe-spaces [and] social justice...are opponents of liberation and equality for all people." The term "safe-space" has been given to areas of college campuses where administrators or student activists seek refuge from anything that upsets students—including opposing viewpoints.

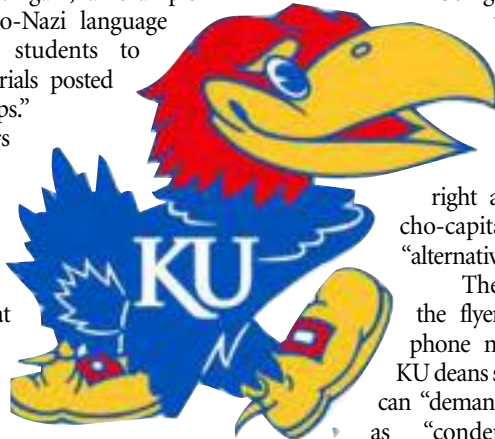
While giving no evidence, the flyer alleged, "Recently, there has been a disturbing presence of neo-Nazi and hate group recruitment taking place on the University of Kansas's campus," and "Given the violent and dangerous nature of groups such as this, it is imperative that we do not allow their presence to become normative."

While the flyer does not specify which "hate groups" have been recruiting on campus, it does provide signs to

look out for—specifically, the use of "coded language" that neo-Nazis and hate groups allegedly use to "avoid being called what they are."

Other examples of "hate" speech include the terms "men's right activist," "anarcho-capitalist," and "alternative truth/facts."

The backside of the flyer contains the phone numbers of all KU deans so that students can "demand action" such as "condemning neo-Nazism and fascism on campus," as well as numbers for members of Congress students can contact to oppose Trump's "dangerous and unqualified cabinet picks."



"Recently, there has been a disturbing presence of neo-Nazi and hate group recruitment taking place on the University of Kansas's campus... Given the violent and dangerous nature of groups such as this, it is imperative that we do not allow their presence to become normative."

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NEW BUSINESS FORMATIONS ON THE RISE

Topeka - Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach has released the Annual Business Formation Report showing Kansas business filing trends over the past ten years. The number of new business entities formed in 2016 was 18,147. That number broke the 2015 record of 17,298. Moreover there was not a proportionate increase in dissolutions.

Accordingly, the total number of business entities in existence rose for the ninth straight year from 179,066 in 2015 to 187,305 in 2016. Since taking office in 2010, Secretary Kobach presided over a 29 percent increase of business entities throughout the state. Secretary Kobach said: "The pace of small business formation in Kansas continues to be strong."

The full report is available on the News Releases page of the Kansas Secretary of State website www.sos.ks.gov.

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Young, jobless, and scared

Dear Dave,

I'm 23, and I lost a good job a few days ago due to layoffs. My wife has been a stay-at-home mom with our 10-month-old daughter, and we have very little in the way of savings. What can we do to keep our heads above water?

Seth

Dear Seth,

I'm really sorry you're going through this. I've been there, so I know this is a scary time for you. There are some short- and long-term goals to think about in a situation like this, but let's look at the immediate future.

Go crazy about finding some kind of income. I don't care if it's delivering pizza during the week and working at the mall on weekends. Even if it doesn't completely replace your previous income, it will give you some cash to pay bills and stay afloat. On your off days, and before and after work, you can line up and do interviews for a more stable, full-time job. You may even have to trade off babysitting duties with your wife so she can earn some money too.

While all this is going on, have a garage sale and sell anything you don't need or want anymore. Just about anything that can be turned into income should be turned into income. In the process, prioritize your bills and other financial responsibilities. Take care of food first, then utilities, the mortgage or rent, then transportation. You guys don't need to see the inside of a restaurant for a while unless you're working there, and if things don't get better by Christmas, any gifts you give should be handmade crafts.

This is doable if you two work hard, pull together, and focus. God

bless you guys, Seth.

— Dave

Accounting 101

Dear Dave,

I've just started my own small business. As the owner and only employee, how do I determine my profits?

Brittany

Dear Brittany,

Here's a basic Accounting 101 definition for you, regardless of how many employees you have or how big your business may be. What you take in, minus expenses — in other words, your revenues minus your expenses — equal profit. Believe it or not, it really is that simple.

Since you're just starting out, I'd strongly advise you to set up a separate checking account for your business. That's the only way to accurately tell exactly what's going on within the business. When you commingle business money with grocery money and things like that in your personal account, you'll never have an accurate picture of what's really happening with your business.

Good luck, Brittany!

— Dave

How much is too much?

Dear Dave,

In your opinion, what is the limit you can responsibly spend for a wedding if the people involved have debt?

Paul

Dear Paul,

The cost of the average wedding in America rose to \$32,641 last year. But when it comes to what you can reasonably afford, I think it becomes relative to exactly how much debt you have and what kind of income



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

davesays

we're talking about.

If you have \$5,000 in debt but you make \$150,000 a year, stop worrying, pay off your debt, and save up for a great wedding. If you make \$28,000 a year but you have \$30,000 in debt, then you need to have a really minimal wedding. Anywhere from \$3,000 to \$5,000 would be reasonable in that kind of situation — and even then it's going to be tight.

The more debt you have in relation to your income, the smaller your wedding expenses should be. A \$32,000 wedding would be ridiculous for someone with a \$28,000 income. But \$28,000 is a below-average income, so you shouldn't reasonably expect an average wedding in terms of cost. It really all boils down to ratios.

Just remember, Paul, the amount of money spent on the ceremony, reception and all that stuff isn't what's important. It's the love that two people have for each other that makes the ceremony special and the marriage one that will last a life-

time!

— Dave

Retained earnings are a must

Dear Dave,

My husband owns a small landscaping and masonry company. His profits over the last couple of years have been about \$80,000 annually. We were wondering if we should be setting aside some retained earnings.

Kim

Dear Kim,

Yes, all businesses should have retained earnings. In the personal finance world, we would call that an emergency fund. It can be difficult in the business world sometimes though. You're talking about running a business, making a profit, feeding your family, and saving money in the business. This isn't an easy process no matter how long you've been in business.

One way to solve the problem, though, is to take a percentage of your profits at the end of the month and set it aside for retained earnings first. Do this before you take any profits home or distribute them under a profit sharing plan. It doesn't have to be a big percentage, but you should be setting money aside every month for the company.

The beauty of doing this is you'll have money sitting there to replace equipment and other expenditures down the road. Just remember that it's all taxable. Whether you're in an LLC, Sub S Corp or sole proprietorship, any money you make as profit — whether you take it home or not — is taxable. So your retained earnings may be saved, but they will be reduced by the taxes on it each year.

Anything you do in business requires money, and to avoid going into debt you're going to need retained earnings. Good question, Kim!

— Dave

Taking the trip

Dear Dave,

I have to make a four-day business trip to Hawaii soon, and my wife would like to go along. It's okay with my boss, as long as we pay her way, and I would love to have her along. It will cost about \$1,500 for her to join me, and I make a little over \$100,000 a year. We're also debt-free, except for our home, and we're working hard to pay that off as soon as possible. What do you think?

Michael

Dear Michael,

If I were in your situation, and I told my wife I didn't think it was a good idea or we couldn't afford it, there's a good chance I'd be sleeping on the couch for a month. Take your lady with you!

You guys have a six-figure income, and you've got no debt but your home. So, a four-day trip to Hawaii for \$1,500? Yeah, I'm definitely doing that. It sounds to me like you two have done a great job with your money. That being the case, you deserve a little fun — like a trip for two to Hawaii for \$1,500. Even if you have to work, you'll still have lots of time together, and she'll be able to relax on the beach, swim and sightsee while you're taking care of business.

— Dave

Stronger Security Filters and Tax Refund Processing

By Peggy Beasterfield

Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service

As the IRS steps up its efforts to combat identity theft and tax refund fraud through its many processing filters, legitimate refund returns sometimes get delayed during the review process. While the IRS is working diligently to stop the issuance of fraudulent refunds, it also remains focused on releasing legitimate refunds as quickly as possible.

Recently, the Internal Revenue Service, state tax agencies and industry partners finalized plans for 2017 to improve identity theft protections for individual and business taxpayers. This comes after making significant inroads this year against fraudulent returns. Additional safeguards will be set in place for the upcoming 2017 fil-



ing season.

The IRS and its partners saw a marked improvement in the battle against identity theft in 2016. This is highlighted by the number of new people reporting stolen identities on federal tax returns falling by more than 50 percent, with nearly 275,000 fewer victims compared to a year ago.

"These increased security screenings are invisible to most taxpayers," John Koskinen, IRS Chief said. "But we want people to be aware we are taking additional steps to protect taxpayers from identity theft, and that sometimes means the real taxpayers face a slight delay in their refunds."

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opinion

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What does television teach about love?

metro VOICE

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MELISSA HENSON

Director of Grassroots Education & Advocacy for the Parents Television Council

myopinion

In a recent guest editorial for The Hollywood Reporter, NBA legend Kareem Abdul-Jabbar made a persuasive case that The Bachelor, in all its forms and franchises, is killing romance in America.

He writes: "As entertaining as these shows are (and they really are compelling fun), there is an insidious darkness beneath the fairytale pabulum they are serving up. ... And when we think about where our children learn about the realities of romance, it becomes even more important to question what may influence their behavior in choosing a partner."

He's certainly onto something. Viewers of The Bachelor and Bachelorette shows are subjected to false, unattainable ideals of beauty; a lack of intellectual, racial and appearance diversity on the shows; and unrealistic, "fairy-tale" notions about how love unfolds – finding "the one," and living "happily ever after."

Abdul-Jabbar's criticisms of these shows are warranted, but when you look at the greater TV universe, they only scrape

the surface of TV's "love" problems.

It's not just reality dating shows that ironically are killing romance. The same can be said of much of what's on television. Savvy TV viewers today derisively snicker at the fact that I Love Lucy's Lucy and Ricky slept in twin beds, saying it is unrealistic – but enthusiastically embrace programs like Game of Thrones, which depicts incest, rape and orgies as ... more realistic? In an article for TIME magazine, an anonymous producer of Game of Thrones told the show's director, "I represent the pervert side of the audience, and I'm saying I want full frontal nudity in this scene."

Otherwise compelling historical dramas such as Versailles or Vikings are undermined by their insistence on gratuitous sex scenes which seem to draw their inspiration from modern pornography rather than documented historical fact.

Sitcoms are not immune from these corrupted and polluted ideas about love and romance. Even Friends, which seems tame by today's standards, featured constant references to pornography – including one episode titled, "The One with the Free Porn," in which Chandler and Joey discover they are suddenly getting free pornography and are afraid to turn off their TV and refuse to leave their apartment – to meet and interact with real women, for example – for fear it won't be there anymore when they return. What does that say about the state of love and



romance in America?

More recently, the creepy broadcast networks have allowed pornified ideas about sexuality to creep into storylines involving minor-aged characters.

ABC's The Real O'Neals, for example, included a scene in which two teenage characters click on a link that launches a cascade of pornographic images onto the screen. One character, says, "Dude, it's a pornado."

And on Fox's The Mick, after the adult guardian of three children encourages the 16-year-old girl in her care to have sex with an adult male, her 7-year-old brother asks about the sounds coming from his sister's bedroom. He's told: "Your sister's getting fu...uuurrniture."

A report for the Kaiser Family Foundation found that depictions and

descriptions of sexuality on TV are increasing, particularly on the programs teens are most likely to watch, and that most references to sex do not include messages about risks or responsibilities.

The consequence?

A report from the Rand Corporation found that watching TV shows with sexual content apparently hastens the initiation of teen sexual activity and that sexual talk on TV has the same effect on teens as depictions of sex.

TV today isn't just eroding ideas about love and romance. They are toxic to the culture. And our kids are bearing the cost.

–Melissa Henson is the program director for the Parents Television Council, a nonpartisan education organization advocating responsible entertainment.

BLACK PERSPECTIVE: THE BLACK COMMUNITY UNDER SIEGE



WALTER WILLIAMS

Professor of Economics at George Mason University

viewpoint

What works and doesn't work in reducing crime?

Ordinary black people cannot afford to go along with the liberal agenda that calls for undermining police authority. That agenda makes for more black crime victims. Let's look at what works and what doesn't work.

In 1990, New York City adopted the practice in which its police officers might stop and question a pedestrian. If there was suspicion, they would frisk the person for weapons and other contraband. This practice, well within the law, is known as a Terry stop. After two decades of this proactive police program, New York City's homicides fell from over 2,200 per year to about 300. Blacks were the major beneficiaries of proactive policing. According to Manhattan Institute scholar Heather Mac Donald — author of "The War on Cops" — seeing as black males are the majority of New York City's homicide victims, more than 10,000 blacks are alive today



In the Englewood neighborhood of Chicago, the homicide rate is about the same as Venezuela. Here, a father has erected a plea to protect the children on one street.

who would not be had it not been for proactive policing.

The American Civil Liberties Union brought suit against proactive policing. A U.S. District Court judge ruled that New York City's "stop and frisk" policy violated the 14th Amendment's promise of equal protection because black and Hispanic people were subject to stops and searches at a higher rate than whites. But the higher rate was justified. Mac-Donald points out that while blacks are 23 percent of New York City's population, they are responsible for 75 percent of shootings and 70 percent of robberies. Whites are 34 percent of the population of New York City. They are responsible for less

than 2 percent of shootings and 4 percent of robberies. If you're trying to prevent shootings and robberies, whom are you going to focus most attention on, blacks or whites?

In 2015, 986 people were shot and killed by police. Of that number, 495 were white (50 percent), and 258 were black (26 percent). Liberals portray shootings by police as racist attacks on blacks. To solve this problem, they want police departments to hire more black police officers. It turns out that the U.S. Justice Department has found that black police officers in San Francisco and Philadelphia are likelier than whites to shoot and use force against black suspects. That finding is consistent

with a study of 2,699 fatal police killings between 2013 and 2015, conducted by John R. Lott Jr. and Carlisle E. Moody of the Crime Prevention Research Center, showing that the odds of black suspects

"The primary victims [of black crime] are law-abiding black people who must conduct their lives in fear."

being killed by a black police officer were consistently greater than the odds of a black suspect's being killed by a white officer.

That brings us to the most tragic aspect of daily life in the black community—crime. The primary victims are law-abiding blacks who must conduct their lives in fear. Some parents serve their children meals on the floor and sometimes put them

to sleep in bathtubs so as to avoid stray bullets. The average American does not live this way and would not tolerate it. And that includes the white liberals who support and make excuses for criminals. Plain decency mandates that we come to the aid of millions of law-abiding people under siege. For their part, blacks should stop allowing themselves to be used by white liberals and support the police who are trying to protect them.

–Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.

Is it moral, legal to prioritize persecuted Christians?



JOHNNIE MOORE

Rev. Johnnie Moore is an author and the Founder and CEO of The Kairos Company

mythoughts

While President Trump's executive order on refugee resettlement remains the subject of near-constant national discussion, there is one part of that order that shouldn't be up for debate at all: It is moral and legal to prioritize religious minorities facing persecution.

While former President Obama received accolades (from both Republicans and Democrats for his appointment to the UN commission looking into religious cleansing) candidate, and now President Trump gave unprecedented attention to religious minorities when Christians, Yazidis and others have so recently faced the threat of genocide in the Middle East.

Prioritizing the religiously persecuted was once the established order of the humanitarian community until the last administration began to quietly dismantle those norms and did so



Syrian Christian children under the protection of the Syrian government.

in the shadow of countless bombings, beheadings and crucifixions targeting Christians in Iraq, Syria, Nigeria and even Egypt (not to mention all the atrocities committed against Yazidis and other minorities).

The tradition might even be credited to the United Nations via two of its most important documents: the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The language of Article 2 in the Convention on Genocide reads like it

could have been written in response to ISIS' attacks in 2014 and 2015:

"Genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group

conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

The fact that religious persecution ought to be taken into account in prioritizing humanitarian assistance is what prompted both houses of Congress to defy President Obama and vote unanimously in support of a genocide resolution against ISIS in 2016.

It's what prompted Obama's own secretary of state in March last year to depart from the administration policy to declare the same. Whether Obama agreed with it, U.S. federal law actually required that he take religion into account in determining who is to be resettled in the United States.

One of the most egregious examples of not prioritizing religious minorities occurred in 2015, when Christians displaced by ISIS were excluded from or persecuted within the very United Nations camps established to protect them.

Since nearly all refugees resettled in the West arrive via U.N. referrals, only 53 Syrian Christian refugees and one Yazidi were resettled in the United States between 2012 and 2015. The Christian population in Syria stood at nearly 2 million before civil war began and is now estimated at less than 500,000.

Instead of reforming the system, the United States allowed it to continue, refusing to provide sufficient, special assistance to those facing a special threat.

For far too long, our country has not done enough to help religious minorities in the Middle East via safe zones or refugee resettlement. This is one of the reasons why Christians there uploaded a video to YouTube days before the election, essentially endorsing Trump and saying, "we really hope that this election will be a turning point and bring hope for the Iraqi people and for the Christian minorities, in particular."

Trump is attempting to do what should have already been done, and it's an honorable thing to do.

—Johnnie Moore is the author of *Defying ISIS: Preserving Christianity in the Place of Its Birth and in Your Own Backyard.*

"Prioritizing the religiously persecuted was once the established order of the humanitarian community."

THE VOICE AND HEART OF THE PROTESTOR



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kansas – For much of human history, regardless of the chosen nation's political ideology, the human voice has never been silenced. From Russia and China to the United States and around the world, voices have risen up no matter the cost. As a minister of the gospel I have read the history books where Christians rose up against the religious establishment centuries ago. They became known as Protestants because they protested a series of religious injustices, and many were martyred for their stance.

In keeping with the human spirit to give voice to grievances, let those who oppose President Donald Trump's election and policies have their say. At the same time, the means by which these voices protest - I stand against.

The Bible says, "Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy" (Proverbs 12:20). The spirit and culture of the Trump protests resemble nothing of peace, but rather the marks of evil. The torching of cars, breaking of windows in local businesses and hurling of bricks - is evil. The intimidation of children, physical assaulting of women and spewing of vul-



Lest we forget at least an over-the-shoulder acknowledgment to the very first radical: from all our legends, mythology, and history (and who is to know where mythology leaves off and history begins—or which is which), the first radical known to man who rebelled against the establishment and did it so effectively that he at least won his own kingdom

—Lucifer.

—SAUL ALINSKY

The 'dedication' for the notorious screech, Rules For Radicals, by Hillary and Obama's idol Saul Alinsky

gar laced rants - is evil.

Voices of opposition and criticism are not evil. They are helpful providing needed checks and balances among those who hold positions of power. However, when the message of opposition is cloaked in immoral, wicked and inhumane conduct, it becomes evil and

should be condemned and delegitimized.

The late Dr. Saul Alinsky, author of the highly influential Rules for Radicals, wrote "Pick the target, freeze it, personalize it, and polarize it. Cut off the support network and isolate the target from sympathy. Go after people and not institu-

■ sidenote

Worldview Weekend President and social historian Brannon Howse said Alinsky is a troubling political figure because the roots of his radicalism run deep.

"A young Italian Marxist by the name of Antonio Gramsci advised World War II dictator Mussolini that violence was not the way to bring about a lasting revolution people would embrace and maintain," Howse noted. "Gramsci wrote eloquently of a 'quiet' revolution — one that would transform a culture from within by changing the basic worldview of each and every institution in society."

Alinsky is a popular figure to quote among many well-known political figures. In her Wellesley College senior thesis, Hillary Rodham chose to research and write a glowing dissertation entitled *There is Only the Fight... An Analysis of the Alinsky Model*. Both Barack and Michelle Obama have regularly cited Chapter 2 of *Rules for Radicals*, which states, "The standards of judgment must be rooted in the whys and wherefores of life as it is lived, the world as it is, not our wished-for fantasy of the world as it should be." In March of 2012, while addressing young Israelis in Jerusalem, Obama displayed his high regard for Alinsky when he again endeavored to quote him, saying, "Israel has the wisdom to see the world as it is. And, Israel has the courage to see the world as it should be." But it is not just liberal Democrats. Liberal Republicans have also found something to admire in Alinsky. George Romney, father of Mitt and governor of Michigan in the 60s, met with Alinsky several times and is quoted as saying that even his son, Mitt, was influenced by Alinsky's writings.

tions; people hurt faster than institutions." Alinsky's values are no doubt having an influence on the shadow-like leaders behind these dangerous protests. These tactics are the embodiment of evil, resembling nothing of peace.

Yes, these methods will win some battles in the short term, but in the long term they will lose the war. Their cause wields the weapons of evil, unknowingly stepping into a spiritual battle with God. It goes way beyond political parties, people or institutions. Evil's greatest foe is God, and He always wins.

What do you stand against? What are you opposing? Let your voice be heard, but avoid using evil means to call attention to it. Rather, seek just, moral and peaceful methods to advance your cause. Additionally, lay your conviction before God. He is the ultimate whistle blower and standard of truth. Follow His wisdom through His Word in pursuit of justice.

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

The Resurgence of Classical, Christian Education

By Sarah Eekhoff Zylstra
The Gospel Coalition

On a Monday morning 17 years ago, Russ Gregg quit his job because of a sermon he'd heard the day before about "venturing something for God that's a little bit crazy."

So he left his position as development director for a Christian school in one of Minneapolis's wealthiest suburbs in order to launch a classical Christian school in one of the city's poorest, most violent neighborhoods.

Without teachers, parents, a building, or financial support, Gregg was determined to love his neighbors as he loved himself. So he sought to give them the best education he could think of—a school like the one his own kids attended.

Seventeen years later, Hope Academy has grown from 35 students in a church basement to 500 students in a seven-story school building. Among Hope's five classes to date, 99 percent of students have graduated. In fact, almost every graduate (95 percent) was accepted at two- or four-year colleges, with a few receiving full-ride scholarships to private liberal arts colleges.

"This is in a community where half of my neighbors aren't even graduating from high school," Gregg said. "The ones who do graduate read at an eighth-grade

level."

Even better, Gregg has also seen "promising fruit" among students in their desire to follow Christ.

The astonishing growth and success of Hope mirrors the classical Christian education movement that's been sprouting up across the country for the past 25 years. In the fall of 1993, there were 10 such schools in the United States. By 2003, there were 153.

Today, more than 251 schools are members of the Association of Classical Christian Schools (ACCS), and they educate more than 43,000 students a year. But the total number of students receiving a classical Christian education each year is both higher and harder to calculate, since it includes both non-ACCS member schools and home schools.

Nonetheless, experts place the number of somewhere between 200,000 to 300,000 students nationwide.

Going Back to Go Forward

While calling education "classical" is new, the practice is as old as Plato and Socrates.

"What we call 'classical education' was before the late 1800s simply 'education,'" said Christopher Perrin, a national leader in the classical education movement and founder and CEO of Classical Academic Press. "The word 'classical' as an adjective has become dominant now because we're

describing its renewal."

In the late 1800s, classical education was "calcifying," Perrin said. While there were some good schools, there was also "some severity and some austerity and some examples that weren't great."

At the time, many factors prompted the invention and rise of progressive modern education. And in the face of the industrial revolution, mass immigration, the scientific revolution, and the advent of social sciences, classical education simply couldn't hold its own.

Early in the 20th century, influential educational reformer John Dewey argued against objective truth. He believed education should be solely pragmatic and focused on helping humans adapt to their environment. Dewey's goal instead was to equip individuals for particular spheres of usefulness: business, medicine, housework, or factories.

"What it boils down to is that a certain group of people are educated for factories, and another group to rule, but everybody is going to be educated for practical reasons," said Andrew Kern, who founded the Circe Institute in 2001 as a center for independent research on classical education.

This approach to education quickly became popular, so much so that progressive education has dominated the landscape in the United States since the 1920s, and until lately, classical education was nearly extinguished.

"The questions in education went from 'What kind of citizen do we want?' to 'What do they need to be able to do, and how can we prepare them for that?'" said Keith Nix, who heads the Veritas School in Richmond, Virginia. Nix also sits on the boards for ACCS and the Society of Classical Learning (SCL).

"Not only did we start to lose subjects like Latin, but we also started thinking differently about subjects like mathematics. If we think math is man-made, the question is 'What do I need it for?' rather than 'What is true and beautiful and good about math that I need to pursue?'"

Reimagining math as a good gift from God shifts the entire framework, Nix said.

"It's not 'What good will it do me?' but 'How do I respond to this thing God gave me, and in my pursuit of it what kind of human being am I becoming?'"

Finding the Lost Tools

As Western education drifted from traditional education, author Dorothy Sayers sounded the alarm in her 1947 essay "The Lost Tools of Learning." She wrote,

The combined folly of a civilization that has forgotten its own roots is forcing [the teachers] to shore up the tottering weight of an educational structure that is built upon sand. They are doing for their pupils the work which the pupils themselves ought to do. For the sole true end of education is simply this: to teach men how to learn for themselves; and whatever instruction fails to do this is effort spent in vain.

'For the sole true end of education is simply this: to teach men how to learn for themselves; and whatever instruction fails to do this is effort spent in vain.' — Dorothy Sayers

In his book *The Abolition of Man*, C.S. Lewis similarly warned that the modern education system was going to be a prob-



lem:

For the wise men of old the cardinal problem had been how to conform the soul to reality, and the solution had been knowledge, self-discipline, and virtue. For magic and applied science alike the problem is how to subdue reality to the wishes of men.

Then, in the early 1980s, three classical schools independently sprouted at the same time in Idaho, Indiana, and Kansas (Cair Paravel Latin School).

"If you were to define the three places classical education was least likely to be heard of, this would be it," said ACCS president David Goodwin.

Logos School in Moscow, Idaho, sparked the book *Recovering the Lost Tools of Learning*. The book, which referenced Sayers's essay, launched "about 100 schools in five years," Goodwin said.

Across the country, classical schools reinstated history classes that taught chronologically from creation to the modern era. In the modern educational schema, Dewey had traded out history for social studies. These new classical schools also taught children to read based on phonics instead of whole language; they dusted off classic literature and Latin flashcards, implemented Socratic discussion and school uniforms. They taught the fruits of the Spirit and sought to shape the souls of children so they would in time seek and enjoy God.

Throughout the decades, those elements hadn't completely disappeared, Perrin said, but they only showed up in pieces.

"Now we're trying to take all the pearls and put them on a string again," he said. "It's like putting together a puzzle having lost the box top."

But by the 2000s, led by groups like the ACCS, the SCL, and the Circe Institute, a renewed classical education movement began to take shape. This movement centered on three biblical ideas: truth, goodness, and beauty.

Truth

Administrators and teachers first sought to reassemble the curriculum that had been used for centuries. This curriculum teaches in what's called the trivium, because it's tailored to three stages of child development.

The first stage is grammar school (grades 1–4), in which teachers focus on telling stories, and students memorize math facts, history timelines, and Bible verses.

The second stage is logic school (grades 5–8), in which teachers cover the same ground, but in greater depth and with an eye to teaching logic and helping students test and debate what they're learning.

The third stage is rhetoric school (grades 9–12), in which students dig into texts more deeply, honing their ability to

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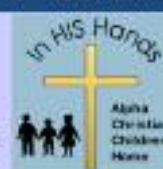
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write and speak about truths they've learned and tested.

Goodness

But classical schools don't fulfill their purpose if they're only teaching students truth. They also seek to cultivate goodness in students' lives.

"One of the number one values of Hope Academy is . . . to cultivate virtues—the fruits of the Spirit," Gregg said. "What do we do if we have a student bullying another student? There's good news from the gospel both for the bully and also the one being bullied that could cause repentance and bring about reconciliation."

"What kind of citizen and human being and Christian will they be at age 30? 40? 60? What kind of old men do we want these fifth graders to be?" — Keith Nix

He said Hope encourages high parental involvement, which can be hard in the inner-city.

"Many schools have decided it's hopeless to engage the families," Gregg said, "but we have bucked against that trend and gone to some extraordinary lengths to engage and involve parents."

Every year teachers visit the home of each child in their class. Parents are required to come to school two Saturdays a year, where they attend workshops on how to support their child's education. Hope also provides parental report cards to let them know how they're doing.

"In our neighborhood, about 15 percent of parents go to parent-teacher conferences," Gregg said. "Here it's 97 percent on the first day, and the other 3 percent get it done the next week."

That's because Hope asks them to keep their children home until the conference is rescheduled.

"New families don't believe we'll follow through, but we do," he said. "We find that all of us need accountability."

Leaning on parents for involvement fosters a community of love, something that prospective parents find more attractive than academic strength, Gregg said.

"Being a college prep school is too small of a goal," Nix said. "When we come together and talk about the kind of schools we're building, we return to the question 'What kind of citizen and human being and Christian will they be at age 30? 40? 60? What kind of old men do we want these fifth graders to be?'"

Those questions change everything, Nix said.

"One way the Devil can get in is to get us too focused on something that is good but not best," Perrin said. "If we focus on the good of curriculum and neglect Christian love, we'll destroy everything, because we'll have made the secondary thing primary."

But these schools aren't the whole story. Classical Christian education is also trending in homeschools.

Another challenge has been staffing all these new classical schools. The number of teachers who have received a classical education themselves, even at this point, is minimal.

Some colleges are beginning to respond, including New Saint Andrews in Idaho. Grove City College has added a minor in classical studies. Hillsdale College has also added a minor to prepare teachers to teach classically. Baylor University's "Great Texts" program offers good preparation for classical Christian teachers, as does Houston Baptist University's master of liberal arts program.

Metro Voice staff contributed to this article. For the full text of the original article, go to www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-exponential-growth-of-classical-christian-education

California bans state-funded travel to Kansas

A 2016 Kansas law enables religious groups on college campuses to require their members to adhere to their religious beliefs, which California says discriminates against LGBT people

University of Kansas, Lawrence campus (credit: KU Public Affairs)

California has banned state-funded travel to Kansas after determining that the Sunflower State is one of four in the nation with laws that it views as discriminatory toward gay people.

The policy could prevent public universities in California from scheduling sporting events with Kansas teams and raises the question of whether teams will travel to Wichita in 2018, when the city is scheduled to host two rounds of the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

"California must take action to avoid supporting or financing discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people," states the California law, which was passed in September.

The law prohibits state agencies and universities from using state dollars to pay for travel to states with laws it views as discriminating against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. There are a few exceptions, such as for law enforcement purposes.

Kansas is on the travel prohibition list because of a 2016 law that enabled college campus religious groups to require that members adhere to their religious beliefs and standards. That law was crafted partially in response to a controversy in California that occurred when a Christian student group lost recognition on California State University campuses for failure to comply with an "all comers" non-discrimination policy in 2014.

Other states on the list are North Carolina, Tennessee and Mississippi.

Sen. Steve Fitzgerald, R-Leavenworth, who sponsored the Kansas legislation, said the California attorney general's office misunderstood the purpose of the law. "It's to prevent discrimination," he said.

"I think there's more evidence now that when we build the wall we need to build it up the California border," Fitzgerald added, referring to President Trump's plan to build a wall along the border with Mexico.

The biggest impact of the California law will likely be in college athletics.

Josh Rupprecht, spokesman for UCLA's athletic department, said it does not rely on state funds for its sports teams, but that "moving forward, the athletic department will not schedule future games in states that fail to meet the standards established by the new law."

Asked whether this would prevent UCLA from traveling to Wichita for the NCAA men's basketball tournament in 2018, Rupprecht said in a second e-mail that should "the NCAA



assign us to a tournament bracket in a state affected by AB 1887, barring unforeseen circumstances, we will not deny our student-athletes the right to participate in postseason play."

Michael Schuttloffel, executive director of the Kansas Catholic Conference, one of the main groups that pushed for the Kansas law, dismissed California's restriction on official travel as a publicity stunt and said seven other states also had laws similar to the Kansas law that protect campus religious groups.

"Maybe in California they do not believe that Jewish students should get to be in charge of the Jewish student association, or that Baptist students should be able to ensure that the Baptist student union stands for the things that Baptists believe in, but fortunately California does not make law in Kansas," Schuttloffel said. "We have no interest in importing California's anti-religious intolerance. And frankly if UCLA is scared to play KU in basketball, they should just come out and say it."

About Topeka's own Classical Education school



Cair Paravel Latin School was one of 3 classical education schools in the nation to crop up in the 1980s. For over 35 years, CPLS has been educating students in the heart of Topeka. The mission of CPLS is "to cultivate classically trained, lifelong learners, committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ, who will enrich their community and God's kingdom." Cair Paravel seeks to partner with parents in the cultivation of the moral and intellectual virtues by means of time-tested materials and methods so that the students may become what God created them to be.

CPLS students, because they have been trained in the traditional liberal arts, have gone on to be highly successful in a variety of fields including medicine, law, ministry, engineering, and business. The focus of a CPLS education is the development of the human mind, not a specific subject; hence, students are trained to think and to learn. While success or failure is not measured by test scores, high test scores reflect this cultivation and love of learning. Topeka families continue to return to Cair Paravel year after year, and the recent growth of the school is leading to new and exciting opportunities for the community.

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Should we prioritize Christian refugees into the U.S.?

by **Michael F. Haverluck**

The son of the iconic world evangelist, Rev. Billy Graham, insists that the humanitarian relief of refugees is not the government's responsibility, but rather the responsibility of the Church. He went on to contend that Trump is merely taking care of job number one as America's commander-in-chief – to protect its citizens.

"The priority of the president of the United States is protecting the Constitution and the safety of Americans," the younger Graham recently expressed on his Facebook page. "That's exactly what President Trump is trying to do."

Border supporter

Graham, who serves as the president of Samaritan's Purse, went on to show his support for Trump's controversial plan to build a wall that continuously spans the 2,000-mile United States-Mexico border from the Pacific Ocean in California to the Gulf Coast of Texas.

"Taking action to secure our borders had to start somewhere," the 64-year-old evangelist asserted before reflecting on the project as a solution to illegal immigration. "Is it perfect? Maybe not, but it is a first step."

Protection paramount

The outspoken pastor from North Carolina also shared his view on the "extreme vetting" of refugees from the seven countries targeted by the president's executive order that he signed during his first days in office – insisting that residents from every country should undergo the scrutinizing process when attempting to enter the U.S.

"We have to be sure that the philosophies of those entering our country are compatible with our Constitution," Graham continued. "If a person does not agree with our principles of freedom, democracy and liberty, which we cherish, they should not be allowed to come."

Putting his focus on Muslim refugees



coming to America from militant terrorist-harboring Islamic nations, Graham contended that the brutal and violent nature of the Islamic law – derived from Muslim's holy book, the Koran – should not be adopted by the U.S. because it goes against the very bib-

"Of the 12,587 Syrian refugees admitted under the ramped-up refugee program during the last fiscal year, a mere 0.5 percent were Christians – equivalent to about a dozen families."

lical principles upon which America's legal system is based.

"Without question, Sharia law is not compatible," he asserted.

Changing gears, Graham impressed that Trump's executive order does not excuse the Church from its biblical calling to help and serve those in need around the world.

"The president's job is not the same as the job of the Church, as Christians we are clearly taught in the Bible to care for the poor and oppressed," Graham expressed to his Facebook fans. "As Christians we are commanded to help

all, regardless of religious background or ethnicity, like the Good Samaritan Jesus shared about in the Bible. Our job is to show God's love and compassion."

According to Graham, until a political solution is reached, the international community should continue to protect the safe zones designated in the war-torn Middle Eastern nations of Syria and Iraq -- regions where he says Christians must step up to assist those who have fled to refugee camps to escape persecution. One American Christian humanitarian organizations Operation Blessing International, has helped refugees in the powder keg of the Middle East since 2014 by giving them provisions, including food, diapers and bedding.

Not abandoning persecuted Christians

In support of the safe zones established by the U.S., Saudi Arabia's King Salman told Trump that he supports the designated areas in Syria and Yemen, according to a White House statement.

Trump recently voiced his concern for persecuted Christians in the Middle East, saying they should be the focus of any relocation efforts.

"They've been horribly treated," the newly sworn-in president impressed to CBN News Chief Political Correspondent David Brody in an interview. "Do you know if you were a Christian in Syria, it was impossible – at least very tough – to get into the United States?"

He then noted the contrast of how Christian refugees have been treated, compared to Muslim refugees over the years.

"If you were a Muslim you could come in, but if you were a Christian, it was almost impossible and the reason that was so unfair – everybody was persecuted in all fairness – but they were chopping off the heads of everybody, but more so the Christians," Trump added. "And I thought it was very, very unfair. So we are going to help them."

Open Doors USA President and CEO David Curry disagrees with Trump's prioritization of Christians.

"We stand for a need-based resettlement approach that treats all faiths equally," Curry proclaimed, according to CBN News. "We can't support a religious test in the United States, or in any other country. Policies akin to this drive horrendous persecution of Christians around the globe. A process that prioritizes one religion over another, as the Trump administration has proposed, can have negative effects not just in America, but around the world."



Supporting Trump's plan to give priority to Christian refugees, Hudson Institute Center for Religious Freedom Director Nina Shea argues that Muslim refugees have overwhelmingly been favored by U.S. resettlement programs over Christians for years.

"Of the 12,587 Syrian refugees admitted under the ramped-up refugee program during the last fiscal year, a mere 0.5 percent were Christians –

equivalent to about a dozen families," Shea pointed out. "Yet, by State Department estimates, Christians accounted for up to 10 percent of Syria's population. The State Department argued it was already prioritizing the 'vulnerable minorities.' But in several aspects, the Christians were in reality put at the back of the line."

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6 Ways to Update Home Décor this Spring

(StatePoint) Spring is the perfect time re-evaluate your home's décor and color palette. After the long winter season, interiors often need a facelift.

Get inspired to freshen up your home with these six 2017 décor trends from interior designer and DIY television personality, Taniya Nayak.

1. Add timeless touches. Tasteful updates can help create an elegant family room that will never go out of style. Display heirlooms and vintage-inspired items, such as traditional candle holders or a vase, and pair with a modern color scheme such as white or navy, to achieve a tailored and timeless look in your liv-

ing room.

2. Apply modern morphing techniques. Morph a wide-open space together with bold colors and patterns that help bridge the gap between rooms. Accomplish this with a large piece of geometric artwork or by utilizing color-blocking techniques to paint an accent wall, which tricks the eye as to where one room ends and another begins.

Before painting an accent wall, it's important to tape off windows, doorways and trim to prevent splatter. One of the most important tools for any painting project is a premium painter's



tape, such as FrogTape brand painter's tape, which is treated with patented PaintBlock Technology to help ensure your work looks seamless and to deliver the sharpest transition lines between the newly painted accent wall and adjacent walls.

3. Interweave textures and bold patterns. Be bold and embrace this indie-meets-mid-century trend to add character to a space. An easy way to attain this look is by pairing patterned pillows with deep, intense colors from an area rug. Or, take it one step further and create a wall design comprised of overlapping paint using rich shades such as blue, pink or red, for a truly authentic look.

4. Create luscious layers. Allow yourself to feel wrapped in luxury with this emerging trend. When creating a peaceful nest, immerse yourself in layers by integrating different textures and soft patterns in colors, such as blush pinks, creams and soft grays. Start by adding blankets and sheer drapery. Place a rug on top of carpet. Finish the look with ruffled pillows or a faux fur throw for a space that is cozy and chic.

5. DIY haute homemade projects. Elevate your home with handmade personal touches that bring comfort and warmth into a room. Go bold and paint stripes on an area rug, or give flea market finds a chic update with metallic paint. If you want to start small, try transforming an ordinary basic into a fun planter by painting the bottom with fresh white paint. For professional looking results, you can use FrogTape brand

painter's tape to achieve a crisp line.

6. Incorporate nature's influence. Integrate fresh flowers and surprising pops of color, like yellow or teal, with natural finishes, such as wood, to create an unexpected yet whimsical look. Or create a statement accent piece by paint-

ing a nature-inspired pattern like florals or feathers. All you need is paint and painter's tape to DIY a look that brings nature's outdoor influence inside.

More inspiration and popular trends are available at frogtape.com.

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Annette's Tip:
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Pizagels started out in 1994 as Bagel Express. Jim Burghardt and his wife Shanna, the owners, just fell in love with the idea of a Bagel Restaurant, in Topeka, while they were traveling.

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included adding Pizza to the menu, along with a bar serving Beer on tap and Wine for the evening customers.

With the additions to the menu Jim decided to change the name of the restaurant to more accurately reflect their new direction. Pizagels is a play off the restaurant's two featured menu items – pizza and bagels.

"I have opened a lot of businesses over the past 30 years and this one has probably been the most difficult one", said Jim Burghardt, "but it has been the most successful." He added, "I love the

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CONCERTS

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

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

SCOTT FRAKER CONCERT - Feb. 25, 4-6pm. First Presbyterian Church. Punch and cookies to follow. Free will offering accepted.

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

THE WRIGHTS - Mar. 11, 5pm, Berryton UMC benefit, 50s & 60s music. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com

LEGENDS IN CONCERT - Mar. 16, 7:30-10:30. TPAC. #1 tribute show from Vegas.

RANDY STONEHILL IN CONCERT - Mar. 22, Topeka Bible Church College Avenue Building, 1135 S.W. College Ave. Contemporary Christian music pioneer Randy Stonehill will be in concert at 7 p.m. There is no charge for admission and a freewill offering will be received.

COUNTRY GOLD TOUR - Mar. 26, 3pm. TPAC.

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 Menkfeld - 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@rhctoepka.org

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST - Feb. 25, 8-12. True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, 307 SE Tefft. \$10.

WOMENS RETREAT: SWEET LIFE CAFE - Feb. 25, 9-4:30, Northland Christian Church. Get away from the busyness of life, relax, share laughter and spend time with God. Lunch served. Cost \$20. Register at north-

land.cc or 286-1204.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 10 PANCAKE FEED - Feb. 25, 7am-1pm, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. All-you-can-eat pancakes just \$5.00 with bottomless juice or coffee. Children under 5 eat free with adult purchase.

THE SPIRE CHAMBER ORCHESTRA - Feb. 26, 4pm. Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 701 SW 8th. \$20 general admission, \$5 students. For info: greatspaces.org

SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER - Feb. 28, 5:30-7. First Presbyterian Church. Free.

FIRST WEDNESDAY WESLEY CAFE - Mar. 1, 5:30-7pm. Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th St. For info: 478-3697 or swumc@swumc.org

LENTEN SERVICES - Wednesday's through Mar. 1 - Apr. 5, 5 & 7pm. Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. A meal will be served from 5:45-6:45pm.

SLIME FEST 2017 - Mar. 3, 6-8pm, Good News Church KIDZONE (Elementary school Kid's)

FIRST FRIDAY EXPLOSION - Mar. 3, 7pm. Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln. Testimonies; music; praise and worship; and preaching

WOMEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST - Mar. 4, 9am. First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. \$5. For info: 228-2126

3RD ANNUAL PASSION TO PURPOSE BRUNCH - Mar. 4, 1pm. New Mount Zion, 2801 SE Indiana Ave. Women Empowerment brunch is designed to provide each of us with information and a networking opportunity that will help us move together from Passion to Purpose. Featuring author Louis Collins and Caleb Stephens. This event is ideal for Women, Men, and Mature teens. Tickets \$35. Don't forget to bring a little cash for our Tie-Ality (Men Ties, Shoes, and Shirts) Raffle by suggested donation. For info: 256-0784 or we.topeka@gmail.com

TOPEKA CHURCHES SINGING CONVENTION ANNUAL BANQUET - Mar. 5, 2pm. McFarland's Restaurant 4133 SW Gage Center Drive. \$25 adults, \$15 children 12 and under. For info: 817-2718

CONQUER SERIES - Beginning Mar. 5, 6-7pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. A cinematic teaching series on pornography. The Conquer Series, unrivaled in its scope and authority, is not about behavior modification but heart transformation. This 5-week non-denominational discipleship curriculum provide insights from top Christian leaders who lay out biblical strategies and scientific facts about the use of pornography. For info: 234-5545

CONCERT - Mar. 5, 3pm, First Lutheran Church, 1234 S.W. Fairlawn. Organist Melody Steed and trumpet player Keith Benjamin

ALL YOU CAN EAT HAM & BEANS SUPPER - Mar. 10, 4-6:30pm. Kansas Ave United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Adults \$8. Price includes combread, drink & dessert. Community Invited!

MARCH MADNESS TO GLADNESS - Mar. 26, 3pm, New Beginning Missionary Baptist Church, 1329 SW 37th. Celebrating our 19th Annual Church Anniversary. All are invited. We will be taking our Ministry to the streets of Topeka. (785) 8621141; tnbttop.com; newbeginning3@gmail.com

COMMUNITY MEAL & SILENT AUCTION - Mar. 30, 5-7pm. Berryton United Methodist Church, 7010 S.E. Berryton Road. chicken-and-noodle dinner, mashed potatoes, green beans, gelatin salad, tossed salad, rolls, desserts and beverages for a free will offering. Also a sweet shop and silent auction.

REVIVAL WITH JOSH RADFORD - Apr. 9-10, Sun. at 6pm & Mon. at 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. For info: 234-1111.

SPECIAL SPEAKER - Apr. 23, 10:30am, Cultivate Community Church, Eskridge. Pastor Dwight Vozier will speak at the 10:30am service.

SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nhonl@tscopl.org

19th ANNUAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO - Mar. 4, 10am-2pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Metro Voice. 25 K-12 Schools, Homeschool 50 Colleges from 15 States, plus, Free Seminars! 816-524-4522.

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Mar. 14 at 2pm. 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 the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Light snacks & beverages provided.

TOPEKA LITERACY COUNCIL VOLUNTEER TUTOR TRAINING WORKSHOP - Mar. 25 & Apr. 1, 9am-4:45pm. Doorstep Building, 1119 SW 10th. \$25 for class and materials. For info: 234-2806 or topekaliteracy@juno.com

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Mar. 28 at 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all of its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare as well as those considering making a change during open enrollment. Seminars are free & open to the public, and will be held at Cotton O'Neil North at 4505 NW Fielding. For info: 233-1816 or info@century-health.com. Light snacks & beverages provided.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP - plays Mondays & Wednesdays. Mondays at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame, from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wednesdays at First Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors. Group Coordinator is Judy Hartegan.

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.makimoves.com

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

COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING - Thursdays 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side & use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] for the fellowship hall.

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Parking & entrance for walkers is on the WEST side. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS - for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325.

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. Some Sat. adoption booths are held at PetSmart, 2020 SW Westport Dr. Updates at savingdeathrowdogs.com

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

KANSAS SILENT FILM FESTIVAL SPECIAL EVENT - Feb. 24-25, White Concert Hall, Washburn University. Free. Cinema dinner available on Sat. For details: Kssilentfilmfest.org.

EQUIFEST 2017 - Feb. 24-26. Kansas Expocentre. All-breed horse fair and exposition. Rodeo, mounted shooting, etc. Friday Night, followed by a dance featuring Dustin Evans and Good Times. Kansas State Swingin Spurs will entertain and teach dance lessons throughout the weekend. For info: 776-0662

TOPEKA LUTHERAN SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE - Feb. 26, 2-4pm, Topeka Lutheran School. Come learn about TLS and the benefits of a Christ centered education. You will have a chance to speak with the teachers and staff of TLS, members of the school board, and current TLS families. Students will also be displaying their musical abilities throughout the afternoon. For info: 785-357-0382.

FROM LLAMAS TO LODGING - Feb. 28, 9am-4:30pm, Ravenwood Lodge. Explore the possibilities of an agriculture-based business. Registrations are available at Shawnee.k-state.edu.

TOPEKA RESTAURANT WEEK - Feb. 28 to Mar. 7. A portion of all meals support Harvesters BackSnack Program. For info: (785) 234-1030

KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP - Mar. 1, 9:30-11am, Topeka Lutheran School. An exciting preview of Kindergarten. Meet teachers & staff and see the benefits of a Christ-centered education. Your child will enjoy a morning of activities lead by "real cowboys" while parents hear about the exciting future at TLS and learn about the enrollment process

FLIPPIN' FRIDAY OPEN WORKOUT - Mar. 3, 10, 17, 24, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Evolution Gymnastics, Tumbling, and Cheer, 3335 SE 21st St. Open workout is a great time for athletes to work on tumbling, gymnastics, or any other exercises that they need specific equipment or assistance! Open workout is not structured like a class, however, trained specialists are available for anyone that needs assistance. \$8 per Athlete. (785) 438-2055

THUNDER RIDGE 3 MILE HIKE - Mar. 4, 8:30am to 12:00pm. Join the Dirty Girls for a beautiful hike through the woods near Lake Perry. We will hike about 3 miles, with some steep and rocky terrain. Check in at 8:30. Hike from 9-11 approximately, with time around the campfire afterwards for lunch. Check the Dirty Girl website to sign up and find out more information, approximately 1 month prior to event date. After you sign up, the Dirty Girls will send you a confirmation email with

Join us for a powerful time of
"Revival"
with Evangelist Josh Radford
April 9-10
Sunday 10:30am & 6pm
Monday 7pm
@
Family of God Church
1231 NW Eugene St
Topeka, KS 66608
(785) 234-1111
www.FOGchurch.com



C5 Alive Developing and Uniting
Christian Leadership
• Business • Non-profits • Churches

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

C5Alive POWER Luncheons are held 2nd Thur. each mo.

Mar. 9, 11:30-1 - "GOVERNOR'S Luncheon"
at Governor's Rowhouse, 811 SW Buchanan
Special Speaker: Gov. Sam Brownback
RSVP to info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

Save the Dates!
• Apr. 13, 11:30-1, Power Luncheon, Details TBA
• Apr. 15 - 10am-3pm - Easter Parade on N. Kansas Ave; Fun Fair at Garfield Park!

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

COME TO THE Elmont Opry! **Two Great Shows!**

Fri, Mar. 10, 7 pm & Sat. Mar. 11 at 1 pm

Great Country Music by all your favorites!
Special Guests Larry & Judy Maddux

Doors open 90 minutes early for snacks/meals/desserts!
Elmont Methodist Church • 6635 NW Church Ln.
(1 mile East of North Highway 75 on NW 62nd St.)

Just \$10/ticket! Call John at 246-0156 for reservations



In concert 7 PM Wed., March 22

RANDY STONEHILL
47 YEARS OF MINISTRY

BRINGING THE KING OF HEARTS TO THE HEART OF THE WORLD

Doors open at 6:30 • Free will offering accepted
Topeka Bible Church, College Ave. Auditorium
1135 SW College • 785-234-5545



additional information. Cost: \$40.00. www.dirtygirladventures.com; jenniferwoerner@yahoo.com; 785-224-0351

HEALTHY SOLES - Mar. 4, 18, 25, West Ridge Mall, lower level center court near Tradehome Shoes. Makin' Moves & Chris "The Health-Hippie" Omni hosts a FREE planned and progressive walking experience designed to help you move more, live better, laugh a lot and enjoy life. Text "TheHealthHippie" to 25328

SCHOOL CARNIVAL - Mar. 4, 4-7 pm, Auburn Elementary School.

COUPLES DATE NIGHT - Mar. 4, 7-8:30pm. Topeka Bible Church. Dessert and swing dance lessons. Free.

TOPEKA KIDS CLOSET SPRING INTO SAVINGS EVENT - Mar. 9, 10, Mar. 11, 6. Topeka Sunrise Optimists. Free. www.kidscloset.biz/topeka

KANSASWORKS STATEWIDE JOB FAIR - Mar. 9, 2:30-6:30. Topeka Workforce Center.

COMMUNITY HARVEY HOUSE LUNCHEON - Mar. 9, 11:30-1:30pm. Great Overland Station. These uniquely elegant luncheons are served by our very own costumed Harvey Girls who enjoy sharing their knowledge of Fred Harvey and the historical Harvey Houses. Following lunch, a docent in authentic Santa Fe ticket agent uniform gives a guided tour of the Great Overland Station. \$23.50 per person. For info and reservations by Mar. 3: 232-5533 ext. 14 or asigars@greatoverlandstation.com

TOPEKA HOME SHOW - Mar 10-12, Expocentre. \$5 in Advance, \$10 at the Door (785) 235-1986

8 MILES OF MARCH MADNESS - Mar. 11, 8:30am to 1:00pm, Hike 8 Miles on the PLT (Perry Lake Trail). We will choose a section of this 29 mile trail to enjoy with you. This trail includes difficult, technical trail with steep inclines/declines. Check the Dirty Shop at dirtygirladventures.net to sign up for events in advance, approximately 1 month prior to event. \$40 regular \$30 member; jenniferwoerner@yahoo.com; 785-224-0351

IRISH FEST, PARADE AND 5K RUN - Mar. 11, Assumption Church 204 SW 8th. 8am breakfast, followed by Leprechaun Leap; 5K fun run and 1 mile walk; and bed race at S.W. 6th and Jackson; kids carnival; Irish Fest lunch; traditional Irish music with Fraoch; the Donkey Show, and more. Parade starts at noon. For info: materdeirishfest.com or 234-9336

REGIONAL ORPHAN CARE SEMINAR - Mar. 11, 8:30am, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane. An Seminar on engaging in orphan care, adoption & foster/respite care. 783-4577; lifelinechild.org/events; jessa.swearingen@lifelinechild.org

56TH ANNUAL KANSAS PRAYER BREAKFAST - Mar. 15, 6am, Ramada Inn downtown. Guest speaker: Major General Julie A. Bentz, Vice Director of the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization, with leaders in government, business, education and industry. \$18 each or tables of 10 for \$180. For info and RSVP: info@kansasprayerbreakfast.net or 380-2901

HY-VEE SIMPLE FIX - Mar. 16, 5-7pm. Register by Mar. 12th. For only \$115 and one hour of your time, you can have SEVEN meals ready to serve your family any night of the week. Save time & money because there's no shopping & no cleaning! Each meal serves 4. Choose 5 meals for \$85, 6 meals for \$100, or 7 meals for \$115.

CPLS KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP - Mar 17, Cair Paravel Latin School, 635 SW Clay. Info & registration: 232-3878 or www.cpls.org

TUTTLE TREK - Mar. 18, 12:15pm to 3:00pm. AmeriCorps members will lead a guided hike through the park. At the conclusion, a craft item will be built. What to Bring: Bring water, binoculars, comfortable hiking shoes, snacks and camera. Free. www.facebook.com/TuttleCreekStatePark/; tuttlecreeksp@ksoutdoors.com; 785-539-7941

MENARDS NHRA HEARTLAND NATIONALS - Mar 19-21. Heartland Park Topeka. For info and tickets: 800-884-6472 or nhra.com/tickets

SEE ME SAVE CONSIGNMENT SPRING SALE - Mar. 22-25, Topeka Ramada West. For info: seemesave.biz

ABATE DISTRICT 4 BOWLING TOURNAMENT - Mar. 26, 12-6pm, West Ridge Lanes

2017 GREAT FUTURES GALA - Mar. 28, 5:30-8:30pm, Boys & Girls Clubs of Topeka. Dinner, live musical entertainment, as well as a live and silent auction. For info: www.bgctopeka.org to purchase tickets

SHARE THE STORY - Mar.30, 5:30pm, Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center at Washburn Univ., 1700 SW College Ave. An evening of stories from our various ministries. See how God is moving in families and with vulnerable children through adoption! Silent auction, a wonderful dinner. lifelinechild.org/events; jessa.swearingen@lifelinechild.org (785) 7834577,

ANNUAL PANCAKE FEED - Apr. 1, 6-11am. North Topeka Sunrise Optimists. \$5.

JOURNEY FOR SIGHT 5K WALK/RUN & 10K RUN - Apr. 1, 8am start, Combat Air Museum, Forbes Field. Funds raised support Lion's Club Eyeglass Procurement Programs. Register online at active.com or topekaliions.org, or at Gary Gribbles Running Sports.

PAWS IN THE PARK - Apr. 8, 10am-2pm at 21st & Belle. Helping Hands Humane Society is celebrating 20 years of Paws in the Park. Register at the HHHS gift shop or call Justin Brokar at (785) 233-7325.

4th ANNUAL TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR - Apr. 15, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's fourth annual Easter parade will begin at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue to Garfield Park at 10am. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair will be 10-3 at Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more. Bands and other

entertainment will perform nearby. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION - Apr. 15, 7-11am, First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage. Proceeds used for Vision Screening small children, and purchasing eye examinations and eye glasses in the Topeka community.

5TH ANNUAL BRIDGE2BRIDGE 5K RUN/WALK - Apr. 22, 9am, Downtown Topeka. Traverse sidewalks, streets, bridges in this urban experience. Course is USATF certified. 8 age categories. All ages welcome. See Bridge 2 Bridge 5K Run & Walk facebook event pg

WALK MS TOPEKA - Apr. 22, 9 am, Lake Shawnee Shelterhouse #1& 2. See details at facebook event pg

GARAGE SALE - Apr. 22, 7am-12noon., First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage, (enter from 19th and Stone Lot). Something for everyone, no clothes. Proceeds used for community and youth activities.

YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC - May 1, 11:30 reg.; 12:30 shotgun start. Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 232-8296 or topekayfc.org

MEETINGS & CLASSES

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON - Mar. 9, 11:30-1, Governor's Rowhouse, 811 SW Buchanan. Featured Speaker: Gov. Sam Brownback

- 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: Apr. 13, 11:30-1, C5Alive "POWER" Luncheon. Details to be announced.

TOPEKA WOMEN'S CONNECTION "It's a Party" LUNCHEON - Mar. 2 11am, T&SC Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. The speaker will be Pat Rohling, of Valley Center. Music will be provided by Trina Goss. Also, Brenda Ruhnke will make a presentation about the Dandelions Party Room. Prepaid luncheon reservations are \$14 and are due by Feb. 27, by calling (785) 554-3617. There is no charge to attend the program only.

SATURDAY WOMEN'S CONNECTION "GARDEN PARTY" LUNCHEON - Mar. 4, 10-11:30am, T&SC Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave. \$14 for lunch, no charge for program. Open to all women. RSVPs by Sep. 5 to Arlene, 233-0701 or Leidacloud@cox.net. Business Feature; Master Gardener Layne Hunley; tips for beautifying your yard or patio. Music: Love N Harmony- Barbershop quartet. Speaker: A Girl Named "Peaches!" Pat Rohling, Valley Center, KS, speaks with humor & sincerity of how her journey in life was

clearly changed.

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 TROUPTS - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, 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 times, locations & register

TIBA NETWORKING GROUP - 2nd Tues, 11:30a.m.-1 p.m. MUST RSVP: taradimick@gmail.com. Lunch is \$10. www.topekatiba.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 mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 min-

utes. 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. 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@sbcbglobe.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. Youth 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: "Ourladyofthefaithful."

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.

56th Annual KANSAS PRAYER BREAKFAST

Join Leaders in Government, Business, Education, and Industry in Kansas.



**Wednesday, March 15
Ramada Inn Downtown**

**Buffet Line Opens 6:00 a.m.
Program begins at 6:45 a.m.**

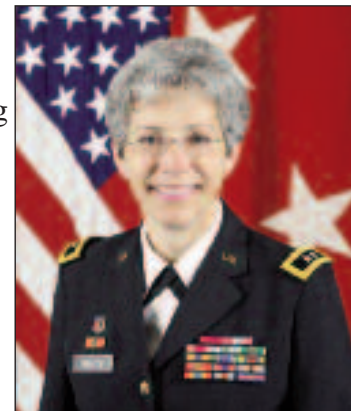
**Reserve Your Ticket Today!
\$18/person • \$180 - table of 10**

**Call: 785-380-2901 or email
info@kansasprayerbreakfast.net.**

**Sponsored by Topeka Fellowship, Inc.
www.kansasprayerbreakfast.net**

Guest Speaker: Major General Julie Bentz

This year's featured speaker will be Major General Julie A. Bentz. Major General Bentz is the Vice Director of the Joint Improvised Threat Defeat Organization responsible for providing quick reaction capabilities to counter improvised explosive devices and other threats encountered by our warfighters in Iraq and Afghanistan. Prior to her current assignment, MG Bentz served as the director, Strategic Capabilities Policy on the National Security Council under President Obama and as the director, Nuclear Defense Policy on the Homeland Security Council under President Bush.



Major General Bentz was commissioned as a second lieutenant in June 1986 upon graduation from Oregon State University and has served in a variety of active, reserve and National Guard assignments in nuclear defense, homeland security, health physics, environmental science, and as a traditional nuclear, biological and chemical officer. She holds a PhD in Nuclear Engineering from the University of Columbia, Missouri.

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. 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 college students.

FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP – 3rd Thurs., 6pm meal, 7pm meeting, Coyote Canyon, Huntoon & 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! 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 with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For Info: 286-1370.

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

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). 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 topekaanon.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 – Westminister 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.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS: a 12 step program for those suffering with emotional instability such as depression, anxiety, grief, etc. Meets at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, weekly, Tuesdays, Noon-1:00. N/C. For more information contact Sharon at 785-633-7764

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, Pozee Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

ACCIDENT

continued from page 1

perhaps even himself a bit — McLarty made it past the accident scene then pulled off the to the side of the road, got out of his car, and ran back down the highway toward the injured man.

"Honestly, I was completely shocked," Kylie says, recalling Geoff's decision. "I kept thinking, What is he going to do? We had our 2-year-old son in the back seat, it was dark, and we were just trying to get home after a long day at the fair. But then I began to pray for the injured man and knew in my spirit that we were there for a reason."

When Geoff approached the hurt man, he could tell immediately that he was in bad shape. "There was a lot of blood, I could see his head was split open, and he was making this awful gasping sound, even though he was completely unconscious," Geoff says.

He grabbed the man's left hand and started praying out loud for him. While he was praying, a nurse arrived on the scene and began to feel for a pulse. She was unsure if the man had a pulse any longer, but if so, it was very faint. The nurse referred to the gasping sounds the man had been making as what they call a "death shudder." He was now limp and motionless, but Geoff continued to pray.

When, what felt like a long time later, the Kansas Highway Patrol arrived, they immediately began performing CPR, releasing Geoff to go home. He felt certain the man was dead, and uncertain as to why he felt the Holy Spirit had told him to stop.

Arriving home, Geoff was unsettled by the experience and driven to find out who the man was and what had become of him. So through social media, he asked for help. A friend of the man's family connected with Geoff a few days later, giving him the man's estranged wife's contact information — she wanted to speak with him.

The motorcyclist's name was Jim Harmon Sr. His wife, who explained that they were in the process of getting a divorce, would tell him that the police were able to revive Jim, but his heart would stop again while being airlifted to the hospital, only to be revived again. Geoff would pray over the phone with her, and would continue to pray for Jim over the next few days before paying Jim a visit in the hospital on Friday.

"I met Jim's sister at the hospital and she thanked me for my concern, but that the doctors had said there was minimal brain activity and there was nothing more they could do but make him comfortable. They were recommending the family 'pull the plug,'" Geoff says. "The sister had decided to wait until Tuesday so family members could make it to Wichita to say their 'good-byes' before taking him off life support."

Geoff, who had seen God restore a church member with a traumatic brain injury not long ago, understood the strug-

gles the sister must have went through to make the difficult decision, but emboldened by the Holy Spirit and supported by prayer, he spoke the words — although somewhat daring words — God placed on his heart.

"I told her, in all due respect, God would not have brought him back twice for nothing — there's a reason Jim is still around," Geoff says. "She politely thanked me for being encouraging, but felt it was time — Jim was suppose to go home."

He then prayed over Jim, praying that God would bring him back and bring him back fully — a brave prayer when doctors and family are convinced that Jim is nothing more than a vegetable. Nothing miraculous happened following the prayer, and Geoff left, but left thinking, God, you're going to do something big here. He continued to passionately pray for Jim on his own and with his worship team.

Tuesday came and past. No word. Out of respect for the potentially grieving family, Geoff did not impose himself, but continued to pray.

"On Thursday I was rehearsing with the worship team when I stopped and texted Jim's sister, just letting her know that I was praying for her," Geoff says. "She called me back and left a voice message..."

Geoff pauses to regain composure. Jim was still alive — not only alive, but doing amazing well! At 3 a.m. Tuesday morning, just hours before doctors would have pulled the plug, there was dramatic improvement in Jim's condition. His brain activity spiked and now there was physical movement. The doctors were stunned!

Praises to God followed by tears of awe and joy flowed freely among the worship team. The next day, Geoff would visit Jim, where he would pray for him again, and Jim would squeeze his hand back in gratitude. Although Jim still has a long road to full recovery, he's now walking and talking, far exceeding anything the doctors conceived as a possibility. In fact, Jim is in the process of being transferred to a rehab facility closer to family in Arizona.

But as obviously meaningful to Jim and his family was God's answer to prayer, it has also bolstered the faith of Geoff, the worship team, and those attending his church.

"This experience has truly showed me the power of praying without ceasing," Kylie McLarty says. "Even when all hope is lost, keep praying. You never know when God can just show up and turn things around."

Geoff agrees, adding, "I've prayed hundreds of thousands of prayers and seen God work amazing miracles, but God knew I needed encouragement. He strengthened my faith through my obedience... and I just can't emphasize enough, never give up! Always listen to the Holy Spirit and be obedient. There's no telling what God can and will do through and in you."

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

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

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

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP – Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School. Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

DIVORCECARE PROGRAMS – (For updates check

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

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

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



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Is the new Lego Batman movie good for kids? Here's the 411

entertainment
film411
THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE
STARRING:: Will Arnett, Michael Cera, Rosario Dawson, Ralph Fiennes
DIRECTOR: Chris McKay
RATED: PG

Batman saves the world on a regular basis as the hero of Gotham City, but if you look just a little bit closer, you'll discover that all is not well with our Caped Crusader.

He eats alone. He watches movies alone. And when people want to be his friend, he rejects them.

"I don't need anyone," he says.

The happy child who was orphaned at a young age is now a superhero filled with anger and rage, and he has no intention of changing. Well, that is until a young boy—himself an orphan—enters Batman's life and challenges everything he believes.

It's all part of *The Lego Batman Movie* (PG) with the newest Lego movie starring Will Arnett as the voice of Batman, Michael Cera as Robin, Zach Galifianakis as the Joker, and Rosario Dawson as Barbara

Gordon/Batgirl.

It's a movie that many American children will want to see, even without the partnership the film has with McDonald's.

Here's the good news: *Lego Batman* is mostly family friendly. Here's even better news: It has more solid, practical lessons about life than many adult-oriented films do.

The film opens with Batman saving Gotham City from the Joker, who is shocked when the Dark Knight tells him that he is not Batman's "No. 1 bad guy."



"Batman and Joker are not a thing," Batman says. "You mean nothing to me. No one does."

A distraught Joker then sets out to prove that he is, indeed, Batman's top nemesis.

That's the plot, but we still need to ask: Is *Lego Batman* OK for kids of any age? And, if so, what can they learn? Let's take a look.

Warning: spoilers ahead!

Lego Batman has both a tragic and uplifting message about families. As we know, Batman's alter ego, Bruce Wayne, witnessed the murder of his parents as a child. That's not seen or mentioned in the movie, but we do learn that he was an orphan and we watch him look at pictures of his parents.

"Hey, Mom. Hey, Dad. I saved the city again today. I wish you could have seen me," he says to the photo.



Batman. Batman initially wants to "ship" the boy back to the orphanage, but he eventually comes around and embraces him. (The boy becomes Robin.)

But the movie's primary themes involve Batman's ego and loneliness. When he's talking to impressionable kids, he says all the wrong things: "If you want to be like Batman, take care of your abs." When Gotham

City's new commissioner, Barbara Gordon, proposes that the police and Batman fight crime together, Batman rebuffs the idea: "Batman works alone." When he's asked about his greatest fear, he refuses to give an inch: "I'm not afraid of anything."

It is only after he sees that he can't save the city by himself, and when his new friends are in danger of being killed, that he learns to trust others and allow them to receive some credit. Imagine that: a humble Batman. And a great lesson for children.

"Sometimes losing people is a part of life, but that doesn't mean that you stop letting them in," he says toward the end.

Lego Batman has no coarse language, although it includes more potty language than I'd prefer and has no sexuality.

Scripture tells us that life wasn't meant to be lived alone. God gave Eve to Adam in the Old Testament (Genesis 2:18), and God established the church in the New Testament as a community to support and encourage one another (Hebrews 10:24-25, James 5:16). As Batman discovered, a self-centered life is a miserable life. That's a good discussion to have with our kids.

Sight & Sound's 'JONAH' splashes into movie theaters

BRANSON – For more than four decades, experiencing one of Sight & Sound's biblical stage epics meant a drive to Branson or Lancaster, Pa. But on May 2, all that is about to change when one of Sight & Sound's musical dramas hits movie theaters nationwide for a special one-night presentation called *JONAH: On Stage!*

In addition to the production, audiences will get an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at the history of Sight & Sound Theatres, whose live stage shows have been seen by more than 22 million visitors worldwide.

"More than a million people come to see one of our shows every year," Sight & Sound Chief Executive Officer Matt Neff said.

"And now for the very first time, instead of audiences coming to us—we're going to them."

Neff said *JONAH: On Stage!* is a jaw-dropping adventure for the whole family as one of the Bible's biggest stories comes to life in this special event in select cinemas on Tuesday, May 2.

Filmed in front of a live audience



at Sight & Sound Theatres in Lancaster, *JONAH: On Stage!* brings to life the journey of this lovable yet stubborn prophet. This performance offers delightful humor, cinematic music, massive sets, amazing costumes and a breath-taking underwater scene featuring a huge 40-foot whale.

When God calls Jonah to offer mercy and forgiveness to the people of Nineveh, he runs straight ... in the opposite direction. As is often the case, one bad choice leads to another and soon Jonah's "get-

away" ship is on the verge of destruction amidst a terrible storm. To save themselves, the ship's crew tosses Jonah overboard ... and into the waiting mouth of one ginormous fish.

But as Jonah discovers, God is always willing to offer anyone another chance.

The original live stage production *Jonah* debuted in 2012 at Sight & Sound's theater in Lancaster then transferred to Branson for the 2014-15 season.

Randy Stonehill will offer concert in Topeka

Considered one of the founding fathers of contemporary Christian music, songwriter, musician, singer and Grammy Nominee Randy Stonehill is coming to Topeka for a concert.

Stonehill has been busy delivering heart-driven, relevant music for 47 years. He's written hundreds of songs on 27 releases and is responsible for some of the most authentic, influential Christian music ever written. His recordings, including the groundbreaking and massively influential *Welcome To Paradise* album of 1976, have inspired many artists and he continues to write, record, and tour across the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe. Among some of his most recognizable songs are "Until Your Love Broke Through" (co-written with Keith Green & Todd Fishkind) and the festive, timeless classic "Shut De Do." In November 2010, Randy was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame. Stonehill has also collaborated on several projects with fellow Christian artist Phil Keaggy.

Compassion International, a Christian charity dedicated to helping children in poverty, asked Stonehill to write them a theme song. The result was "Who Will Save the Children?" which he recorded with Keaggy. This song encourages us to take charitable action on behalf of God:



"And we are his hands, we are his voice/We are the ones who must make the choice/And it must be now, there's no time to waste/It must be you, no one can take your place/Can't you see that only we can save the children."

Stonehill's Topeka concert will be on Wednesday, March 22nd, at Topeka Bible Church in the College Avenue Auditorium at 1135 SW College Ave. The free concert will begin at 7p.m. and a free love offering will be taken. For more information call 785-234-5545.

GOODBYE FEBRUARY, HELLO NEW ALBUMS

Well, we made it this far, huh? I was tempted to write Happy New Year, but... well... it's March. So between rushing the kids to the emergency room (long story) and having both vehicles break down on the same day, let's just say fare-thee-well to February 2017, and may we never meet again! So, uh, here's the music news for March!

Coming out this month on CD or digital download are a plethora of great artists, including, but not limited to:

Aaron Shust - "Love Made A Way (Live)"

Laura Story - "Open Hands"

Guy Penrod - "Sings His Best-Loved Songs"

Selah - "Unbreakable"

David Phelps - "Hymnal"

Aaron Sprinkle - "Real Life"

Elevation Worship - There Is A Cloud
Craig Duncan - "Smoky Mountain Sixties"

MercyMe - "Lifter"

Jaci Velasquez - "Trust"

Along with a new album, Jaci Velasquez will also embark on her first tour in seven years, hitting 19 cities in



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Laren Daigle

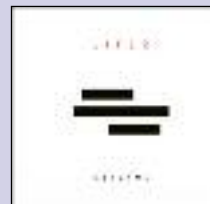
Florida and Texas.

Also of note, for KING & COUNTRY,



TobyMac

Lauren Daigle and TobyMac have all risen to the top of the nominations for this year's K-LOVE Fan Awards, including the top award of Artist of the Year. Other artists, such as Big Daddy Weave, Chris Tomlin, Crowder, Danny Gokey, Hillary Scott, MercyMe, Natalie Grant and Ryan Stevenson have received nominations. The 5th annual K-LOVE Fan Awards will return to the historic Grand Ole Opry House on May 28th.



jaci Velasquez



Question and answer session with Harry Connick Jr.

New Show Celebrates Faith & Family

Singer and actor Harry Connick Jr. had a unique idea for a talk show. He just didn't know if anyone else would go along with it.

His show would be family friendly and fun, celebrating what he calls the "shared values" that Americans hold. It also would be spontaneous, with fewer scripted moments than are seen in other shows, allowing him to serve as the host and the musician.

The result was Harry, which launched last fall in syndication. Connick believe it's a show that most people – no matter their background or political beliefs – can enjoy.

"I think most of us around this country have the same types of values. How do we do a show that celebrates faith and celebrates family and celebrates community – without preaching about it?" Connick told SCENES. "I'm proud of my faith, but the show isn't about that, per se. It's about all of the things that we celebrate and we value together. I think my show, at its best, will transcend the specificity of what people may believe and speak to them as Americans and as human beings." Connick's guest list has been diverse, with former football player Tim Tebow, actress Sandra Bullock and singer Kelly Clarkson all joining him.

Connick, who has appeared in more than 20 movies and whose albums have sold more than 28 million copies, recently spoke with SCENES Magazine about his show, his career and his faith. Following is a transcript.

SCENES: What did you want to do to help set your show apart?

Harry Connick Jr.: I had a very specific idea of what I wanted to do, and it

was just a matter of seeing if anybody agreed with it. Fortunately, they did. I had a bunch of ideas about putting on a show that showed the things that I like to do on a daily basis. I wanted to have my band there. I wanted to talk to interesting people, whether they're celebrities or not. I wanted to be able to entertain the audience with different things that I do. The spontaneity of the show and the music were the two things that raised eyebrows, because those don't exist in daytime TV. It was just a matter

"Fortunately, I was able to convince the powers that be to let me do it."

of seeing if the network would go for it, and they did.

SCENES: For those who haven't seen the show, what do you mean by the spontaneity?

Connick: A lot of shows are very heavily scripted. Not only does the host have things that are scripted out, but the guests are scripted, and there's a lot of planning that goes into what is said and how it's said. There's not a lot of spontaneity on TV nowadays. That's not to say that other shows aren't good, but [spontaneity] is just a style that you don't see that much. You hardly see it at all, where the host is leading the band and playing music and, for the most part, is discovering things along with

the audience. Fortunately, I was able to convince the powers that be to let me do it.

SCENES: From what we've seen of the show, it looks like you're wanting to make a show that a mom can have on – with the kids in the room – and not be embarrassed.

Connick: I'm glad you brought that up, because for some reason clean entertainment and relevant, contemporary entertainment seem to be mutually exclusive. You don't have to be Mister Rogers to be a family show. My executive producers were the head writers for David Letterman. You can be really funny and have great substantive content – and you don't have to hold your thumb over the mute button. I believe that can exist, and that's what we're trying to do.

SCENES: Has your faith guided some of your career decisions – such as taking roles in *Dolphin Tale* (2011) and even *New In Town* (2009)?

Connick: I don't sit around and think, "What movie is going to be appropriate that is in tandem with my faith?" I've never done that. It's all coming out of the same brain, though, and I do things that are comfortable to me. I played a serial killer in *Copycat*.

That may not be something you want to watch with your kids, but I think art and entertainment are complicated. They're complex. *Dolphin Tale* is one kind of movie, but *Copycat* is another kind of movie. Do I lose sleep at night over either one of them? No, not at all. People are smart, and they can see the subtleties in those differences.

SCENES: Sometimes people grow up with a faith and then they get more serious about it as an adult, when they have children. Is that similar to your



Connick interviews Tim Tebow

experience, as well?

Connick: Yes and no. I think my thought process has become more serious. Am I a better Catholic than I was as a kid? I don't know. All I know is that I am driven to understand more about my faith. I am far from perfect. I have a long way to go and a lot to learn.

I remember when people used to ask me about my faith a long time ago, I felt like I had to come across as some kind of saint. I'm not, and I want to be the best person that I can be. I talk to my

dad, and my dad is a devout Catholic. He calls me Thomas sometimes [as in doubting Thomas], because I ask him questions, and we talk about different things about faith. He says, "How are you doing Thomas?" I want to know, I want to learn. I know I contemplate things now on a more substantial level now than I did when I was 20, because as you grow older you start considering your mortality and things like that more. And you start considering the wellbeing of your children.

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A PERFECT DAY: Life as a Caregiver *By Sarah Jane*

Every once in a while someone tells me it's not really worth spending time with a person who has dementia because they probably won't remember. My experience yesterday gives the lie to that.

The night before last, Mum phoned from her rest home just after six. She often calls then. Dinner is over and another featureless evening stretches ahead. This time she was particularly low. I managed to cheer her up momentarily by reminding her that the next day was Saturday and that we'd be doing things together, but it didn't help for long.

"Tell me honestly, what do I have to look forward to?" she asked. How do you answer that?

So yesterday morning, when everyone in my house had gone

out for the day, I whizzed 'round and scooped her up. Mum was fully clothed but had retreated to her bed. When I asked her why, she said there didn't seem to be anything worth doing.

So we set off for the shops. Mum adores drives. It's like being at the movies without the stress of following the plot. Recently I've noticed that she's just as happy parked up somewhere that's busy, watching people going about their lives. So I parked the car, wound down all the windows and left Mum in the sun, happily studying the passersby while I did my errands.

Next we had lunch. Mum seldom complains about rest home meals, but I suspect they're not the greatest. I've noticed that she loves

anything they don't serve in institutions, like soft-boiled eggs, asparagus, fresh wholegrain bread, or a slice of perfectly ripe pear.

After lunch I suggested we both have a nap. Mum was skeptical, but I persuaded her to lie down for a minute. I'd hardly put the blanket over her before she passed out. She slept for almost two hours and awoke refreshed, ready to take on the garden. So we weeded, potted, and swept and soon it was time for afternoon tea. We sat outside and gazed at the splendid vista of the newly tidied courtyard.

Suddenly Mum had an idea. "We should take photos! Do you have a camera? Some film?" she asked.

"Yes," I lied and fetched my dig-



ital version. I lined up the shots and got Mum to press the button. Then we took turns taking pictures of each other, posing beside the newly planted pots.

At five, I drove Mum home. She was really, really happy. We both were. Mum didn't remember exactly what we'd done, it's true,

but she knew she was happy. And that's the bit that stuck in her memory.

Sarah Jane is a freelance writer/researcher and part-time caregiver for her mother Eleanor who has dementia and lives at a rest home nearby*

Hillsdale Place gets a new look

REMODEL KEEPS SENIORS NEEDING LONG-TERM CARE IN COMFORT



At Hillsdale Place, the residents are a little more comfortable these days. A new remodel of the home, including new windows, makes it a bit easier to keep the residents at ease, according to owner/operator Tammy Gonzalez.

"It just makes for a better environment all around," Gonzalez said. "And it's a nicer look, too."

Gonzalez started Hillsdale Place when she became convinced that nursing homes, where she had worked for many years, were simply not a good fit for everyone. Many seniors who were happy living in the privacy of their own homes have difficulty accepting the institutional feel of a nursing home, she said.

So Gonzalez acted on a dream she had had since graduating from Washburn University with a BA in human services.

"I decided to open my own place and provide seniors with another option different from nursing homes," she said. "A lot of the seniors I worked with didn't want to live in larger, long-term care facilities."

An increasingly popular option for seniors, Home Plus offers seniors a family-like living situation in a residence that can house up to eight people. This also means a smaller staff-to-resident ratio and more personalized care, as well as a better balance between appropriate care and independence.

"Our home highly preserves privacy, Gonzalez noted. "We assure some personal space for each person. Thus, we have a section which inspires residents to maintain a hobby or passion on certain things."

Hillsdale Place, 1402 SW

Lancaster, is located across the street from Hillsdale Park, where residents can watch wildlife interact with nature and neighborhood children. It offers 24-hour care given by professional, experienced staff members who can assist with tasks like oral hygiene, incontinence, bathing, medication administration, housekeeping and laundry. There is a doctor on call as well as occupational, physical and speech therapists. Adult day-care is also available, as well as short-term care to help those recuperating. Residents enjoy home-cooked meals and visits from family and friends. Visits from church leaders is also encouraged for Bible Study, Communion and such, Gonzalez said.

Home Plus residences are licensed by the State of Kansas and are required to pass a yearly inspection. Gonzalez noted that they also have an A+ rating with the Better Business Bureau.

"Before we welcome clients to our home, we meet and assess their needs, Gonzalez said. "We look into medical records, personal information and consult their Physician in charting the best care plan for them. The family also takes part in choosing services and activities."



If you are looking for a place for yourself or a loved one to live safely, and with a degree of independence, a Home Plus residence would be a good option to check

into. Tours of Hillsdale can be arranged by appointment. For more information call Tammy at 383-7094.

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Hillsdale Place L.L.C.

SOCIAL SECURITY QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

WHEN IS A GOOD TIME TO START RECEIVING SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS?

Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everyone's dream. For over 80 years, Social Security has been helping people realize those dreams, assisting people through life's journey with a variety of benefits.

It's up to you as to when you can start retirement benefits. You could start them a little earlier or wait until your "full retirement age." There are benefits to either decision, pun intended.

Full retirement age refers to the age when a person can receive their Social Security benefits without any reduction, even if they are still working part or full time. In other words, you don't actually need to stop working to get your full benefits.

For people who attain age 62 in 2017 (i.e., those born between January 2, 1955 and January 1, 1956), full retirement age is 66 and two months. Full retirement age was age 65 for



them any time before your full retirement age. For example, if you start receiving benefits in 2017 at age 62, your monthly benefit amount will be reduced permanently by about 26 percent.

On the other hand, if you wait to start receiving your benefits until after your full retirement age, then your monthly benefit will be higher. The amount of this increase is two-thirds of one percent for each month — or eight percent for each year — that you delay receiving them until you reach age 70. The choices you make may affect any benefit your spouse or children can receive on your record, too. If you receive benefits early, it may reduce their potential benefit, as well as yours.

You need to be as informed as possible when making any decision about receiving Social Security benefits. Read the publication When to Start Receiving Retirement Benefits at www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10147.pdf.

many years. However, due to a law passed by Congress in 1983, it has been gradually increasing, beginning with people born in 1938 or later, until it reaches 67 for people born after 1959.

You can learn more about the full retirement age and find out how to look up your own at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/retirechart.html.

You can start receiving Social Security benefits as early as age 62 or any time after that. The longer you wait, the higher your monthly benefit will be, although it stops increasing at age 70. Your monthly benefits will be reduced permanently if you start

your excess earnings. In effect, it's as if you hadn't filed for those months. You can learn more at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/whileworking.html.

Social Security's mission is to secure your today and tomorrow. Helping you make the right retirement decisions is vital. You can learn more by visiting our Retirement Planner at www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire.

RECEIVING HOUSING BENEFITS? IS A TRIP TO SOCIAL SECURITY NECESSARY

Social Security is constantly evolving to make your life easier. If you are currently receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and are reapplying for benefits, or are assisting someone with their application, a trip to the Social Security office is probably not necessary even if verification of Social Security benefits is needed.

Because of a data exchange established between Social Security and HUD, most people do not need to contact Social Security for a benefit verification letter. HUD administrators processing a Recertification Application for Housing Assistance can use their Enterprise Income Verification (EIV) System to verify Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits.

Public housing agencies, private owners, and management agents administering HUD rental assistance programs may get registration information about EIV by logging onto the following websites: go.usa.gov/x97mH or

go.usa.gov/x97m6

If you are a new applicant for housing assistance, you can provide your HUD administrator with your Social Security award letter, Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) notice, SSA-1099, or other SSA benefit document you should have received at the beginning of the calendar year or when you began receiving benefits, whichever is later.

We created these data exchange agreements to help you get the support you need at the first point of contact, even if that's not with Social Security. If you do need to provide proof of Social Security benefits yourself, we have another way to save you a trip to Social Security. You can get an instant benefit verification letter with a personal my Social Security account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

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

senior news/events briefs

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

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

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

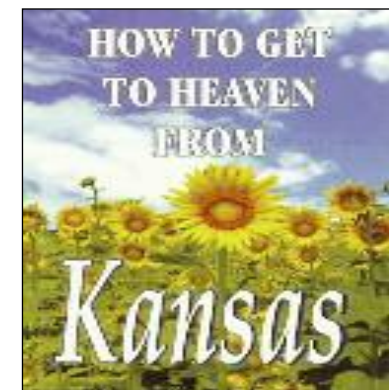
LIFEFEST - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Notice: Seniors ministering to seniors - celebrating with fellowship, fun, food, learning & entertainment. Potluck lunch at noon. If transportation is needed, call 354-4994 or 478-1729

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

SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4:00 at First United Methodist, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side and use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left and walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] to go to the fellowship hall

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Parking & entrance for walkers is on the WEST side. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS—for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325.

If you decide to receive benefits before you reach full retirement age, you should also understand how continuing to work can affect your benefits. Social Security may withhold or reduce your benefits if your annual earnings exceed a certain amount. However, for every month benefits are withheld, it increases your future benefits. That's because at your full retirement age Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to give you credit for the months in which benefits were reduced or withheld due to



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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sports

ON TOP OF HIS GAME

By Art Stricklin | Sports Spectrum

To achieve his college player of the year season and lead his Oklahoma Sooners to the Final Four for the first time in more than a decade, Buddy Hield replied on a series of exacting plays which resulted in an incredible, award-winning senior season.

But to get to where he is in his life, the Freeport, Bahamas, native has relied on a more important playbook, the unwavering prayer support of his mother and his daily Bible readings in God's word.

"Psalm 23 is the one I always read, the main one before my games," says Hield, who was drafted XX in the NBA draft on June 23. "My mom always told me to read that when I was nervous or before a big game.

"I also like Psalm 91, 27, 35, and 37. I read them before every game. I'm trying to get my mind right. It isn't a burden to be in the

Final Four, it's a blessing. I always want to remember that."

While opposing teams schemed for any way possible, mainly in vain, to stop Hield's award-winning college basketball season this year, he revealed his source of strength in the scriptures to a national TV audience after the Sooners Regional Finals victory over Oregon.

"I was nervous before the game today, but I just prayed and read the Bible. That always calms me down. That's get me in my rhythm," Hield told the CBS national broadcast after the game and added before hundreds of Final Four media in Houston days later.

"I will read the Psalms, which is what my mother taught me to do at an early age. I know she will be praying and so will I. It calms me down."

While the Sooners fell short of their National Championship on-court goal, losing to eventual overall winner Villanova in the semifinals, Hield, who won several national players of the year honors (Wooden Award, Naismith Award, Oscar Robertson Trophy and Sporting News Player of the Year), and became the Big 12's all-time leading scorer, along with winning the Big 12 Player of the Year for the second consecutive time, was remembered for his overall impact and priorities.

"Regardless of the final outcome, people will also remember Buddy for the positive influence he had both inside and outside of our program," says Oklahoma head coach Lon Kruger. "He will be remembered for positive exuberance."

Hield's remarkable story from a poor Bahamas school kid with nothing but an outdoor net to practice on, to his moving to the United States in 2010 and attending Sunrise Christian Academy in Kansas and then moving on to Oklahoma, is amazing enough.

But Hield said God's hand in the process, primarily through the unwavering prayer support of his mother, Jackie Swann, is what made this past season so rewarding.

"She will be waking up praying in the morning," Hield says. "Even when she is tired or worn out from working, she will

always pray."

Jackie has been known to hold up the team bus to pray for Hield and his teammates, gathering them in a circle in some opposing team driveway or Oklahoma practice facility. She'll often wander the hallways of a stadium where the Sooners are playing to pray for her son, his teammates, the other team, for health, success and a way to honor God through basketball.

He said watching his mom and God at work during the season showed him the power of prayer and the power of perseverance in seeking God.

"That has been the constant in her life, some people say they will pray for you and they do it once a month," Hield says. "She is consistent. She will do it every day. She has been teaching me that."

It was a lesson that wasn't missed by Hield's Oklahoma teammates.

When Isaiah Cousins came to live with Hield and his mom near the Norman, Oklahoma, campus, the first thing she did was ask how she could pray for him and began asking God to bless him and his life.

Khadeem Lattin grew up in the rough streets of Houston, Texas, with his own praying family and quickly saw what a difference having spiritually united men on the Oklahoma team could make.

"We are all Christian men here, we all support one another. We're used to it. You wanted to show your faith in all ways. My mom taught me that and I want to honor her and my grandmother's memory in all that I do," Lattin said.

"One thing about my mother and my grandmother is they were always strong in their faith in Jesus Christ and that's what they passed to me. I can remember their favorite saying was hold strong to your faith because that is what's going to last."

Lattin saw his grandmother pass away just days before the Final Four game, but used his earthly sadness to fuel his play and undergird his eternal joy.

"She always told me God is the way for everything and I learned it's always been a positive influence to have Him back in my life."

The Sooners weren't the only high profile team to boldly share the power of prayer and God's ultimate purpose at the NCAA closing college basketball weekend.

Speaking at the annual Athletes in Action Final Four breakfast, Texas A&M

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

I was recently asked who my ten favorite baseball players are. I thought about it for a while and came up with a list of twelve, five of which I'm sharing here. These are my five favorite baseball players of all time. I only put players that I have seen play on my list and it just so happens that six of the twelve are Royals, including four of my top five. Anyway, I hope that my list causes you to make your own list and helps you to remember some of the memories you have created over the years.

#5 - Freddie Patek - Kansas City Royals - Shortstop: Freddie Patek was probably the first player I liked when I was first taking an interest in baseball. I don't know why, but I vividly remember the image of Patek in the dugout after he grounded into a series ending double play against the Yankees in the 1977 ALCS. His stats weren't even that good, but I will always associate Patek with baseball in my youth. The Royals in the 70's were pretty good. Patek is my link to that time.

#4 - Ben Zobrist - Chicago Cubs - 2nd Base: Zobrist was only with the Royals for about 3 months after they traded for him

in July of 2015, but he had an immediate impact, not only on the team, helping them win the World Series, but also on the fans as he quickly became a fan favorite. I hated to see him go to the Chicago Cubs, but he did have the opportunity to win 2 consecutive World Series. I love the way he plays the game and he seems to be quite the family man as well. By the way, he's been known to ride his bike to Wrigley Field on game day. How cool is that?

#3 - Alex Gordon - Kansas City Royals - Outfield: Alex Gordon has become the face of the franchise before and during the Royals rejuvenation these last few years. I remember seeing him play at KU while he was playing for the Nebraska Cornhuskers and he was good then as well. He plays the game old school style, if that makes any sense. Great defense, good bat. He's the leader of his team! I hope he retires as a Royal!!!

#2 - George Brett - Kansas City Royals - Third Base: If you never saw George Brett play, you have truly missed out. He is the

link from Royals past to Royals present. He played for the Royals for 20 years, from 1973 - 1993. His lifetime batting average is .305 and he had 3154 hits. In 1980, he batted .390 and flirted with .400, which hadn't been accomplished since 1941. He has stayed true to Kansas City and has been involved with the Royals since he retired. It was fun to see him react during the World Series victory in 2015. Obviously he's a Hall of Famer, earning the 4th highest voting percentage in the history of baseball. The best player to EVER wear a Royals uniform!

#1 - Ken Griffey Jr. - Seattle Mariners -



Outfield: Ken Griffey Jr. is by far my favorite baseball player of all time. I enjoyed watching him play and I consider him the Michael Jordan of baseball. I lived a couple of hours away from Kansas City, so I would plan my Royals trips based on who they were playing and most times than not, I would go when they were playing the

Mariners. 630 Home runs, 2781 hits and a lifetime .284 batting average. However, Griffey was known for his swing. Many people called it the smoothest swing in baseball. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 2016, with a 99.3% voting percentage, the highest in the history of the game.

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2017 YFC Golf Classic is a Tournament of Champions For Teens

Topeka Youth for Christ's 2017 Annual Golf Classic "Tournament of Champions for Teens" will be held on Monday, May 1 at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course. The four person, 18 hole scramble begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 PM (Registration opens at 11:30 AM).

For over sixty years, the support of sponsors and golfers has helped YFC to continue to build Christ-sharing relationships with teens through a variety of ministry programs. YFC currently ministers to teens through:



Juvenile Justice Ministry (at the Kansas Juvenile Corrections Complex and the Shawnee County Juvenile Detention Center), YFC Core, City Life Clubs and YFC Camp.

Support of the Golf Classic helps provide full time and part-time staff, college interns and volunteer adults who develop, equip and coach student leaders, empowering them to develop a passion for Jesus and a passion for their lost friends.

Awards and prizes will be given for first and second low teams, scored in two flights of players. Individuals will receive awards and prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and longest putt. The entry fee for the fundraiser is \$500 per team or \$125 per individual (\$75 of which is tax deductible). The fee includes green fees, carts, a box lunch, golf shirt and great door prizes!

Individual and corporate sponsorships are still available.

To sign up for the YFC Annual Golf Classic Tournament of Champions for Teens go online to www.topekayfc.org/golf_classic/.

Topeka YFC has developed two Church Seminars:

Topeka YFC offers two church based seminars: "Warrior Parenting and Grandparenting" for parents and grandparents based on Ezekiel 22:30 and Ephesians 6:10-18. And "The Heart of the Overcomer" a seminar or retreat conference for teens based on 1 John 5:1-4.

For more information about YFC or the Golf Classic, contact Bob Hanson at (785) 232-8296, or email info@topekayfc.org.

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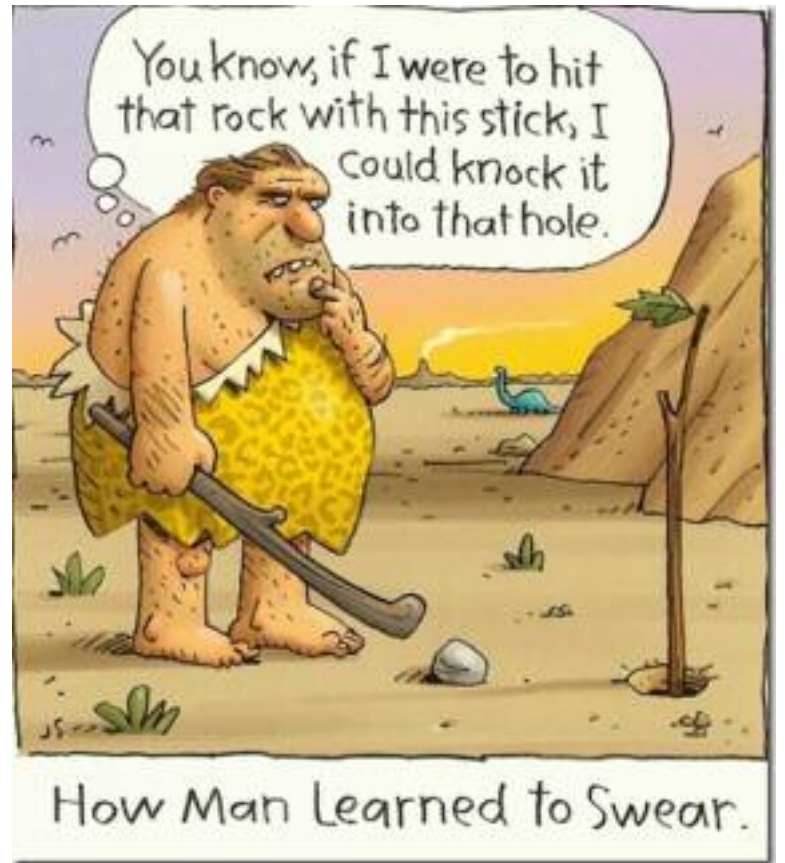
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*"What other people
may find in poetry
or art museums, I
find in the flight
of a good drive."*

— Arnold Palmer



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Tournament of Champions for Teens

MAY 1, 2017

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7985-232-8296**



New Resident Church Guide



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Pastor Cordell Fischer
2523 SE Indiana
(785) 861-0422
www.greatIAMchurch.com

2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.
Pastor Beaux 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
Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am
www.northland.cc

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.kawriverkeruv.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
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Children's worship time 10:30am
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17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
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Fr. Matthew Schifflbein, Pastor
Fr. Jaime Zarse, Associate Pastor

19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am
Sunday Worship: 10:30am
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm

20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH
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

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. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH 785-379-5642
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WANTED - Part-time Secretary with minimum 20 years experience for downtown Law Firm. Revising & typing documents - using Word Perfect. Approximately 10-15 hours weekly. Contact Karen for appointment at 235-6977.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION - The Sunflower Lions Club will hold their next semi-annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction at First Christian Ch. 1880 SW Gage, on Saturday April 15th beginning at 7:00am until 11:00am. Proceeds are used for Vision creening small children, and purchasing eye examinations and eye glasses in the Topeka community.

GARAGE SALE - The next semi-annual Seekers Garage Sale will be Saturday April 22nd at First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage, (enter from 19th and Stone Lot) beginning at 7:00am closing at Noon. Something for everyone; no clothes. Proceeds are used for community and youth activities at First Christian Ch.

FULL-TIME PASTOR - The Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church, Topeka, is prayerfully seeking a full-time Pastor, called by God who will serve as the spiritual leader of the congregation. Please go to www.mountcarmeltopeka.org to view the full announcement, application and position description. All interested and qualified applicants must submit the required materials by the closing date of March 8, 2017.

TOPEKA RESCUE MISSION'S CHILDREN'S PALACE - needs qualified ministry staff to minister to homeless children and their families.

Must be ministry-minded with a strong passion for Jesus and children, and have previous experience working in the field of early childhood education. For a list of positions & qualifications needed, visit trmonline.org. Resumes and/or inquires can be sent to jhosman@trmonline.org or directed to 785-730-8802.

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

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

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234-5545 www.discovertbc.com
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Welcome...

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All are welcome, casual dress ok!

First Friday: Music, Man Caves and More

It's Man Cave Madness at Vintage Vibe March 3 & 4. What is March Madness without a Man Cave?! Just Madness! Celebrating everything that makes The Man Cave great! No shabby chic, no painted furniture and no pale pink! Expect to find beer glasses, vintage road signs and tons of rusty goodness!! Man has a second best friend and its called Scrubby Soap. This month's spotlight item is guaranteed to get the grease off after a hard day of manly work! Artist of the month will feature greeting card Artist Tamera Haefner and Daisy Troop 3638 will be the special guest during First Friday with their Girl Scout Cookies. Try the famous 'Vintage Brew' and Garden Dill Savory Cracker Mix will be served during the Artwalk from 5-9pm.

NOTO Arts Center, 935 N Kansas Ave, will feature Artists Becky Drager and Cally Krallman in a "Side by Side" show, 5:30-8:30 in the Morris Gallery; Kirk Drager and Six Mile Creek 5:30-8:30 in the Classroom; and Budget Outreach Pop Up, City of Topeka, 5:30-7:00 in the Front Parlor.

It's all part of First Friday, which is quite the celebration in North Topeka these days, bringing people to the area in record numbers. Besides the Art Walk in NOTO,

other North Topeka businesses have begun joining in and coordinating complementary events. Many are making plans to make 2017 better than ever in NOTO and the entire North Topeka area.

Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down the Avenue.

The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have also become favorite art walk destinations.



Here are a few more scheduled events in the North Topeka area:

ALL YOU CAN EAT HAM & BEANS SUPPER - Mar. 10, 4-6:30pm. Kansas Ave United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Adults \$8. Price includes cornbread, drink & dessert. Community Invited!

COMMUNITY HARVEY HOUSE LUNCHEON & TOUR - Mar. 9, Great Overland Station. For info: 785-232-5533 or greatoverlandstation.com

4th ANNUAL TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR - Apr. 15, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's fourth annual Easter parade will begin at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue to Garfield Park at 10am. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair will be 10-3 at Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym will include vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, and more. Bands and other entertainment will perform nearby. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399

SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB - Meets every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. For info: Gary, 246-1291.

NOTO 
 NORTH TOPEKA ARTS DISTRICT
 NOTO Community Arts Center
 935 N Kansas Ave, Topeka, KS
 Register for classes at notoartsdistrict.com
 For information: 785.608.6738 or email
 NOTOartscenter@gmail.com

Parade starts at 10:00!
 Egg Hunt follows parade!
 Entertainment 11am-3pm
 Free to the public!



Food Trucks will be there!
 Antique vehicles
 Firetrucks
 Police vehicles



Sat., Apr. 15
10 am - 3 pm, N. Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park



Fun Fair open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm at Garfield Park! Bands at Garfield Park 11:00 am - 3:00 pm!

Parade starts at 10:00 am! (From NOTO to Garfield Park) • Food Trucks located near Garfield Shelterhouse!

Easter Egg Hunt following parade at Garfield Park playground! • Vendor Market open 10:00 am - 3:00 pm!

Dance troupes, martial arts, gymnastics & more! Craft stations, Facepainting, Easter Photos, Games & more!



For booth and parade entry information:
 info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

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