



Worship in the Round | April 29th

# metro VOICE



## HUMAN AGAIN

The good, the bad, and the ugly on the new live movie version of Beauty and the Beast

SEE PAGE 17

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 4

April 2017

FREE-TAKE ONE!

## The Tabernacle Experience returns to KC

“Emotional” interaction  
brings many to tears



Dwight Widaman | Metro Voice

Building on the successful 2016 stop in the area, The Tabernacle Experience returns to Kansas City April 21 through April 30 at Oakwood Baptist Church on the border of Kansas City and Lee's Summit. It is being hosted by Oakwood and manned by volunteers from both Oakwood and Country Meadows Baptist Churches.

It is rare that the popular interactive experience would come to the same city within eight months but the overwhelming response of the public to last fall's exhibit in Eastern Jackson County proves why this is one of the most anticipated traveling exhibits currently touring North America.

■ See TABERNACLE page 22



## Get the kids ready for summer!

Stephanie Boothe | Metro Voice

There's more to summer than insect repellent and sunscreen – though those items are a staple for families preparing to send their children to camp this summer.

Summer camp is a tradition for chil-

dren that has been passed down for generations, and there are several camps in the area that help keep that tradition alive. From theater camps to 4-H camps, there's a little something for everyone.

Nicolette Unruh, sales director for Rock Springs in Junction City, Kan.,

said summer camps provide an opportunity for campers to truly connect to one another.

“You can unplug and truly enjoy connecting with each other through hands-on activities and one on interactions,” Unruh said. “An essential component of 21st century youth de-

velopment is offering young people experiences where they have the freedom to learn by doing, grow from failure, express their ideas and use their influence to drive positive outcomes.”

Rock Springs offers a 4-H camp coordinated by the Kansas State Univer-

■ See CAMPS page 5

## Remembering the Holocaust motivates May 7 event

The phone rings...

by Lori (Roberts) Wilson

...it's your child's daycare. The calm but measured voice says your child is all right, but your faith falters when all you retain from the next sentence is “bomb threat.”

“This can't be happening!” you gasp, half to yourself and half to anyone within earshot.

This may not be your reality, but it has been for other fathers and mothers in the United States already in 2017. Many Jewish parents have received phone calls that their children are all right, but have been evacuated from their daycare as a bomb threat

■ See THE PHONE RINGS page 10

Over 600 marchers gathered in 2016 for the first annual Kansas City Day of Remembrance



## Ranchers coming together after crippling wildfires

by Jill Nelson

(WNS)--As 58-year-old Greg Gardiner surveyed the devastation from



March's deadly fires, he described an eerie scene across the Gardiner Angus Ranch north of Ashland, Kan. Friends pitched in to help shoot the last of the fatally maimed cattle over the weekend, drones surveyed the breaks to confirm none were missed, and com-

■ See WILDFIRES page 22



## KS legislator unhappy with donations

Kansas Planned Parenthood supporters, who have been donating money to the organization in the name of Kansas State Senator Steve Fitzgerald got some push back recently when the senator used some strong language. After he



Fitzgerald

learned of the fundraising campaign, in a letter to the organization Fitzgerald compared Planned Parenthood to a Nazi concentration camp. The Kansas City Star reported that Fitzgerald was outraged after the donations were made in his name.

"I figured, I don't want my name associated as a donation to Planned Parenthood, in my name, to go on undenounced by me," he said in an interview, arguing that the donations in his name are "harassment."

"What I'm saying is, they're both exterminating innocent human life."

Bonyen Lee-Gilmore, spokeswoman for Planned Parenthood Great Plains, said that even more pro-abortion indi-

viduals are now donating money to the group in Fitzgerald's name.

"It's this kind of inflammatory language that adds to the shame and stigma of safe legal abortion," Lee-Gilmore said. "The state of Kansas has much bigger issues to be dealing with, and this is just an unacceptable attack on women's right to choose."

Planned Parenthood recently clashed with President Donald Trump's administration, declaring that abortion is "vital to our mission" in response to a rumored offer that would have allowed it to maintain its hundreds of millions of dollars in annual federal funding.

Trump's offer, which has not formally been issued, apparently would provide Planned Parenthood with federal assistance, if the organization decides to put an end to the 300,000 annual abortions it carries out.

Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the pro-life Susan B. Anthony List, said that she would not have a problem with Trump's offer, if it was made, since her issue with Planned Parenthood is that the organization performs abortions.

## Effort organizing to reach every home in KC for Christ

An international initiative to mobilize believers to share the Gospel with those near them, Global Outreach Day, has been set for May 27.

For the past four years, millions of individuals around the world have made decisions for Christ because of the one-on-one evangelization effort. The initiative brings together churches and individuals in an all-out mobilization to reach their neighborhoods and communities with the Gospel.

This year a unique focus on Kansas City has been announced—ReachKC.

"It will also launch May 27 and continue until every home in the metro area is reached with the Good News of Jesus," stated Kevin Stark, local director of Youth With a Mission (YWAM) and Team Xtreme. On those days, two eight-hour outreaches will disperse throughout the Kansas City metro area, bringing light to the darkest places.

"Our strategy is to network with existing ministries and prayer groups to cover the city in prayer," Stark said. "From there, we seek to connect with local people passionate for the harvest in our city."



The effort will utilize the latest in tracking technology provided by Every Home for Christ USA.

That technology will allow the sharing, home by home, person by person, the Gospel of Salvation.

Partnering with YWAM is Every Home for Christ (everyhomeusa.com) Midwest Ministers Fellowship, KC Prayer Network, KCEF, and [jesuscares.com](http://jesuscares.com) or [reach-kc.com](http://reach-kc.com). For more information or to get involved contact us at [reachkc2017@gmail.com](mailto:reachkc2017@gmail.com).

## Local and national observances of National Day of Prayer

National Day of Prayer will take place May 4. This year's theme is "For Your Great Name's Sake! Hear us ... Forgive us ... Heal us!," which is taken from Daniel 9:19.

The Greater Kansas City event will assemble at noon on the south side of City Hall, 414 E. 12th Street, to honor the Lord and seek His mercy for the city, state and nation. Corporate prayers will be led by civic leaders for their areas of service.

The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for the nation. It was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress, and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman.

**"Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline."**  
*Thomas Jefferson*

The NDP Task Force is a privately funded organization whose purpose is to encourage participation on the National Day of Prayer. It exists to commu-



nicate with every individual the need for personal repentance and prayer and to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families. The Task Force represents a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understanding that this country was birthed in prayer and in reverence for the God of the Bible.

Presidents going back to our Founding Fathers have expressed the importance of prayer. In 1808, Thomas Jefferson wrote, "Fasting and prayer are religious exercises; the enjoining them an act of discipline. Every religious society has a right to determine for itself the time for these exercises, and the objects proper for them, according to their own particular tenets; and right can never be safer than in their hands, where the Constitution has deposited it."

### INTERESTING FACTS

■ There have been 144 national calls to prayer, humiliation, fasting and thanksgiving by the president of the United States (1789 - 2015).

■ There have been 67 presidential proclamations for a National Day of Prayer (1952 - 2015). Gerald R. Ford (1976), George H. Bush (1989 - 91) and Barack H. Obama (2012) are the only U.S. presidents to sign multiple National Day of Prayer Proclamations in the same year.

■ Every President since 1952 has signed a National Day of Prayer proclamation.

■ Records indicate there have been 1,419 state and federal calls for national prayer since 1775 and counting.

A FORMER SATANIC HIGH PRIEST AND WARLOCK WHO IS NOW SAVED AND SERVES AS A CHRISTIAN EVANGELIST WILL BE MINISTERING IN A

## 3 DAY CONVENTION

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God then saved him and called him into the ministry. John is now traveling over America and internationally preaching the Gospel. John has appeared on many TV networks such as the 700 Club, TBN, Church Channel, and Word Channel.

He has written several books including "Out of the Devil's Caldron" and "Unmasking the Devil". His books, DVDs and CDs will be available at the convention.



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## MORE THAN 20 MILLION IN AFRICA, MIDDLE EAST AT RISK OF STARVATION

(WNS)--Aid groups and government officials in famine-hit parts of Africa and the Middle East are calling for more global attention to a crisis that has left more than 20 million people at risk of starvation.

The United Nations announced the world is facing its worst humanitarian crisis since the end of World War II. More than 20 million people across conflict-hit regions in South Sudan, Somalia, northeastern Nigeria, and Yemen are at risk of famine and starvation. The rising needs and worsening conditions have left several aid groups and government officials scrambling for resources.

Benoit Munsch, a regional humanitarian coordinator at U.S.-based Care International, said the nonprofit provides aid to about 600,000 people in Somalia and South Sudan. Munsch said Care's center in the South Sudanese town of Bantiu has seen an increase in recent weeks in families seeking aid and mothers so malnourished they cannot breastfeed their babies. Some regions of the Unity State in South Sudan have al-

ready declared famine, and many people are fleeing for neighboring Bantiu.

The South Sudanese conflict began in 2013 when a civil war broke out between President Salva Kiir and his former deputy, Riek Machar. The crisis left tens of thousands dead and displaced more than 2 million people.

Resurging clashes in July 2016 resulted in even more people fleeing the country and blocked aid groups from access to people remaining in the war-torn region.

Those areas have now declared famine, Munsch said. The United Nations said some 100,000 South Sudanese are already enduring hunger and another million people are on the verge of famine.

The Ugandan government on March 23 said the country is at a "breaking point," with some 3,000 refugees coming in daily from neighboring South Sudan. More than 570,000 refugees have arrived in the country since July, and the number will likely climb to more than 1 million this year, the

Ugandan government said in a joint statement with the UN.

"We continue to welcome our neighbors in their time of need, but we urgently need the international community to assist as the situation is becoming increasingly critical," said Ugandan Prime Minister Ruhakana Rugunda.

In Yemen, some 18 million people—two-thirds of the country's population—are in need of aid.

"There is a closing window of opportunity to avert full-blown catastrophe and raise the money needed to save



millions of lives," stated Gerald Anderson, an associate vice president with Save the Children. "With no action,

people may run out of food as early as next month and the crisis will escalate relentlessly."

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# Trump admin actions to protect religious freedom

by **Samuel Smith**

WASHINGTON — Respected religious freedom scholars have released a list of recommendations that the Donald Trump administration and the U.S. Congress should take seriously in order to better equip the government to combat rising threats to international religious liberties through diplomacy.

The D.C.-based Religious Freedom Institute (RFI) and the Center on Faith & International Affairs at the Institute for Global Engagement recently held a briefing on Capitol Hill for congressional staffers in which they rolled out a new policy brief titled "U.S. Foreign Policy and International Religious Freedom: Recommendations for the Trump Administration and the U.S. Congress."

The brief was authored by RFI President and Georgetown University professor Thomas Farr and IGE Vice President for Research and Publications Dennis Hoover. The briefing included remarks by Republican Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee and Cory Gardner of Colorado. Additionally, Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona, Bill Flores of Texas and former U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See Francis Rooney, who is now a congressman from Florida, also spoke about the importance of using U.S. foreign relations to pressure other nations to protect the rights of religious minorities.

The brief comes as 75 percent of the world's population lives in countries where there is virtually no freedom of religion.

Included in the brief are recommendations for the Trump White House, National Security Council, Department of Defense and State Department to consider.

1. Trump should set "clear policy priority" for international religious freedom and commit the institutional and financial resources necessary to succeed.

The brief asserts that the president should "state clearly" to the world that religious freedom is "vital" to U.S. interests and the interests of all nations, "especially those in which religious violence and persecution are destroying societies, uprooting minorities and stunting economic growth."

The brief calls on the president to publicly assert that international religious freedom policies will be expanded under his administration and that human rights issues will be "raised regularly" in bilateral discussions, even in discussions with U.S. allies, such as Pakistan or Saudi Arabia, where blasphemy laws and other laws targeting religious minorities are on the books.

The brief wants international religious freedom to be integrated into U.S. strategies in order to "reduce religious persecution, protect minorities, counter violent religious extremism and conflict," and stabilize post-conflict societies.

2. Establish an inter-agency task force to create an international religious freedom policy strategy.

The brief's second set of recommendations calls for Trump to produce a "presidential directive" on international religious freedom.

But before issuing the directive, the brief explains that McMaster should announce an inter-agency task force focusing



on international religious freedom, which would be co-chaired by the State Department's ambassador at-large for international religious freedom and the aforementioned National Security Council advisor on international religious freedom.

3. State Department should give greater authority and resources to the Office of International Religious Freedom.

Farr said that one of the most important recommendations in the brief is for Trump to quickly nominate and secure a Senate confirmation of a highly qualified ambassador at-large for international religious freedom.

Under President Barack Obama, that post was vacant for the first 845 days of his presidency. Farr is optimistic that Trump will make that nomination this spring or early summer.

4. Develop a mandatory international religious freedom training curriculum for "all American diplomats."

The brief calls on the State Department to immediately implement a component of the Frank Wolf International Religious Freedom Act passed last December that requires it to provide "mandatory training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers."

"I would argue that still, the Department of State is still highly skeptical on the issue of [religious freedom]. ... They are skeptical of thinking in religious categories. They may be anti-religious or they may be not anti-religious," Farr said. "It is almost in the DNA not to think about religion, particularly about religious freedom. I know this is changing but it is not changing fast enough."

Andrew Bennett, the first and only Canadian Ambassador for Religious Freedom, spoke at the briefing and said that there tends to be a misunderstanding in Western intelligence communities that religion should be pushed to the "private sphere."

"Those of us who have gone through secular universities, or secular education system, for a very long period of time, we have seen ideas of religion, faith literacy, religious literacy pushed squarely to the private sphere," he said. "The absolute privatization of religion in Western democracies has had a number of impacts. One of the impacts is that when it comes to the formation of liberal beliefs ... there is a lack of knowledge about why the people of faith act the way they do."

"We have to combat indifference and ignorance around the role of religion in our own countries if we are going to advance religious freedom internationally," he said.

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## How to benefit the most from summer camp

by **Children's Ministry Magazine**

Plan now to make your kids' summer camp experience life-changing — before and after the fun

Every summer churches everywhere send kids off to camp for life-altering experiences. Kids meet friends, mentors, and most important, God. But when camp is just one more thing in a long list of summer programming events, its potential as an awe-inspiring God experience may dwindle like the dying embers of a campfire.

A recent survey of churches participating in camp and asked them to identify best practices for making camp a

truly unforgettable, faith-filled experience for kids.

What we learned is that by planning far ahead and being intentional in how you approach camp before and after, your kids will get an experience far more valuable than the cost of a camp reservation. Let's unpack these great ideas and our timeline.

### PREPARE RESOURCES

Camp creeps up on you exactly when a million other things are vying for your attention. Before you realize it, dates aren't on the calendar and money isn't saved. Plan and prepare today to build support and foster a focus on experiences-not logistics.

• *People are relationship resources.*

Plan to attend camp with your kids, and recruit enough people from your church who'll go so the connections kids make and confidences they gain don't get lost when they come back home. Our survey found that one of the most effective ways to keep the camp experience alive is for campers to bring a piece of it home-in the form of their counselors!

• *Money makes it happen.* Finances should never prevent a child from attending camp. Camp is something that can change kids' lives-so promote it and do whatever's necessary to get kids there. Here's how some churches do it.

Offer savings options. One children's pastor encourages parents to open a

■ See **SUCCESSFUL CAMP** page 6

### CAMPS

continued from page 1

sity Extension office. It also offers a family camp, that allows families to understand the experience children will have at summer camp.

Building relationships is a common theme among most camps in the area - whether it is relationships with other campers or to strengthen relationships with God. And while Rock Springs isn't a faith-based camp, Unruh said there is an element of spirituality.

"We do have an indoor chapel and two formal outdoor chapels," Unruh said. "However, connecting to nature happens all over the grounds, and I believe allows people to feel a closeness to their faith and spirituality."

A focus on faith is one thing that Tricia Melton, communications director for Christian Youth Theater, believes stands out about the CYT camps.

"We offer a huge variety of camps," Melton said. "We have day camps - drama camps - and overnight camps. All with a Christian foundation, in a safe Christian environment."

CYT camps range from half-day camps for children age 4 to 7, full-day camps for ages 7-12. Non-musical extreme camps for ages 10-16 and overnight camps for ages 12-19 are also offered. Each camp has a different theme and concludes with a full-length performance at the Bell Center, Mid-America Nazarene.

Melton, the mom of two former campers, said the CYT camp is a perfect opportunity for both children who love the spotlight and children who are a bit more reserved.

"For kids who love to be on stage, they get a chance to shine," Melton said. "For (a more shy) kid, it builds confidence."

All camps, Melton said, provide a positive experience for children because it helps them learn and grow.

"Studies repeatedly show that drama, music and dance raise achievement levels in reading, writing and math, but your kids will be having too much fun to notice," states the CYT summer camp flyer.

But beyond expanding their education, connecting with other like-minded students cannot be understated.

"The kids are going to have a great time," Melton said. "They're going to be in a safe, caring environment. They're going to make great friends."

And it's the connections with others that B.J. Murray, senior operations director for Camp Wood YMCA, said is the most important lesson to take away from this YMCA-sponsored camp.

Murray said that connection to others is a quality of life that is becoming more rare with the continued advances in technology (though he promises there is a place for technology to help maintain those new connections and friendships).

Camp Wood YMCA is based on

■ See **CAMPS** page 7



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## ■ SUCCESSFUL CAMP

continued from page 5

“savings account” through the church in January. Parents put \$5 (or another small amount) per week in the account, so by the time kids sign up for camp the financial burden is gone or greatly lessened. This option is especially helpful for families with multiple campers and those facing financial hardship.

• **Award scholarships.** If people in your church are willing to send kids to camp, ask them to consider funding a camp scholarship account. Offer the option to donate in a lump sum or on a weekly basis. Estimate the number of kids who'll need financial help using the number of kids needing help the previous year and multiplying it by 20 percent. You may wish to pad this amount to purchase needed camp supplies for kids who are financially challenged as well. Then create a poster to chart the total donations weekly and hang it in a central location.

• **Time: Keep it on your side.** Communicate early with your church families. Give them as much information up front as possible—camp details, schedules, cost, special requirements, and so on. Emphasize the dates so parents can arrange vacations/schedules accordingly.

### PREPARE CAMPERS

Experienced camp counselors know most kids aren't freely willing to jump into camp services or programs on the first day of camp. Most kids need to warm up to the idea of camp itself and the array of new faces. But you can prepare kids' hearts by gradually “warming them up” long before they arrive at camp.

• **Awaken kids' desire for God.** Intentionally prepare kids spiritually for their camp experience, say leaders who are committed to camp. Build kids' anticipation by training them to think about what God has planned for their lives. Pump them up for the camp's theme. Encourage kids to talk about their hopes and dreams. Use lessons that focus on God's plan for us and on unforgettable Bible heroes who did amazing things and that tie into the camp's theme. In-



vite guest speakers whose lives have been changed because of camp experiences.

• **Prep kids' suitcases.** Before you meet kids' spiritual needs, it may be necessary to meet their physical needs. Practically speaking, if kids aren't prepared with the appropriate supplies for camp, they'll be miserable, embarrassed, frustrated, and inhibited in their openness when it comes to God experiences. Don't stop at providing a recommended supplies list, check with all parents—especially those struggling with the financial costs of camp—to ensure their kids will have everything they need. Help those who need it.

• **Get spirit.** Many camps have a theme and are team-oriented. Stoke your campers' excitement about the fun to come by encouraging them to dress in their team colors on certain days and by advertising the camp's theme in your ministry. Play team-oriented games and encourage kids to cheer for each other.

• **Prepare kids for worship.** Kids will most likely have many hands-on experiences, which lead to experiential learning and worship. If the camp your kids attend has prolonged times of worship and prayer, prepare your kids to engage in worship and prayer so they won't be disoriented or disengaged.

**Participation—**Gradually lengthen and emphasize worship and prayer times in your children's services as camp approaches. Talk to kids in sermons or small group lessons about what worship looks, sounds, and feels like.

**P.B.J.S.**—One pastor says he did a series on “P.B.J.S.” to help his kids prepare

for camp. The spiritual focus was to remind kids to have daily “Prayer, Bible reading, Journaling, and Solitude with God.” He used this approach to stir kids' hearts for what God would do at camp. During each installment of the series, the pastor had kids eat a peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwich as a physical reminder of what they committed to do spiritually.

### KEEP THE FIRES BURNING

Eric Jensen, author of *Teaching With the Brain in Mind*, says that for the brain to truly comprehend new information, kids must have “settling time.” This means kids get an opportunity to process what they've learned and experienced at camp, without being immediately inundated with new material or lessons upon their return. Settling time is so valuable for kids to absorb camp experiences that churches should optimally plan on giving kids this “space”—at least a one-week period with no new lessons or topics—as a part of the follow-up camp experience. Here are more ways to maximize camp once kids come home.

• **Bring camp home.** While campers are away changing their perspective on life, things at home haven't changed. Coach campers to keep their zeal for God alive. Remind them that their openness to worship and prayer and their determination to stand up for what's right doesn't have to stop just because they're back home. It's normal for their initial excitement to wane; what's important is that they keep the experi-

ences close to their heart.

• **Share the change.** Have kids share with someone important in their lives the changes they made with God. If the camper kept a journal, challenge the camper to share parts of it with someone trustworthy who'll be excited about what he or she experienced.

• **Find a friend.** Have campers find a friend from camp who'll help them be accountable to the choices and commitments they made.

• **Keep the connection.** One counselor got a camper's address and sent him a

card once a month for the following year. The camper couldn't remember the special speaker at camp, but he did remember the year that his counselor prayed for and believed in him.

• **Partner with parents.** Inform parents by sharing what kids experienced individually. It's easier to follow through on what God has done in a child's life if parents have an idea what happened. Give parents a “talk sheet” with questions to ask their kids to extend faith growth. And don't forget to post kids' camp photos on your Web site while they're at camp so parents can see what their kids are doing.

• **Build on what kids learned.** If campers learned how important it is to regularly read their Bibles and pray, give kids opportunities to do these things in your ministry. Create an accountability program that involves parents.

• **Let kids share their stories.** Many churches we talked to said they didn't place great importance on small group time—even if they slotted time specifically for these relational interactions. Provide opportunities for campers to share stories with others in small

■ See **SUCCESSFUL CAMP** page 8



# Summer Camps 2017

CAMP ACROSS THE METRO: HALF-DAY (ages 4-7) and FULL-DAY (ages 7-12)

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2 INTENSIVE CAMPS  
• Musical Theatre  
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Please call the camp office at (816) 329-1425, or email [campworkers@cityunionmission.org](mailto:campworkers@cityunionmission.org).

Thank you!

## “Hello, Muddah”: Still worth the bumps, mosquitoes

Why send your kids to Christian summer camps?

*Editor's note: The 1963 Grammy Award-winning song "Hello Muddah, Hello Fadduh" by Allan Sherman, tells of the trials of a summer camp plagued by disease, bugs and rain until, in the end, the sun comes out and the camper retracts his plea to return home. It's a funny recollection that many can empathize with. But today, summer camps remain one of the most popular activities for kids during the summer*

There are many horror stories of snakebites, bullies, and bad food, but not all camp experiences are so awful. Many adults look back to an early summer with grand appreciation, noting it as one of the most important points of their development. For some, camp just means overcoming homesickness and learning how to swim, but there are other reasons to send your kids to a Christian summer camp.

Since God created it, evidence of Him



can be found all throughout nature. City dwellers and suburbanites don't get to experience much more than grackles and the occasional squirrel, so the opportunity to spend a week in the woods or beside a lake can be an important spiritual experience. Witnessing true wilderness is becoming more rare every day with modern development, so kids should get to see it while they still can.

Youth group is only once or twice a week, and the atmosphere of school and sports teams is hardly focused on God,

so the majority of your children's community is secular. It's a reality of life, but it can be complimented with a few summer weeks among fellow Christians. Learning about God with a hundred peers can be an encouraging and instilling time of faith, and it's an opportunity for growth that very few get to have.

If you've been taking your son or daughter to church since they were born, it's easy for them to think of it as just something their parents believe. Most youngsters don't make such a statement until high school or college, but it remains a "family faith" rather than a personal one. Summer camp can be one of the first opportunities for kids to make belief their own—when God exists in daily talks and conversation but no authority forces them to believe. Not every kid will come to such a critical development in their faith, but camp at least affords them the opportunity for it. And if they do so, they'll certainly think back to that summer as one of the most important periods of their life.

### CAMPS

continued from page 5

Christian values, but is not a church camp, and staff members believe it offers something for everyone. While there are no altar calls or formal sermons, the camp offers some programs that are Christian focused and there is a large cross in the center of camp.

"All in all, faith is very important to us through connection to one another, love of your fellow individual and a connection to something bigger than yourself," Murray said.

Murray said Camp Wood YMCA is the all-American sum-

mer camp experience. It is the only YMCA overnight camp in Kansas and is based on the core values of caring, honesty and respect. The camp operates and teaches the core belief "I'm third" (faith first, others second and self third). Some of the popular activities at Camp Wood YMCA include archery, horse riding and canoeing.

Murray enjoys watching the children learn and grow.

"They stand differently, see the world differently, and they have a post-camp 'glow,'" Murray said. "When they walk to their parents and are in tears because they don't want to leave, and watch them on the last nights' campfire, it's like their feet don't touch the ground."

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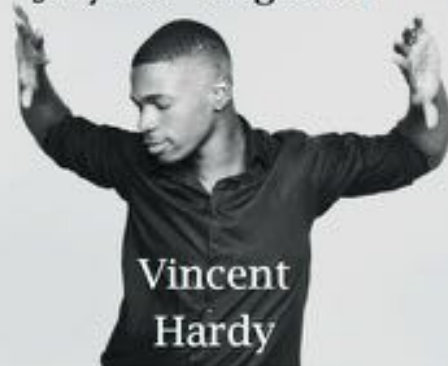
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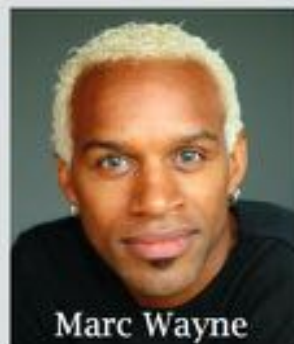
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## SUCCESSFUL CAMP

continued from page 6

groups—this style of growth is beneficial and very important.

• **Make time for play.** What helps the kids bond with their camp counselors? A common quote among the children's pastors I hang with is, "If you play with them, you earn the right to pray with them." Fun and play breaks down barriers at camp—and it works at home, too.

• **Integrate new ideas.** If your kids really enjoyed a certain style of teaching or tool for learning at camp, try to fit it

into your ministry and incorporate it into weekly services or lessons. Seeing how others do ministry—and learning from kids' reactions is a huge part of any children's minister's education.

• **Partner with your church.** If you want your congregation to back camp financially or to support it as a meaningful experience, have campers share stories of how God changed their lives. Show video. Share scholarship information (numbers, not names). You will highlight the benefits of camp and give campers an opportunity to solidify their experiences.

## STOKE THE FIRES

To prepare kids for camp, take steps to make it an experience—not just an event.

• **Assemble a team.** The best approach to anything worthwhile in ministry is a team approach. Find trustworthy people to do what you can't. Recruit "influencers" who can create a marketing timeline and generate growing excitement.

• **Review curriculum.** Evaluate your curriculum to determine whether it supports your goals for the skills kids will walk away with from camp. Pay

particular attention to the calendar just before and after camp. Look for connections between what kids will experience and everyday life transformation.

• **Recruit early.** Which leaders or parents should you talk to now about going to camp, so they can arrange their schedules?

Talk to your current leaders to start with, since they already have a relationship with campers and will be engaged

in their lives after camp is over. Choose people who are relational rather than task-oriented. Those who are relationally gifted will enhance campers' relationships with God and others.

• **Aim high.** Make efforts early on to get your pastor, board members, or other known influencers to commit to visiting camp. These individuals can become some of your most vocal advocates for the camp experience.



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# The Phone Rings ...



A young volunteer cleans a Jewish headstone after hundreds were toppled in a St. Louis cemetery.

## THE PHONE RINGS

continued from page 1

has been called into community center. Not only toddlers have been affected, but school children, adults working out in the fitness center, employees – literally thousands of Jews and friends who are welcome members and guests of Jewish community centers. According to data from the Jewish Community Center Association of North America (and as of this writing) more than 164 bomb threats have targeted 87 locations across 36 states and two provinces in Canada.

### Even in Kansas City?

Yes, the local JCC in Overland Park had a bomb threat in January. So far, in all of these incidents, no bombs have been found, no property destroyed, no people injured, no lives lost.

### The living and the dead are victims

A phone call also could mean something else. The cemetery superintendent informs you that vandals have knocked over your grandmother's headstone. Again, this probably and thankfully will never be your reality.

However for hundreds of families, vandals in two Jewish cemeteries (as of this writing) since January 2017 have broken headstones and shattered hearts. Emotions and reactions vary. After a St. Louis-area cemetery was vandalized, Ellen R. Portnoy wrote in a guest column published in The Kansas City Jewish Chronicle, "I think my anger is intensified because so many of my family have no graves. Their remains are included in the ashes of the concentration camps and

destroyed Jewish communities in Europe."

Emily Ford owns and operates Oak and Laurel Cemetery Preservation, LLC, a New Orleans-based cemetery preservation company. In her report "The Year in Cemetery Vandalism 2016," she brought up thoughts well known in her industry but relatively unknown outside the cemetery business. "There is a frequently used and oft-misattributed quote among cemetery people, to the effect of 'Show me a civilization's cemeteries and I will show you how civilized they actually are.'"

"The quote," explained Ford, "is usually utilized when discussing the cost of funerals or the frequency of maintenance. But it has an alternate relevance in the sphere of criminology – political vandalism, hate crimes, and other identity-targeted cemetery crime is itself a barometer for larger socio-political trends. Show someone a graffitied 9/11 memorial, a broken police memorial, or a defaced Jewish cemetery, and they will see the evidence of something much larger."

Ford continued, noting specific anti-Semitic swipes. "The perception of the cemetery as manifestation of cultural identity is especially pertinent in the case of Jewish cemeteries. Cemeteries, along with places of worship, are symbolic of the community itself and are targeted by anti-Semitic vandals in a nearly pathological manner."

Ford's report noted, "In 2016, three Jewish cemeteries in the United States were subject to this type of hate crime. Within one week in February" there was vandalism at two cemeteries in Hartford, Connecticut, as well as an October incident days before Yom Kippur in Warwick, New York. Yom

■ See PHONE page 10

## The Holocaust - why we remember

by **Lori (Roberts) Wilson**

Some think the Holocaust began and ended with Adolf Hitler during World War II.

Some know little about this war, which began in 1939 and ended in 1945.

Some say the Holocaust never happened at all.

### Seeds of hate planted thousands of years ago

Others say, with historical proof, seeds of the Holocaust were planted in Pharaoh's pride.

As he refused God's demands through Moses to "let my people go," Pharaoh and his Egyptian citizens suffered through plague after plague until their land was devastated (see Exodus 1-14).

Today Moses' people, the Israelites, survive and thrive on a tiny scrap of land that in some places is only 9 miles wide – less than a trip from Lee's Summit to Blue Springs, or from Overland Park to Olathe.

Israel was re-established after the Holocaust, on May 14, 1948, as a homeland for the Jews. The seeds of hate sprung up the next day as Arab armies from neighboring countries attacked.

In the centuries between Moses and modern-day Israel, Jews have been targeted from harassment to murder, in Israel and throughout the

world. The phrase associated with the Holocaust, "Never Again," we hope is true, but the seeds of the Holocaust are planted daily.

### Some choose to remember

As history repeats itself, we ask you to join us to become a remembering community. See details in article below.

### Some choose to stand with others

The owners of Metro Voice, for the second year, have chosen to become part of this remembering community.

"We invite pastors to attend and to encourage members of their congregation to attend as well," said Anita Widaman, Metro Voice publisher. Anita and Dwight Widaman, Metro Voice editor, are continuing as co-chairs of March of Remembrance Kansas City.

Anita was named to the event's board of directors last September. "We invite Christians and others to make a statement together, supporting and honoring Holocaust victims and their descendants."

### A remembering community is biblical

Even before Moses boldly went before Pharaoh, God established His covenant with Abraham (when he was still known as Abram), in Gene-



A Jewish mother tries to protect her daughter as they are beaten (and ultimately murdered) in a public square in 1941 Ukraine.

sis 12:1-3 (NIV):

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Isaiah 62:1-7 states, in part, "For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, for Jerusalem's sake I will not remain quiet ... You who call on the LORD, give yourselves no rest, and give him no rest till he establishes Jerusalem and makes her the praise of the earth."

And in six simple words, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." Psalm 122:6

## KANSAS CITY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE HONORS HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

### What is the Kansas City Day of Remembrance?

The purpose is to honor Holocaust survivors and their families. For the second year in a row, Kansas City will participate in this worldwide event known as March of Remembrance in the United States and March of Life in Europe.

We are becoming a remembering community in Kansas City to say to the Holocaust survivors and their descendants, "You are not forgotten. You are not alone. We will remember and we will not be silent for Zion's sake."

Everyone is invited to participate in the event. We are especially reaching out to the believing community of Kansas City – those who know and understand the importance of the Holocaust as well as the importance of the Jewish people beginning in the Old Testament, throughout history and now in their place in modern times. We also prayerfully hope that Holocaust survivors and their families will feel welcome to join us.

### How to participate:

1. Visit website: [www.morkc.org](http://www.morkc.org)
2. Register prior to Sunday, May 7
3. Encourage your family, friends, church, youth group, Sunday School class, Bible study group to attend as well
4. Attend the free educational segment beginning at 1 pm.
5. Walk in the March for Remembrance prayer walk beginning at 3 pm, which is also free.
6. Attend the Evening of Remembrance beginning at 6 pm. This event is \$15 per person and tickets are available by registering at [www.morkc.org](http://www.morkc.org).

### Details

The events of the day will be held at Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Boulevard, Overland Park.

The survivor testimony and response segment will begin at 1 pm in the ballroom. We will view a short video concerning Holocaust history, hear survivor testimony from the children and friends of survivors, and perpetrator testimony from a second generation German citizen. We will witness a pastoral response and hear exhorting words to purpose to bless as today's Righteous Among the Nations. At 2:30 pm, we will transition outside to the courtyard to prepare for the March of Remembrance. The march will begin at 3 pm. and be 1.2 miles with the possibility to only go half that distance. The event will be held rain or shine. Both the pre-rally and prayer walk are free, however, donations will be accepted to defray the event costs.

Evening of Remembrance begins at 6 pm, will be an experience of a powerful expression of Holocaust remembrance and honor. You will be moved by the beauty and elegance of Israeli and Jewish music, a professional Holocaust and liberation ballet and a symphonic string ensemble.

Our keynote speaker is Elhanan Glazer, a former member of the Knesset, the legislative body of Israel. Mr. Glazer has made it his life's work to honor and bless Holocaust survivors and to reach out to the Christian community to carry the torch of remembrance.

Sponsors include Dramatic Truth Ballet Theatre, Church of the Nazarene Kansas City District, Metro Voice Newspaper and Love for Israel Relief Fund. To be a sponsor, contact Mike Schmid, [admin@morkc.org](mailto:admin@morkc.org), (913) 484-9843.





A Jewish restaurant in Germany was the target of an anti-Semitic attack.

## PHONE

continued from page 9

Kippur is one of the most sacred holy days in Judaism. The rabbi of the congregation directly affected by the Yom Kippur incident explained. It “represents hatred and persecution of the Jewish people throughout the centuries. It’s a symbol of hatred and intimidation,” said Rabbi Rebecca Shinder of the World War II Nazi swastikas and “SS” insignia graffiti that desecrated her congregation’s cemetery.

Ford also referred to global incidents. In a report of a 2016 cemetery strike by vandals in the United Kingdom, smashing and destroying headstones, “There have been repeated

warnings that anti-Semitic attacks are on the rise in the UK, after reaching the highest level ever recorded last year (2015).” This article mentioned an even more disturbing report, stating “violence, property damage, abuse and threats against members of Britain’s Jewish population more than doubling last year (2014). The Community Security Trust, a Jewish security charity that runs an incident hotline, recorded 1,168 antisemitic incidents against Britain’s 291,000 Jews in 2014, against 535 in 2013 and 25% up on the previous record in 2009.”

A January 2016 article reported “a Jewish cemetery in (Hanover) Germany was desecrated for the third time in three months.”

Is that all? Probably not. “Many other incidents likely occurred but were not reported, or were not pursued as hate crimes,” according to Ford.

### But that’s just the Jews, right?

A researcher implores us to think again. “People in general should be worried right now. Jews have been described as the miner’s canaries. That means everybody else has better watch out, because there’s more trouble coming,” said Aaron Breitbart, a researcher at the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Breitbart continued, “Whenever there is an upsurge in bigotry against any group of people, others generally get caught up in it. It’s a warning not simply to Jews but to society that there is a certain sickness, a certain rottenness that is rearing its ugly head once again. It may be the Jews one time, but it’ll be others as well. That’s why all forms of bigotry are dangerous, even if you aren’t the target at the particular time.”

### So, what are we doing about all this?

The newly elected US president began a recent speech addressing these anti-Semitic incidents in our nation. “Recent threats targeting Jewish community centers and vandalism of Jewish cemeteries ... remind us that while we may be a nation divided on policies, we are a country that stands

united in condemning hate and evil in all of its very ugly forms,” said President Donald J. Trump in his first joint address to Congress on February 28.

Later in his speech, Trump addressed global terrorism against other religions, including Christianity. “As promised, I directed the Department of Defense to develop a plan to demolish and destroy ISIS – a network of lawless savages that have slaughtered Muslims and Christians, and men, and women, and children of all faiths and all beliefs. We will work with our allies, including our friends and allies in the Muslim world, to extinguish this vile enemy from our planet.”

Underscoring the United States’ renewed commitment to the only democracy in the Middle East, President Trump continued, “I have also imposed new sanctions on entities and individuals who support Iran’s ballistic missile program, and reaffirmed our unbreakable alliance with the State of Israel.”

### Hate crimes are increasing – possibly more than reported

According to a November 2016 report on the website ProPublica, the US government is not keeping accurate data on the increasing number of hate crimes.

In November, the FBI released its hate crimes report, but it’s incomplete. It doesn’t reflect state and local law enforcement numbers – because more than 3,000 don’t report them to the FBI. Although the FBI is legally bound to collect this data, state and local agencies do not share the same legal mandate.

“A lot of agencies just submit a piece of paper saying they had no hate crimes,” said Professor Brian Levin, who heads the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino. According to an unnamed FBI source, as

many as 20 percent of state and local agencies choose not to participate at all.

And on college and university campuses, statistics from the U.S. Department of Education may be double the number of incidents counted by the FBI.

While law enforcement organizes itself for accurate data collection, ProPublica is choosing to forge ahead. ProPublica describes itself as “an independent, nonprofit newsroom that produces investigative journalism in the public interest.” They describe their new project, Documenting Hate, to become a “database of reported hate crimes and bias incidents.” ProP-

■ See HATE CRIMES page 18

**For a look at modern Israel, and the perspective from a Jewish writer, visit metrovoicenews.com**

## Kansas City Day of Remembrance

Sunday, May 7, 2017 • Overland Park Convention Center

### Developing a Remembering Community

1:00 – 2:30 Education / testimonies of Holocaust survivors, perpetrators and liberators – FREE

3:00 Prayer Walk – FREE

6:00 – 8:00 Evening of Remembrance – \$15 (Purchase tickets online at [MORKC.org](http://MORKC.org))

Holocaust and liberation ballet, string quartet, Israeli and Jewish music, additional testimonies. Keynote speaker announced soon.



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

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

### EASTER & PASSOVER

**EASTER COLORING BOOK CONTEST.** April 1 & 8, 2:00 pm-4:00 pm. Grace and Truth Church, 15904 E. 23rd Street South, Independence, MO 64055. [gtckc.org](http://gtckc.org) 816-721-5967.

**JOURNEY TO THE CROSS.** April 8, 1:00 pm. Blue Ridge Bible Church, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Free and open to the public. This family program invites children and adults to walk the path that Jesus walked. Tours begin approx. every 15 minutes. Each tour lasts approx. one hour. 816-353-8053.

**EASTER FOR KIDS.** April 8, 9:00 am. Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, 9514 Perry Lane, Overland Park, KS 66212. Please join us for a fun filled morning of crafts, snacks, Bible stories, games, music and an Easter egg hunt. To register please go to [mtolivewels.com](http://mtolivewels.com). 913-375-5842.

**PALM SUNDAY.** April 9, 10:00 am. Pointe of Hope Church, 1215 NW 7 Hwy., Blue Springs, MO 64014. 816-220-2609.

**LEE'S SUMMIT'S GREATEST EASTER EGG HUNT & PAGEANT.** April 9, 10:30 am. Church On The Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market Street, Lee's Summit, MO 64082. Pageant and Free Easter Egg Hunt with lots of candy and surprises. Public is welcome. 816-246-7625.

**SEDER MEAL.** April 12, 5:00 pm. KC First Church of the Nazarene, 11811 State Line Rd.,



Kansas City, MO 64114. This special meal together commemorates the Passover meal and the Israelite's freedom from Egypt. 816-942-9022.

**HOLY THURSDAY WORSHIP SERVICE WITH COMMUNION.** April 13, 7:00 pm. Pointe of Hope Church, 1215 NW 7 Hwy., Blue Springs, MO 64014. 816-220-2609.

**GOOD FRIDAY.** April 14, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Hillcrest Covenant Church, 88th & Nall, Prairie Village, KS. This Good Friday event is come and stay times of worship and prayer. 913-341-1059.

**B'NAI YESHURUN.** April 15, 6:30 pm. B'nai Yeshurun Messianic Jewish Congregation, 107 6th Ave., S., Greenwood, MO 64034.

**COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT.** April 15, 11:00 am. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. 6000 Egg Easter Egg Hunt! Come join in age appropriate areas for finding East Eggs! 816-796-5879.

**COMMUNITY EGG HUNT.** April 15, 10:00 am-11:30 am. Nashua Baptist Church, 11408 N. Main St., Kansas City, MO 64155. Free Event.

**EASTER EGG HUNT AND PANCAKE BREAKFAST.** April 15, 10:00 am. Woods Chapel Church, 3609 SW State Route 7, Blue Springs, MO 64014. This is a FREE family friendly event. Everyone is invited to join us for egg hunting. We'll also enjoy a pancake breakfast together, fun games

for all ages, and you can help pack kits for children in Nicaragua. 816-795-8848.

**EASTER EGG HUNT.** April 15, 11:00 am. Leawood Baptist Church, 8200 State Line Rd., Leawood, KS, 66206. Easter egg hunt for church and community; bounce house, grilled hot dogs. 913-649-0100.

**EASTER CANTATA, "BECAUSE HE LIVES."** April 15, 7:00 pm & April 16, 10:15 am. Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024. 816-630-5121.

**CELEBRATE EASTER.** Apr. 16. Colonial Presbyterian Church, OP Campus, 12501 W. 137th St., Overland Park, KS 66221. 6:30 AM Youth led outdoor Sunrise Service in the Pavilion located east of the church building. 8:00, 9:30\* and 11:00\* AM. Celebration of Jesus' resurrection, main Sanctuary. Easter shuttle bus service available from the Price Chopper parking lot (135th & Quivira) between 6:30 AM and 1:00 PM

**CELEBRATE EASTER.** Apr. 16. Colonial Presbyterian Church, KC Campus, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, MO 64114. 6:30 AM—Youth led outdoor Sunrise Service held at the Student Center. 9:30\*, and 11:00\* AM—Choir, soloists and worship band lead a celebration of the empty tomb through classic hymns and new songs of praise. \*Indicates change in regular service times. Programming provided for infants through Kindergarten. No reservations required.

**EASTER EGG HUNT.** April 16, after service. Grace and Truth Church, 15904 E. 23rd Street South, Independence, MO 64055. [gtckc.org](http://gtckc.org) 816-721-5967.

**EASTER CELEBRATION WORSHIP SERVICE.** April 16, 10:00 am. Pointe of Hope Church, 1215 NW 7 Hwy., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Easter "Brunch a Munch" begins at 9:15 am. 816-220-2609.

**EASTER AT EVANGEL.** April 16, 9:00 am. Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd St., Kansas City, MO 64131. Join us for a powerful morning of music, media, & a message of God's love & grace. 816-942-1414.

**EGG HUNT-BLOW UPS-PRIZES.** April 16, 9:00 am & 11:00 am (service times). Cornerstone Church, 301 SE AA Hwy, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Egg Hunt at 10:30 am (children 5th grade and under). 816-228-1979.

**THE MIRACLE OF EASTER.** April 16, 10:30 am. Church On The Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market Street, Lee's Summit, MO 64082. A mes-

sage of hope and inspiration. Everyone is welcome. 816-246-7625.

**EASTER SUNRISE EXTRAVAGANZA.** April 16, 6:30 am-8:00 am. All Churches in Kansas City are cordially invited to attend a Solemn Assembly of the Body of Kansas City.

## CONCERTS

**KANSAS CITY MEN'S CHORUS.** April 2, 2:00 pm. Avondale United Methodist Church, 3101 NE Winn Road, Kansas City, MO 64117. Cans of food will be collected for the Avondale Food Pantry, offering will be taken for the Synergy Children's Center.

**CARROLLTON 'TELL ME TOUR'.** Thurs. Apr 6 7:00 pm. Deerbrook Covenant Church, 200 NE Tudor Road, Lees Summit MO 64086. 816-246-9337. [www.deerbrook.church](http://www.deerbrook.church)

**DANIEL BRYMER'S NIGHT OF WORSHIP.** April 2, 9, 23; 6:30-7:30 pm. Hillcrest Cov. Church, 88 & Nall, Prairie Village, KS. 913-341-1059.

**GREATER VISION IN CONCERT.** April 8, 6:00 pm. Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 74th and Metcalf Avenue, Overland Park, KS. [kansaschristian.edu](http://kansaschristian.edu) 913-722-0272.

**CHRIS TOMLIN'S WORSHIP NIGHT IN AMERICA.** April 8, 7:30 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64105. 888-929-7849.

**PHIL AND PAM MORGAN.** April 8, 7:00 pm. Pleasant Hill United Methodist, 1300 Lexington, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. 816-540-2072.

**EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA** April 8, 10:00 AM. Grace Christian Fellowship Church: 7230 Quivira Road, Shawnee, KS. Children's Ministry is hosting their annual Easter Eggstravaganza! There will be games, prizes, crafts, and of course the hunt!! 0-11yrs. (913) 2686300

**PAM & PHIL MORGAN.** April 13, 7:00 pm. Tent Revival at Frontier Village, 1st St. and Hwy. 71, Adrian, MO. 913-579-9438.

**THE NEW DOVE BROTHERS.** April 21, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

**SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUTREACH.** April 22, food at 6:00 pm & music at 7:00 pm. Moment of Truth, 310 Randolph Road, Claycomo, MO 64119.

**WORSHIP IN THE ROUND TOUR WITH BUILDING 429, JOSH WILSON, AND CHRIS AUGUST.** April, 29, 7:00 pm. Word of Like Church, 3902 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505. [itickets.com](http://itickets.com) 816-390-6561

Friday, May 5, 2017  
7 p.m.  
Doors open at 6:15 p.m.

Tiffany Fellowship Church  
7315 NW Barry Rd  
Kansas City, MO 64153

816-741-9449

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Thursday, April 6  
VIP  
'Meet & Greet  
BBQ Dinner'  
5:30 pm, \$20  
\$10 in adv., Doors open 6:30  
[www.deerbrook.church](http://www.deerbrook.church)





**APR. 29** **WORSHIP IN THE ROUND TOUR WITH BUIDLING 429, JOSH WILSON, AND CHRIS AUGUST. 7:00 P.M. WORD OF LIFE CHURCH, 3902 N. RIVERSIDE RD, ST. JOSEPH, MO**

**DAVID SMART.** April 30. Cross Creek Baptist Mission, 1050 SW 15th Street, Oak Grove, MO. 816-690-0019.

**CASTING CROWNS CONCERT SHARE.** May 4, 7:00 pm. Silverstein Eye Center Arena, 19100 E. Valley Pkwy., Independence, MO 64055. 816-442-6100.

**KATHY TROCCOLI—COMFORT BY CANDLE-LIGHT.** May 5, 2017 7:00 PM, Doors open at 6 PM. Tiffany Fellowship Church, 7315 NW Barry Road, KCMO. 816-741-9449.

## SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

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

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

**LIVE CHRISTIAN MUSIC VENUE.** THIRD FRI-

DAY, 7:00 pm. Bent Knee Cowboy, 13415 S. 142nd St., Bonner Springs, KS. 913-927-4567.

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

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

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

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

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

## CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

**KANSAS CITY EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP.** Thursdays, 10:00 am and 6:45 pm. IHOP, 3535 E. Red Bridge Rd., Kansas City, MO 64137. Be encouraged by other evangelists in the city. www.kcfellowship.org 470-588-1277.

**UNWAVERING: WOMEN'S GATHERING.** Through April 1. Forerunner Christian Fellowship, 12444 Grandview Road, Grandview, MO 64030. Speakers Mike & Diane Bickle, Heidi Baker, Lisa Bevere, Laura Hackett Park, Jaye & Nayomi Thomas, and others. 816-763-0200 x 2252.

**DIVORCE CARE.** Through May 21, 5:00 pm. Christ The Rock Church, 13901 E. Noland Court, Independence, MO 64015. 816-352-4613.

**SKILL BUILDERS.** Through May 23, 9:30 am Coffee & 9:45 am Program. The Palmer Center, Craft Room, 218 A North Pleasant, Independence, MO 64050. Although classes are designed for widowed persons, anyone may attend. www.widowedpersonsservice.org 913-648-1520.

**SKILL BUILDERS.** Through May 25, 9:45 a.m. Coffee & 10:00 a.m. program. Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66213. Although classes are designed for widowed persons, anyone may attend. www.widowedpersonsservice.org 913-648-1520.

**SKILL BUILDERS.** Through May 26, 10:00 am Coffee & 10:15 am Program. Platte County Resource Center, Board Room, 11724 NW Plaza Circle, Kansas City, MO 64153. No charge. Although classes are designed for widowed persons, anyone may attend. www.widowedpersonsservice.org 913-648-1520.

**11TH MEN OF VALOR, WOMEN OF VIRTUE CONFERENCE, LIVING A PURE LIFE IN AN IMPURE WORLD.** April 1, 9:00 am-3:00pm. St. Thomas More Church, 11822 Holmes Road, Kansas City, MO. Six breakout sessions with twelve national experts. www.kcvalor.com 816-

714-2373.

**AVOID PROBATE.** April 4, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES BRIGADIER GENERAL GAL HIRSCH.** April 5. Adat Yeshua Messianic Congregation, 8512 Stearns Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66214. Author of "Defense Shield: The Unique Story of an IDF General on the Front Lines of Counterterrorism". 913-888-7272.

**EMPOWERED TO CONNECT CONFERENCE.** April 7-8. Northland Christian Church, 6120 NE 48th Street, Kansas City, MO 65119. Free 2 day simulcast. This is a great resource for parents,

ministers, teachers, social workers, doctors, therapists, and anybody else who is around kids in any capacity to hone their skills in serving children who came from tough backgrounds. Safe Families for Children Specialist. 785-783-4577.

**BOB MENDELSON.** April 8, 10:00 am. Or HaOlam, 9898 W. 95th Street, Overland Park, KS. Leader of Jews for Jesus in Sydney, Australia.

**EVANGELIST: RON MILLS.** April 9, 10:45 am & 6:00 pm. Calvary Baptist Church, 900 NW 22nd Street, Blue Spring, MO 64015. 816-228-5540.

**AVOID PROBATE.** April 20, 7:00 pm. Lewis Liv-

■ calendar continued on next page

Your are invited! Join us at  
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for Easter Sunday! Its a time of  
celebration and fun for the  
entire family!

**E A S T E R**

**EGG HUNT • BLOW UPS • PRIZES**

**Easter Sunday, April 16th**

Service Times at 9:00AM & 11:00AM

Egg Hunt at 10:30am (children 5th grade & under)

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ing Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**PROTECTIVE HOMES TRAINING.** April 20 & April 27, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church Quivira, 12501 W. 137th Street, Overland Park, KS 66221. Sponsored by Care Portal. This training is for a family interested in voluntarily hosting a child as a temporary housing placement.

**HEALING AT THE HEM OF HIS GARMENT.** April 21, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm & April 22, 8:00 am-4:00 pm. Macedonia Baptist Church, 1700 E. Linwood Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64109. Sponsored by Carver Baptist Bible College. Speaker: Chrystal Evans-Hurst, Mary Southerland, Donna C. Watson, and Eleanor Allen Lisbon.

**RESTORE CONFERENCE.** April 21-23. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO. Speakers: Matt Hooper, Isaiah Saldivar, with Steve & Kathy Gray. 816-763-1497.

**3 DAY CONVENTION EVANGELIST JOHN RAMIREZ.** April 21, 22, 23; 11:00 am-7:00 pm. First Love Ministries Church, 4747 Hadley Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66203.

**BIRTHRIGHT TRAINING.** April 22. Birthright Center, 6309 Walnut, Kansas City, MO. Reservations are required by April 20th. Birthright, an international emergency service offering positive alternatives to abortion, is staffed by volunteers. If you are willing to commit some of your time, there are a number of ways to help. We especially need compassionate women and men to answer the hotline calls, run pregnancy test, and befriend mothers in crisis. Birthright: 816-444-7090 or Janet Cozad: 816-741-2696.

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MO DISTRICT KANSAS CITY SOUTH ZONE - 2017 SPRING RALLY.** April 29, 9:00 am. Mes-



MAY 4

**FIGHT NIGHT WITH LES AND LESLIE PARROTT. 7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M. PLEASANT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH, 1600 NORTH 291 HIGHWAY, LIBERTY, MO 64068**

siah Lutheran Church, 613 S. Main Street, Independence, MO 64050. Theme is "Our Leaves of Springtime". 816-254-9405

**GET IN THE GAME MEN'S EVENT.** April 29, 8:00 am. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. Cost is \$10. Feature three-time Pro Bowl tide end and Green Bay Packers' Hall of Famer Paul Coffman. 816-795-8848.

**FIGHT NIGHT WITH LES AND LESLIE PARROTT.** May 4, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 1600 North 291 Highway, Liberty, MO 64068. A fun date night for couples of any age or stage. Filled with humor, fresh insight, and practical, new strategies for turning conflict into a means for deeper intimacy. 816-781-5959.

**TIME TO THRIVE.** May 5, 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64131. Cost is \$25. Sponsored by If Not For Grace. Keynote Speaker Kaye Carter, author of Set Free To Thrive. www.infg.org/timetothrive

**PRE-TEENS SUPPORT GROUP.** May 20, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1700 Westport Road, Kansas City, MO 64111. \$35 cost includes activities, snacks, meals, and facilitator fee. Ages 8 through 12. Sponsored by Dillon International. www.dillonadopt.com/kansas-city-pre-teen-group.

**JUNIOR CHRISTIAN YOUTH IN ACTION TRAINING.** June 10-17. Genesis Bible Church, Hannibal, MO. June 19-23, local Kansas City area. Sponsored by CEF of the Greater Kansas City Area. 12-13 years old. After training, students teach at least 2 weeks of 5-Day Club at various locations in their local community. staff@cef-

gkca.org 816-358-1138.

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

**50TH ANNIVERSARY.** April 2, 10:30 am. Indian Heights United Methodist Church, 10211 Nall Avenue, Overland Park, KS 66207. The celebration begins with a worship service at 10:30 am, followed by a catered lunch and entertainment. 913-649-9040.

**NIGHT OF WORSHIP.** April 4, 6:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Highway, Independence, MO 64056. Invite all your friends and family to enjoy a contemporary night of Worship. 816-796-5879.

**FAMILY SKATE NIGHT.** April 9, 4:30 pm. Rink Ratz, 513 SW Keystone Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64014. Skate for FREE with your family and make an impact in your community. We'll be packing food for those experiencing hunger while we have a LOT of fun. 816-795-8848.

**IF NOT FOR GRACE VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION.** April 13, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. So many women and men are living in darkness because of a past abortion. God has Called IF Not For Grace Ministries to bring His message of hope. RSVP to Vicki at vgregg@infg.org.

**A FULL REPLICA OF THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES.** April 21-30. Monday through Friday from 11:00 am-8:00 pm. Saturdays 9:00 am-8:00 pm. Sundays 1:00 pm-8:00 pm. Oakwood Baptist Church, 7600 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, MO. \$6 contribution. 816-373-4733.

**CHILDREN EVANGELISM FELLOWSHIP OF THE GREATER KANSAS CITY AREA ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET AND SILENT/LIVE AUCTION.** April 22, 6:00 pm-8:30 pm. Blue Ridge Bible Church, fellowship hall, 8524 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. \$10.00 per person. 816-358-1138.

**30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PASTOR & WIFE MORNING START CHURCH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM.** April 23 & April 30, 10:00 am. Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church, 2411 East 27 Street, Kansas City, MO 64127. Thirtieth Year Anniversary Services for Pastor John Modest & Mrs. Jeanette R. Miles. 816-923-3559.

**GREEN BAY PACKERS HALL OF FAMER PAUL COFFMAN.** April 29, 8:00 am. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. 816-795-8848.

**A TASTE FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER.** Apr. 29. Midland Theatre, 1228 Main Street, KCMO. Fundraiser for Rachel House serving five locations. Entertainment, food samplings & silent auction. rachelhousefriends.org

**SOMETHING TO EAT FOOD-PACKING EVENT.** April 30, 3:00 pm. Woods Chapel United

Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. We hope you will join us to pack food for the hungry in our community at our food-packing event. Ages 3 and up can serve! 816-795-8848.

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ABRAHAM FOR CHRISTIANS.** April 30 Registration deadline. Visit Samaria and Judea, the Biblical Heartland and the sites of the Books of Joshua, Judges and Samuel, never seen on traditional Christian tours in the so-called "West Bank". Tour dates August 31-September 8 with extension September 8-12. www.AdatYeshua.KC.com

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.** May 4, 12:00 pm. City Hall, 412 East 12th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. City officials will lead areas of corporate prayer for KSMO in hour of praise and worship honoring our King. 816-523-8868. See story.

**LOOKING FOR VENDORS.** May 5, 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Evangel Church, 1414 E. 103 Street, Kansas City, MO 64131. Vendor booth cost \$75. Sponsored by If Not For Grace. "Time to Thrive" featuring Kaye Carter, author of "Set Free to Thrive".

**BE CROWNED.** May 6, 9 a.m. - Noon. Echo Church, 1203 North State Rt. 7, Pleasant Hill, MO. A day of pampering for single Moms. Free, but you must register. www.echochurch.tv 816-987-0067

**KANSAS CITY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE.** May 7, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. 1:00 pm education focus. You will learn about the Holocaust and Righteous Among the Nations. Time for leadership response of repentance and blessings. The walk will begin at 3:00 pm rain or shine! www.morkc.org.

**EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE.** May 7, 6:00 pm-8:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66211. An opportunity to honor, educate, remember and engage! Say to the holocaust survivors and their descendants, "you are not forgotten". www.morkc.org.

**LIGHT HOUSE GALA.** May 13, 6:00 pm-10:00 pm. Armacost Car Museum, 4200 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO 64030. Catered Italian meal, tour of museum. 816-898-1094.

## FINE ARTS

**KANSAS CITY BALLET PRESENTS: THE SLEEPING BEAUTY.** Through April 9. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-931-2232.

**SHE LOVES ME.** Through April 9. Theater at Crown Center, 2450 Grand Blvd., Suite 301, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-221-6987.

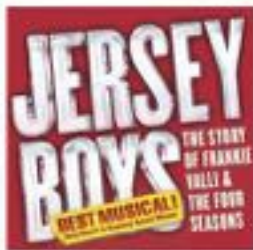
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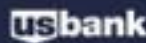
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**Bob Mendelsohn will be guest Shabbat speaker on Saturday, April 8. Service time is 10 A.M.**

Bob is the leader of Jews for Jesus in Sydney, Australia. He grew up in an Orthodox Jewish family in Kansas City, but became a college drop-out when he decided to look for the meaning of life in the counterculture of the '60s. He found meaning and relevance in Yeshua which caused him much trouble at home. But he says, "It was worth the cost." Bob has worked for J4J since 1979, and served as the leader of their work in Washington DC and New York City before moving to Sydney in 1998. Bob and his wife Patty both graduated from the University of Kansas and Fuller Seminary.

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APRIL  
21-30

**A FULL REPLICA OF THE TABERNALE OF MOSES. OAKWOOD BAPTIST CHURCH, 7600 LEE'S SUMMIT ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MO.**

2:00 pm & April 2, 7:00 pm. The Culture House Purple Theatre, 14808 W. 117th St., Olathe, KS.

**NORTHLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT.** April 9, 3:00 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, Helzberg Hall, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. Admission is free, but tickets must be acquired at [www.kauffmancenter.org](http://www.kauffmancenter.org).

**KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY POPS SERIES PRESENTS: BOND AND BEYOND: 50 YEARS OF 007.** April 13-15. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Tributes to spies and other detectives from around the world. 816-471-0400.

**LYRIC OPERA OF KANSAS CITY PRESENTS "THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE."** April 22, 26, 28, 29, 30. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-471-4933.

**THE THREE BEARS.** April 29. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Road, Independence, MO 64052. [www.hazellle.org](http://www.hazellle.org) 816-833-9777.

**RUTTER'S THE SPRIG OF THYME AND OTHER FOLK SONGS.** April 29, 7:00 pm. Plaza Heights Baptist Church, 1500 E. Clark Road, Blue Springs, MO 64015. 816. 560-9148.

**JACOMO CHORALE CONCERT.** April 30, 4:00 pm. Colbern Road Community of Christ, 27507 E. Colbern Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64063.

**ANNIE WARBUCKS.** May 12, 7:00 pm; May 13, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; May 14, 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Bell Culture Event Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062.913-681-3318.

**SNOOPY!!! THE MUSICAL.** May 18, 7:00 pm (Family Day); May 19, 7:00 pm; May 20, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; May 21, 2:00 pm. Bell Culture Event Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062.913-681-3318.

**NORTHLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT.** May 21, 7:00 pm. Staley High School, 2800 NE Shoal Creek Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64156. Will be performing a variety of pieces from some of the world's most famous Broadway musicals.

**WEST SIDE STORY.** May 25, 7:00 pm (Family Day); May 26, 7:00 pm; May 27, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm; May 28, 2:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Bell Culture Event Center, MidAmerica Nazarene, 2030 East College Way, Olathe, KS 66062.913-681-3318.

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**OVER THE RAINBOW: TOYS FROM THE LAND OF OZ.** Through August 20. National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, 5235 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64112. Explore the original literary story and its many retellings. 816-235-8000.

**LAYERS OF TIME: LONGVIEW FARM MEMO-**

**RIES.** April 1-April 29. Kansas City Museum at Corinthian Hall, 3218 Gladstone Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. Features photographs of Longview Farm, built in 1914 known as "The World's Most Beautiful Farm". 816-513-0726.

**AUTISM AWARENESS DAY.** April 2, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Drive, Kansas City, MO. The Zoo will provide FREE admission to people with Autism and reduced admission of \$6 per person for those accompanying them at the Zoo. 816-595-1234.

**PASSPORT TO INDIA FESTIVAL.** April 2, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Travel to India with a celebration of Indian art, culture, music, dance, fashion and food! 816-751-1278

**NATIONAL DANCE WEEK KANSAS CITY.** April 8, 11:00 am-4:00 pm. Ironwoods Park, 14701 Mission Road, Leawood, KS 66224. A full day of free dance performance for the public. [www.widancecompany.com](http://www.widancecompany.com).

**HORSE FUN DAY.** April 11, 2:00 pm. Horses of Hope, 7611 E. 100 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64134. Face painting, horse painting contest, mini-races, and much, more. 816-518-6035.

**EASTER BUNNY.** April 15, 8:45 am-12:00 pm. Powell Garden, 1609 NW Highway 50, Kingsville, MO. Enjoy a Chris Cakes pancake breakfast followed by our famously fun egg hunt on the lawn. 816-697-2600

**FLOWING THROUGH HISTORY: KANSAS CITY, THE CITY OF FOUNTAINS.** April 27, 7:00 pm. Mid-Continent Public Library-Parkville, 8815 Tom Watson Pkwy., Parkville, MO 64152. Hear the back-story of some of the city's most iconic fountains. 816-741-4721.

**CHIP IN 4 CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT.** June 19, 8:00 am. Creekmoor Golf Course, 1112 East 163rd Street, Raymore, MO 64083. \$400 per team or \$100 per individual. All proceeds will support the mental and emotional wellness of Cass County children, individuals and families through Pathways Community Health, your local

community mental health partner. 660-890-8216.

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(table of 10)  
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**Armacost Museum**  
4200 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO

**May 13, 2017**  
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

For more information  
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## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS.** 9:30 a.m.



APR.  
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**FLOWING THROUGH HISTORY: KANSAS CITY, THE CITY OF FOUNTAINS. 7:00 PM. MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY, 8815 TOM WATSON PKWY., PARKVILLE, MO**

**MOPS.** First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO. Support groups for mothers of preschool-aged children. Offers creative activities, social events & learning opportunities. 816-353-1994.

**TUESDAY - 13 WEEK PROGRAM. DIVORCE-CARE AND DIVORCECARE4KIDS.** 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Timothy Lutheran Church, 425 NW RD Mize Road, Room 102, Blue Springs, MO. Participants become part of a small support group of people who are also experiencing separation and divorce. A program for children whose parents are separated or divorced, children between the ages of 5 and 12. 816-228-5300.

**TUESDAY - IF NOT FOR GRACE PRAYER.** 9:30 am. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. [kmiller@infg.org](mailto:kmiller@infg.org)

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

**TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY.** 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St.,

Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

**TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS.** 7:00-8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. [www.heartlandhealingrooms.org](http://www.heartlandhealingrooms.org).

**TUESDAY - ISRAELI FOLK DANCE.** 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. The Jewish Community Center, Studio 3, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS. \$3 Adults and teens welcome. 7:00 pm-8:00 pm: Beginning/Intermediate Dance, 8:00 pm-9:00 pm: Intermediate/Advanced Dance. 913-327-8000.

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

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

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

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

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

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# entertainment

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## The good, bad and ugly with Beauty and the Beast

### entertainment

As her name suggests, Belle is indeed lovely. She's also sweet, kind, gentle and as bright as the stars on a moonless night. She adores her father. And she simply loves to read good books and dreams of being part of the adventures those printed pages depict.

There's only one problem: Belle's long list of terrific character qualities make her something of a misfit in her little provincial town. In fact, the townspeople see her as flat-out peculiar. Why would anyone bother with all that reading and dreaming and the like, they say, when she could just settle down and be happy? Or at least make some guy happy?

Like Gaston, for instance.

Gaston is a lantern-jawed brute who's regularly fawned over by all the other young women in town. And in his mind, deservedly so. Why, just look at his smile, those muscles, those twinkling eyes. Even Gaston's old army companion, LeFou, can't help but sing Gaston's praises. And he's a guy.

Of course, the most handsome and desirable man in town naturally gravitates toward the most beautiful and desirable woman. And that would be Belle. Gaston is determined to take her as his wife. And once they're married, well, he'll cure Belle of her passion for reading and dreaming and all that silly stuff. Belle, however, isn't interested. She'd rather care for her loving Papa, the town's clocksmith, and wait to see what possibilities the future might hold for her rather than take up with an empty-



headed lug like Gaston.

But none of that matters much, it would seem, in light of recent events. While her father was off trying to sell his mechanical devices in the nearest city, some wickedness must have befallen him: His horse returned without him.

In a panic, Belle goads Papa's old-but-smart horse to take her to her father, wherever he may be. And the animal carries her to the gates of a gloomy, obviously forgotten castle. What could have happened to this overgrown old place? And why doesn't anyone in the village even know it's there?

Inside the strange, crumbling fortress she finds a cell. And inside that cell she finds her father. "Go away, Belle!" the old gent cries. "Forget about me. I'm lost to you." But Belle could never just walk away from her beloved Papa. "Everything

I am because of you," she tells him.

Besides, it's too late.

The surly owner of this enchanted castle has heard the commotion and storms into the shadow-cloaked dungeon. With bared teeth and an angry roar, he makes the facts clear: Papa has trespassed and unwisely tried to pluck a rose from his property, and a price must be paid. If Belle wants to take his place, so be it. But someone will be the lifelong prisoner of ... the Beast!

The Beast, it turns out, is a cursed prince who must find someone to love him in his current monster-like form in order to break the spell condemning him to that state. Of course, Belle doesn't know any of that. She simply shows great love and bravery in her willingness to take her father's place. She is willing to set all her dreams aside to ensure her father's

well-being and freedom. (And her father is willing to do the same for his daughter.)

This live-action rejuvenation of Disney's classic 1991 animated musical is in many respects a thing of sumptuous beauty. In fact, some of the scenes in this new Beauty and the Beast—such as the famous welcome-to-the-feast number, "Be Our Guest"—are nothing short of magical. On top of that, this fairy tale fantasy's encouragements to choose kindness and compassion, and to look beyond surface beauty, all ring as clear and true.

That's the good news here.

But then there's all that other stuff that we have to deal with as well. What are we to make of director Bill Condon's claims that his Beauty and the Beast features Disney's first "gay moment" (as de-

### film411

#### BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

**STARRING:** Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans, Josh Gad, Kevin Kline, Hattie Morahan

**DIRECTOR:** Bill Condon

**RATED:** PG

scribed above)?

Adults will likely notice the film's obvious homosexual innuendos and recognize them for what they are. But will kids? In a different, more innocent time, I wonder if these scenes would have been viewed by youngsters as little more than silliness. Alas, however, we live in this activist age. A day when actors and directors and studios feel it necessary to insert such things in an attempt to normalize

■ See MOVIE page 18

### Some Parents Say Christians Should Watch Disney's Beauty and the Beast

When Disney announced it would feature an "exclusively gay moment" in its new "Beauty and the Beast" remake, Christians everywhere vowed to boycott the movie. Despite the backlash, some Christians say parents should think twice about prohibiting their children from seeing the film.

One of those parents is Sarah Wallace, a blogger for The Gospel Centered Mom, and mother of four. She says the movie gives parents the opportunity to teach their children how to interact with a world that loves sin.

"This is the culture God has appointed for us to raise our children in. We need to know how to live in it and interact

■ See BOYCOTT page 18

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## HATE CRIMES

continued from page 10

ublica saw a necessary niche. "The need for trustworthy facts on the details and frequency of hate crimes and other incidents born of prejudice has never been more urgent." Documenting Hate will include anti-Semitic incidents.

### What difference could I make?

Stand up, speak up and become part of our remembering community. The Holocaust devastated the Jews

and the world. Today's continuing and growing anti-Semitism defies "Never again" and "Never forget." Help us speak for others, as Martin Niemöller learned ... the hard, painful and guilt-filled way.

Niemöller (1892–1984) was a prominent Protestant pastor who emerged as an outspoken public foe of Adolf Hitler and spent the last seven years of Nazi rule in concentration camps. He is perhaps best remembered for the quotation:

*First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out —  
Because I was not a Socialist.  
Then they came for the Trade Union-*

*ists, and I did not speak out —*

*Because I was not a Trade Unionist.*

*Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out —*

*Because I was not a Jew.*

*Then they came for me — and there was no one left to speak for me.*

## MOVIE

continued from page 17

and elevate certain sexual choices. And, unfortunately, they've chosen to do so this time in a movie aimed at children.

Both director Bill Condon and actor Josh Gad seem to be trying to walk back their comments about this deliberate, pro-homosexual agenda—perhaps in light of calls from some prominent Christians to boycott it. Gad told USA Today, "Too much has probably been made of this entire thing. At a certain point what I want to be talking about is how wonderful, how entertaining, how amazing this movie is for all audiences." Likewise, Condon told screencrush.com, "It's all been overblown," and then added, "Why is it a big deal?"

But the fact that Condon doesn't understand why this could be such a big deal to many who don't believe homosexuality is normative is telling indeed. The result? Families that don't embrace Beauty and the Beast's pro-gay moments will be forced to grapple with how best to respond to them. And for those who were looking forward to revisiting this beloved tale as old as time with a younger generation, that's a disappointing and difficult decision to have to make.

## BOYCOTT

continued from page 17

with it," she says. Instead of ignoring a culture that celebrates homosexuality, Wallace argues that Christians should send their children out into the world with strong knowledge of what the Bible says.

"We must raise alien children - children who are not surprised by or afraid of this culture, but know how to impact it for the gospel," Wallace argues.

Christian Blogger and writer Luke Aylen agrees and argues that some parent's reactions could even hurt their Christian witness.

"Boycotting this film suggests Christians are offended by the existence of gay people - even if that's not how the boycotter intends it," Aylen writes.

Aylen is a fierce defender of traditional marriage, but he is open about his life-long struggle with same-sex attraction. He recalls the painful experience of having Chris-

**"We must raise alien children - children who are not surprised by or afraid of this culture, but know how to impact it for the gospel"**

*Sarah Wallace*

tian friends who cut him off after finding out about his struggle with homosexuality. He says most of these children had parents who refused to even talk to them about the reality of homosexuality in their culture.

"It wasn't the theology that hurt me. It was the way of reacting and

treating me as a gay person - a reaction built upon seeing her parent's boycotting of gay people on TV," he says.

Aylen doesn't believe Christians should compromise on their biblical convictions about homosexuality, but should be prepared to engage a culture that widely accepts it.

"The fact is that our children are growing up in a society where gay relationships are a given," he says. "If we hold to a traditional biblical view of sexuality then we need to prepare our children for the real world of competing views about sexuality now, rather than try to pretend that LGBT issues don't exist, either in Disney films or in real life."

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# GOODBYES AND NEW BEGINNINGS



**D.C. JEANES**  
Metro Voice  
music critic

## musicscene

Wow, this is my last music column for Metro Voice, and I'm at a loss. Not something I usually struggle with, as I'm probably more free with my thoughts and opinions than may be considered appropriate, but this is tough. I started writing for the paper in 2010, as I was getting ready to graduate from Park University. Since then, I have been given the opportunity to interview some pretty big names in the music industry, including Building 429, Jim Brickman, Tenth Avenue North, and Brandon Heath, as well as some amazing local talent including Lori Harris, Dre T, and Grandeur.

I have had the unique opportunity to share my experiences going to Sierra Leone, both as a missionary and a father, and what our family has gone through to finally bring our children home from the orphanage there. We are in the last months before welcoming Ibrahim and Isha into the Jeanes Clan, and we are excited and grateful to God for His divine guidance and grace!

However, these final stages of the adoption are also a part of the reason I am stepping down from my position here. I will miss the monthly research and learning about new artists before writing about them.

It has been a powerful experience, and I want to give a huge shout-out to our publisher Dwight Widaman for the chance to be part of a great paper and ministry. I hope to meet you in person someday, brother, but our phone conversations these last seven years have been great, too. Haha!

Okay, now to the music news!



Award-winning rockers Building 429 is headlining the "Worship in the Round" Tour, with Josh Wilson and Chris August. The tour will be coming to Word of Life Church in Saint Joseph on Saturday, April 29! Word of Life Church is located at 3902 N. Riverside Road, St. Joseph, MO 64505, and the doors open at 7pm. More information and tickets are available on iTickets.com. Recently, Building 429 received RIAA®-Gold certification for their single "Where I Belong," while the single sales surpassed 1 million in 2015. Josh Wilson has achieved over 200,000 career album sales and over 500,000 career track sales to date, as well as being awarded the 2012 ASCAP Christian Songwriter of the Year.

Multi-platinum selling and GRAMMY winning Casting Crowns will also be stopping by in May. Performing at The Silverstein Eye Centers Arena on May 4, Casting Crowns will be continuing on their The Very Next Thing Tour, joined by K-LOVE Radio's Male Artist of the Year Danny Gokey and special guests Unspoken. The tour supports their newest album of the same name; their fifteenth in their career. This is a great opportunity to see some incredible Christian artists for a good price and at a fun location.

Lastly, singer, author, and speaker Kathy Troccoli is also coming, May 5, to Tiffany Fellowship, on her popular Comfort By Candlelight tour. Described

as "inspiring...breathtaking...reviving...healing," the Candlelight tour is presented for anyone and everyone who could use an evening of worship and comfort. Located at 7315 NW Barry Rd, Kansas City, MO, Tiffany Fellowship will open its doors at 6pm with the performance slated to start at 7.

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# DVDS WORTH RENTING

## Drama gives voice to trafficking victims

Caged No More tells the story of Aggie (Loretta Devine), an elderly woman looking for two teenage girls she cared for as children. She discovers the girls have been sold into slavery by their own reprobate father (Kevin Sorbo). He sets up his youngest to meet the man who will trick her into a most unfortunate fate by promising her money for modeling.

Aggie learns both youngsters have been taken overseas to be sold into the sex trade. Determined to rescue them, she enlists the help of the girls' uncle and his son, a former special-forces commando.

At the end of this taut action film, we learn another person becomes a victim of human trafficking every 30 seconds.

Caged No More shows the heroes gallantly fighting the evildoers. Though some characters have a happy ending, the film will leave you feeling uneasy, not triumphant.

Caged No More has good production values and an absorbing story. It's a pleasure to see a woman of faith have a positive effect on the lives of others, but it's a sad reality that men and women in this world traffic other human beings to make money or to satisfy some kind of twisted desire. Whatever the reason, the industry is thriving.

The film is available on DVD from Word Distributors. It doesn't have objectionable language or exploitive sexuality, but it receives a PG-13 rating mainly for the subject matter.

—Michael Foust

## Movies with language that is not just clean, but good

Nowadays, theaters are overloaded with films composed of CGI effects, bathroom humor, and gore galore. But throughout the years, the best moviemakers have found the truest special effect is dialogue.

Two films from Britain, both produced in the 1990s, mesmerize viewers with their use of language. The Winslow Boy, from 1999, is based on a true story about a successful banker who risks his fortune and the family's good name to defend his son from an accusation of theft. After being dismissed from a prestigious prep school, a disgrace that could cause early 1900s British society to shun the entire family, the boy proclaims his innocence despite the evidence.

The family's subsequent stand takes them to court. The patriarch makes personal and financial sacrifices to hire the best lawyer, or, as the British say, solicitor.

Renowned playwright and director David Mamet, who is recognized normally for salty dialogue in his works, has sensitively adapted Terence Rattigan's play. This genteel look at a father's determination to see justice done—and to see his son vindicated—offers filmgoers a superb



Loretta Devine stars as a housekeeper on a mission to find the child she cared for who was sold into slavery by the girl's father, played by Kevin Sorbo.

screenplay, proving that a story can be told without bombarding the viewer with profane and offensive material. It's rated G, and stars Nigel Hawthorne and Rebecca Pidgeon.

Next, the Academy Award-winner for best picture in 1995, Sense and Sensibility, stars Emma Thompson, the late Alan Rickman, Kate Winslet, and Hugh Grant. Thompson also wrote the screenplay for this film adapted from the Jane Austen novel about two sisters discovering the joys and tribulations of young love. Sense

and Sensibility is rated PG. Set in prim and proper 18th-century Britain, the beautifully photographed and splendidly acted melodrama is full of humor, wit, and passion. There's no profanity, no sexual situations, no violence—just great storytelling.

[Editor's Note: Sadly, while Sense and Sensibility is available for rent on Amazon, none of the movies are available for free on Netflix or AmazonPrime]

— by Phil Boatwright

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# THREE FAITH-BASED SHOWS SET TO PREMIER ON PRIME-TIME TELEVISION THIS SPRING

by **Charity Gibson**

Three faith-based TV pilots will go head to head with others for a chance to get picked up for the 2017-18 television season premiere.

If primetime television decides to take a page out of Hollywood's faith-based films success, we might be seeing a lot more Christian content on the small screen.

Now that spring is under way, scripts have been pitched to ABC, CBS, NBC, Fox and The CW for a chance among hundreds to move forward in a bid to find the next breakout TV shows.

Discovered in the listings of pilots up for grabs were three faith-based television shows that a Christian audience might consider watching.

## 1. "The Gospel of Kevin"

## Those behind ABC's Marvel drama

"Agent Carter" returned to the network with a pilot for "The Gospel of Kevin."

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the Disney-owned American



Alonzo

Broadcasting Company network recruited Jason Ritter to play the lead role in the "Light" ABC drama.

 **Alonzo** "The Gospel of Kevin" will follow a man "down-on-his-luck who's tasked by God with a mission to save the world." The series will also feature Cristela Alonzo, JoAnna Garcia Swisher and J. August Richards.

The project stems from a deal inked a few years ago with ABC Studios between longtime writing partners Fazekas and Butters.

Fazekas and Butters are known for their work on "Agent Carter" as well as "Resurrection," both of which ran for

two seasons apiece. "The Gospel of Kevin" reportedly marks ABC Studios' leading eighth pilot order of the season.


## 2."Living Biblically"

This CBS comedy stars Ian Gomez as a "modern man who, at a crossroads in his life, decides to live life according to the Bible."

The pilot is based on the best-selling book *The Year of Living Biblically: One*



Gomez



**Gomez**

Man's Humble Quest to Follow the Bible as Literally as Possible by A.J. Jacobs. Although the description reads as a faith-based series, it is difficult to judge for certain since the author described himself as an "agnostic Jew" to Christianity Today. However, the book did receive positive reaction from Christian media.

### 3."For God and Country"

Lastly, "For God and Country" stars the actor from the "The Case for Christ," Mike Vogel.

This NBC dramatic series was filmed in Morocco and is a "heart-pounding look into the complex world of the country's bravest military heroes who



Voge

make personal sacrifices while executing the most challenging and dangerous missions behind enemy lines."

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


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## TABERNACLE

continued from page 1

Developed by Jeanne Whittaker, a California woman who got the idea while praying on a trip to Israel some twenty years ago, her vision quickly grew into reality with the help of her own church. The Tabernacle Experience is now a detailed and historically accurate full-scale replica of Moses' shrine that was carried by the Israelites across the Sinai Desert after they were freed from Egypt, as told in the book of Exodus. To date, over 220,000 people across the United States and Canada have traveled back 2,500 years ago when two million Israelites, set free from Egypt, banded together on the promise of a new land they could call their own with a promise to follow the one true God.

That trip back in time, and the effect it has on a person, is one of the motivating factors in bringing it back. Russ Taylor, pastor of Oakwood Baptist Church says seeing it last fall in Lone Jack, Mo. was an experience he will never forget.

"It was a tremendously moving experience," says Taylor, reflecting on when he and members of his congregation saw it. "Seeing all the requirements that a Holy God demands to dwell among a holy people."

For many the benefit isn't just educational. Taylor says he was even caught up in the moment—and it surprised him. "I saw a number of people who were moved to tears, as I was," he says, "they left in very hushed tones. It clearly had touched them and very deeply."

The Oakwood congregation will certainly be prepared with new knowledge when they see it this year.

The church has been going through a Sunday morning series on the Tabernacle taught by Taylor. Having started in February, the pastor says that a number of members have said they finally understand the sacrificial elements of the Old Covenant and the New Covenant and how they are intertwined.

For the pastor, though, it isn't a recent interest, "Seeing it in a three-dimensional way, through the Tabernacle Experience, reignited my passion to share it with our congregation and others," he told Metro Voice.

Pastor Taylor says that as they've been working through the series, this period of Moses is the first time, since the fall, that God expressed His desire to dwell among His people.

"All humanity is hot-wired to know God. The Tabernacle Experience does a great job of explaining that wiring and it exposes people to the opportunity to know God through Jesus Christ. One leaves being reminded of it, as Christians, or being exposed to it for the first time."

The exhibit features historically accurate, artistically crafted biblical replicas of the Brazen Altar, the Table of Showbread and finally, the Ark of the Covenant. State-of-the-art interactive displays take what a visitor sees to a new level that's understandable to young and old alike, whether they be seasoned Christians or just curious individuals who haven't attended church in a while but are drawn to the ancient worship practices.

When The Tabernacle Experience visited Lone Jack Baptist Church last fall, over 5,000 people saw it and reservations filled up within days of the article in Metro Voice.



Shelley Holsten, a member of Lone Jack and one of the organizers of their event said it had a profound effect on her. "The Tabernacle Experience was, for me, a deeply personal worship experience," she said. "Having the headset on allowed me to shut out everything and concentrate on the presence of the Holy Spirit. With all senses engaged, I felt His holiness like never before."

While the exhibit is mostly self-guided, volunteers direct worshippers through the various aspects of the tabernacle tent. With the help of audio, they journey through the sanctuary with a 55-minute narration in which they interact at each of nine stations. Jesus Christ is revealed in each aspect of the tabernacle.

The Experience may be the most unique traveling exhibit in the nation. But why does a tent, fabric walls and an altar set up in parking lots, fields and churchyards across the nation capture the imagination and spiritual aspirations of so many people?

Pastor Taylor observes that we live in a more visual and experiential age and it gives people the opportunity to really see what they're reading in their Bibles. "This allows us to see how people experienced God

2,500 years ago, in a way that reading alone is difficult to convey."

"The most beautiful aspect," Taylor says, "is how different parts of the experience point to the Christ to come."

Holsten shares a story about a priest who visited, but had run out of time to wait his turn. She says she could sense his angst when he came to her and said he had to leave in 15 minutes. Was there any part of it he could experience before he had to go? She quickly grabbed a headset, took him straight back to the stations inside the tent, and told him to listen as long as he could, then to just bring the headset out when he had to leave.

"When he came out a short time later, the tears were flowing and he was too caught up to even speak to us," Hosten says. "Instead he began pulling out bills and stuffing them in the donation box. When we tried to assure him, it wasn't necessary—he didn't even get to experience the whole thing—he just shook his head at us, continued, and left in silence."

The Tabernacle Experience will take place Friday, April 21 from 11 a.m. through Sunday, April 30 at 8 p.m., rain or shine. Oakwood Baptist Church is located at 7600 Lee's Summit Road, Kansas City, Mo. (North of Lakewood Medical Center).

Cost is \$6 pp/\$20 per family. Walk-ins wait for those with reservations. You are encouraged to go on line and reserve your time to attend, though donations/payments can only be taken at the door.

For info, and to signup, visit [www.obckc.com](http://www.obckc.com) or call (816) 373-4733 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday. More info at [www.tabernacleexperience.com](http://www.tabernacleexperience.com).

## WILDFIRES

continued from page 1

munity volunteers began pulling up charred fence post and rolling up burnt wire.

The fire on this ranch claimed more than 500 head of cattle and burned 42,000 of the ranch's 48,000 acres—a loss Gardiner described as a microcosm of much wider destruction across Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, and Colorado.

The afternoon of March 6, Gardiner drove a trailer up to his brother Mark's home, planning to rescue three horses and two dogs before fire engulfed the structures. But high winds propelled the fire to this corner of the ranch quicker than anticipated.

He could see his brother walking toward the barn and his sister-in-law making her way to the house to get the dogs as sudden darkness engulfed the pickup. "It was like somebody put a hood over my head and it just went black," Gardiner said. Enveloped in dust and smoke, the heat from the fire penetrating the cab of his truck, his self-preservation instinct kicked in



Greg Gardiner in front of the remains of Mark and Eva Gardiner's home

and he drove away (using his internal compass to guide him) as a nearby tree belt exploded in fire.

It was 30 minutes before a fire crew could confirm the couple's escape to safety. The house is gone, the dogs—who refused to move—didn't make it, and Gardiner tears up every time he thinks of how close he came to losing his family. He has struggled to make sense of his decision to flee the scene rather than run

toward his brother and sister-in-law, comparing himself to the Biblical account of Peter denying Christ. A friend reminded him not to be too hard on himself: The trailer was blocking the only escape path for all three of them, so perhaps God prompted him to make a lifesaving move.

Gardiner, whose family homesteaded on the land in 1885, said his two brothers and their three sons would rebuild the ranch. He still has 1,500 head of cattle, and his operation uses an embryo transfer program that has produced high quality beef and garnered national acclaim.

The losses among neighbors could be more crippling: Three sisters who run a ranch with their husbands lost all of their homes. Many calves across the region were orphaned or never born, compounding financial losses. And repairing fences will be another financial challenge for the region: Gardiner said 461,000 acres burned in his home of Clark County, and close to 12,000 miles of fence need repairing at an estimated cost of around \$10,000 per mile. His ranch is one of the largest with 300 miles of fence.

Carcass disposal is an additional expense.

But he has also heard stories of healing and sacrifice. Two brothers who hadn't spoken in seven years mended ties after one brother saved the other from certain death when fire crews could not reach him in time. Trucks are rolling in with donated hay and feed from fellow ranchers across the region. A 4-H Club organized efforts to care for orphaned calves until ranchers have had time to recover from their losses. And Gardiner said he already sees sprouts of green through the charred land, noting the timing of the fire allows for spring rains to promote new growth before next winter.

What do the cattle losses mean for the consumer? Gardiner said beef has a longer turnover than pork and chicken. "Every day when you eat a hamburger or steak, it took a rancher three years to get that on your plate," he explained, pointing to a potential hit in the 2019 production cycle. "Those in the cities should have a vested interest. Their meal just burned up."

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# opinion

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## Christians must contribute to culture, not just complain about it



**ERIC METAXAS**

Host of the "Eric Metaxas Show," "Breakpoint" co-host and author

### myopinion

When it comes to culture, do you consider yourself a foot soldier or a gardener? Okay, that's a bit cryptic. But let me explain.

When was the last time you participated in a boycott? Or shared a Facebook post alerting your friends to a dangerous cultural trend?

Good stuff. Now, let me ask you this: When was the last time you went to an art museum? Or bought tickets to the theater? Or listened to a great piece of music? Or wrote a poem and shared it with friends?

I ask because I believe even more important for Christians than being on the front lines of the culture war is *participating* in the culture—and better yet, helping to create and nurture it. If the main contribution that Christians make to culture is complaining about it, we're doing something wrong.

That's what my friend Makoto Fujimura says in his new book, "Culture Care: Reconnecting with Beauty for Our Common Life." You may have heard me interview Fujimura before. He's a brilliant artist and writer who has thought long and hard about the relationship between faith and the arts. "Culture," he argues, "is not a territory to be won or lost



but a resource we are called to steward with care. Culture is a garden to be cultivated."

In other words, Fujimura wants us to shift our thinking away from the "culture wars" model, in which we think of culture as a battleground. Of course we need to have convictions about culture, and to stand by them. But Fujimura wants to offer a better way for us to influence culture for good. His image of a garden is just one of many he draws from nature, to show how we can carefully and patiently help to cultivate that cultural environment and make good things grow in it.

So, how do we do this? Fujimura suggests that both Christians and the arts community start by learning to look at

each other as potential allies, even friends, instead of as sworn enemies. He asks us to consider investing in cultural works, as we're able to afford it. (As an example, he mentions customers who have purchased his own paintings by giving him a little money every month until they were fully paid for.) He suggests that leaders in the church, the arts community, and the business community form partnerships to help support each other and nurture the culture around them. He cites the example of singer Mahalia Jackson, who encouraged Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to "tell 'em about the dream," spurring him to make his most famous speech. Such encouragement can flow in both directions.

This isn't always easy work, but it's

extremely valuable and worthwhile. It requires thoughtful engagement instead of blanket condemnation, and it may call for us to broaden our understanding and deal with ideas that seem unfamiliar and uncomfortable. But from such efforts come moments that he calls "generative," or "life-giving." Christians who enjoy and support art and culture, who make it a priority in their lives, and who reach out to those in the arts instead of reflexively pushing them away, can help bring the culture toward a renewed appreciation of goodness, truth, and beauty. And that is good for everyone.

Fujimura acknowledges that Christians in the arts, or even just Christians who love the arts, can feel caught between two worlds. But he argues that this is not a bad thing. The person in this position may in fact be playing "a role of cultural leadership in a new mode, serving functions including empathy, memory, warning, guidance, mediation, and reconciliation."

One of the best things about "Culture Care" is Fujimura's optimism about our future—especially if you're feeling a bit weary and battle-scarred from the culture wars. He firmly believes that, as tough as this cultural moment is, we can turn it into a "genesis moment" by learning to nurture and care for our culture and those who create it. If you want to be part of that effort, I can't think of a better way to start than by picking up this excellent book.

—Eric Metaxas is the host of the "Eric Metaxas Show," a co-host of "BreakPoint" radio and a New York Times #1 best-selling author whose works have been translated into more than twenty languages.

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## WHO IS THE WORLD'S MOST POLARIZING FIGURE?



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

### hopefortoday

I have had the privilege of being guest chaplain at the U.S. Senate and House of Representative as well as the Kansas Senate and House of Representatives. I took these opportunities, not to religiously grandstand, but to genuinely pray for the legislators before me and for my state and country. Only one time did I ever experience pushback. After reviewing my prayer, the chaplain sent it back and suggested some changes. I did my best to honor him, but after the fourth revision, with great respect I finally said, "I understand the position you are in, but I must close my prayer with 'In the

name of Jesus.'" Reluctantly, he permitted it.

The chaplain was a good Christian, but concerned over the fallout he would receive. He knew that some legislators, because of their religious position, would be offended at the use of Jesus' name.

David Limbaugh, who wrote the book *Persecution*, summed it up when he stated "Jesus is offensive." And Jesus Himself explained "If the world hates you, know that it has hated me before . . . you" (John 15:18).

From the moment of his birth to the present, Jesus has consistently topped the Who's Who List for the world's

most polarizing figure. On the one hand, every Sunday millions gather to worship and adore him as savior and



Lord. And on the other, over 60 nations are imprisoning, killing or culturally ostracizing followers of Jesus.

What is so offensive? It is his name.

Jesus, means savior. He is a savior from sin, and since no one can forgive sins but God, He is also deity. These two truths inflame His adversaries and cause his followers to worship Him.

The deeper reason for the offensiveness of Jesus is the sinfulness found in human hearts. Whether it is an indi-

vidual, government or a religion, we all want to do life our way. We want to be in control, make our own choices and pursue our own path. That is sin. And if the affects of our sin rise to unbearable levels we mask it with work, addictions or trying to be a good person. Yes, we may acknowledge Jesus was a good teacher and person, but stop short of changing our ways for Him. In a sense, when he comes knocking we hold up a sign in our hearts that says "Resist!"

One day, love him or hate him, he will bring the whole world to its knees. The Scripture says, "God has highly exalted him . . . so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord . . ." (Philippians 2:9,10,11). Instead of raising up your defenses towards Jesus, consider humbling yourself and discovering His joy and peace.

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



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