



## SNOOPY THE MUSICAL

EVENTS CALENDAR | Page 12

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## CASE FOR CHRIST

Real life story  
of one-time  
atheist  
Lee Strobel  
who becomes a  
firm believer  
in Christ

SEE PAGE 17

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 5

May 2017

FREE-TAKE ONE!

## The sky is this summer's biggest attraction

Hotels already filling up in  
the path of a late August,  
coast-to-coast solar eclipse



by **Sandy Barwick**

Eclipse chasers around the world know  
where they'll be on August 21, 2017.

On that day, the continental United  
States will experience a coast-to-coast  
total solar eclipse, starting in Oregon,  
through Wyoming, northeastern Kansas,  
Missouri to South Carolina. The central  
path runs through a dozen states, though  
every continental state will see at least a  
partial eclipse. At the point of greatest du-  
ration in rural Illinois, the total eclipse  
will last 2 minutes and 40 seconds.

In fact, the northern half of the Kansas  
City metro will be in the path—an area  
roughly north of I-70 including Glad-

■ See SOLAR ECLIPSE page 10

## CHURCH PLAYGROUND GETS DAY IN COURT OVER EQUAL TREATMENT ISSUE



### Supreme Court arguments show justices unclear on how to proceed

by **Evan Wilt**

(WNS)—Supreme Court justices on  
both sides of the ideological spectrum  
seemed concerned about the state of  
Missouri's decision to exclude a church  
from a neutral government subsidy

program, a positive sign for religious  
liberty advocates watching oral argu-  
ments. But the justices also suggested  
the case might be moot due to recent  
state policy changes, leaving court-  
watchers uncertain about whether the  
justices will rule at all.

After more than a year delay, the  
high court heard arguments in Trinity  
Lutheran Church of Columbia v.  
Comer, a highly anticipated case that  
will determine whether the state of  
Missouri can lawfully exclude a church  
from a playground mulch program.

Trinity lost its petition at the district  
and appellate levels and hoped a  
Supreme Court ruling would bring  
clarity to the balance between First  
Amendment rights and the principle  
of church-state separation. But recent

■ See PLAYGROUND page 23



## Jewish writer on why she remembers the Holocaust

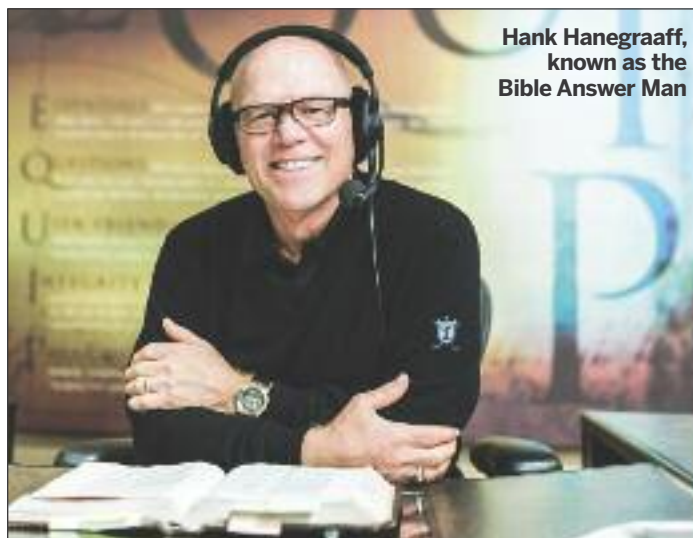
by **Rochelle Wisoff-Fields**

Last spring, in anticipation of the first  
annual March of Remembrance, I was  
given the honor of interviewing Sonia  
Warshawski, a Polish Holocaust sur-  
vivor. Below is an abbreviated version  
of the interview that appeared in Metro

■ See HOLOCAUST page 22

## 'Bible Answer Man' booted from Bott

Action came after Hank Hanegraaff joined Orthodox Church



Hank Hanegraaff,  
known as the  
Bible Answer Man

by **Stan Zaimov**

with additional research by Dwight Widaman

The "Bible Answer Man" radio show  
program with Hank Hanegraaff has been  
removed from Bott Radio Network (BRN)  
over concerns regarding biblical accuracy,  
following Hanegraaff's conversion into the  
Eastern Orthodox Church.

"We want to make sure that our listeners  
know that the programming that we have  
on Bott Radio Network is thoroughly bib-  
lical," said BRN President Rich Bott, a  
member of Lenexa Baptist Church and son  
of Bott Radio Network founder Dick and  
Shirley Bott.

BRN had reportedly been broadcasting  
the "Bible Answer Man" since the 1980s,

■ See BIBLE ANSWER MAN page 23



## Mo. AG targets human trafficking

by **Brian Koonce**

ST. LOUIS—Missouri's attorney general is taking a novel approach to combating the growing threat of human trafficking.

In April 3 comments made at an undisclosed human trafficking rescue site in the St. Louis area, Joshua Hawley likened human trafficking to modern-day slavery, noting that each year, thousands of young women and girls are forced into commercial sexual exploitation—forced to provide sex for money.

"We need a new abolitionist movement to confront this oppression and turn it back," he said. "And I am here today to announce that Missouri will help lead the way."

What is novel in the attorney general's approach is that he is issuing regulations under his authority enforcing consumer protection laws to target traffickers.

"It's a bold new approach designed to open a new front in the fight against trafficking," he said.

The new regulations: make using a business as a front for trafficking illegal; make debt bondage illegal under Mis-

souri's consumer protection statutes; and target those who induce victims to come to Missouri based on the false promise that a good job awaits, only to force them into sex or slave labor.

John Yeats, executive director of the Missouri Baptist Convention, was present during the press conference and echoed the need to combat trafficking.

"This is huge news that places our state on the cutting edge for protecting women and children from sexual predators who use this abhorrent crime as a tool to make money," he said. "In our state, the sheer numbers of people caught up in this vile industry make a person want to weep over the iniquity of a culture that allows this form of slavery to go unchecked."

Though the issue of human trafficking is growing in its awareness, the challenge is not new and several ministries exist across the state, including the Missouri Baptist Children's Home. It has a ministry that helps victims of trafficking looking to escape as does Restoration House—a ministry of Blue River-Kansas City Baptist Association.

The AG's office has set up a task force to enforce the new regulations and has set up a hotline (1-844-487-0492) for anyone who needs help or who has witnessed human trafficking.

—The Missouri Pathway

## Resolution focuses on youth violence

Missouri considering measure to declare youth violence a public health epidemic

by **Jason Taylor**

The House Resolution sponsored by Democrat Bruce Franks Jr. of St. Louis calls for the establishment of statewide trauma-informed education.

Franks contends PTSD—Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder—is a condition that afflicts kids who've experienced violence.

"The fact that I am 33 and I have been to now 155 funerals, an average of seven funerals a year since the age of 6 is not normal" said Franks. "And there's not one point in time when I should accept that as normal."

Franks made the comments at a hearing for the resolution. He thinks youth violence needs to be addressed at the root cause, which he identifies as a lack of jobs, education and resources.

Candice Cox is a licensed clinical social worker from St. Louis who also

spoke at a hearing. She described how children in urban neighborhoods like Kansas City, St. Louis and Columbia are traumatized and disconnected from experiences of normal kids.

"They don't think about going outside and playing, because 'I can't go outside and play, because there's a possibility that I may be shot'" said Cox. "A few weeks ago when it was hot outside, there were people outside, and they were in their neighborhood, and children were shot. There was just a drive-by shooting."

Cox runs the non-profit KHAOS (Keep Healing And Overcoming Struggles).

According to the group's website, it provides programs for organizations such as the Boys and Girls Club of Saint Louis, and several schools, including some within the St. Louis School District.

Cox says conditions in urban areas have devolved to the point where broken parents are raising broken kids in broken communities.

She contends people in such com-

munities can't be expected to fix themselves when they don't have the resources or know-how to do so.

Also at the hearing on the resolution, which mostly drew participants from across the state, was Jeanette Mott Oxford with Empower Missouri. She thinks all state agencies need to be better informed and better prepared to deal with childhood trauma.

"The question to ask when we see a lot of children acting out is not 'What's wrong with you?' the question is 'What happened to you?' And if we would all switch to that as our perception in the way that we approach those children, we'll have much better outcomes."

Mott Oxford says her organization has been studying ACES, Adverse Childhood Experiences, and the effects of toxic stress on brain development for three years.

Franks admits it's late in the legislative session to get his resolution across the finish line.

He said if he can get the issue on people's minds, he'll come back in 2018 and try to make it one of the first measures gets through the legislature.

## Lawmakers look to expand youth offender rehabilitation program

by **Jason Taylor**

A bill in the Missouri legislature looks to extend a St. Louis effort to rehabilitate incarcerated youth across the state. The measure would create a task force to develop a statewide plan for Prison to Prosperity, which provides a variety of services for inmates aged 17 to 24. While Prison to Prosperity is a secular approach, as reported in the April Metro Voice, faith-based programs offering similar services have shown to dramatically reduce recidivism rates of released individuals often by as much as 85 percent.



Dr. Alice Prince oversees the Young Adult Workforce Program for SLATE—the St. Louis Agency on Training and

Employment. She says the program was started to help prepare young offenders to be successful after they leave jail.

"We began mentoring them and creating a behavior modification program for them, and a job readiness training, and a financial literacy training, and a technical training, all behind the bars," said Prince. "So that time was used to make them a better citizen when they came out."

Prince says Prison to Prosperity teaches soft skills to address life in society, as well as hard skills to help with job placement. She made her comments at a recent hearing for the proposal in front of the House Corrections and Public Institutions Committee.

Rep. Bruce Franks (D-St. Louis) is

**"None of us got here without somebody teaching us along the way how to do things to make it through life."**

sponsoring the bill. He says he wants to take ideas that have worked in St. Louis and spread them across the state.

"One thing that I've learned since I've been in the legislature is that these problems are not exclusive to just our urban areas and just my community" Franks said. "We could take a comprehensive approach together to really broaden all of our resources to help all of our areas with this particular issue."

Rachel Gridler with Empower Missouri, a non-profit social welfare organization, spoke before the committee. She said teaching skills is essential to bringing down repeat criminal activity and recidivism.

"None of us got here without somebody teaching us along the way how to do things to make it through life. A lot of these people, they don't have someone to do that. That's why they're in this situation. So if we don't give them those skills, when they get out, especially young people, those recidivism rates aren't going to go down. They're going to turn around. And they're going to be back in the same position. They're going to end up back in prison because they don't have the skills to move forward."

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# Kansas' most important pro-life case has far-reaching ramifications

Pro-life groups in Sunflower State concerned a ruling by the state Supreme Court might upend all pro-life laws passed by the legislature

A father/daughter abortion team that filed suit to block implementation of the Kansas ban on dismemberment abortions has now been heard by the state Supreme Court. Kathy Ostrowski of Kansans for Life says most of the judges seemed more than amenable to the idea that the state con-

stitution contains a right to abortion.

"It looked like they were salivating to create a right to abortion," she states. "Unfortunately, I'm sad to report only one justice, Caleb Stegall, probed the inconsistencies with the history of Kansas laws and our Constitution."

The Kansas Constitution, written in the mid 19th Century, contains a right to life but no right to abortion, so to establish the latter, Ostrowski says, the justices would basically have to create one out of the air. Of equal concern is the impact such a radical activist ruling would have on the Kansas pro-life movement.

"Most of our laws would probably be chal-



STEGALL

lenged in court," the pro-lifer says. "Our laws in Kansas, our pro-life laws, are constitutional under the Roe v. Wade so-called right to abortion, but how they would pass scrutiny under a state right, a radically extreme state right, is very frightening."

Ostrowski concludes that everything is at stake, and she calls this the most important pro-life case ever argued in Kansas courts.

**KS amendment pushes to revisit Roe v. Wade**

Meanwhile, a proposal in Kansas is intended

■ See KANSAS page 4

## Mizzou still reeling from fallout over 2015 student protests

Additional dorms close and staff laid off after freshman enrollment falls to 10-year low

Dwight Widaman | Metro Voice

The University of Missouri, Columbia continues to suffer fallout from the November 2015 melee that brought international attention to protests.

The Maneater student newspaper reports the school is shutting down three additional dorms next year because of low freshman enrollment. This is on top of four dorms that were already scheduled to close because of plummeting enrollment. The news comes as Mizzou will lay off 20 administrative employees in MU's Division of Operations, effective July 1. The layoffs are expected to save the university \$1.7 million in salary and benefits.

Technically the dorms are being taken "offline" to see if enrollment bumps back up, and "most or all" staff will keep their jobs, Residential Life Di-

rector Frankie Minor said in an email obtained by the paper:

"Historically, every year between now and August, various situations occur that result in position openings; e.g., normal attrition and voluntary staff choices, as well as unplanned academic or personal challenges," the email said. "If necessary, we will offer alternative employment opportunities at comparable compensation to the remaining staff."

At the last announcement of dorm closures in December, Minor told residence hall leaders that nearly a quarter fewer freshmen than anticipated "signed housing contracts," The Maneater said.

Minor said in the most recent email the targeted dorms had "higher-than-average utility costs" and their closure will be less disruptive for returning students. Mizzou is also canceling eight

"Freshman Interest Groups due to low anticipated demand."

Dorms are not the only thing getting the ax at MU. The University is considering eliminating staff travel budgets in some divisions and delaying filling positions, according to emails obtained by through a Missouri sunshine law request.

The backlash against MU from students, parents and alums shows no signs of stopping.

The plummeting enrollments, compared to surging enrollment at other state universities, shows potential students and their paying parents, are in a powerful position to hold the school accountable.



Journalism Professor Melissa Click shouts at student reporters to leave a public space. She was ultimately fired.

## President's cabinet gathering for weekly prayer

Members of President Donald Trump's cabinet are gathering for prayer weekly.

Vice President Mike Pence and eight cabinet secretaries sponsor the sessions, which occur weekly in Washington.

It's led by the founder of Capitol Ministries, Ralph Drollinger, who started working on arranging the Bible study during the Trump team's transition to the White House.

Sponsors include Pence; Secretaries Betsy DeVos, Ben Carson, Sonny Perdue, Rick Perry, Tom Price and Jeff Sessions; EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt and CIA Director Mike Pompeo.

These are some of the most influen-

tial people in the U.S. government gathering weekly to grow themselves spiritually.

"In terms of a country's health and direction, when its leaders are seeking God, the nation is in a position to be blessed by God in ways that are 'far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think,'" Drollinger tells Beltway Buzz referring to Ephesians 3:20.

"This has been a wonderful time of prayer and fellowship as I am presently teaching through the Sermon on the Mount — as well as handing out my weekly written Bible study as a homework assignment on a particular topic," Drollinger continued.

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## Area college gets grief for changing course name

by **Michael Gryboski**

Benedictine College, a Catholic liberal arts school based northwest of Kansas City in Atchison, recently announced that starting the fall semester, the term "yoga" will not appear on course descriptions.

Benedictine College Communications Director Steve Johnson says that the "changes were minimal."

"The classes have always only included the physical aspects of yoga," explained Johnson, who noted that the course was a "single one-hour (half semester) class in our Health, Wellness & Exercise Science Department which gives students the benefit of the physical fitness aspects of yoga."

"We tell [critics] that the new name eliminates confusion about course content ... we greatly appreciate the cooperation we have received from those involved."

The Kansas City Star reported that the college opted to remove the term "yoga" due to concerns from multiple sources that the term implied support for Hinduism. The Star's reporting has fueled unsubstantiated criticism of the school.

"Complaints ... began to come in from alumni, students, faculty and some administrators who argued that as a Hindu practice, yoga was not in keeping with Catholic-based education," reported the Star.

"Others ... argued that the name yoga should no longer be used because in teaching just the exercise aspects of yoga—as opposed to both its physical and spiritual aspects—Benedictine wasn't teaching true yoga. Thus it should not use the Hindu name."

Some voiced their opposition to Benedictine College's dropping of the name "yoga" from the class by signing an online petition.



One unnamed person who signed the petition and claimed to be an alumnus of the school, stated in the comments section that "Censorship never prevails," though they did not explain how renaming a college course was detrimental to free speech.

Supporters of the school say that lost in the Star's breathless reporting of the "controversy" is that the class is just an exercise class with no Yoga meditation.

## Kansas universities to purchase metal detectors

Three public Kansas universities will install metal detectors at some sporting events. The Kansas Board of Regents approved the plans to ban guns at college football, basketball, and some baseball games on April 19.

The University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State Uni-

versity officials requested authorization to purchase metal detectors and other security equipment just before a Kansas law exemption that allows the schools to ban guns in public places expires. The law allows universities and other public institutions to ban concealed weapons

■ See **METAL DETECTORS** page 9



## MOTHER'S REFUGE

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### KANSAS

continued from page 3

to convince the U.S. Supreme Court to reconsider the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion.

It's been a long journey, but Donna Lipholdt of Culture Shield Kansas says a proposed Personhood Amendment to the state constitution will finally get a committee hearing.

"We've been trying to get a hearing for seven years," Lipholdt says, "and so

we're very excited that this year, we are getting a hearing, and we're going to be testifying as to the humanity of the unborn and those little baby boys and girls who need to be given the same constitutional rights that all of us are given as adults."

If the resolution is passed, Kansas voters will get to vote on the amendment and agree with what science says: that life begins at conception.

"God created these [babies], and it's just that they're in a different place

than we are," says Lipholdt. "They're in the womb, and we're out of the womb and we're protected. So it doesn't make any sense for them not to be protected the same way."

If passed, the Kansas amendment could set the stage for a legal challenge sending the issue back to the U.S. Supreme Court, where as early as 1973, the justices said that if someone could prove the unborn baby is a person, abortion proponents would have a very hard time making a case.

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## How to plan a Christian youth camp: Activities and games

Finding the right balance of “up time” and “down time” for teenagers can be exceptionally difficult, particularly in a culture where kids are regularly bombarded with stimulation. So, while you want your camp attendees to be engaged, I recommend banning electronics (cellphones, MP3 players, laptops, etc) to allow your attendees to focus on why they are there, specifically on strengthening their relationship with the Lord. Another important thing to consider is the unique rest needs of the average teenager. The average teen needs roughly nine hours of sleep a night, but their bodies don’t start to signal that it’s time to go to

■ See **ACTIVITIES & GAMES** page 6



## Providing a leadership adventure!

Anyone can lead, anywhere, anytime. One of the principles of the Kansas Leadership Center, this statement is at the heart of a leadership experience to take place this summer at Rock Springs 4-H Center, south of Junction City, Kan. Leadership Unlocked is a two-and-a-half day leadership camp experience July 16-18th for high school students entering their sophomore or junior year in Fall 2017.

At Rock Springs, we believe young people today should feel empowered to be true leaders-- young people with confidence, the ability to work well with others, endure through challenges and stick with a job until it is done. Leadership Unlocked will help participants unlock their leadership potential as they learn skills and techniques that will take them to the next level. Camp Director Ron Alexander, faculty chair of the Kansas Leadership Center, has worked with organizations that embrace the KLC principles and competencies and work to build those skills in young people. All instructors are well-versed in the Kansas Leadership Center’s leadership principles and competencies. Kansas colleges and universities teach this curriculum in their leadership studies programs, so participants will have an edge as they think about preparation for higher education.

This leadership adventure will be a full camp experience, complete with lodging in Rock Spring’s beautiful limestone cottages, home-cooked meals and traditional camp activities like rock wall climbing, mountain biking, horseback riding and archery. In addition, the masters of Manhattan’s “Locked” have built in an escape room experience throughout the event. Participants will look for clues to unlock the leadership within while learning in workshops and taking part in fun recreational activities. Camp registration will be limited to 200 participants. For more information, visit [Kansas4Hfoundation.org/leadership-unlocked](http://Kansas4Hfoundation.org/leadership-unlocked).



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■ **WORSHIP DANCE INTENSIVE**—July 16-Aug 4—Affordable and Excellent! Ages 12-professional A time of intense daily technical training with evenings full of worship and seeking the Lord in an environment targeted toward releasing your gifts. Classes include ballet, pointe, varia-

tions, pas de deux, modern, contemporary, choreography, Irish step, musical theater, hip hop and more!!

■ **YOUTH DANCE INTENSIVE**—June 26-30th / Boys & girls ages 8-13 with 1-2 years dance experience/ 3 classes per day with morning devotions and afternoon worship. Classes include ballet, contemporary, choreography & Irish step.

■ **PRINCESS TRAINING**—Ages 3-6 Dates TBA / Two days of learning to be a daughter of the King. Scriptural emphasis on their identity in the Lord (Plus lots of “girly princess” activities that every 3-6 year old girl will love!) Culminating in a coronation ceremony.

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## ■ ACTIVITIES & GAMES

continued from page 5

sleep until around 11 pm because of the hormonal changes their bodies are going through.

Because of this unique combination of physical needs, glow-in-the dark night games are a great way to engage your camp attendees. They provide the opportunity for teens to fellowship with one another while still addressing the unique needs their bodies have. In addition to the night games activities linked above a more traditional camp fire, singalong, and/or s'mores event is another fun activity for youth! As with all food, make sure that the snacks you serve are something everyone can enjoy.

Having a late night (especially for the adult youth leaders) game night would ideally mean having morning to sleep in under normal circumstances, but at youth camp, this isn't always the case!

Having activities that keep your teens active and engaged throughout the day *may* also make those nights slightly less late. Tying your activities into your theme is also a great way for your attendees to learn more about the Gospel, particularly that the message of Jesus Christ is good news and it's okay to have fun with it at the same time! Some other activities you can use to engage teens in the retreat include service projects, talent shows, or arts and crafts.

As you plan your activities, you may also want to consider how you want to conduct them. Are you breaking your attendees into teams somehow? You can divide people by age group, congregation, or if you are having a multi-year event you could divide your attendees into "first year" "second year" and so forth. Dividing up your campers into teams could also facilitate unique ideas that will really engage your attendees on the spot.

Overall, the most important thing to remember when planning activities for your youth camp is to keep it fun, stay within your theme, and help your attendees draw closer to Christ.

## Is your child ready for summer camp?

Summer camp builds confidence, teaches social skills and encourages values like respect and responsibility. And the friendships and memories will last a lifetime! But how do you know if your child is ready for camp?



Here are five tips to help you decide.

- Encourage independence. Allow children to take charge of their routines. Let them brush their teeth, shower and get dressed on their own. Do they do a (mostly) good job? If so, they'll be able to handle these everyday tasks at camp.
- Practice being away from home. If your child has never spent a night away, now is the time to try. If they do well, they're probably ready for sleepaway camp.
- Talk it out. Have an open conversation about camp. What are they worried about? Address their fears while encouraging them that camp is a welcoming place.
- Visit camp. Attend our open house, Saturday, May 6, from 1-5 p.m. Bring your camper and let them explore. When they return this summer, camp will be a familiar place.
- Trust your instincts. Parents know their children best. If you still have concerns about a full week of camp, try one of the following options.

**MINI-CAMP:** Designed for 5-to-8 year-olds, Mini-Camp is a four-day session and serves as a great introduction to camp.

**FAMILY CAMP:** Our weekend family camps are designed to build strong families through shared adventures and time together outdoors. It's a great way to help parents and campers feel comfortable with the Camp Wood YMCA experience.

Explore [www.campwood.org](http://www.campwood.org) to learn about Camp Wood YMCA's summer and family camps or give us a call at (620) 273-8641.

## Act. Sing. Dance. LIVE! at CYT

CYT Kansas City, part of the nation's largest youth theatre program, provides a variety of fantastic summer theater camps all across the KC metro area, sure to delight your aspiring young actor!

First, CYT is offering 10 musical theatre day camps in various locations, with two camp themes "Disney Around the World" and "Disney on Broadway." Each location offers half-day camps for ages 4-5 and 5-7, and full-day camps for ages 7-12.

More interested in drama, stage combat and make-up techniques? Your 10-16-year-old will love our non-musical Xtreme camps! Held at the CYT Studios in Overland Park, each camp has a different theme, so students may want to attend more than one! Themes include "Star Wars: Episode II" (June 12-15), "Lord of the Rings: Tales of the North" (June 19-23), and "Comic Books: Conflict of the Universes" (June 26-30).

Another option for high schoolers is CYT's all-new High School Master Drama Camp, July 10-14. This intense day camp will feature *The Crucible*. Students will learn the entire play in just five days and then perform it July 14 & 15!

Finally, CYT offers two fabulous overnight camps, held on the beautiful campus of MidAmerica Nazarene University, where students learn and perform a full-length musical in just one week! Their High School Master Camp for ages 14-19 (July 16-23), will feature *Big Fish*, with four full-length performances held July 21-23 at the Bell Center at MNU.

Middle Schoolers, ages 11-14, have the opportunity to attend their own overnight camp at MNU (July 24-28), learning and performing the fabulously fun High School Musical, Jr.! The full-length show will be presented at MNU on July 28 and 29. Enroll today at [www.cytkc.org](http://www.cytkc.org) or call 913.681.3318. New families, ask for the MetroVoice discount!



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## Be Bold, Be Original, Be Excellent!!!

Visual Manna art academy and mission trips

By Sharon Jeffus

Combining art and missions with excellence, boldness, and originality is what Visual Manna is all about. We have an online 20-hour class, and a variety of educational mission trips for students and church groups. All mission trips include a three day mural experience, art museums and visits with Christian artists. Students will not only get to do murals but will also learn elements and principles of art along with art appreciation and techniques in a variety of media.

Each two-hour online classes include ten ex-PowerPoints with lesson plans and one hour of instruction in technique and media. Each of the 10 lessons includes approximately two hours of independent study. We will help you put your digital art portfolio or writing portfolio together. We will also arrange two mission trips where you will get hands-on experience, and you will have an optional opportunity for AP credit starting 2018. You can take the class online, or arrange for a group of 15 students to take the class at a local facility.

Another goal of the art class is to be able to teach to younger children using the Visual Manna method combining ministry with teaching. Upon

graduation, students will be able to use Visual Manna teaching materials.

Students can start any time and we will have two official graduations each year. Excellent opportunities exist for internships at Christian ministries or businesses upon completion of program.

Visual Manna Joy of Painting paint parties will be available this summer and fall. Upon graduation, students can host and teach their own paint parties using the themes we have created. Each paint party has a spiritual theme and are perfect for Bible study groups and church groups. Contact us for more information at [visualmanna@gmail.com](mailto:visualmanna@gmail.com).

Art is a powerful tool in communication of the gospel. Many students are gifted in the visual arts but have not had the training and experience to use it effectively and with confidence in their churches and communities, and especially when they go on mission trips to serve the Lord and communicate the gospel. Everyone knows the power of an image to convey truth. Art transcends language.

The slogan of Visual Manna's new art program is "BE BOLD, BE ORIGINAL, AND BE EXCELLENT."



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Join us in the Chippewa Hills for where Faith & Fun come together! Camp Chippewa is an American Camping Association and Certified Horsemanship Association Accredited facility located on 660 acres outside of Ottawa, Kansas. Owned by the United Methodist Church, Camp Chippewa is open to all! Summer (& Winter!) Camps are offered for children and youth grades K-12 and camping opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities! With 9 weeks of camps for various interests, Camp Chippewa has something to offer everyone!

From weeklong horse camps for all levels, art camp, and survivor camps, to half-week mini camps, and weekend family camps, there is a fun-filled, unplugged, nature adventure waiting for you!

The fun doesn't end after summer! Every weekend in October, join Chippewa at the annual Fall Festival! Including a 10-acre corn maze, pony rides, petting zoo, wagon rides, the Speleobox, pedal carts, and fall fun for the whole family! Our Fall Festival Kick-Off is Sunday, October 1st!



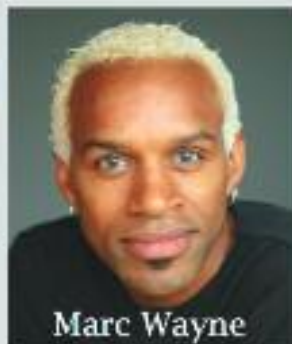
In addition to our 9 weeks of summer camp opportunities, we also offer year-round retreat and camping facilities and activities for families, churches, companies, churches and community organizations for groups up to 140!

Visit [www.CampChippewa.org](http://www.CampChippewa.org)

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## YOUTHFRONT, A TRUSTED PARTNER IN MINISTRY, NOW OFFERS DAY CAMP!

Youthfront, has been in Kansas City for more than 74 years and is here to partner with parents, mentors, churches and the community. Focusing on today's youth, Youthfront wants them to feel they are unabashedly loved and cherished as children of God and that they are priceless with the potential for an amazing future with Jesus Christ. Youthfront Camp is perfect for elementary, middle, and high school age students and does camp in a way that allows authentic discovery and growth for each camper. This year, brand new to Youthfront, is DAY CAMP! The Youthfront Day Camp experi-

ence run from 8 am to 4 pm and will:

- Bring kids together within an uplifting and nurturing community
- Help them learn and discover God's love for them
- Inspire them to serve and love those around them

Our most popular Youthfront Camp attractions are available for Day Camp, some of which include: the Splash Park, Pool & Waterslide, Blob & other lake activities, Zip Line, Nerf Wars, Gaga Ball and much more!

We believe God has blessed us with one of



the finest camping ministries in the country because of our incredible and dedicated staff. Our full-time staff have decades of camp experience as they create the best possible program along with hiring high quality Summer Staff. Our Summer Staff are college-age people who genuinely care about kids and facilitate our camp program. We conduct extensive interviews and background checks for all of our staff hired to

make sure that your campers have the most capable and trustworthy leaders during their session of camp. We have one staff member to every 5 campers for Day Camp, so you can rest assured that your child will be cared for at all times.

For more information about Youthfront camp, visit [www.youthfront.com](http://www.youthfront.com).



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## newsbriefs

### Trump overturns Obama's Planned Parenthood funding edict

(WNS)--President Donald Trump signed his first piece of pro-life legislation into law on April 13, overturning an eleventh-hour rule from the Obama administration to protect Planned Parenthood funding. "This is a major pro-life victory," said House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis. "Taxpayers should not be forced to fund abortion, plain and simple." Trump signed the Congressional Review Act, which blocks a last minute order President Barack Obama issued in the waning days of his presidency. The Obama order banned 13 conservative states from redirecting Planned Parenthood's Title X funding to community health centers that do not offer abortion. This is the first piece of pro-life legislation Trump has signed into law and the first time the U.S. Senate has successfully passed a pro-life bill in more than eight years.



### German family continues fight to homeschool

(WNS)--A German family punished for homeschooling their children has appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). Dirk and Petra Wunderlich submitted a final appeal in early April asking the ECHR to protect their right to homeschool their four children. Home education has been banned in Germany since 1918 and carries criminal penalties. In August 2013, a police squad used a battering ram to break into the Wunderlich home as the family started their first day of homeschool classes for the year. A group of more than 20 police officers and social workers forcefully took the four Wunderlich children, ages 7 to 14, out of the home without letting their parents say goodbye. The parents' only offense was homeschooling.



### Egypt still in state of emergency after twin church bombings

(WNS)--Egypt's president declared a three-month state of emergency after an Islamic State affiliate bombed two Coptic churches on April 9, killing at least 44 people. The attacks, among the deadliest against the minority Christian community, happened on Palm Sunday as the Coptic Church marked the start of Holy Week leading into Easter. President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said the nationwide state of emergency would come into effect once the legal steps are completed. He also announced the formation of the Supreme Council to Combat Terrorism and Extremism and said the country would observe three days of national mourning.

### Marriage is still the gold standard of family stability

(WNS)--Yet another research study published recently showed marriage was superior to cohabitation for providing family stability across the demographic spectrum. The study, "The Cohabitation-Go-Around: Cohabitation and Family Instability Across the Globe," published by the Social Trends Institute and the Institute for Family Studies, found marriage provided significantly more stability for children than cohabiting, regardless of education level or geography.



Cohabiting parents split up twice as often as married parents, according to the data. And children who experienced their parents' breakups and then additional family transitions also reported more unhappiness, school disruption,

and teen pregnancies.

### Texas grapples with transgender wrestler's case

(WNS)--The legislative council of the University Interscholastic League (UIL), the governing body for public high school sports in Texas, will meet in June to discuss what to do with Mack Beggs, a transgender wrestler for a Fort Worth-area high school who is biologically female but identifies as male. Beggs won a state girls' wrestling championship after chronicling, via social media, how she took testosterone for two years to transition to a more masculine body. Testosterone increases muscle mass, strength, and aggressiveness in female athletes, giving them an unfair advantage over female opponents who do not take the hormone. Texas state law and the UIL prohibit female athletes from using testosterone, and penalize them with ineligibility if they are caught. An exception exists for testosterone that



a medical practitioner prescribes and administers for a medical purpose defined as valid, such as gender transitioning. Beggs wanted to wrestle against boys last year, but that was not an option: The UIL is one of just four state athletic associations that still uses the sex listed on an athlete's birth certificate as the sole determining factor concerning whether the athlete must compete as a boy or a girl.

### Airman faces censure over support for Biblical marriage

(WNS)--A 26-year U.S. Air Force veteran is battling an official admonishment from his commanding officer over allegedly disparaging remarks he made about homosexuality more than four years ago. A letter of admonishment detailing



the accusation, filed with no warning or opportunity for Col. Michael Madrid to respond, is a stain on the decorated airman's record and could cost him future promotions, his attorney said. Maj. Gen. John McCoy, then-acting commander of Air Education and Training Command (AETC) at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, filed the 2016 letter of admonishment indicating he had new information in a two-year-old settled and closed investigation of Madrid from another base. Mike Berry, an attorney with First Liberty representing Madrid, said he is at a loss as to why McCoy acted on the closed case or how he even knew about it. Berry said McCoy's actions violate military and federal law denying Madrid due process. Berry has demanded the admonition letter be rescinded.

### Mizzou expert predicts normal temperatures and average rainfall this summer

A weather expert is forecasting a relatively wet and mild summer for Missouri and much of Kansas.

Mizzou atmospheric science professor Tony Lupo is making that prediction, following a dry and mild winter in the Midwest.

"Projections for this summer would lean toward a warmer than normal summer, but only slightly so, and enough precipitation right around the normal mark for the total amount," says Lupo.

Lupo attributes the mild, average summer forecast in part to the projected El Niño conditions in the Pacific Ocean.

Lupo says normal temperatures and average rainfall this

## METAL DETECTORS

continued from page 4

only when adequate security measures, like metal detectors staffed by armed guards, are in place to prevent anyone from bringing in a concealed firearm.

The law exempted public universities and hospitals until July 1 to allow officials time to install se-

curity equipment and adopt weapon policies.

KU officials said they intend to spend about \$1 million on metal detectors and other security measures. It will prohibit concealed weapons at basketball and football games.

K-State said it intends to purchase 70 metal detectors, and Wichita State officials said they plan to buy up to 20 metal detectors for \$3,600 apiece for use primarily at basketball games and some base-

ball games.

Only one board of regents member, Shane Bangerter of Dodge City, opposed the plan.

Kansas National Rifle Association lobbyist Brett Hildabrand, a former state legislator, said he supports the regents' decision.

"We have always been supportive of this as an option," he said. "The point of the legislation was to provide a high level of safety for people in public

facilities, whether that be through additional security measures or allowing conceal carry."

Kansas' three other public universities—Pittsburg State University, Fort Hays State University, and Emporia State University—did not make requests to the Kansas Board of Regents to ban guns at sporting events.

—From thesentinelksmo.org

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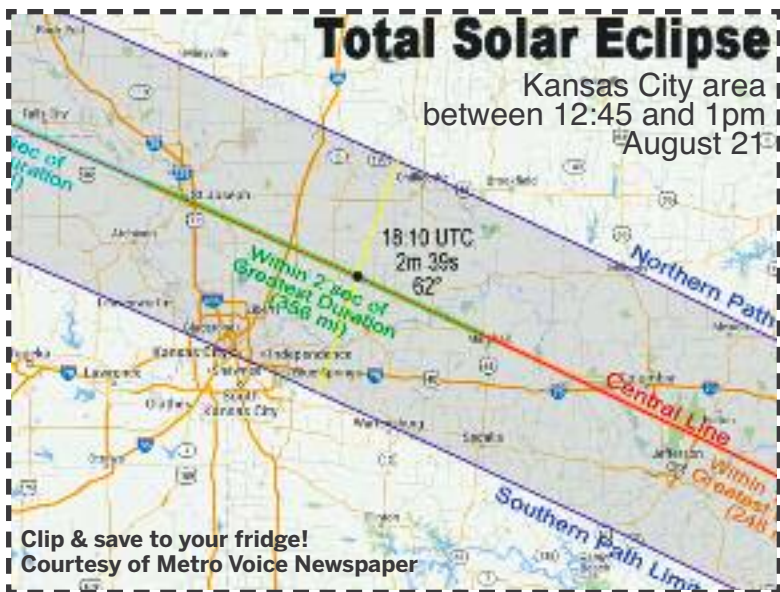
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## SOLAR ECLIPSE

continued from page 1

stone, Liberty, Independence and areas north. In this area the eclipse will begin before 1 p.m.

The last coast-to-coast total solar eclipse occurred in 1918. Court Priddy, the proprietor of a Madras, Ore., inn, said

it has been booked solid since 2012: “There isn’t a hotel vacancy within a three-hour radius.” Kayce Telles, a hotel representative in St. Joseph, Mo., received the first room request for eclipse weekend in 2013. She has taken calls from as far away as France, Italy, and Japan. To boost tourism, savvy city chambers of commerce located along the path are promoting the eclipse on their websites,

advertising eclipse-themed festivals and events with a countdown clock to August 21.

Sleeping under the stars is another popular—and economical—option for eclipse weekend.

Kansas City hotels are seeing increased reservations during that time but for the biggest increase in eclipse tourism you need to head out west. Casper, Wyo., a town of 60,000, is expected to swell to over 100,000 people on eclipse weekend. Morris Carter, who leads a wagon train tour, warns August tourists,

“They’re going to have a tough time if they don’t get on it soon.” Jay Ryan, a former astronomy teacher and avid sky watcher, has been anticipating this event

for 47 years, since as a young boy he missed seeing the solar eclipse that skirted the eastern United States in March 1970.

He’s arranged to travel eight hours to a Tennessee farm to have the best view within the narrow path of totality. While there, he will lead an educational program for a group of homeschool families.

Ryan hopes that many will come to

know Christ after witnessing God’s invisible power in such a visible way. “Only the Lord can stir the individual heart,” he says, “but a total solar eclipse is known to be a personal, emotional event.” Author James Fenimore Cooper in 1806 wrote after experiencing a total solar eclipse, “Never have I beheld any spectacle which so plainly manifested the majesty of the Creator.”

Eclipse watchers should book accommodations if necessary, leave early—traffic is expected to be heavy on interstates—and don’t forget protective eyewear to prevent retina damage.

Ryan suggests, “If you’re in the path, invite someone over.”

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between  
12:45 & 1pm  
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## An award for the community we serve and the people who made it possible



**DWIGHT WIDAMAN**

Publisher and Managing Editor of the Metro Voice Newspaper

## from the editor

In April, Anita and I attended the Evangelical Press Association's annual convention held in Chicago this year. Begun in 1947, EPA is the international professional organization for evangelical publications, including independent magazines such as Christianity Today, Decision Magazine, Focus on the Family publications etc., plus hundreds of denominational magazines and newspapers. There are over 325 member publications.

This year the director of EPA encouraged me to enter the contest and I got it in just under the deadline. The judging is done by individuals with extensive experience in the industry, and the competition is fierce. When I have entered in the past, it was not with an expectation to win anything but to use the judge's comments to improve the quality of our publication. We generally compete with publications that have multi-million dollar budgets, large staffs and huge circulations—all with the full weight of their denominations or



L to R: Lamar Keener, Director of EPA, Anita and Dwight Widaman, and Mark Winz, president of EPA.

non-profit corporations behind them. As you know, it is just Anita and myself publishing the paper with the help of volunteers and freelancers.

So, during the closing night banquet and award ceremonies, I was enjoying looking at the Award of Merit (runners' up) winners as their covers flashed across the big screen. There were the regulars—the ones that usually win the BIG award. Our name wasn't called as a runner-up but I was not disappointed. I picked at the dessert on my plate, my mind somewhere else. Then I

hear Anita exclaim, "Oh!" They had announced the First Place winner for Award of Excellence. I look up and there is the cover of Metro Voice on the screen with my and Anita's names! I turn to Anita and say, "Well, whadya know!" and we both rise and head to the stage to accept the award. I'm told it is the first time a husband and wife team have ever accepted the award together. It was such an honor.

We would have not continued publishing the paper these many long years if we did not believe it was our mission. Through ups and downs, numerous recessions and boons, new technology (when we started we had to paste copy

■ See EPA AWARD page 22

## readerview

### MAP SHOWS GREAT DIVIDE

The map on page 5 (Dec. 2016) showing how counties voted and the caption "The Great Divide: Urban vs. rural and small town voters show stark contrast," shows that there are only four states where all counties voted for one candidate (Clinton): Hawaii and Massachusetts, little surprise. Oklahoma and West Virginia for Trump, some surprise. For the Democrats, Hawaii is Obama's home and Massachusetts is the only state to have voted for the radical George McGovern in 1972. Oklahoma had been until the last few years a Democrat stronghold; Will Rodgers once quipped that he is "not a member of any organized political party, I am a Democrat". With strong union influence, a Republican in West Virginia is rare. A later map shows some rural burrows in Alaska to have voted Democrat.

Another fact I noticed quickly is only two counties adjacent to West Virginia voted for Clinton, Loudoun County, Virginia and Athens County, Ohio, home to Ohio University. I quickly noticed Athens County to be the only Ohio non-urban county to vote for Clinton. Checking a map from <http://brilliantmaps.com/2016-county-election-map> and a road atlas, I noted several counties hosting large Division I universities voted for Clinton: Ohio: Athens, Ohio University and Franklin, Ohio State University (it appears that Clinton support in Franklin County the most populous in the state to be weak); North Carolina: Orange and Durham, three major universities including NC State and Watauga, Appalachia State (and home to Franklin Graham's Samaritan's Purse);

■ See DIVIDED MAP page 23

## A commencement address for every graduate



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

## hopefortoday

This month millions of students will be graduating from high school and college. The majority of these graduates will be teenagers and twenty-somethings. They will have achieved a worthy and important milestone for themselves. If I had a chance to speak at their graduations here are some life lessons I would love to pass along.

Rejoice and celebrate your achievement. So far you have invested 12 years, maybe 16 or even more to this point. Do not let it slide by without enjoying the moment. Celebrate!

Recall the people that helped you make it. No man or woman is an island to him or herself. Thank your parents. Take time to understand the emotions they are experiencing, as their little boy or girl will soon be leaving home. Thank your teachers and professors for their hard work. Thank the friends who were always there.

Release the heartache connected with the journey. Your celebration may be bittersweet. Perhaps there is conflict within your family. Maybe you have not fit in well with other students or carry a broken heart. Whatever it is, you can choose to hold onto the pain or release it. Vow to let go of the past when you receive your diploma and embrace a new future.

Resolve to never give up. There were challenges in reaching this day and there will be challenges tomorrow. Researchers say that this year's high school graduating class should be much higher because close to one-

third of the students did not graduate. And the college graduating class should be much higher because nearly 50 percent of those who started, never finished. But, you did! You overcame!

Remember the Creator. A wise old King once said, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth" (Ecclesiastes 12:1). It is very easy to forget God or to no longer believe He exists in the days of youth. A sense of adventure, a desire to question, being at the peak of energy and strength, living for the moment and a feeling of independence can all lead there. There are many benefits with youth, but some drawbacks too. In the zeal for life, the tendency to live for self and forget God is a major one. Yet, He has a way of keeping us in-check. God has said there will be a day of reckoning, where we must stand before Him and give an account for how we have lived.

With diploma in hand, consider there is one final commencement for



us all. Someday we will face Life's Graduation and pass from earth into eternity. Age is no indicator of when that graduation will come. Each day prepares us for it. Make the most of today, tomorrow and your future by becoming a follower of God's only Son, Jesus. Turn from your ways and seek.

— Clint Decker is President & Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc. [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:cdecker@greatawakenings.org)



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# the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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

## CONCERTS

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

**GRANDUER AND GORSETT TWINS 37TH ANNUAL RICHMOND MUSHROOM FESTIVAL.** May 5, 3:00 pm. Ray County Courthouse, 100 W. Main St., Richmond, MO 64085. Free. 816-776-6916.

**COMFORT BY CANDLELIGHT AN EVENING WITH KATHY TROCCOLI.** May 5, 7:00 pm. Tiffany Fellowship Church, 7315 NW Barry Rd., Kansas City, MO 64153. [iTickets.com/KathyTroccoli](http://iTickets.com/KathyTroccoli) 816-741-9449.

**WORSHIP WITH DANIEL BRYMER.** May 7, 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. Hillcrest Covenant, 88th St., & Nall Avenue, Prairie Village, KS. 913-341-1059

**DAVID SMART.** May 12. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 West 80th Street, Overland Park, KS 66204

**THE DIPLOMATS.** May 12, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

**TIM HAWKINS.** May 14, 6:00 pm. Central Christian Church, 2900 North Rock Road, Wichita, KS 67226. 260-484-1029.

**THE LESTERS.** June 2, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney, MO 64060. 816-628-5583.



MAY 5

COMFORT BY CANDLELIGHT AN EVENING WITH KATHY TROCCOLI. 7:00 PM. TIFFANY FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, 7315 NW BARRY RD., KANSAS CITY, MO 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 FRIDAY, 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](mailto:pegcla@msn.com).

**MOMENT OF TRUTH BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH.** THIRD SATURDAY in January, 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. ABORTION RECOVERY CLASS, HER CHOICE TO HEAL.** May, dates and location to be determined. Sponsored by In Not For Grace Ministries. 9-week class. Jama at [jedlund@infgr.org](mailto:jedlund@infgr.org) or call 816-847-2911.

**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](http://www.kcfellowship.org) 470-588-1277.

**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](http://www.widowedpersonsservice.org) 913-648-1520.

**SKILL BUILDERS.** Through May 25, 9:45 am Coffee & 10:00 am 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](http://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](http://www.widowedpersonsservice.org) 913-648-1520.

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

**FIGHT NIGHT WITH LES & LESLIE PARROTT.**

■ calendar continued on next page

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

*Comfort by candlelight*  
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*To the Glory of God!*

Pastor  
Jerry Breese

Sunday Schools 8:45 AM  
Morning Worship 10 AM  
Evening Bible Study/Meal 6 PM  
Wednesday Bible Study/Prayer Mtg. 6:30 PM  
AWANA 6:30 PM, Youth Group 6:30 AM

Call 816-452-7144  
2501 NE Parvin Rd. KCMO  
[avondalebc.org](http://avondalebc.org)





MAY 5

**TIME TO THRIVE WITH KAYE CARTER. 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. EVANGEL CHURCH, KANSAS CITY, MO 64131. WWW.INFG.ORG/TIMETOTHRI**

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](http://www.infg.org/timetothrive)

**STAYING IN CHARGE: ADVOCATING FOR SELF AND OTHERS AS WE AGE.** May 18, 1:00 pm-2:30 pm. Jewish Family Services, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS 66211. Free, reservations are required. Speaker Kathy Greenlee. 816-9791357.

**VOLUNTEER TRAINING 2017.** May 20, 10:00 am-3:00 pm. Returning Glory, 34505 E. Drinkwater Road, Lone Jack, MO. 816-223-9662

**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/](http://www.dillonadopt.com/kansas-city-pre-teen-group/)

**AVOID PROBATE.** May 23, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**WATCHMEN ON THE WALL 2017 CHAMPIONING PASTORS TO TRANSFORM AMERICA.** May 24-26. Hyatt Regency, Capital Hill, Washington, D.C. [watchmenpastors.org](http://watchmenpastors.org).

**WOMEN'S DAY "STEPPIN OUT IN FAITH."** May 28, 3:30 pm. Victory Temple Christian Life Center, 3301 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64127. Guest Speaker: Pastor Nicky Wright & Bowers Memorial CME Church Choir. Guest Soloist: Sis. Regina K. Sims.

**RIGHT TO LIFE STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP MEETING.** June 10, 10:00 am. Immaculate Conception Church, Pleus Hall, 1206 E. McCarty, Jefferson City, MO. Details coming soon. 573-635-5110.

**PARENT PRACTICUM.** June 5-7, 9:00 am. First Baptist Church of Shawnee, 11400 Johnson Drive, Shawnee, KS 66203. Sponsored by Classi-

cal Conversation. Each summer, parents at all stages of the homeschooling journey spend three days delving into the underlying philosophy and the practicalities of the classical model; then, we challenge ourselves to dig deeper into a specific subject, discovering the truths behind the facts and becoming students ourselves.

**RECONCILIATION WEEKEND.** June 9-11. Sponsored by If Not For Grace Ministries. Contact Vicki at [vgregg@infg.org](mailto:vgregg@infg.org) for more information. 816-847-2911.

**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](mailto:staff@cef-gkca.org) 816-358-1138.

**VBS.** June 12-16, 8:30 am-11:45 am. Fellowship Bible Church, 16900 S. Waverly Rd., Gardner, KS 66030. Free. Galactic Starveyors VBS 8:30 am-11:45 am 1st-6th. Parent program on Thursday, June 15th at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary followed by and Ice Cream social. 913-856-8454

**"JOY STORY!" VBS.** June 19-23, 6:30 pm. Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 7230 Quivira Rd., Shawnee, KS 66216. "Joy Story" with games, crafts, yummy snacks, and interactive bible lessons! 913-268-6300.

**SUMMER WORSHIP DANCE CAMPS YOUTH DANCE INTENSIVE.** June 26-30, 9:00 am-2:00 pm. Boys/Girls ages 8-13, 1-2 years experience ballet experience. [dramatictruth.org](http://dramatictruth.org) 816-757-9222.

**2017 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.** July 11-16. Kansas City Convention Center, 30 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO. [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org)

**PARENTING SEMINAR - MOTIVATE YOUR CHILD.** August 12, 8:30 am. Fellowship Baptist Church, 16900 S. Waverly Rd., Gardner, KS. Special speaker Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller. 913-856-8454.

**CHILDREN MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING.** August 19, 10:00 am. Fellowship Baptist Church, 16900 S. Waverly Rd., Gardner, KS. Cost is \$15 which includes lunch. Speaker Ryan Frank and his team from Kidmin Nation. 913-856-8454.

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

**50TH ANNIVERSARY. STATEWIDE - NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER.** May 4.

**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.

**TRIVIA NIGHT.** May 5, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm. Noland Road Baptist Church, 4505 S. Noland Rd., Independence, MO 64055. \$10 admission. Register - Joann at 816-894-1094 [www.mbc.org](http://www.mbc.org).

**A DAY OF PAMPERING FOR SINGLE MOMS.** May 6, 9:00 am-12:00 pm. Echo Church, 1203 MO-7, Pleasant Hill, MO 64080. It is FREE but you MUST register. 816-987-0061.

**BABY DAY 2017.** May 7, 10:10 am. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Celebrate babies in the church! Baby Parade & Honoring of our littlest ones along with those who serve in our church nursery! 816-796-5879.

**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](http://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](http://www.morkc.org).

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION.** May 11, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Sponsored by If Not For Grace Min-

■ calendar continued on next page



MAY 7

**KANSAS CITY DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. EVENING OF REMEMBRANCE. 6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. OVERLAND PARK CONVENTION CENTER**

Catered Italian Meal  
Tour of the Museum



Gold Level Table Sponsor \$1,500  
(table of 10)  
Silver Level Table Sponsor \$1,000  
(table of 10)  
Individual Ticket \$100

# LIGHT House Gala

## Armacost Museum

4200 E. 135th St., Grandview, MO

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

For more information  
contact Joann Britt at  
816-898-1094 or [joann.britt@mbch.org](mailto:joann.britt@mbch.org)

All Proceeds support the ministries of  
The LIGHT House, a pro-life affiliate of  
MBCH Children and Family Ministries.



istries. Impact God's kingdom using your time and talents. Vicki at [vgregg@inf.org](mailto:vgregg@inf.org).

#### MOTHERS CRY FOR LIFE NON-PROFIT

**LAUNCH.** May 13, 3:00 pm. The Promise Wedding & Event Space, 1100 E. 47th Terr., Kansas City, KS 64110. A Mother's Cry For Life, Inc. provides comfort, healing and peace to Mothers dealing who experience the loss of a child due to missing child, loss at birth, loss due to violence, or suicide. 816-316-0333.

**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.

**MOTHER'S DAY CARNATIONS 2017.** May 14. Pick up locations in Raytown, Blue Springs, Independence, Odessa and Kansas City. Now is the

time to order your church's carnations! To place an order or for additional information, call our office 816-353-4113.

**CELEBRATING MOTHER'S DAY!** May 14, 10:10 am. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Come join us in celebrating Mother's Day! Photo Booth for personal phone photos will be available. 816-796-5879.

**MOTHER'S DAY.** May 14, 10:30 am. Victory Temple Christian Life Center, 3301 E. 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64127. Come Celebrate Our Mother's. 816-241-4434.

**MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE ED FUND GOLF TOURNAMENT.** May 19, 11:00 am. Eagles' Landing Golf Course, Belton, MO. Driving range starts at 11:00 am, sign in and lunch at noon with shot-

gun start at 1:00 pm. 816-547-5617.

**STRIDE FOR LIFE, FUNDRAISER FOR RACHEL HOUSE.** May 20. Waterfall Park, Indep., MO, [rachelhousefriends.org](http://rachelhousefriends.org) 816-921-5050.

**PHIL AND PAM MORGAN.** May 24, 9:30 am. SKC Women Aglow, 12400 Grandview Rd., Grandview, MO 64030.

**GLOBAL OUTREACH DAY REACH KASAS CITY.** May 26. Global Upper Room. May 27. Reach Kansas City Launch. Vision: take the gospel to every home in K.C. Metro area. [www.reachkc.com](http://www.reachkc.com)

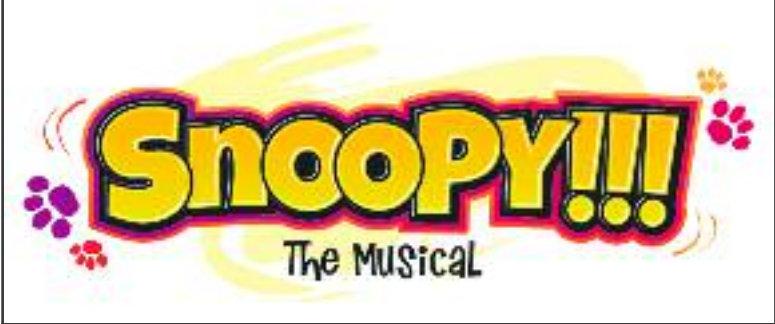
**MOTHER'S REFUGE WEEKEND BBQ.** June 4, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm. 3721 Delridge, Independence, MO 64052. BBQ Picnic, face painting, and games for children. Tours of Mother's Refuge - meet new friends.

**BOWLING FUNDRAISER.** June 10, 10:00 am. AMF Strikes 'N Spares, 13001 E. Hwy. 40, Independence, MO 64055. Sponsored by Ma'at Foundation. Visit our website to learn more about our organization which helps the local young girls in Kansas City. 816-863-8051.

**PASTOR'S BANQUET.** July 14, 6:30 pm. Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Gideon International. Church leaders, and lay leaders are cordially invited to an evening of dinner, celebration, and praise. [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org)

**JERRY & KAYE MEINERS' 23RD ANNUAL PRO-LIFE GOLF CLASSIC.** July 24, Shadow Glen Golf Club, Olathe, KS. Registration fee \$330 per golfer. Benefits Vitae Foundations.

**IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF ABRAHAM FOR CHRISTIANS.** Tour dates August 31-September 8 with extension September 8-12. Visit Samaria and Judea, the Biblical Heartland and the sites of



**MAY 18-21 SNOOPY!!! THE MUSICAL. BELL CULTURE EVENT CENTER, OLATHE, KS. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CALL CYT AT 913-681-3318.**

the Books of Joshua, Judges and Samuel, never seen on traditional Christian tours in the so-called "West Bank". [www.AdatYeshua.KC.com](http://www.AdatYeshua.KC.com)

## FINE ARTS

**IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST.** May 18, 7:00 pm. May 19, 7:00 pm. May 20, 2:00 pm & 7:00 pm. Goppert Theatre, Avila University, 14808 W. 117th St., Olathe, KS.

**42ND STREET.** May 2-7. Muriel Kauffman Theatre, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-421-7500.

**I'M STILL HERE.** May 6, 7:30 pm. May 7, 2:00 pm. The White Theatre, Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, 5801 W. 115th St., Leawood, KS.

**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.

**CLASSICS UNCORKED: SHALL WE DANCE?** May 18 7:00 pm. Helzberg Hall, Kauffman Center, 1601 Broadway, Kansas City, MO.

**PUSS IN BOOTS.** May 20. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. [www.hazzelle.org](http://www.hazzelle.org) 816-833-9777.

**NORTHLAND SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT.** May 21, 7:00 pm. Staley High School, 2800 NE Shoal Creek Pkwy, KCMO 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.

**SYMPHONY IN THE FLINT HILLS.** June 10, 1:00 pm. Geary County, KS. The event begins at 1:00 pm. With prairie education, activities, guided prairie walks, catered BBQ and horse-drawn covered wagon rides. The concert begins at 6:45 pm and concludes at sunset when attendees can dance under the stars to old time acoustic music or star gaze.

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**ANNUAL PLANT SALE.** May 6-7, 9:00 am-5:00 pm. Powell Gardens 1609 NW US Hwy. 50, Kingsville, MO 64061. 816-697-2600.

**OVERNIGHT FISHING.** May 13, after 11:30 pm. Shawnee Mission Park Lake, 7900 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS. The park will be open strictly for



# SkillBuilders

**Education and Support for Widows, Widowers and Caregivers**

**Class Meeting Times:**

- 10-10:15am Coffee, Meet, Greet, Support
- 10:15-11:50am Program

No charge. No registration necessary  
Platte County Resource Center, Board Room  
11724 NW Plaza Circle, Kansas City, MO

**Upcoming Classes:**

- May 5 • Spring & Summer Car Care
- May 12 • Medicare, Medicaid and Long Term Care
- May 19 • Home Computer and Mobile Device Care
- May 26 • Paths to Remembrance & Memorial

Co-sponsored by  
Crossroads Hospice,  
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Platte County  
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**913-648-1520 ■ [www.widowedpersonsservice.org](http://www.widowedpersonsservice.org)**

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## Greater Pentecostal Temple

**SERVICES**

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- Intercessory Prayer 5:00 PM
- Evangelistic (Vesper) Service 6:30 PM
- Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM
- Youth Department Meeting 7:00 PM

**Sunday**

- Intercessory Prayer 8:00 AM
- Sunday School
- Relationship Class 9:00 AM
- Praise & Worship 10:00 AM

**Bishop Marvin E. Donaldson, Pastor**

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*K'hee-lah M'shee-kheet Or Ha-Olam* קהילה משיחית אור העולם

## Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation

[Or HaOlam is Hebrew for "Light of the World," which is the term the Messiah used to describe Himself, and us.]

**Shmu'el Wolkenfeld, Rabbi, [rabbi@orhaolam.com](mailto:rabbi@orhaolam.com)**

**Mailing: PO Box 12503, Overland Park, KS 66282**

**913-383-8448, [orhaolam.com](http://orhaolam.com)**

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**Shabbat Service, Saturdays, 10 A.M.**

**Everyone welcome!!**

Or HaOlam is part of a world-wide movement of Messianic congregations of Jews and people from all ethnic groups, who worship Yeshua (Jesus) as the Messiah in the context of Jewish lifestyle and identity. This is in accordance with the ancient promise of the Psalms [147:2-3] that "Adonai is rebuilding Yerushalayim, gathering the dispersed of Israel. He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." Come join us, and share in God's rich nourishment of His own special "tree of Life," Romans 11.17.







**MAY 13** **OVERNIGHT FISHING. AFTER 11:30 P.M. SHAWNEE MISSION PARK LAKE, SHAWNEE, KANSAS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 913-888-4713.**

fishing. 913-888-4713.

**MOTHER'S DAY.** May 14, 9:30 am-5:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132. Moms will receive complimentary admission on Mother's Day. 816-595-1234.

**HORSEY FUN CAMP FUNDRAISER.** May 17, 4:00 pm. Horse Rescue, 7611 E. 100 Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64134. A fun event for ages 5-15. Horseback riding, grooming, painting, and other fun horsey type activities. michelleiswon@gmail.com. 816-518-6035.

**KC JAZZ & HERITAGE FESTIVAL.** May 25-28. America Jazz Museum, 1616 E. 18th St., Kansas City, MO 64108. A multi-day showcase of national and local artists highlighting Kansas City's significant role in the national and global development of Jazz 816-474-8463.

**KANSAS CITY'S SYMPHONY'S BANK OF AMERICA CELEBRAION AT THE STATION.** May 28, 8:00 pm. Union Station Kansas City, 30 W. Pershing Rd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 15th Annual patriotic concert, blankets and lawn chairs welcome. 816-471-0400.

**OLD SHAWNEE DAYS.** June 1-4. Shawnee Town, 11600 Johnson Dr., Shawnee, KS 66203. Free. The whole family can enjoy with music, a carnival, contests, games, parade, crafts, shopping, food and so much more.

**STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL.** June 3, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Vaile Victorian Mansion, 1500 N. Liberty St., Independence, MO 64050. A hundred craft and antique dealers will be set up around the Mansion. 816-229-8293.

**JAZZ IN THE WOODS.** June 9-June 10. Corporate Woods, 9001 W. 11th Street, Overland Park, K. A two-day showcase of local culture and the arts. 913-451-3355

**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.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

young children. Contact amyviets@holycross-elca.org for more info.

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

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

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

**TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP.** 7:00 pm-8:30 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.

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

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

cludes link to FB page) 816-246-4517.

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

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

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

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

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

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# entertainment

MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!

## The Promise explores Armenian holocaust at hands of Turkish Muslims

### entertainment

It's a city of fable, proudly perched where East meets West. It's had many names: Lygos and Byzantium, New Rome and Istanbul. But at the Dawn of World War I, it's still known as cosmopolitan Constantinople.

As the capital of the shrinking-but-still-significant Ottoman Empire, Constantinople is home to more than a million people—a bustling, vibrant mixture of Muslims, Jews and various stripes of Christians. Armenian Christians, the Empire's largest minority, are particularly notable.

While many of the country's two million Armenians live in poverty, Armenians who call Constantinople home are often prominent intellectuals and businessmen, doctors and priests. More than 160,000 Armenians live in Constantinople alone.

And the city's about to get one more. Mikael Boghosian works as an apothecary in his small village of Siroun. He prescribes medicine and treats the ills of his friends and neighbors as best he can. But his village deserves more. Now, thanks to the dowry of his betrothed, Maral (and the generosity of her father), Mikael can afford to travel to Constantinople, study modern medicine and become the doctor his village so desperately needs.

"Normally, it takes three years to become a doctor," Mikael tells Maral. "But I am confident I can complete it in two."

"I will pray for you every day," she says.

Sure, Mikael doesn't love Maral. But he's confident that, with time, he will. Their marriage must wait until he becomes a full-fledged doctor anyway—plenty of time to let feelings sprout and bloom. And for now, he has work to do.



Christian Bale stars with Charlotte Le Bon.

### film411

#### THE PROMISE

**STARRING:** Oscar Isaac, Charlotte Le Bon, Christian Bale, Daniel Giménez Cacho, Shohreh Aghdashloo, Marwan Kenzari, Angela Sarafyan, Tom Hollander.

**DIRECTOR:** Terry George

Mikael is swiftly swept up by the city's dizzying charms. He lives with his uncle, a rich, respected businessman. He meets and befriends Emre, the young, womanizing son of a local prince. And he makes the acquaintance of Ana, dance tutor to his uncle's two young daughters. She's young, beautiful and—despite her Parisian accent—a "proud Armenian," like himself.

"You make me feel like I'm at home," she tells him with a smile. "Thank you very much."

Are these two Armenians attracted to each other? Perhaps. But Ana has a beau of her own—hard-driving, hard-drinking American journalist Chris Myers. And Mikael, of course, has his betrothed

back home. He made a promise to her. To his village. And he's determined to keep it.

But as the clouds of war explode into full-throated storm, another set of circumstances could keep Mikael from keeping his promise. The tension between Muslim Turks and Christian Armenians grows more taut, more troublesome. Turks take to the streets, shouting. Subtle discrimination turns to outright abuse.

On April 24, 1915, the riots begin. Hundreds of prominent Armenian leaders—intellectuals, priests, businessmen—are arrested, including Mikael's uncle. Mikael tries to free his benefactor, but he's knocked cold by a soldier's rifle. The next time we see him, he's in a labor camp, building railroad lines for the Ottomans.

The Armenians there are being worked to death.

And things will only get worse along with a lot of good and sacrifice amid terrible circumstances. But at times it can be difficult to see what the greater good might be.

Most of the Armenians living in the Ottoman Empire are Christian—fueling

the Turks' antipathy toward them.

Before Mikael ever leaves for Constantinople, his father reminds him, "God has given you this mission. May He bless and protect you."

When the killing begins, Armenians praise God in spite of their sufferings. For example, when Mikael reunites with his parents, they admit that the Turks destroyed everything they owned. "Our business is gone," Mikael's father says. "We have nothing left." But Mikael's mother, Marta, chimes in with, "Praise God. At least we have you."

Priests and reverends try to save the Armenian people, risking their own lives. One runs a Christian refuge that cares for orphans—secretly ushering many out of the country.

Another leads a group of refugees through the mountains. But the challenge these men of faith face is daunting indeed. In one of the movie's most poignant scenes, with refugees pinned in the mountains by Turkish troops, a woman turns to a reverend and says, "They say that the Turks will kill us all. It's not true, is it, reverend? God will protect us, yes?"

We hear prayers for protection, as well as prayers of thanksgiving. We see Christian weddings, funerals and elaborate church ceremonies.

The Promise is set against the backdrop of the Armenian Genocide, in which an estimated 1.5 million Armenians—most of them Christians—were systematically annihilated by the Ottoman Empire and its successor state, Turkey. And despite widespread acknowledgement of the atrocities, to this day Turkey insists that the genocide never took place.

Turkey's vehement denials may explain why it's taken more than a century for a film like this one to be made. Major studios steered clear of this one: "It's too

**"Turkey's vehement denials may explain why it's taken more than a century for a film like this one to be made. Major studios steered clear of this one: 'It's too hot [to touch,' producer Ralph Winter told Plugged In. He added that the film's makers took extra security precautions throughout the production.**

hot [to touch]," producer Ralph Winter told Plugged In.

He added that the film's makers took extra security precautions throughout the production.


But The Promise was made. And the result is a sweeping movie experience, one that recalls 1960s-era films like Doctor Zhivago: It's an intimate story set in the context of a historical epic, bringing an almost unimaginable tragedy into a more human scale.

But while The Promise draws much-needed attention to an important historical moment, it also requires a few caveats.

This is a violent movie, no doubt. And while scenes of battle and turmoil aren't particularly bloody in themselves, the aftermath can be pretty troubling. Bodies, including those of women and children, are left to rot in the open air. People we care about die (or are presumed to die), sometimes in pretty terrible ways.

Moreover, the titular premise of The Promise—the tension Mikael feels between his duty to Maral and his romantic passion for Ana—comes with a rather unwelcome and, I think, unnecessary bedroom scene, filled with heavy breathing and bosom heaving. Artistically, the film can feel a bit stilted. Sweeping epics aren't made very often these days, and perhaps this film unintentionally illustrates just how difficult it can be to attempt them.

■ See MOVIE page 17



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Mike Vogel plays former atheist-turned-apologist Lee Strobel in 'The Case for Christ.' (Facebook/The Case for Christ Movie)

## 'CASE FOR CHRIST' GETS BETTER REVIEWS THAN BLOCKBUSTERS

The new faith-based film about apologist Lee Strobel's conversion to Christianity has received acclaim from the popular movie-rating website Rotten Tomatoes.

"The Case for Christ" movie tells the real-life story of how the one-time atheist became a firm believer in Christ and has received a "fresh" rating from Rotten Tomatoes, Crosswalk reports.

Rotten Tomatoes, an online aggregator of movie and TV show reviews from professional critics, has given "The Case for Christ" a 77% rating on the "Tomatometer," making it a "fresh" movie. For a movie to be fresh on the Tomatometer, it has to receive a score of 60% and higher.

Based on this rating, "The Case for Christ" has surpassed secular movies such as the live-adaptation of Emma Watson-helmed "Beauty and the Beast" (71% on the Tomatometer) and "The Fate of the Furious" (66%), which stars Dwayne Johnson and Vin Diesel, making it one of the best movies today.

"The Case for Christ" is "as good a faith-based film as has yet been made," The Aisle Seat's Mike McGranaghan said. "It's designed to appeal to Christian audiences ... But the movie is well-done enough to have mainstream appeal, too," he added.

"The Case for Christ," based on the book of the same title, follows the life of bestselling author Lee Strobel prior to his walk as a firm believer in Christ. The movie is set in 1980, when Strobel was working as a journalist for the Chicago Tribune.

As fans of the book will know, it was Strobel's wife, Leslie, who first embraced Christianity. Believing that she entered a cult, Strobel then conducted an investigation to disprove the Christian faith. Instead of discovering clues that will disprove it, however, he found proof of its authenticity and became a firm believer himself.

In an interview with the Daily Herald, Strobel said viewers of the film will get to learn two things.

"People will hear the evidence for Jesus returning from the dead, thus authenticating his claim to being the son of God,"

he told the news outlet. "Plus, they're going to hear the gospel."

"They're going to see someone moving out of skepticism into faith," he added.

Strobel said that while at first, he was embarrassed to have some "ugly aspects" of his life bared for all viewers to see, he knew the movie had to be honest. In the end, he feels "it really represents" his and his wife's story very well.

"The Case for Christ" had risen to the number nine spot at press-time.

## Musician delves into journey with God in new album

by Phil Stacey

Kim Walker-Smith proclaims God's faithfulness and the power of his presence in her heartfelt solo debut, *On My Side*.

Life can be a tumultuous journey filled with unexpected twists and turns. We can travel from zero to heartbreak in the blink of an eye. But in the life of a believer, even in the darkest of times there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. And this is the story of Kim Walker-Smith.

In her album trailer, Kim testifies, "the past four years of my life have been a journey with God through incredible joy and overwhelming grief; birth and death, pain and betrayal, right alongside hope and resurrection." Through it all she chose to cling to her faith in Christ and his promise that he would never leave her or forsake her. Through it all, God proved himself time and again to be both a refuge and strength, and this collection of songs was born.

The sound of the album is com-

prised of pristine mixes and epic arrangements that feature lush pads, heavy synths, and beautiful pianos. The tracks leave plenty of space for what is undoubtedly one of the strongest female voices in the industry today.

*On My Side* opens with "Brave Surrender," a song that challenges our tendency to carry the weight of the world on our own shoulders and reveals the joy found in releasing it to God. This is followed by "Glimpse," the cry of a believer who desires to see God in a fresh new way.

The third track is a standout congregational song called "Throne Room." It illustrates a vision of what happens in the spiritual realm when we approach the throne of God through worship. With lyrics that declare, "My heart can't contain the weight of your name and all I can say is holy, holy, holy are you," the song reflects the visions of heaven as described in Isaiah Chapter 6.

The next song, "I Know," is the testimony of one who has witnessed the greatness of God first-hand, anchored

by a climatic bridge that features lyrics from the hymn, *On Christ the Solid Rock I Stand*. The fifth track, "Awaken Love" is a love song to Christ featuring passionate string arrangements. It invites the Lord to do his work uninterrupted by our own desires.

At this point in the album, a musical interlude leads us into the song, "Just One Touch," which reveals a desire for a deeper connection with God. The album's title track, "On My Side," is an acknowledgement of God's presence; that no matter what the situation may be, God is always there for us.

The next song, "You Define Me" is a celebration of finding one's identity in Christ alone. It is followed by "Rise," which testifies to the victory that is found in total obedience. This is followed by "Undone," another standout. It is a passionate reflection of Christ's great sacrifice at the cross. This song also steps out of the box in its creativity and departure from formal song structure.

The final track on the album is another great congregational titled "Fresh Outpouring." In Kim's own words,

■ See MUSIC page 19

### MOVIE

continued from page 16

But those caveats aside, *The Promise* does accomplish something few mainstream films dare to do: It weaves faith into the story organically and takes it seriously.

Mind you, this is not a Christian film: No one has a come-to-Jesus moment, there are no altar calls. But it's obvious from the first frame to the last just how important faith is to the Armenians we meet—how their belief in, and commitment to, Jesus impacts every aspect of their lives. And even though they

sometimes died for that faith, they clung to it anyway, praising God even as their sufferings and pain mounted.

The *Promise*'s painful portrait of the Armenian genocide isn't an easy one to watch. But the story it tells is worth hearing.

—From *Pluggedinonline.org*

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# Bad reasons to avoid reading old books

by Wyatt Graham

It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one until you have read an old one in between. If that is too much for you, you should at least read one old one to every three new ones—C. S. Lewis

In his introduction to *Athanasius' On The Incarnation*, C. S. Lewis engages in something of an apologetic for reading old books. Lewis felt reading old books was essential, even though the wisdom of reading old books is not always self-evident. But it is a good idea to read old books, and you should value reading them for they will benefit you in numerous ways.

There are a number of bad reasons to avoid reading old books, which you should never use as an excuse to avoid reading old works of literature. I list four of them here, quoting Lewis liberally to make the point.

## 1. Don't Avoid Old Books Because You Won't Understand Them

"This is a strange idea abroad that in every subject the ancient books should be read only by professionals, and that the amateur should content himself with the modern books," writes Lewis. But that's certainly not the case: "The simplest student will be able to understand, if not all, yet a very great deal of what Plato said; but hardly anyone can understand some modern books on Platonism." First-hand knowledge of old books "is usually much easier and more delightful to acquire" than secondhand knowledge.

Lewis applies the principle to Christian works:

"This mistaken preference for the modern books and this shyness of the old ones is nowhere more rampant than in theology. Wherever you find a little study circle of Christian laity you can be almost certain that they are studying not St. Luke or St. Paul or St. Augustine or Thomas Aquinas or Hooker or Butler, but M. Berdyaev or M. Maritain or M. Niebuhr or Miss Sayers or even myself."



## 2. Don't Avoid Old Books Because You Won't Understand Contemporary Issues

Old books teach you how to understand new books. If you only read what's new or what's important at the moment, you may not have a good picture of things at all. A person needs a good "mere Christianity," "which puts the controversies of the moment in their proper perspective. Such a standard can be acquired only from the old books"

## 3. Don't Avoid Old Books Because You Have It All Figured Out

"Every age has its own outlook," writes Lewis, "It is specially good at seeing certain truths and specially liable to make certain mistakes. We all, therefore, need the books that will correct the characteristic mistakes of our own period. And that means the old books."

The medieval generation succumbed to Aristotelean thought to a high degree. Only when the reformation emphasis of going back to the sources, to the old books, occurred, did Europe begin to correct its generational mistakes. Old books correct new mistakes. Lewis knew that well.

## 4. Don't Avoid Old Books Because They Won't Feed You

Early Christian literature seems somewhat weird to us today. It often uses big doctrinal terms and speaks of a

spirituality foreign to our mindset. Yet that is precisely why it will feed you spiritually. You need to get outside of life-situation, walk in someone else's shoes.

Lewis makes a similar point when he discusses books of devotion and books of doctrine: "For my own part, I tend to find the doctrinal books often more helpful in devotional than the devotional books, and I rather suspect that the same experience may await many others. I believe that many who find that 'nothing happens' when they sit down, or kneel down, to a book of devotion, would find that the heart sings unbidden while they are working their way through a tough bit of theology with a pipe in their teeth and a pencil in their hand."

Though Lewis speaks generally of

■ See BOOKS page 19

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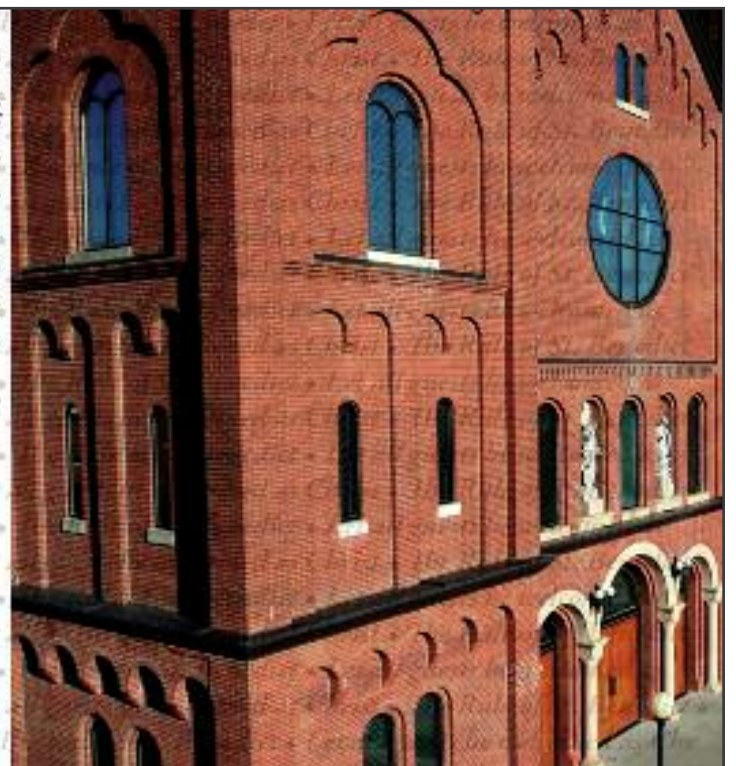
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## musicnews

## Mandisa returns with Out Of The Dark

GRAMMY winner Mandisa's awaited fifth album, *Out Of The Dark* (Capitol CMG), will arrive on May 19, her first in four years. With one million+ records sold, Mandisa is back with a renewed passion for her music, after spending much of the past few years suffering from depression. She is emerging from the pit of depression with a willingness to be totally transparent and vulnerable about her journey. ABC's *Good Morning America* broadcast the exclusive first television interview and performance with Mandisa on April 26, her first in over three years.

"My hope is that people will be on this journey with me," explains Mandisa. "When I began, I was in a really dark place, but where I am today is so much better and so much lighter!"

The first single, "Unfinished," has released following Mandisa's No. 1 hits "Overcomer" and "Stronger." In the initial track, she sings, "Not scared to say it; I used to be the one; Preaching it to you; That you could overcome; I still believe it; But it ain't easy; Cause that world I painted; Where things just all work out; It started changing; And I started having doubts; And it got me so down."

## Gotee Records' Hollyn making splash with LP debut 'One-Way Conversations'

Gotee Records' HOLLYN is on a roll as her debut full-length album is just over one month old. *One-Way Conversations* debuted on February 10th hitting No. 2 on the iTunes Pop Albums chart just under Lady Gaga and was in the Top 10 overall of iTunes. Since the release in March, Hollyn now has two singles in the Top 25 at Christian radio at different formats ("Can't Live Without" at CHR and "In Awe" at AC).



In addition to the radio love she's been receiving, Hollyn has also been recognized by the media with this new album. She

graced her first CCM Magazine cover on the March 15 issue. And Sirius XM's YouTube 15 host Jenna Marbles included Hollyn's song, "All My Love," on her most recent playlist. Hollyn just finished appearing with the 2017 TobyMac Hits Deep tour that ended in April. While on tour she has had appearances on *Good Day Dallas*, *TODAY* in Nashville and will be appeared on the WGN Morning Show in Chicago.

*One-Way Conversations* is the follow-up to her acclaimed debut self-titled EP that produced the No. 1 single "Alone (feat. TRU)". The release already touts a No. 1 radio single with the track "Love with Your Life."

## BOOKS

continued from page 18

doctrinal books here, it remains true that reading old doctrinal books will make your heart sing unbidden as you work through "a tough bit of theology."

Don't be afraid or make excuses when it comes to reading old books. They will open your mind's eye to things that you may never have imagined without reading them. Start with Athanasius' *On the Incarnation*.

The worst case scenario is that you will learn more about how Christ became man. And that's not such a bad scenario at all.

—Wyatt Graham is the Executive Director of The Gospel Coalition Canada. He also blogs at [www.wyattgraham.com](http://www.wyattgraham.com).

## MUSIC

continued from page 17

"There's so much of God to discover, to learn and to know. And the way that he spoke one season may not be the way that he's speaking this season. And we want to stay so close and so connected to him so that we can be right there ready for whatever it is that he wants to do and speak and the new thing, the fresh thing that he's doing."

Overall, this album is very deep, very intimate, and would be best received by those who are accustomed to going beyond the surface during times of worship. It is a personal testimony and is executed by someone who clearly views herself more as a minister than an entertainer.

If you are searching for healing, a time of spiritual renewal, or just an intimate moment of worship, *On My Side* will bless you tremendously.

Let me make the *best* of your time.

**Alan R. Jones, CPA**

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# Inspirational author favors Kansas settings

Author Cindy Amos recently launched a book promotion tour and shared three aspects that greatly influence her writing—the land, the love and the Lord. This tour highlights the fourth release in Amos' current inspirational series.

Pawnee Rock is the setting for the latest release in her contemporary series, Landscapes of Mercy. In Book 4, Sanctifying Ace Aerialist, small town hospitality attracts members of a national social protest movement passing through Pawnee Rock on their way to the Dodge City stockyards. A fictional wildlife park provides jobs and an entertainment source as several members discover romance with local citizens. The pavilion atop Pawnee Rock lifts the couples closer to God in this inspira-



Amos

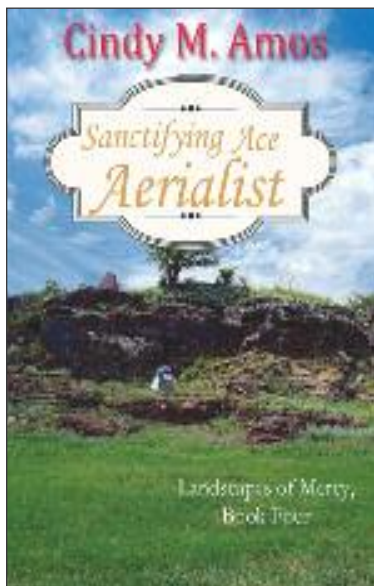
Ellinwood's underground rooms. In Sanctifying Ace Aerialist, Paisley St. James discovers Brace Cordan, the charismatic leader of the Re-Occupy movement, has been left behind to fend for himself at the wildlife park where she works in Pawnee Rock. Sympathetic to include him in the community, she gives him a job tending the lorikeets, where he devises a gymnastics act that covers him with avian attention.

When Brace lends his marketing expertise to increase daily attendance and passes romantic glances her way, small town living starts looking up. Betrayal strikes the park, leaving a tag-team staff shored up by nomadic Re-Occupy members to run the Shakespeare event. An unbelievable offer emerges from the show when the post of a wacky performance goes viral on social media, but Brace allows his financial burden to overshadow any hope for her inclusion.

That's just one of the settings and plots for Amos's books.

The Landscapes of Mercy series includes two Kansas stories, with the leading book, Redeeming River Rancher, set in the Maize area surrounding Wichita along the Arkansas River. For this series where man lives close to the land, a particular landscape feature becomes analogous to the romantic couple's relationship. For Sanctifying Ace Aerialist, that natural feature is Pawnee Rock's towering citadel.

Amos writes fiction with a strong sense of place from her background in endangered species conservation and natural resource management along the Atlantic coast. She now lives in Wichita and helps with the Amos family's fifth generation ranch in the Flint Hills of Morris County outside of Council Grove. She oversees the ranch's federal conservation stewardship program contracts to monitor the natural quality of the tall grass prairie.



Her Christian testimony arises from her salvation experience at vacation Bible school when she was 10 years old. She has served in leadership roles for the Single Adult Ministry, as an AWANA handbook leader for 17 years, welcome ministry coordinator for six years, co-teacher for the ladies Sunday school class, and currently assists as a small group discussion leader with women's ministry at her church—West Evangelical Free Church in Wichita. Her favorite biblical character is King David, an avid outdoorsman with a heart devoted to God.

Amos relinquished her thirteen-year career as a field biologist after starting her family in South Florida. She met her husband the first week she moved to

Palm Beach County, where they shared prayer requests in the College and Careers class of a thriving Baptist church. Faith has remained a resonating influence in the author's life. Her regular disciplines include morning quiet time in the scriptures, maintaining an attitude of grateful praise throughout the day, remaining on the verge of prayerful conversations with God, and being ever watchful for God's hand in any circumstance. She regularly attends women's Bible study at her home church and leads table discussions when called upon for support.

Her favorite women's Bible studies have been authored by Beth Moore and Anne Graham Lotz, the daughter of evangelist Billy Graham. Knowing God in the quiet times allows one to recognize him amid the confusion, and from childhood poverty through new author anonymity, she knows and hears the good shepherd's voice.

The Landscapes of Mercy series is available in print and e-book versions on Amazon.com. Books can also be viewed on the author's website at <http://cindymamos.wixsite.com/natureink>.

The author is available to speak regarding her debut series to women's ministry groups, book clubs, public libraries and other wholesome settings where uplifting inspirational fiction is appreciated. She may be contacted through her website [natureink](http://natureink.com) or by e-mail at [cindymamos@yahoo.com](mailto:cindymamos@yahoo.com).

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## EPA AWARD

continued from page 11

on boards using a wax machine and light table!), and countless volunteers, we have published over 4,860,000 copies of Metro Voice. By the time the paper turns 30, in 2020 we will surpass 5 million.

You know, in a time when there is so much talk about “fake news” we know that the ultimate “good” news is as real today as it was 2,000 years ago. Jesus died for our sins, was resurrected and lives today that we might be reconciled and have a personal relationship with the creator of the universe.

For many years, our motto at Metro Voice has been “Stay informed. Get Connected. Engage Your Faith.” Our hope is that our readers and the community as a whole will be better informed so that they might pray more effectively on issues of the day. Matthew 26:41 says, “Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” Luke 21:36 says, “But keep on the alert at all times, praying that you may have strength to escape all these things that are about to take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

**“We would have not continued publishing the paper these many long years if we did not believe it was our mission.”**

What these two verses tell me is that we are to be aware of our surrounding; we must understand and be alert to the world around us. That is the goal of Metro Voice—to help the Christian community be aware of the world around them. By providing local and national news from a Christian worldview, thoughtful commentary and opinions and more, we want to assist Christians in fulfilling the call in those to verses.

It is only by the partnership with area churches, ministries and non-profits and our thousands of loyal readers that we exist. Your prayers, words of encouragement and willingness to invest your advertising dollars with us keeps us going. Thank you.

And a special thanks to our volunteer writers and editors, freelancers, designers and delivery people: Alan, Joe and Stephanie, Stephen, Samantha, Blenda, Michelle, Becky, Judi, and Lee. Plus all of the people who help us during our Christian education fair or man our booths at events: Paul and Karen, Cindy, Mason (future son-in-law!), daughters Hannah and Emma, Dan, Angie, Dan, Steve and Penny, Kent and Pam, and others.

We could not do it without you.

— Dwight and Anita

## HOLOCAUST

continued from page 1

Voice that I posted on my blog.

“For I’m gon’ tell you,” says Sonia, a colorful and imposing presence at 4 feet 8 inches tall. “It happened slowly. Not all at once.

“The soldiers line up rabbis in the street and made us watch them rip out their beards by the roots. Then they shot them. “I’ll never forget. In front of me they slaughter babies. I’ll never forgive.

“Silence kills.” Her intense brown eyes dig trenches in my heart. “I tell you what is not in history books. As long as God gives me power, I will speak for them.”

*This interviewer will never forget.*

Once more I’ve been asked to write an article or conduct an interview. Suggestions have been to speak with another survivor or, perhaps, the child of a survivor. Taking all of the suggestions into consideration I arrived at my decision to interview — myself—a Jewish believer in Yeshua. Am I meshuggenah? I’ll leave it to the reader to decide.

My grandparents, on both sides of my family, were born in Eastern Europe and immigrated to the United States to escape Czarist tyranny. Although their arrival in America predated Hitler’s rise to power, I grew up under the shadow of the Holocaust. I was born in Kansas City, Mo., just eight years after the liberation. The camps were fresh in everyone’s minds.

Some of my earliest remembrances include watching a documentary showing the horrors: the ovens, the barbed wire and emaciated bodies of the victims. My mother’s eyes blazed as she pointed to the television screen and said, “Never forget what they did to us.”

She told me many times about relatives my grandfather had tried to help escape. “We sent letters back and forth — then — nothing.”

When I see the photos in books of who perished, I often notice resemblances, and wonder if I’m looking into the eyes of my long-lost cousins.

“Never again,” I tell them.

In light of all of that I ask myself some of the same questions I asked Sonia last year.

**Do you feel there’s too much emphasis on the Holocaust?**

A resounding no! As the diminishing numbers of survivors age and die, I fear the memories are fading with them in the same way the pogroms of Eastern Europe are nearly forgotten. As much as I love “Fiddler on the Roof,” it’s a romanticized version of life in the Pale of Settlement. Could the same thing happen to stories of the Holocaust?

Will over 6 million souls fall between the pages of the abandoned annals of history? Let it not be so. People need to be reminded of the not all that distant past and Israel’s right to exist. This is why I feel that events such as the March of Remembrance are so important. I will be there with Israeli flag

Rochelle Wisoff-Fields



in hand and the Jewish Messiah in my heart.

**Do you worry about anti-Semitism in America?**

Do chickens have beaks? With the desecration of two Jewish cemeteries, one of them as close as St. Louis and threats on Jewish Community Centers around the United States, what’s not to worry about?

**If you were to speak to the Church today concerning anti-Semitism, what would you tell them?**

The Church has not replaced Israel as His chosen. The Almighty, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob made an everlasting covenant with the Jews. Unless I misunderstand the meaning of “everlasting” that covenant hasn’t ceased nor has it been negated. While grafted-in Gentile believers are precious and equal in the eyes of the Lord, the Jews are still, and forever will be, the apple of His eye.

**Is there anything you’d like to tell the next generation?**

Philosopher and novelist George Santayana said, “Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

We must never forget. There are plenty of deniers who claim the Holocaust never happened despite the overwhelming evidence that it most certainly did. Why would millions of Jewish people tattoo their arms or stage photographs to proliferate a hoax?

Four years ago, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad publicly claimed there had been no Holocaust. Naturally, Israel’s enemies are ready and willing to believe it.

A young African American friend of mine asked me one day, “Did the Holocaust really happen?”

To which I answered, “You tell me. Did slavery in America really happen?”

*Editor’s Note: This year’s March of Remembrance will take place Sunday, May 7 at the Overland Park Convention Center. For more information and a schedule of events visit metrovoice-*

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## PLAYGROUND

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developments raised new questions about how the case should proceed—or if it even can.

The Missouri church operates a licensed preschool and daycare program and wanted to upgrade its playground surface in 2012. The state's Department of Natural Resources offered a competitive grant program for nonprofits to get reimbursed for the purchase and installation costs for a rubber surface made from recycled tire scraps. Trinity initially qualified for a \$20,000 grant, but the state later denied the church, citing a state law blocking government benefits for religious organizations.

But Missouri's new Republican administration made a policy change that ends discrimination against religious groups in evaluating grant applications for programs like the tire scraps grant.

"Why isn't this case moot?" Justice Stephen Breyer asked, suggesting the court no longer needs to issue an opinion.

Alliance Defending Freedom's David Cortman argued on behalf of Trinity and James Layton, special assistant attorney general for Missouri, argued on behalf of the state. Missouri Gov. Eric Greitens, a Republican, and Missouri Attorney General Josh Hawley both sup-



port Trinity's position.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor expressed thanks to Layton, who worked for the previous Missouri administration, for taking on the case so it could proceed, but she couldn't get over the obvious conflict in the arrangement.

"There seems to be no more adversity in this case," she said. "The position you are arguing does not appear to be the position of the state anymore."

That is exactly why the court needs to issue an opinion, Cortman said after the arguments.

"We're not sure where the state is going to go next—that's why we need a ruling," he said. "If the court doesn't reach an opinion on this, it's going to come back in the future."

Cortman told the justices there is no assurance the state will retain its new policy after Greitens leaves office. He said this new policy, which Greitens announced on Facebook, can just as easily be switched back when the political winds shift. Since the Missouri Supreme Court already ruled against Trinity, someone is sure to challenge the new policy, he added.

Despite the complicating wrinkle, the justices asked hard questions on both sides about the merits of the case.

Justice Elena Kagan asked how to define "church" and asked Cortman about the playground's connection to the church. Would it make a difference if the playground had a more explicit religious function?

Cortman said that would be a different case because the playground serves a secular function for children at the daycare and for the community after school hours and on weekends.

Sotomayor seemed to have a problem with Cortman's claim that Missouri violated Trinity's right to free exercise of religion. She said the state is not taking anything away: The church will not close its doors and the playground will remain, even without the state-subsidized tire scraps. The state just doesn't want to participate in the improvements, she said.

Layton agreed and told the court Missouri does not want to be in the position of selecting which churches to benefit. This isn't just a secular health-and-safety subsidy to install a more protective play surface, he said, it's making a physical and visible improvement to a religious center. The state has no way to monitor how the church will use the playground—it could host worship services there and the state would, in essence, have endorsed the activity because it paid for the facility, Layton said.

He added it also could be a draw for others to join the church since Trinity could talk to the community about the state-funded improvements.

"Couldn't they say they're delighted to have fire protection?" Justice Anthony Kennedy quipped.

Breyer jumped on this point and asked Layton in what situation would it be OK for the state to discriminate against religious groups.

"Can it provide fire protection to everyone, but let the church burn down?" Breyer asked.

Layton declined to take a position on the hypothetical but said the new playground surface clearly would benefit the church as a whole.

Kagan said cases involving church-state separation are always fraught and no state is 100 percent certain it has struck the right balance. The Constitution does not say a state needs to subsidize religion, just that it can't interfere with it, she said.

This marked Justice Neil Gorsuch's third round of oral arguments. He sat listening quietly for most of the hour-long session but asked Layton a few questions toward the end.

Both Layton and Cortman hope the court doesn't decide the case is moot. If the justices issue an opinion, it will come down by the end of June.

"I honestly would be shocked if they said the case was moot because the case law is so clear," Cortman told me. "Can the state reinstitute the old policy? The answer is not only can they, but it is likely."

## BIBLE ANSWER MAN

continued from page 1

even before Hanegraaff joined the show in 1989. "We live in strategic times," Bott told BP.

According to an email announcement from BRN, the "Bible Answer Man" is being replaced by new late-afternoon programming featuring various evangelical pastors, such as Jack Graham of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas.

BRN says on its website that it operates over 100 broadcast signals with a combined coverage of 51 million people in 15 states, offering "family quality Christian programming 24 hours a day." The "Bible Answer Man" page could no longer be found on the BRN website.

It was recently confirmed that Hanegraaff, who is also the president and chairman of the Christian Research Institute, celebrated confirmation on Palm Sunday at Saint Nektarios Greek Orthodox Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Some, such as Rod Dreher, an Orthodox Christian and author of the New York Times best-selling book *The Benedict Option*, says that the news of Hanegraaff joining the Orthodox Church is "astounding."

"Many evangelicals seek the early church; well here it is, in Orthodoxy," Dreher said.

"I am sure some will be scandalized by Hanegraaff's conversion, but I hope at least some will wonder how someone as knowledgeable about the Bible as Hank could convert to Orthodoxy, and go to a divine liturgy to taste and see what it's like."

Others, such as Ken Ham and his Answers in Genesis ministry, warned about the points on which Eastern Orthodoxy differs from evangelicalism.

"Many years of missionary work in Eastern Europe and Russia have led me to conclude that the gospel is not often proclaimed in the Ortho-

dox Church. Church services are ritualistic exercises that focus on the icons and the sacraments," Dr. D. Trent Hyatt wrote in a chapter for Answers in Genesis' *World Religions and Cults* book series.

"It is all too easy to trust in those sacraments to save one and on the icons to sanctify one rather than in the finished work of Christ on the Cross in our behalf," he argued.

Others point out that even in American Evangelicalism the proclamation of the Gospel often takes a back seat to political expression or programming that seeks to serve the cultural needs of communities rather than the spiritual.

Ed Stetzer, executive director of LifeWay Research, writing for Christianity Today said, "I think there are other factors at work, including the reality that many evangelicals struggle with the simplicity of evangelicalism, its lack of historic rooting, and more."

Answers in Genesis explained that it published the excerpt in response to "a number of questions" it received in regard to Hanegraaff becoming a member of an Orthodox Church.

Hanegraaff insisted on his radio show that his teachings remain unchanged and faithful to Scripture.

"I am now a member of the Orthodox Church but nothing has changed in my faith ... I am as deeply committed to championing 'mere Christianity' and the essentials of the historic Christian faith as I have ever been," he argued in an April 10 broadcast.

Hanegraaff, who believes many Christians today are consumeristic and go to church to see what they can get out of it, explained that he was inspired to attend an Orthodox Church over two years ago after he saw how deeply in love Christians in China were with the Lord.

"While truth matters, life matters more," a man told him. He realized that it was not just about knowing Jesus Christ, but also experienc-

ing the resurrected Jesus Christ and he is now more in love with Jesus than ever before.

"People are posting this notion that somehow or other I've walked away from the faith and am no longer a Christian," he said in the following day's broadcast. "Look, my views have been codified in 20 books, and my views have not changed."

Philip Roberts, director for international theological education with the Global Ministries Foundation in Tennessee, suggested that the conversion of the "Bible Answer Man" has raised questions in the evangelical world, however.

"Of course, the roots of Eastern Orthodox theology go back centuries -- even to the ancient creeds, councils and church theologians," Roberts said.

"The problem is what has happened since then in terms of revisions and interpretations in Eastern Orthodox thinking by eastern mystical thinkers" involving "the biblical doctrines of God, Adam, humankind, sin and salvation."

Roberts challenged Orthodoxy's claim to be the "early church" and to represent "the faith of Peter and Paul," and said that while it has roots in the ancient church, its ceremonies and theology have developed gradually throughout the centuries.

Yet Stetzer says many denominations attempt to link their current traditions to antiquity.

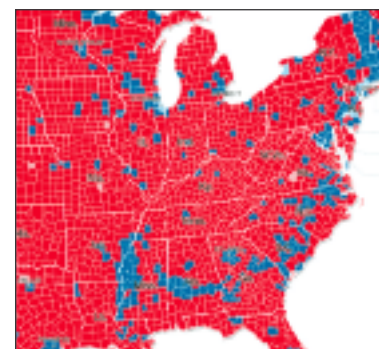
"It is a common thing for denominations to trace themselves back to the earliest models of church," says Stetzer. "Baptists did this through the trail of blood and baptismal practices. The Restoration Movement (which includes Churches of Christ) values restoring the New Testament church. Some Anglicans and Lutherans attempt to trace their roots through apostolic succession. The Eastern Orthodox Church traces their Patriarch of Constantinople to the Apostle Andrew."

The reality he says is that, "No one has it completely right and all such attempts have issues."

The "Bible Answer Man" broadcast is still available at equip.org.

## DIVIDED MAP

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Michigan; Washtenaw, Michigan University, Ingham, Michigan State University and Marquette, home of Northern Michigan University; Illinois: Champaign, Illinois University, Wisconsin, Dane, University of Wisconsin-Madison; Iowa: Johnson, University of Iowa and Story, Iowa State University; Nebraska: Lancaster, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Indiana, Monroe, Indiana University and the infamous Kinsey Institute.

And considering Boone County, Mo. and Douglas County, Kan., I have a picture of strong radical influence at our large state supported universities and well remember the days of the radical Students for a Democratic Society and college riots. I noticed Tippecanoe County, Indiana, home of Purdue, may be the only county home of a Big Ten Conference institution to vote for Trump.

Loudoun County, Virginia is home to several high tech communication companies, including Verizon. High tech executives have shown themselves to be no friends of conservative values.

As I see it, our challenge is not only big cities but is also big state-supported post secondary institutions and high tech and internet giants.

Thank you,

-William McFerren, Raytown, Missouri





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