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THE WRIGHTS | Page 13

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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Highland Heights Christian Church

See inside back cover!

Pastors struggle to share their faith, just like the rest of us

Many Christians struggle with the commandment to go out and evangelize the world, but they would be surprised to find out their pastor feels the same way.

Writing on his blog post, Pastor Chuck Lawless, Dean and Vice-President of Graduate Studies and Ministry Centers at Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, N.C. says it's true.

"Evangelism is a central task of the Great Commission, but many churches don't do well at this task. In fact," says Lawless, "Many pastors don't evangelize that much."

Lawless says that there are many reasons churches and pastors specifically may seem ineffectual at the Great Commission. Number one he says is we all get cocooned inside our churches. "It's hard tough to reach non-believers when you don't know any?" Also, Lawless says that many people don't feel a natural propensity for outreach.

A Barna Research study reported, "When asked if they have a personal responsibility to share their faith with others, 73 percent of born again

■ Please see FAITH page 23

See our Summer Fun Guide inside!

Center for Global Engagement to honor Burnham legacy

It's been 15 years since Martin Burnham died and Gracia Burnham was injured as the Philippine military attempted to rescue the hostages from militants.

Now, young missionaries will be trained in a new center bearing the Burnham name.

"Martin and Gracia were not your ordinary people," said Joshua Paxton, assistant professor of intercultural studies at Calvary University in south Kansas City. "They counted the cost of what it meant to truly live the kind of life that Jesus calls us to live, and that's what I want the students to see."

The Burnham Center for Global Engagement will effectively create a new department at Calvary.

The center's program and academic offerings are still under development, but it will also bring a missions emphasis week and overseas trips under the same roof, according to Paxton.

THE BURNHAMS

The Burnhams are recognizable names



Martin and Gracia Burnham sit in a plane's cockpit while living in the Philippines as missionaries. —Courtesy photo

to many at Calvary and beyond.

Both Martin and Gracia Burnham graduated from Calvary before serving with New Tribes Mission in the Philippines for 17 years. They were kidnapped in 2001 by Abu Sayyaf militants. Martin had been a jungle pilot, while

Gracia held various support roles and home-schooled their three children.

The couple spent more than a year in captivity before Gracia was rescued and Martin was killed in a gunfight between the militants and the Philippine military.

■ Please see BURNHAM page 23

Christians resurrect talk of criminal justice reformation



by **Evan Wilt**

Progress on bipartisan justice policies sought

Christian leaders hope to cut through Washington's partisanship and find common ground on an overlooked crisis: fixing the U.S. criminal justice system.

The United States has a serious problem. Together, Americans

■ Please see JUSTICE page 23

THINKING BIBLICALLY:

As a coach and a parent of young athletes



RON HANDLEY
Founder, president
of Character that
Counts

viewpoint

Coaches possess a tremendous amount of influence. Billy Graham even said that a coach can have a greater influence on the life of a young person, in just one season, than many can have in a lifetime. When I was a young boy, my coaches impacted me significantly. Over forty years later, I still remember their names and faces and specific conversations we had on and off the field. I was fortunate because many of them genuinely cared for me and wanted the best for me and my teammates. In those days, we were more concerned with learning the fundamentals than with winning the games. Sadly, today's sports culture has shifted to a "win at all cost" mentality, even with pre-school kids.

For many years I have challenged coaches, teams and families to pursue character above the "almighty win." Coaches and athletes aren't defined by the scoreboard; they are known by what occurs deep in their souls. Sports and the competition involved can be one of the greatest learning experiences for young people. The physical side with hand eye coordination, foot speed, and strength and conditioning exercises are just a small part of what is involved. Sport has numerous emotional, mental and spiritual lessons to offer including integrity, discipline, self-control, cooperation, teamwork, dedication and many other character traits. And while we should press forward to become better in our sport, something bigger and grander exists beyond athletic contests and even their best outcomes.



At our "Faith & Family Day Pastors Gathering" in April 2017, Royals GM Dayton Moore shared how important it is in evaluating talent to understand the character of a player. Key questions include: Who are their friends and mentors? What do they do during their free time? What kind of family do they come from? What is their attitude and work ethic? If you are a coach or a parent, I want to encourage you as school launches this fall to think Biblically as you coach and teach youngsters the importance of character. Here are a couple of suggestions:

1) Be a leader: The best type of leader is one who "practices what he preaches." Therefore, your words must match your actions. May the words out of your mouth be wholesome, positive and encouraging. Abusive words are not appropriate in any situation. Kids respond best when they are encouraged, so catch them doing something well and praise them.

2) Put the kids and fun first: Philippians 2:3 says to "consider others needs above those of your own." The kids are the ones playing the game, not you. Allow them to enjoy the game with guidance and instruction. Don't get caught up in the scoreboard, but in the life lessons involved in the game. On recreational teams, allow kids to play different positions so they can experience the game to the fullest.

3) Keep the "main thing, the main thing": I have yet to see an NCAA scholarship given out to anyone on an 10th grade team or below, and the chances are highly unlikely you will ever coach or parent a professional athlete, so chill out. Your focus should be on skill development by teaching the fundamentals and also looking to grow their character. As a parent, I urge you in the ride home after the games to not focus on all the things they did wrong, but instead initiate a free flowing conversation where they feel loved and affirmed. Often, in my car, I have simply said, "I love watching you play" and then letting the conversation take off from there.

4) Bring Glory to God: In his book, "Through My Eyes" Tim Tebow notes, "I always thought since God gave these gifts to me, my role in that exchange was to play as hard as I could and continue to give Him the honor and glory for it. To me, that would be the very best way for thanking Him for the ability." He continues, "To me, our Christian witness matters, and it's what people see when they are watching us. When we think we can do less than our best, when we think others are not watching, we're cheating ourselves and the God who created us." Tim's wise words reminds me that our #1 purpose in coaching or playing is to bring glory to God. When this takes place, I can guarantee you the Lord is pleased.

Think Biblically this fall....you and your young athletes will enjoy sports more because of it.

—Rod Handley, is founder/president of Character that Counts

Life Lessons From a Little One

SEE NO EVIL

by **Jessica S. Hosman**

My husband is learning to play guitar which means weekly visits to the secular music shop where the lessons take place. Zechariah was excited to go with him the first time. But that night confessed that he hoped he'd never have to go back. It had to do with a poster on the wall. A poster that had probably hung for over a decade with very few people even noticing it amidst the busyness of the cluttered walls.

In order to get to the room where the lessons took place, they had to go

by the counter where the poster hung. The way he described it, it was likely of a painted lead guitarist in a heavy metal band. He said it was scary-looking, and looked evil. He shared that he glanced at it and immediately knew it was wrong. He told himself repetitively, "don't look at it again," and said he did everything he could to keep his head the other direction and prayed in his mind that Jesus would help him to not see it again. Now, several hours after the fact, he was still bothered by what he saw. He said if he went to another guitar practice, he just knew he would accidentally look at it again and he didn't want to have that temptation. Instead, he wanted to eliminate it all together and stay as far away as possible.

We are exposed on every corner with images intended to invoke lust, pride, anger and sin. Do we make the attempt to avoid it so our minds will remain pure, or do we accept it as the modern-day norm and think nothing of the effects it can have on our hearts and minds?

"The eye is the lamp of the body. If

your eyes are healthy, your whole body will be full of light" (Matthew 6:22).

Zechariah and I prayed through his fears and the tormenting thoughts of the poster on the wall. We talked about the many other "posters" he'll be exposed to as he goes through life. We can't always avoid them and sometimes they will be right there in our face. But we always have a choice. We can look at them and allow the images to consume us. Or we can turn our eyes the other way and continue to ask the



Jessica Hosman



Lord to empower us to focus on the things that are pure.

There are many in this world who are struggling with darkness today. That darkness can come in many forms including hopelessness, depression, anxiety, fear, guilt and anger. In

those times when even the slightest glimmer of light does not appear to be seen, where is our focus? Are we consumed with the dark pictures on the walls of our minds which seem to taunt us with twisted mockery and lies? Or are we gazing upon the truth of God's Word that fills us with life and light?

Regardless of the poster, videotape or memory replaying, God has given you the authority to press the stop button and turn your eyes. When we resist the devil, he will flee (James 4:7). That doesn't mean the darkness won't reemerge, but it does mean that we have the key to bringing in the light when it does. Focus on Jesus. Focus on His Word. As you do, you'll begin to receive of the mind of Christ that causes all darkness to flee and illuminates your life.

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Babies recognize, interact with 'faces' while in the womb



Researchers at a U.K. university say they've found evidence that unborn babies have a penchant for looking at and responding to faces — or, at the least, light patterns that resemble the structure of the human face.

Experts at Lancaster University in Lancaster, U.K., have found that babies respond to face-like shapes — light designs that resemble eyes and a nose. Meanwhile, researchers found that unborn, third-trimester babies ignored random shapes, according to the Telegraph.

The conclusion? Unborn babies prefer to look at facial stimuli more than anything else, according to an article published in the journal "Current Biology."

"In our study they had to move their head to keep looking at the face-like stimulus when we moved it away from them. So, they are active participants in finding information from the environment," psychologist Vincent Reid, a lead researcher, told the Telegraph. "What this means is that other ways of interacting with the fetus can be considered."

The study is important, Reid told The Atlantic, because "this is the first time that anyone's been able to deliver an image to a fetus."

Reid and his team embarked on a fascinating quest in their effort to reach these conclusions. First, they shot dots of light resembling the eyes

and mouth of a human face through the walls of the uteri of 39 women who were 34 weeks pregnant.

In stunning fashion, the babies were found to turn their heads to look at these lights. But when the lights were turned upside down, making it harder to see the face, the Telegraph reported that the babies didn't turn to look. The journal article has more:

Reid said that a third-trimester fetus is able to "hear very well" and encouraged parents to read to these babies, as he said it can help with bonding. He also drove home the fact that these unborn babies have the ability to recognize shapes.

"We have now shown that the fetus can distinguish between different shapes, preferring to track face-like over non-face-like shapes," Reid added.

In the end, though, he said that the bias towards the face-like lights could either be hardwired into the human brain or be a reaction to light that a baby routinely sees in the womb, becomes used to and then favors later on.

The research seems to drive home the fact that unborn, third-trimester babies prefer to look at human faces or similar structures above anything else.

—WNService

newsbriefs

Marriage still relevant

(WNS)—A new report from scholars at Washington's American Enterprise Institute claims young adults succeed when they take traditional routes into marriage and parenthood.



As more Americans delay marriage and choose nontraditional paths, AEI says millennials may want to reevaluate. Young Americans are more likely to economically flourish if they follow the "success sequence"—getting at least a high school degree, working full-time, and marrying before having any children, in that order.

Millennials are the largest generation in U.S. history and 55 percent of those aged 28-34 had kids before they tied the knot.

Nearly half who had a baby before marriage live in poverty while only 14 percent of those who married first are poor.

Report authors Wendy Williams and W. Bradford Wilcox found 97 percent of millennials who follow the full "success sequence" are not poor by the time they reach their prime young adult years, ages 28-34.

Kris Kobach to speak at C5-Alive Luncheon

Kris Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State will be the featured speaker at the C5-Alive "POWER" Luncheon July 13, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will be held in the upstairs meeting room of The Palette Restaurant, 2134 SW Westport in Topeka.

Kobach will speak about Christian Leadership in Kansas and the Nation, and will also touch on current events. There will be a Question and Answer period at the end.

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

inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

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

The next luncheon will be held August 10.

In addition to monthly "POWER" luncheons held on the second Thursday of each month, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events, including EasterFest.

The luncheons are held in different locations around the Capital City each month. C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations.

For more information about C5, go to C5Alive.org.



Kobach

Christian Comedians gather from America and Canada for annual CCA Conference

The Christian Comedy Association held its annual Conference June 4-6 in Nashville. One hundred seventy comedians, including spouses, attended this year. Over 400 active CCA comics have attended a conference within the past four years.

The CCA was formed with a three-fold purpose: to facilitate fellowship and networking between Christians working in the field of comedy; to raise the awareness of Christian comedy, and to enhance the craft of Christian comedy by encouraging and training Christian comedians.

President Rik Roberts said, "These ideas have now grown to the point where we share detailed 'best practices' in hopes of having a bigger impact. The conference speaker line-up is nearly 100% staffed by active members who are veteran comedians." Other speakers at the three-day event included

Motivational Speaker, Ken Davis; Veteran Stand-up Comedian, Robert G. Lee and Comedian, Speaker and Author, Lisa Mills.

Speakers of all kinds, including ventriloquists were represented. Well-known comedienne, Chonda Pierce, founded the organization as a way to connect with other Christian comedians who often travel and perform solo.

This year, Grammy-award winning musician and Nashville neighbor, Phil Keaggy, performed a 30-minute set for the attendees - proving that excellence is not only for comedians!

The vision of the group is to provide tangible skills in the Ministry, Business and Art of Christian comedy. By utilizing comedy as a gift for others instead of serving themselves, they better reflect the way Christ lived. Intertwining faith with comedy allows the CCA to reach people who may not otherwise receive the message of The Good News.

For additional information about CCA, please visit their website at christiancomedyassociation.com



Roberts



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20 years at Supercuts (17 as a manager) and last year at The Barbershop.

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newsbriefs

Federal court okays Mississippi religious liberty law

(WNS)—The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals gave Mississippi the green light to begin enforcing broad protections for religious liberty adopted by the legislature last year. The law allows county clerks to



recuse themselves from issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples and protects business owners who don't want to provide services for same-sex weddings. The plaintiffs, who claim the measure legalizes discrimination, plan to appeal the decision. A three-judge panel of the 5th Circuit ruled the plaintiffs didn't provide enough proof they would be harmed by the law, a theme echoed by Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF) attorney Kevin Theriot: "The sole purpose of this law is to ensure that Mississippians don't live in fear of losing their careers or their businesses simply for affirming marriage as a husband-wife union. Those who filed suit have not and will not be harmed but want to restrict freedom and impose their beliefs on others by ensuring dissenters are left open to the government discrimination that has already occurred in states without protective laws like this one." ADF has defended several business owners against discrimination claims brought by state or local civil rights commissions.

Involved dads save daughters from risky behavior (WNS)—WNS—Quality time with Dad decreases a daughter's propensity for risky sexual activity, according to a study released in May. The study, published in the journal *Developmental Psychology*, adds to a host of research that continues to highlight the importance of fathering for daughters. Researchers Danielle DelPriore and Bruce Ellis of the University of Utah, and Gabriel Schlomer of the State University of New York at Albany, found an inverse relationship between the amount of quality fathering a daughter receives and her likelihood for promiscuous sex, unprotected sex, and sex while intoxicated.



more of that, right?" she quipped. "There will be lots of good news to spread with your friends and family and lots of inspiration to get you living your best life."

The couple, who often refer to themselves as "the noisiest Christians in Hollywood," have had great success in the past with the Emmy-nominated miniseries "The Bible," which was watched by more than 100 million people in the U.S., and the feature film "Son of God," which was the second-highest grossing faith-based movie opening of all time.

Downey has been crediting Lightworkers as her production company for the past few years but now the 57-year-old is expanding the brand from TV and film to an online community.

According to the website, Lightworkers "celebrates the good all around us —

Kansas and Missouri in top 20 best places to live

By Dwight Widaman

Kansas is the 10th best state in the nation for making a living and Missouri 19th, according to MoneyRates.com.

The website bases its annual rankings on cost of living, state tax burdens, median wages, unemployment rates, and workplace safety.

Analysts used data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the American Tax Foundation, the Council for Community and Economic Research's Cost of Living Index to rank the states in each area.

According to the website, Kansas' biggest strength is affordability. The Sunflower State boasts the eighth-

lowest cost of living of any state.

"States with low costs of living sometimes have struggling economies, but that does not appear to be the case in Kansas because the unemployment rate of 3.8 percent is below the national average," Richard Barrington, a financial analyst for MoneyRates, writes.

Missouri ranked 19 with Nebraska and Iowa ranking 11 and 17.

In fact, Missouri virtually ties Kansas in all categories except for tax rates, with Missouri taxing residents more, which may account for Missouri's poorer showing.

Minnesota, Illinois, Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, Virginia, Ohio, and Michigan round out the top 10.

Hawaii is the worst place to make a living, according to the analysis.

California's high taxation, higher-than-average unemployment rates, and high cost of living earned it a second-worst ranking.

Montana, West Virginia, Vermont, Oregon, South Carolina, Maine, New York, and Mississippi round out worst 10 states to make a living.

Barrington says the difference between the best and worse states could have a meaningful impact on long-term finances and career.

"Think about the lists the next time you consider what a fresh start somewhere else might do for your future," he writes.

Methodist Great Plains Conference to consolidate offices

By Dwight Widaman

After a vote of the Great Plains United Methodist Church, the denominations will close offices in Wichita and Lincoln, Neb., maintaining an office in Topeka. Topeka was chosen as the location for a centralized office because of a low cost of living, available office space and proximity to an airport.

"We want to create a culture that is the Great Plains Conference," the Rev. Craig Hauschild, personnel committee

chairman, said in a news release. "Currently we are tethered to three respective areas. It is time for us to not have those tethers."

There isn't an exact timetable for closing the Wichita and Lincoln offices, except that it may happen in 2018.

The decision was made in June at the 2017 annual conference of the Great Plains United Methodist Church in response to shrinking membership numbers within the denomination.

A staffing study conducted earlier this year recommended moving to a

single office, and staff members who don't move to the new office in Topeka will be offered severance packages.

"The consultant advises that one office be given strong consideration because it will allow staff team building, innovation, and cross-fertilization of ideas to begin in new and exciting ways," read part of the report.

The new conference office will move from its current Topeka location on Southwest 15th Street. A new office could be renovated, leased, purchased or built.

Roma Downey Announces Launch of Online Community

Actress and film producer Roma Downey has announced the launch of her new venture, an online community to encourage, inspire and unite believers worldwide on Lightworkers.com.

"I have such exciting news to share! I have been asked so often recently, 'Roma, what are you working on? Roma, how do you follow 'Touched by an Angel' or 'The Bible' series?' Well, Lightworkers is my passion and it's coming soon," Downey said in an Instagram post on June 21. "Wherever there is Light there are Lightworkers."

In a video post introducing Lightworkers, Downey said she and her husband, Mark Burnett, are now venturing to online platforms as well as TV.

"At Lightworkers we are on a mission to brighten your day and who doesn't need

reminding us that the human spirit is unwavering, full of possibility and capable of inspiring change."

At the end of 2016, Downey first introduced Light TV. A network that will feature "wholesome family and faith-based entertainment programming" and air in top TV markets nationwide, including New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, Houston, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Some of the films and TV shows featured on the network will include, "Rocky," "Hoosiers," "Red River," "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang," "All Dogs Go to Heaven," "Fame" and "Mr. Mom." Along with the Burnett-produced TV series "Are You Smarter than a 5th Grader?" "Highway to Heaven" and "Heartland."

"This is the beginning of our new, multi-platform faith and family network, where the demand is greater than ever for family-friendly entertainment," Downey said in a statement shared with The Christian Post. "As we have already seen from the success of 'The Bible' series and our 20 million social followers, this audience is looking for inspiring and uplifting programming that they can watch in a trusted and safe environment on any platform."

Burnett added, "With the combined experience of myself and Roma, plus MGM's family-friendly library, Light TV will become an ideal platform to reach the enormously, underserved family audience."

Downey is president of Lightworkers Media, which is a faith and family division of MGM.

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Don't compromise your emergency fund

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are debt-free, and we're ready to start building our first home. We're a little short on cash to make the 20 percent down payment you recommend, but we do have a fully funded emergency fund in place. Would it be okay to take a little out of our emergency fund to make up the difference?

Chris

Dear Chris,

Well, you didn't give me exact numbers here. I don't know how short a little short is, and I don't know how big your emergency fund is. If you use a little of your emergency fund to round off the 20 percent and then you have an emergency, where are you going to be?

I recommend always having three to six months of expenses set aside for emergencies. If you've got \$50,000 in your emergency fund and you use \$10,000 of it, you'll be fine. But anything that leaves you with less than three or four months of expenses stashed away would worry me. That's the way you've got to look at it. Just use a little common sense with the numbers.

I'd love for you to put down 20 percent because you'd avoid private mortgage insurance (PMI), which runs about \$75 a month per \$100,000 borrowed. It costs you a lot of money if you don't put down 20 percent. You should try to do that if possible, but don't be irresponsible with your emergency fund in the process.

Your emergency fund, when it's there, tends to keep emergencies away. When it's not there, you have a tendency to attract emergencies and your life starts to sound like a sad country song!

Ethics and integrity

Dear Dave,

I'll be getting out of the military soon, and I want to open a coffee roast-

ery in civilian life. I had planned to work at an established place like Starbucks for a while so I can learn the business. Recently, I've become concerned with this idea from an ethical point of view. Can you give me some guidance?

Wayne

Dear Wayne,

First, thank you for your service. The fact that you have enough integrity to even think about this means you're a conscientious, honest person. I think you're going to be okay.

Making and serving coffee is not a proprietary set of information. It's done all over the world by lots of people, so you're not violating any ethics by doing that. Now there would definitely be something wrong with you stealing another company's exact recipes or logo, but I think you already knew that.

There's nothing wrong with learning how to make different coffee drinks that are made all over the world. Starbucks doesn't have a corner on that. There are coffeehouses everywhere these days, so there's no ethics breach. Just understand what's proprietary about a company or a brand, and don't duplicate that.

Best of luck to you, sir!

—Dave

Don't be house poor!

Dear Dave,

I read where you recommend having your house payment or rent at an amount that's 25 percent or less of your monthly take-home pay. Does this figure include property taxes and insurance too?

Mark

Dear Mark,

Yes, it does. I'm trying to keep you from being "house poor." Did you know you can qualify for a house payment, with taxes and insurance, that's close to half of your take-home pay? That's



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

davesays

ridiculous! When you don't have room in your budget to do anything else that matters because your house payment is so large, that's what we call house poor.

When your income minus your basic living expenses equals almost nothing, it means your basic living expenses are way too high. Being in this kind of situation keeps you from saving for really important stuff like investing, retirement, and college for your kids.

I'm trying to position you where you can get the house and everything paid off so you can become wealthy.

Remember, your most powerful wealth building tool is your income.

When we talk about driving a crappy car, not going out to eat, or not going on vacation — those are temporary things. It's all about living like no one else, so that later you can live and give like no one else!

—Dave

Crowdfunding real estate?

Dear Dave,

I'd like to get involved in real estate investing, but I don't have a lot of cash at present. What do you think of the idea of crowdfunding as a way to invest in real estate?

Adam

Dear Adam,

I've got a bunch of real estate, and I love it. But I wouldn't go the crowdfunding route as a way to get started in real estate investing. I wouldn't give someone money to buy real estate in a crowdfunding scenario, either.

The late Beverly Sills had a great saying: "There are no shortcuts to anyplace worth going." Investing in real estate is wonderful when you do it right. Get out of debt first, pay cash, and find great bargains. When you get in a hurry, and do dumb stuff like go into debt or get mixed up with partnerships in the process, real estate's a horrible investment.

I admire your ambition, Adam. But I would advise you to follow my lead on this one. You'll be glad you did!

—Dave

How late is too late?

Dear Dave,

How late is too late to get life insurance?

Anonymous

Dear Anonymous,

It's pretty easy to get term life insurance — the only kind of life insurance I recommend — up until around age 70. Depending on your overall health situation, there are a few affordable policies available past that point. But once you

get into your seventies and beyond it can be difficult to find reasonably priced coverage.

I recommend that most people have 10 to 12 times their annual income wrapped up in a good, level term life insurance policy. But honestly, you shouldn't need life insurance at 70 or older. If you've been wise with your money, and saved and invested, you should be self-insured by that point. This means having plenty of cash in the bank to cover burial expenses and enough for a spouse to live on after you're gone.

—Dave

Bad advice from a bad friend

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are currently in Baby Step 2, and paying off all our debt except for our home. A friend recently told us to pay off everything except for the credit card debt. She says we can

then settle for a far less amount and not have so much money going out the door. This feels a little unethical to me. What are your thoughts?

Jennifer

Dear Jennifer,

There's a good reason this idea feels unethical to you — it is unethical! Would a good friend, a smart friend, encourage you to do something as dishonorable as not pay a bill you're morally and legally obligated to pay? I don't think so.

If you're able to pay your bills, you pay your bills. It's as simple as that. Now, if you honestly can't pay the bill, and you have to settle upon a mutually agreed upon amount with the creditor or collector, then it's okay at that point to try and reach a settlement.

Otherwise, it's a simple question of ethics. Pay the bill!

—Dave

Correctly Claiming the Earned Income Tax Credit

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

The Internal Revenue Service wants taxpayers living in rural communities

to be aware of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and correctly claim it if they qualify.



Whether living in the big city or a small town, EITC can help. The EITC is a federal income tax credit for working people who don't earn a lot (\$53,505 or less for 2016) and meet certain eligibility requirements. Because it's a refundable credit, those who qualify and claim the credit could pay less federal tax, pay no tax or even get a tax refund. EITC can mean up to a \$6,269 refund for working families with qualifying children. Workers without a qualifying child could be eligible for a smaller credit up to \$506. On average, EITC adds \$2,400 to refunds.

Even though household income in many rural areas is below the national average, many of these taxpayers are

often not aware that they may qualify for EITC. An eligible taxpayer must have earned income from employment or running or owning a business or farm and meet basic rules. Eligibility also depends on family size, but single workers without a qualifying child who earn under \$20,430 may qualify for a smaller credit. Also, certain disability payments may qualify as earned income for EITC purposes. The IRS recommends using the EITC Assistant, on IRS.gov, to determine eligibility, estimate the amount of credit and more.

To get the credit, Taxpayers must file a tax return, even if they do not owe any tax or are not required to file. Qualified taxpayers should consider claiming the EITC by filing electronically: through a qualified professional like Peggy's Tax and Accounting; using free community tax help sites; or doing it themselves with IRS Free File.

Let Peggy's Tax and Accounting see if you can qualify for the Earned Income Tax Credit or any other credits that you deserve. Call the professionals at Peggy's Tax at (785) 286-7899 or stop by their office at 300 SE 29th Street to see how they can help you today.

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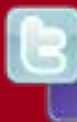
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CNA

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JOHN
NOLTNER

Photographer, peace
activist and author of
"A Peace of My Mind:
American Stories"

myopinion

We each are responsible for being peacemakers

Peace isn't easy, especially in today's world. With the recent attacks in Manchester, Kabul, London and Baghdad, we can quickly become disheartened and think that there is nothing we can do. It becomes easy to become cynical and withdraw from one another. We have forgotten our fundamentals that lead to peace, a peace that surpasses all understanding.

We have lost sight of the God-given common humanity that connects us. We have chosen to focus on our differences rather than the things that unite us, and the consequences are devastating. We have chosen confrontation and contempt over compassion. We are leaning toward separation rather than unity. We have opted for outrage over understanding and it is tearing apart the moral fabric of our society.

In basketball, if you take a group of relatively unskilled players and



drill them on the fundamentals — dribbling, running, passing and shooting — eventually you can field a competitive team. They may not win, but they can hold their own because they are focused on the foundation that will lead to success.

The same is true of our society. If we focus on the fundamentals of communication, respect, and engagement, we can field a winning team. But too often, our default is contempt, derision and spin. We will encounter challenges, no doubt. But we can face them more effectively if we face them together.

How do I know this? Over the past several years, I have driven 40,000 miles across the country trying to rediscover our connection and common ground. In a particularly polarized climate, I have asked people from diverse perspectives to answer the simple question, "What does peace mean to you?" in an effort to find that thread that unites us.

I've met people like Hashim Garrett, who was picked on as a

child in Brooklyn. He was afraid. Eventually he thought if he befriended his tormentors, they might leave him alone, but this started him down a difficult path. These new friends and he started skipping school. They started stealing from area stores and eventually, they started hurting people. When he was 15 years old, Hashim was shot and paralyzed from the waist down. It was when he was lying on the ground, unable to move, that he realized the consequences of the decisions he had made. He now says, "I want to love those who have not shown me love. I want to be kind to those who may not deserve my kindness."

I met Penina Bowman from Atlanta, who survived the hell of Auschwitz, although her parents and 42 other relatives did not. She said that she stayed together with her two sisters and when one was down, the others would encourage. That support, and her faith got her through. She said, "Interestingly, I did not develop a hate. I don't hate

anybody. Hate is a powerful thing and it destroys yourself rather than other people."

And I met Angela Bates, who runs a historical center in Nicodemus, Kan. Nicodemus was settled by freed slaves after the Civil War. There used to be plenty of towns like that west of the Mississippi, but as far as I know, Nicodemus is the only one that remains. Only 16 residents remained when I visited Nicodemus, all direct descendants of the original settlers, farming wheat and milo on the Kansas prairie. Angela said, "We're living in a land that has not processed the effects of slavery. We tend to forget that we have been terrorists in our own land against our own people." Yet, she adds, "I have a choice. How am I going to react to the world around me?"

Each individual made small and big choices to heal and bring peace to their own world. We all have that choice. Every day. We live in a world that is filled with challenges and it's important that we face those challenges honestly and directly. But it's also important that we approach those challenges with hope, grace, and the belief that something better is possible.

What I have discovered is that our fundamentals are strong. All across America, I have found good people who are working to develop relationships and build communities. You wouldn't know it by reading the

■ Please see ANSWER page 15

How to overcome loneliness



CLINT
DECKER

President and
Evangelist
with Great
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hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kansas — According to experts in the field of human behavior, loneliness is at epidemic levels. Millions are walking through this dark valley, and every day the numbers are growing.

It may seem odd as to how people could feel so lonely in our modern times. With all the technology available, it may seem an impossibility. But it is true. Social media, television and movies on demand and having an ability to instantly connect with anyone, anywhere do not remove the struggle.

I grew up as a pastor's kid and moved often. My personal fight with loneliness came in my sophomore year of high school. We moved again, and I felt like I could not fit in to the new school in a new town. I responded by withdrawing to my room. My grades plummeted

and my parents became deeply concerned.

Here I was surrounded by people at school, church and my family, but overwhelmed by loneliness.

By no means was my story unique. Loneliness is a common human experience. Why do we feel this way? In an article from Time on this subject, it begins by saying "Humans were not designed to be solitary creatures." The author is partially right. We were not created to live in isolation, but she does not identify who we were created by, which is important.

All of us were created by God. He made you and me. Furthermore, the article did not clarify "solitary." Most writings on loneliness speak of isolation in regard to relationships with other people. That is partially right, too.

Yes, God created human beings to live in relationship with other people... and with Him. Here is a truth. If we do not know God personally or have drifted in our relationship with Him, then we have provided the foundation for loneliness to flourish.

The first step toward victory begins with Him and understanding that He made us for a purpose. The Scriptures



say, "... everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made" (Isaiah 43:7). God made you to know Him and experience the wonder of His beauty and majesty. It is there we are made whole and complete, where there is no loneliness, but abiding joy and peace.

Only one thing keeps us from experiencing this — ourselves. When we purposefully resist God, passively neglect Him, hurt others or put our needs above those around us, we open the door of our life to loneliness.

Here is the good news, though. Jesus

came to save us from ourselves. Through His death and resurrection, He made a way for us to be made whole.

Are you struggling with loneliness? There is hope! Take the step of knowing God and following Jesus Christ with all your heart.

Listen to Clint Decker's radio broadcast, *The Unbreakable Truth*, at 2:50am & 10:50am on Upper Room Radio, KFGP 97.7FM, Topeka's local Christian radio station.

- decker@greatawakenings.org

Explaining the Tax Increase

by **Sam Williams | KDOR**

The \$1.2 billion tax increase approved by the Kansas legislature will impact almost every working Kansan, so it's important to understand exactly what the new law does.

This tax increase is the largest in state history, and it pays for the largest budget in state history. Almost every taxpayer in our state will see their paycheck decrease after July 1.

If you work for someone other than yourself, your employer will use new withholding tables to calculate how much additional money to take from your paycheck to pay your larger tax liability. Because the tax law is retroactive to January 1, you now owe more taxes on what you've earned so far this year. The amount withheld going forward is intended to catch you up so that you don't end up owing a huge amount come April 2018. Additionally, I recommend talking to your tax preparer to ensure the additional money withheld is sufficient to address the increased amount you owe under the legislature's new law.

Small business job creators will also experience a sizable tax hike. Small businesses were previously exempt from paying income taxes to drive job creation and economic growth in Kansas. The new law



Williams

imposes the same rates on small businesses that are imposed on individual taxpayers in the new three bracket structure. To see those rates specifically, please visit our website, ksrevenue.org.

Governor Brownback's previous tax plan eliminated income taxes for nearly 400,000 of the poorest Kansans. The legislature's new tax hike raises money by shrinking this exemption. This means if you are a single filer with \$2,500 taxable income per year or a married couple making \$5,000 taxable income, then you will be subject to income tax.

There is further information about the tax changes on our website, ksrevenue.org and search "notices."

This largest tax increase in state history funds the largest budget in state history. The legislature's budget funds more than \$200 million in new spending—that is spending above the increased funding for schools. Despite the legislature's historic \$1.2 billion tax hike, they've already spent every dime. Unless cuts and efficiencies are made, the legislature will be looking at more taxes in two years.

Regardless, it is our job at the Department of Revenue to ensure collections abide with the law. We will continue to strive to serve our customers with accuracy and respect. As always, filing electronically at ksrevenue.org is the fastest and most simple route. There is also a Taxpayer Assistance Center available to answer questions. Call (785) 368-8222.

Egyptian Church Raided, Chained Off by Police to Prevent Christians From Worshipping

by **Samuel Smith | Christian Post**

Authorities in Egypt reportedly raided a church-owned building that was being used by a local Coptic Christian community for worship and chained down the doors so that Christians could no longer enter the building.

According to a press release shared with The Christian Post by the human rights and religious freedom advocacy group International Christian Concern, the three-story building situated in the village of Saft Al-Kharsa in the Beni Suef governorate was broken into by police officials last Friday.

After police removed furniture, Christian iconography and other items from the building, they closed down the building using chains, an unnamed Christian villager told ICC.

"During the early hours of Friday, June 16, we [Christians] were surprised to find the furniture, rugs, icons, pictures, and worship utensils ... had been thrown outside and the building closed down with seals and chains," the Coptic Christian villager was quoted as saying. "We took the belongings into our homes. We don't know why the police did that."

The press release notes that the building had been used by the local Coptic Christian community as a church and a community center. The local Christians have tried to have the building legally recognized as a church since 2016 but have faced backlash

from radical Muslims and resistance from the government.

"We were livid at the recent police raid against the building. The behavior by the police was inexplicable," the church's priest told ICC. "I demanded the Interior Minister [launch] an urgent investigation into the incident."

ICC reported last July that a radical Muslim mob attacked four Christian-owned houses in Saft Al-Kharsa, noting that the mob was enraged after hearing rumors that one of the four houses was to be converted into a church. The attack marked the fifth attack on Christians over suspicions that a building would be used as a church within a matter of weeks. ICC noted at the time that there were about 60 Christians in the village with no church to worship in.

The ICC press release explains that the day after the July 22, 2016, attack on the Christian homes, Copts and Muslims convened for a reconciliation session. Although no damages were awarded to the families who had suffered damage to their homes, participants agreed that the building could only be used as a residence until all government permits had been granted.



Photo: Reuters/Asmaa Waguih

However, local authorities have not been willing to comply with the Copts' request for permits. ICC reports that a request issued last November to the Beni Sweif governor Sherif Habib to legalize the building as a church had not received a response before the church was raided.

Despite the lack of permits, the Christians proceeded to use the building for worship in order to avoid having to travel farther to worship.

"Not only have Christians struggled to build churches in this area for several years, but village Christians have begun traveling to other places of worship. Unfortunately, traveling has proven dangerous as well," the ICC press release explains. "Some of the Coptic Christians killed in the May bus attack in Egypt were from this village and were traveling to worship as the government and their Muslim neighbors have made it difficult to build a church at home."

The day after the government raided the church, 50 religious leaders met with Gov. Habib and demanded an adequate church building for the Christians in Saft Al-Kharsa and that the building be licensed as a community center that can legally hold worship services.

However, ICC states that the governor claimed that the building was in a state of disrepair and that he ordered it to be demolished.

"Clerics reminded the governor that this building was not life-threatening and that they had been trying to gain legalization in accordance with the law since 2016," the press release explains, adding the governor eventually ordered the building be reopened as a community center. However, the governor ordered that no worship could be held there until a permit was received from the prime minister. The governor promised to address the prime minister about this issue in a timely manner.

As Copts throughout Egypt have been victimized by extremist church bombings and a string of murders that occurred earlier this year, the nation ranks as the 21st worst nation in the world when it comes to the persecution of Christians, according to Open Doors USA's 2017 World Watch List.

"This series of persecution is an excellent example of how legal persecution through the withholding of a building permit can lead to more violent and deadly attacks," William Stark, ICC's regional manager, said in a statement. "Because these villagers had no place to legally worship, they joined a bus caravan to a monastery and some were killed when IS attacked their caravan. Christians have the right to worship in churches and the government needs to remain fair in authorizing such permits."

Was the Protestant Reformation Just about the Church?

Do the roots of the American system of government go back as far as Luther?

How the Protestant Reformation Renewed the Church, Our Work, and Society

By Hugh Whelchel



Whelchel

desire was to bring about change within the church.

The picture most of us have of Luther defiantly nailing his 95 Theses to the church door is not quite historically

accurate. He was posting a list of propositions and calling for an academic disputation among scholars. The theses were posted onto what would have been the college "bulletin board" of Luther's day. A disputation was a formalized method of scholastic debate popular with scholars of the Middle Ages and designed to uncover and establish truths in theology and science.

In addition, the original 95 Theses were written in Latin, which most Germans could not read. After the document was posted, someone (we don't know who), probably without Luther's permission, translated the 95 Theses into German, reprinted them, and distributed them widely throughout Germany and Europe.

The document quickly came to the attention of church leaders who tried Luther for heresy. The proceeding culminated in his excommunication from the church four years later.

Luther never dreamed his theses would ignite a revolution that would reshape the Christian church and change Western civilization forever.

Reformation Beyond the Church

After his excommunication, Luther found himself the leader of a movement. Other reformers like John Calvin added to

Luther's work and broadened the scope. The other reformers believed all worldly systems or institutions were in need of reformation—they regarded the church, political systems, and social systems as offensive to God because they did not represent his justice and truth.

The later reformers argued that Christians should engage in this broader reformation through their vocational call, in response to the grace they had received from God. They maintained that regardless of one's place in society, men and women needed to use their gifts and abilities in their vocational call to reform earthly governing structures so that they, in turn, would glorify God, serving the common good as he originally intended.

Luther's writings on vocation laid the groundwork for this thinking of the later reformers.

As Luther scholar Gene Edward Veith writes in *Working for Our Neighbor*:

For Martin Luther, vocation is nothing less than the locus of the Christian life. God works in and through vocation, but he does so by calling human beings to work in their vocations. In Jesus Christ, who bore our sins and gives us new life in his resurrection, God saves us for eternal life. But in the meantime he places us in our temporal life where we grow in faith and holiness. In our various callings—as spouse, parent, church member, citizen, and worker—we are to live out our faith.

Luther's doctrine of vocation stresses the spiritual and moral value of economic activity. He believed that God works through ordinary human beings to care for his creation (Genesis 2:15).

As we see in the quote above, Luther understood that all the work we do, paid and unpaid, not only in our vocational work but also in the work that we do in the family, church, and in the community, is important to the overall social and economic well-being of a culture. It is through the faithful administration of these duties that Christians live out their faith in love and service to their neighbor.

Or, to paraphrase Luther, the number one way we love our neighbor is by doing our jobs well.

Veith sees Luther's doctrine of vocation, as refined by the later reformers, as a pivotal factor that led to improved economic mobility, access to education, and overall growth in societal flourishing.

How Luther and the Other Reformers Guide Us Today

Luther's view of vocation is desperately needed in our lives as Christians today. Properly understood, this idea of glorifying God by loving our neighbor helps us counter the materialism and self-centeredness so prevalent in our current economic climate.

Veith sums up Luther's views on vocation in an article for *World Magazine*:

Vocation is nothing less than the theology of the Christian life. It provides the blueprint for how Christians are to live in the world and to influence their cultures. It is the key to strong marriages and effective parenting. According to the classic Protestant theologians, our multiple vocations—in the family, the culture, and the workplace—are where sanctification and discipleship happen.

■ Please see REFORMATION page 15



FUN UNDER THE STARS

by Anita Widaman

Summer evenings in Kansas can be 55–90 degrees. You just never know. But, if you have lived here long, the heat will never keep you from the abundance of activities you can enjoy “Under the Stars” this summer in Topeka and surrounding communities.

Here’s some of my favorites:

Ice Cream. Our favorite family summer tradition is at the end the evening make a quick trip to get an ice cream cone. Nothing says summer like the art of making the cone last as long as it can in the sweltering heat. We like to check out the month’s flavor at Dairy Queen or Baskin Robins.

Outdoor movies. Churches, parks, recreation departments, and hotels invite you to bring a blanket and enjoy a movie with others in the com-



munity.

Music Festivals. Topeka has many music festivals all summer long. One or more is sure to feature your favorite style of music. If you enjoy the guitar, mandolin, banjo, fiddle,



autoharp and both hammer and mountain dulcimers; you will want to journey to the Walnut Festival at Winfield, Kan. It is one of Kansas’ best kept secrets for Summer music and fun.

Drive-In Movies. In the age of Netflix and cineplexes, there is something wonderful about cramming the family into a car to watching a first run movie on a huge screen on a warm night under the stars. We are fortunate to have two in nearby Kansas City, the I-70 Drive In and the Twin Drive In. It is a great way to conclude the day after mowing and honey do’s.

Outdoor Theatre. You can find a few community groups are providing entertainment this summer in Topeka and surrounding cities. Don’t forget the bug spray!

Baseball and more. I am not a baseball fan, but I love eating a stadi-

um hotdog and people-watching.

On August 5, the Kansas City Royals will host their annual Faith & Family Night presented by Hobby Lobby. The evening will conclude with a several players speaking, Scott Dawon of Safe at Home, and a concert by the Newsboys. Baseball and much more! While you are there stop by to visit the Metro Voice booth and other local ministries.



Picnicking. At our former church, one individual would declare a picnic after church at a certain park. Everyone would go to a fast food joint to acquire their meal and meet there. Everyone won. The kids were happy playing on the playground equip-



ment and Mom had a break. The same idea works for Friday night after work.

What are your favorites?

Art field trips and mission trips for education and fun

by Sharon Jeffus

Experiencing learning first hand through a field trip or camp experience is a wonderful tool for homeschool families. Most art museums are free or inexpensive. At a young age, children can learn by describing and verbalizing about the paintings and asking questions. The younger the child, the shorter the attention span so looking at a variety of historical paintings can be a delightful and memorable experience for the whole family. Children learn history, art and culture simultaneously. Be sure and research the museum and any traveling shows that might be there, remembering that a child’s mind is like a camera. You don’t want to introduce them to any negative or horrifying images but want their experience to be positive and delightful. Here are some fun suggestions;



perspective and some of the elements and principles of art and have them copy or do their interpretation of the artwork.

2. Choose a couple of paintings that you like and can discuss with the children.

3. Have kids choose their favorite picture and photograph them with it. They can write about it.

4. Choose an interesting painting before you go to the museum and then have them find it. This is like a Where’s Waldo experience.

Whenever opportunities are offered for art classes; especially art painting parties where you can do this as a family, take advantage of this. Some camps are also available that offer art experiences.

There are several art camps and Vacation Bible Schools in Topeka that would fit the bill.

NOTO Arts Center also offers various art classes.



makes them feel. With older students you may want to talk about

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VBS & SUMMER CAMPS

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Vacation Bible School; July 10-14 from 9am - Noon; 4 year olds to those going into 4th Gr. Most Pure Heart of Mary Church, 3601 SW 17th St; Phone: 272-5590

Kids Gig – Gadgets & Gizmos – For grades entering 1st-6th; July 11-13, 6:20-8:30pm Grace Point Church, 5400 SW Huntoon St; 273-4200

SUMMER ART CAMP – July 15, 9:30am – 3pm; Free camp for kids entering K-6th grades. East Side Baptist Church, 4425 SE 29th St. Lunch is provided. (half-day options available also). 785-379-9933; esbcks.org

Maker Fun Factory - Vacation Bible Camp; July 16-20; 6:15-8:30pm; Age 3 thru 5th grade Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th St.; 785-478-3697

Maker Fun Factory VBS – July 16-19, 5:15-8:15pm; age 3 – 6th grade First Christian Church, 785-272-4290.

Let Your Light Shine Vacation Bible School; July 17-21; 6 - 8pm; ages 3-12 Grantville United Methodist Church, 3724 South Street, Grantville (785) 246-3621 www.grantvilleksumc.org/ grantvillechurch@grantvilleumc.com

Vacation Bible School; July 17-21, 2017; 9 a.m. to Noon; Phone: 785-271-0808 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool, 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd.

Maker's Fun Factory VBS - July 17-21, 6:30-8 PM; Ages 3 through 6th grade; 256-2515 Auburn Christian Church, 1351 N. Washington; auburnchristian.net; ginger.birtell@gmail.com

Vacation Bible School; July 17-21, 2017; 9 a.m. to Noon; Phone: 785-271-0808 Prince of Peace Lutheran Church and Preschool, 3625 SW Wanamaker Rd.

Barnyard roundup VBS – July 18-21, 6-8:30pm Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd.; 266-3247

Art Camp VBS; July 23-26, 6:30-8pm; Ages 4-6th grade (2017/2018) Western Hills Baptist, 29th & Auburn Rd.

Vacation Bible School - July 23-28, 6-8:30 pm; Classes for preschool through adult Northern Hills Baptist Church, 920 NW 62nd street

Sky VBS – July 24-28, ages 3-6th grade Lighthouse Bible Church, 4110 NW 62nd St. 785-246-0138

Camp Out VBS - August 4-5 - "Getting S'more of Jesus!" – Ages 3 through 6th grade Rolling Hills Christian Church, NW 46th & Hwy 75; melboutz@gmail.com, 246-6432

YMCA has various summer camps available. Call the various locations to see.

5 Fun Ways to Celebrate 4th of July

by Adam Richards

Here are five fresh ideas for making the most of your Independence Day celebration.

The Fourth of July is a special time of year when American families gather beneath the sweltering summer sun to express their patriotism by way of all-day barbecues, watermelon eating contests and hour-long firework displays. All that may sound glorious, but let's face it: some Independence Day celebrations are as old as Old Glory herself.

So here are five fresh ways to celebrate 4th of July with your family.

1. Try new food.

Add some spice to your menu this year and replace the classic American barbecue staples with chili or Texan cuisine. What better way to bond with your family and neighbors than by challenging their taste buds with spice? Host a chili cook-off and set off the culinary fireworks with fresh peppers, herbs and vegetables. But remember: Too much spice is not nice.

2. Play some new games.

Lawn games like horse shoes, corn hole, and Wiffle ball are fun for the whole family, but what if you want to break away from the ordinary? Try geocaching, a real-world outdoor treasure hunting game. Log in for free at their official website, search for nearby caches and track them down with your GPS. This is a great (and free) way to exercise after a full meal and spend quality time in nature with your family.

3. Celebrate 4th of July with decorations.

If you're hosting a party, it can be a hassle to prepare food, much less decorate. This year, get creative and let your desserts be the decor. If you're going to do pastries, bake cupcakes with red, white, and blue frosting and display them like the American flag. Or use fresh fruits like blueberries, strawberries and raspberries, and combine them with Cool Whip for a layered patriotic dessert. Check out some fun 4th of July recipes.

4. Try new kinds of fireworks.

Instead of dropping tons of money on dangerous fireworks that only last three seconds, spread your money out and be unique with your purchases. For example, get parachutes or Chinese lanterns (the kind that fly). They're cheap and if you're feeling



adventurous, you can follow them in flight and catch them when they land.

5. Adopt new traditions.

How do other people celebrate 4th of July? If you're bored with your family's yearly tradition, spend the holiday with a friend from work or with a neighboring family

and adopt their method of celebrating. Whether it's a standard barbecue or a trip to beach, it will be a good excuse to do something exciting, learn something new and spend time with friends and loved ones.

Article courtesy of Parenting Teens Magazine.



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Celebrate SUMMERTIME in Downtown Topeka!

Summertime is the perfect time to visit Downtown Topeka! There are many fun places and events to visit, and shopping downtown can also be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air. It might remind you of a time when shopping was more exciting, more personal, and less of a chore.

There have been many improvements to the downtown area in the last couple of years! You can check out the many new street statues and other art on the downtown sidewalks. You might also run across some street musicians and sidewalk vendors at various times and places.

Whether you are in the mood for shopping, eating or looking at art, you will most likely find what pleases you in downtown Topeka!

Don't forget to check the list of downtown events - there is always something going on, and you wouldn't want to miss it!

Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly downtown merchants. Why not take a trip downtown and visit them? They are waiting to serve you!

Customized Professional Service

At *A New Image Hair Salon*, owner Christine DeLauro and her fellow stylists offer numerous beauty and hair services as a full-service salon in downtown Topeka, located at 114 SW 8th Avenue. Their specialized services include customized hair color, women's and men's haircuts, shellac manicures, nail art and curly hair maintenance. They can cover your beauty needs for all occasions.



Christine is celebrating 35 years' experience as a stylist specializing in men's haircuts and color. Shanna Chavez, 18 years' experience, along with Ami Welch, 6 years' experience, excel as stylists and nail technicians. Courtney Hackey, owner of Safely Sunning Airbrush Studio and Heather Souther, licensed cosmetologist, provide customized airbrush tanning with natural,

organic ingredients. Come visit and try products from Amika, Redken, Matrix, Hempz and OPI. Stylists are available Monday-Saturday; hours vary by day. Call now to book your next appointment 785-232-7700. For airbrush tanning visit SafelySunning.com for more information.

Premier Flooring

Stearns Super Center, your premier flooring store, has served Topeka and the surrounding area since 1929. Current owner Steve Lowry attributes their longevity to the emphasis they



place on their customer service approach. Their goal is your complete satisfaction, and it is evident in each step of the sales process, including installation and follow-up of all new flooring. They even offer a 30-day satisfaction guarantee, and will remove

and replace any flooring they install within 30 days for whatever reason if the customer is not satisfied.

Flooring they sell includes carpet, vinyl, tile, hardwood and luxury vinyl. Popular brands sold at Stearns include Shaw and Mohawk. Steve plans to offer counter tops and back splash soon too, for your kitchen remodeling needs. Call him at 785-232-0381 or stop by for more information.

Let your sweet tooth run wild

Owners Nick & Terry Xidis invest their hearts and hands in fine chocolate and confectionery. This summer, they will feature frozen treats



like chocolate-dipped ice cream bars, bananas or cheesecake slices.

"Stroll into our cozy shop, savor the intoxicating aroma of newborn sweets," Terry says. "You'll never leave empty handed."

Hazel Hill, Terry's grandmother, is a symbol of their dedication to a family tradition of "the best in everything they do." Nick is the third generation chocolatier, and they use only the finest ingredients, chocolate, fresh cream and butter, to produce handmade treats that explode with flavor.

Handmade chocolate truffles, home-style fudge, crispy-creamy caramel apples and more - they fashion delightful treats for every palate. Need a gift basket, gift box, or just a few delicious chocolates to go? They'll take care of all the packing and shipping, too!

A Full-Service Florist, Home Decor & Gift Shop Downtown

Absolute Design by Brenda, 629 S. Kansas Avenue, offers hand-selected flowers and exquisite designs with delivery throughout the Topeka area. They have an expansive line of gifts, jewelry and home decor for all your holiday and year-round needs.

Save \$5.00 by using the coupon on this page!

You can also order or wire flowers 24 hours a day at their website: www.absolutedesignbybrenda.com.



If you're hungry, stop in for a sub

You can't go wrong taking a lunch break at Jersey Mike's, 718 S. Kansas Avenue, with their fresh ingredients

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and bread baked fresh every morning. Jersey Mike's, a fast-casual sub sandwich franchise with more than 1,000 locations open and under development nationwide, also has a long history of community involvement and support. Started at the Jersey Shore in 1956, Jersey Mike's serves authentic East Coast-style subs on fresh baked bread – the same recipe from 60 years ago!



You can stay up to date with Jersey Mike's latest promotions and deals, as well as get a free sub + drink on your birthday when you sign up for the Jersey Mike's Subs Email Club. You can do that as well as place your order, at www.jerseymikes.com.

One of a kind

For an eclectic selection of new and used items, check out Trails Market & Gallery at 109 S. Kansas Ave. Jeff Hisey has assembled a large selection on two floors, where artists and traders can come together, create and share their ideas and passions with others and provide a unique experience and gifts for everyone. A wide variety of items, many of which are one-of-a-kind! You owe it



to yourself to check it out!

Diamonds are Forever

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

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go from there," said Mitzi from behind the counter at David's. "We will be glad to help you find that special gift for that special someone."



Don't stop with this incomplete list! There's plenty more to discover in Downtown Topeka this summer!

Downtown Memories, Events, & Gifts

Check out Summertime Events & Activities Downtown!

While you're making your way around the downtown area, check out the new things to look at on both sides of the street -- there are lots of new features! And watch for these downtown events coming up:

ART WALK ON FIRST FRIDAYS – Downtown & NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, many more items.

NOONTIME BROWN BAG CONCERT - Wed. 11-1, on TPAC lawn or Westar Pocket Park, 818 S Kansas. July 5: Big Harry & Back Alley Blues. July 12: Greg Gox. July 19 & 26: TBD.



RUN FOR FREEDOM 5K – July 1, 9-1. State Capitol. Kicking off Topeka Rotary's Freedom Festival. Proceeds benefit Girls on the Run.

FREEDOM FESTIVAL – July 1, 9am. Art, activities, entertainment, food trucks, kids corner, and 5k run. Reenactments at Constitution Hall. Downtown Topeka. Free. For info: 249-3464

KINGDOM INITIATIVE – July 4 10-10:30am, Kansas State Capitol Building. Kingdom Initiative is about reclaiming our Nation as one Nation under God. The concept is simple: To pray. Call: 816-804-4652

COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - July 4, 10-11am, Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave. It is a "red, white & blue" extravaganza with brass, drums, piano, organ, winds, choirs, & soloists. (785) 235-3457

LIVE TRIVIA DOWNTOWN – Jul. 4, 11, 18, 25 – 6pm to 8pm @ HHB BBQ, 906 S Kansas – Every Monday night at HHB BBQ, teams play for free hoping to get into the finals for prizes. 20 questions (all topics) per night. Public & teams welcome!

CAPITOL MIDWEEK FARMERS MARKET - Every Wed., thru Oct. 18, 7:30am – 12pm, on the South side of the Capitol Lawn

FIESTA MEXICANA PARADE – July 8, 10:30am-1pm Downtown. For info: Ramon Chavez at rchavez@fsgctopeka.com, or call him at 785-806-3223.

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET - Saturday's through Nov., 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods, more.

SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT SERIES – July

8, 5:30pm, Downtown Topeka, 8th & Jackson. The Tipplers (7:30pm-9:30pm) Southern Country Rock and the Donkey Show (10pm-12:30am) Blue Grass/Alt Grass

SUNSHINE REGGAE ROOTS FESTIVAL – July 15. Returning to Downtown Topeka at 8th & Jackson this summer featuring Live Music, Multiple Arts/Crafts Vendors, Food Trucks, Face Painting, Henna Art, Beer Gardens, G's Jamaican Food, and More! Bands performing: Aaron Kamm & The One Drops (STL, MO), The Bishops (Omaha), Knowledge (KCMO/Jamaica), Streetlevel Uprising (Lawrence) and Urban Safari (Topeka). See Topeka Reggae on facebook

DALE EASTON'S THE DRUNKARD – Jun 21, 22, 28, 29, 7pm, The BreakRoom, 911 S. Kansas. Directed by Karen Hastings. This "over the top" satire mocks both temperance and melodrama acting. An olio performance at the conclusion of the show presents a collection of classic comedy short sketches and completes this vaudeville presentation. A perennial favorite, it is complete with villains, heroes, and spirited hissing and booing from the audience. It is the



longest-running play in Topeka history. BreakRoomDowntown.com

SINGLE-ORIGIN CHOCOLATE EXPERIENCE – July 22, 6:30pm. Hazel Hill Chocolate, 724



S Kansas Ave. Take a 90-minute journey through extraordinary chocolate flavors. Explore the different flavors of 4 regions: Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador and Madagascar with Nick guiding the way. Each one has their own special flavor. Choose your favorite region and use it to make your own treat \$35 per person, 6 person minimum. For info: 215-8883

HOLLEY MILITARY MUSEUM – Downtown Ramada Inn. Featuring 5 galleries, named after world leaders. Featuring World War II artifacts, Air Force One exhibit, Kansas War Heroes, Space, Vietnam & more. Cost: Free. 10am-8pm daily.

KANSAS STATE CAPITOL – Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm, SW 10th & Jackson St. Tours provided. For info: 296-3966 or www.kshs.org/capitol. Dome Tours M-F 10:30am-4:15pm.

CURTIS HOUSE MUSEUM – Every Sat., 11am-3pm; by appointment other times, 1101 SW Topeka Blvd. Former mansion of Charles Curtis, 31st Vice President of the US, and the only one of American Indian heritage. Cost \$5. For info: 357-1371 or 597-5380.

HISTORIC RITCHIE HOUSE – Tour the oldest remaining home in Topeka (built 1856-57). 1116 Madison. Admission free. 10am-2pm; weaving demonstrations, games, food & more.

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A SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION OF THE METRO VOICE! CALL 235-3340 TO BE FEATURED ON THIS PAGE!

Restaurant adds Pizza to Bagels, Sandwiches & Espresso

You may have driven past the corner of 29th and Fairlawn once or twice, you may drive by there everyday, or you may never go that way at all – but you should. Why? One word: Pizagels. Actually, it's more like four words: Pizagels Pizza and Bakery.

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

While Bagels, Espresso Drinks and Sandwiches were a morning and lunchtime thing, Jim's master plan



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

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

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

customer service and the active aspect of this business."

Today customers can not only enjoy the Best Pizza in Topeka (starting at just \$3.99) but also Freshly Baked Bagels and Pastries, Coffee, Espresso Drinks, Smoothies, Soups, Salads, Sandwiches, and Free Internet Wi-Fi all within a relaxing atmosphere from early morning throughout the day and into the evening.

Drive to Pizagels Pizza and Bakery at 2830 SW Fairlawn Road, Monday through Saturday 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM, and on Sunday's from 7:00AM - 9:00PM. Check out the menu and specials on their website at www.pizagels.com.

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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The Area's Most Complete Guide to the Family-Friendly Events You Want to See!

the events calendar

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CONCERTS

TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - First Sat. of ea. month, 3-5pm, Potwin Presbyterian Church... THE BERRYTON PICKERS - First Sat. of ea. month, 7-9pm, Berryton Baptist Church... NOONTIME BROWN BAG CONCERT - Wednesdays 11-1, on TPAC lawn... GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - July 2, 7-9pm... THE WRIGHTS - July 4, 8pm, Lakeview Nazarene... SUMMER LIGHTS - July 7, 7pm... SECOND SATURDAY CONCERT SERIES - July 8, 5:30pm... GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - July 9, 7-9pm... CONCERT IN THE PARK SERIES - July 10, 7:30-9pm... SUNSHINE REGGAE ROOTS FESTIVAL - July 15

forming: Aaron Kamm & The One Drops (STL, MO), The Bishops (Omaha), Knowledge (KCMO/Jamaica), Streetlevel Uprising (Lawrence) and Urban Safari (Topeka). See Topeka Reggae on facebook. GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - July 16, 7-9pm. Free. Topeka Jazz Workshop in Concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre. GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - July 19, 7-9pm. Free. Summertime Blues Concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre. GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - July 23, 7-9pm. Free. Kaw Valley Cornet Band in Concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre. THE WRIGHTS - July 30, 6pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage. 289-8905. thewrightsministries.com. GAGE PARK SUMMER CONCERT SERIES - July 30, 7-9pm. Free. Topeka Jazz Workshop in Concert at Gage Park Amphitheatre. LIVERPOOL LEGENDS, FEATURING HAYDEN HIGH SCHOOL BAND - Sep. 23, TPAC. Liverpool Legends "The Complete Beatles Experience!" Hayden High School band will be performing alongside Liverpool Legends playing famous Beatles songs such as "Hey Jude", "Penny Lane" and more... COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - July 4, 10-11am, Grace Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave. It is a "red, white and blue" extravaganza with brass, drums, piano, organ, winds, choirs, and soloists. 235-3457. COMMUNITY DINNER - July 5, 5-6:30pm, Tecumseh UMC. Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, Jell-O salad & more. Free will donation. CROSSROADS RODEO BIBLE CAMP - Jul. 7-10 (Grades 5-8) & Jul. 11-15 (Grades 9-12), Leavenworth Co. Fairgrounds, Tonganoxie, Ks. Camp activities: meals & snacks, skill building, music, Bible study, rodeo participation. Register at CrossroadsCowboyChurch.net. Facebook: Crossroads Rodeo Bible Camp. For info: C3RBC@yahoo.com. GUEST SPEAKER JIM GREENE - July 7, 7pm, Covenant Baptist Church. Jim Greene retired twice—after 30 years of service in the US Air Force and then as a technical and management consultant. He has a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and a Master of Science degree in photo-science. Jim has been a member of the Creation Research Society (CRS) for over 30 years. The CRS is composed of scientists that support the Biblical teaching of a recent creation of the Earth and the universe that contains it. Jim will help us to understand the teachings of evolution, when it started, and where this theory came from, and why it's important. FREEDOM FEST - Jul. 8, 4-8pm, Oakland Nazarene Church, 939 NE Oakland Ave. Free carnival-type event with food, games, prizes, jumping castle, live bands, and more. 232-0142. www.oaknaz.com. CHRISTMAS IN JULY, CRAFT AND VENDOR FAIR - July 8, 9-4pm, Christ The King Early Education Center, 5973 SW 25th St. Ms. Clause will be available to talk to the children and help with shopping decisions. Free. For info: 272-2999. AILEYCAMP FINAL PERFORMANCE - July 11, Highland Park High School Auditorium. For the first time in Topeka, the performance will feature more than 180 Topeka and Kansas City middle school students who have completed KCFAA's award-winning modern dance summer dance program. 11:30 am - 12:30 pm: AileyCamp Final Performance. 12:30 pm - 1:15 pm: Cookie reception for the Topeka dancers sponsored by ARTSConnect. This event is free and open to the public. FREE MOVIE NIGHT - July 15, 6pm, Highland Heights Christian Church, 2930 SE Tecumseh Rd. Watch the movie "Beyond the Mask". Doors open at 5:30 pm. Free movie snacks. 785-379-5642. SUMMER ART CAMP - July 15, 9:30am - 3pm, East Side Baptist Church, 4425 SE 29th St. Free camp for kids entering K-6th grades. Lunch is provided. (half-day options available also). 785-379-9933; esbcks.org

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM - every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or office@rhcotopeka.org. SPIRITUAL PAUSE - Every Wed., 12-12:30pm, Carole Chapel at Washburn Univ. Informal worship service. 785-233-1844. LIFEVEST - First Thu. of the month, 10am-12:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Seniors

cyks.com or 270-4593 or info@century-health.com. Snacks & beverages provided. MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - July 25, 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at Cotton O'Neil North at 4505 NW Fielding. For info or to sign up: centuryinsuranceagen-cyks.com or 270-4593 or info@century-health.com. Snacks & beverages provided.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP - plays Mon. & Wed. Mon. at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame, from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wed. at First Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors. MONDAY MARKET AT THE LIBRARY - Mondays, thru Oct. 9, 8-11:30am, 1515 SW 10th. SILVER LAKE FARMERS MARKET - Tuesdays 6-8pm, Jun. 6 - Sep. 5, Silver Lake Public Library, 203 Railroad St, Silver Lake. EAST TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET - Tuesdays 3-7pm, 2010 SE California - Topeka Housing Authority. tge-orge@tha.gov. CAPITOL MIDWEEK FARMERS MARKET - Every Wed., thru Oct. 18, 7:30am - 12pm, Corner of 10th & Jackson on the South side of the Capitol Lawn. SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING - First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm, Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or jwilson@safeststreets.org. SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS - Wednesday's, 7pm, Croco Hall, 6115 SE Highway 40, Tecumseh. Call Don at 785-966-2765. COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING - Thursdays 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760. SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side & use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to the elevator. Push [B] for the fellowship hall. SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thursdays, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 21st & Belle. Walking is done on an inside track. People who would like to walk a shelter dog must have completed an animal handling class that is given periodically at HHHS—for arrangements call Kelsey Scrinopskie, 233-7325. NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS - NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items. FARMERS MARKET @ KNI - Fridays thru Aug. 11, 7:30am-12noon, Kansas Neurological Institute, SW 21st & Oakley. DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET - Saturday's through Nov., 7:30am-noon, 12th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods, more. MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays 8:30-11:30am, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church 2014 NW 46th St. SWAP MEET AT PREMIERE FARM & HOME - last Sat. of every month thru Oct., 900 SW University Blvd, 7 am to noon. Laying hens, pullets, baby chicks, guineas, ducks, geese, and more. No fee to set up. No goats. SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH - Every Sat., 11am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker. Some Sat. adoption booths are held at PetSmart, 2020 SW Westport Dr. Updates at savingdeathrowdogs.com. TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES - Sundays, 2-4pm,

NOONTIME BROWN BAG free CONCERT Every Wednesday May 18 thru August 31, 11am to 1pm Downtown Topeka! JULY 5, 12, 19, 26 EVERY WEDNESDAY

2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968. RUN FOR FREEDOM 5K - July 1, 9-1. Kansas State Capitol. Kicking off Topeka Rotary's Freedom Festival. Proceeds benefit Girls on the Run. FREEDOM FESTIVAL - July 1, 9am. Art, activities, entertainment, food trucks, kids corner, and 5k run. Reenactments at Constitution Hall. Downtown Topeka. Free. For info: 249-3464. FIREWORKS BLAST-OFF - July 2, 7pm, Faith Family Life Centre. Free hotdogs and ice cream. For \$1 special take-home cup with ice water or tea. Special Guest: Jed Zeppelin Band! Fireworks at 9:00 a.m. SUPER CARNIVAL AND PHOTO FUN - July 3, 12 & 2pm. Topeka Library. Face painting, glitter tattoos, etc., from 12 pm- 2 pm. Photo Fun for Teens at 2pm. SPIRIT OF KANSAS INDEPENDENCE DAY & BLUES FESTIVAL - Jul. 4, 10:45am-11pm. Lake Shawnee, 3315 SE Timman Cir. Pony Rides, vendors, music & fireworks. Attendees may bring shade tents (there will be a designated area), coolers/food, blankets and chairs. Fireworks begin at dusk Free event. COMMUNITY INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION - July 4, 10am. Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 701 SW 8th. KINGDOM INITIATIVE - July 4 10-10:30am, Kansas State Capital Building. Kingdom Initiative is about reclaiming our Nation as one Nation under God. The concept is simple: To pray. Call: 816-804-4652. SEDGWICK COUNTY FAIR - July 5-8. Fairgrounds in Cheney, KS. For info: ourcountyfair.com. FUNDRAISER FOR LIFELINE'S CHILDRENS MINISTRIES - July 6, 4-9pm, Jason's Deli - Tell them you're there to support Lifeline Children's Services - they receive 25% of the proceeds. heard. NATIONAL NIGHT OUT PLANNING MEETING - July 6, 6:30pm, Topeka Library. Judy Wilson 266-4606. THE FRIDAY NIGHT RIDE ON THE LAWRENCE RIVER TRAIL - July 7, 14, 21, & 28, 6:30-8:30pm. For info: lawrencemountaibikeclub.org or aking1313@gmail.com. KIDS ABSTRACT PAINTING - July 8. 3rd grade 9am, 4th-6th grade 10:30am. NOTO Arts Center, 935 N Kansas Ave. Canvas and paint provided. FIESTA MEXICANA PARADE - July 8, 10:30am-1pm Downtown. For info: Ramon Chavez at rchavez@fsgc-topeka.com, or call him at 785-806-3223. SWUMC FARMER'S MARKET - Every Sunday July 9 - Aug. 6, 9-12. Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church. TETRABRAZIL SOCCER CAMP - July 10-14, 9-4. Shawnee County Parks & Rec. Bettis Family Sports Complex. CHILD IDENTIFICATION KITS AT MCDONALD'S - July 10, 5-7pm at 2933 SW Wanamaker; July 12, 11am-1pm at 2001 NW Topeka Blvd; July 15, 11am-1pm at 1201 SW Gage; July 18, 5-7pm at 1640 SW Wanamaker; July 20,

THE GREAT OVERLAND STATION The KAW: A Prairie River Shapes A State Discover the story of settlement and development along the Kaw, learn about the dam that never was, hear the stories of those who knew the river best, and see how the Kaw has been re-discovered! For more info, hours & admission: www.greatoverlandstation.com 701 N. Kansas Avenue • Topeka, KS 66608 • 785-232-5533

C5 Alive Developing and Uniting Christian Leadership • Business • Non-profits • Churches Membership open to all Christian businesses, non-profits, churches & individuals! Luncheons & Tradeshow's and some other events open to the general public! C5Alive POWER Luncheons are held 2nd Thur. each mo. July 13, 11:30-1 - "Leadership Luncheon" at The Palette Restaurant, 2134 SW Westport Featured Speaker: Kris Kobach "Christian Leadership in our State & Nation" RSVP to info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399 Aug. 10, 11:30-1, Power Luncheon, Featured Speaker: Tina Joy Cochran (Sword of Joy Consulting) Sep. 14, 11:30-1, Power Luncheon, Details TBA Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/C5Alive For info: www.C5Alive.org or or info@C5Alive.org

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS MEDICARE MONDAYS - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm, Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or nnon@tsclpl.org. MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - July 11, 2pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info or to sign up: centuryinsuranceagen-

Thanks! to everyone who visited us at Topeka Gives! World Impact is a Christian missions organization committed to facilitating church-planting movements by evangelizing, equipping and empowering the unchurched urban poor. World Impact's purpose is to honor and glorify God and to delight in Him among the unchurched urban poor by knowing God and making Him known. The Urban Ministry Institute of Topeka Equipping urban believers to reach the lost For info contact: Mary Flin at 431-6000 or maryflin@worldimpact.org www.worldimpact.org TUMI is the training arm of World Impact WORLD IMPACT TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER

records & research. For info: 233-5762 or tgstopeka.org.

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

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

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

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS – Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free blood pressure checks the last Friday of every month, and birthday celebrations the 4th Friday. For Info: 286-1370.

A GOOD YARN CLUB – 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Anne, 272-9249 or rkittens812@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

Every Mon., 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm— Ongoing Adult Group 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age)

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

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

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

PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY – Men struggling with

pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/ accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

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

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

BIKERS AGAINST CHILD ABUSE – NE Kansas Chapter (B.A.C.A.) 3rd Sun., 4 pm American Legion, 3800 SE Michigan. Open to the public. For info: 817-5801.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS: MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

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

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

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.org.

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

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

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

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

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

THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA – 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. &

Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information, & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANSWER

continued from page 6

newspaper or watching the news out of Washington. The good that surrounds us every day gets drowned out by the angry voices of political life.

Americans, it is our job to refocus on the basics and make our team strong. Ours. We must resist the temptation to divide and instead seek out ways to connect. Our leaders in Washington can't do it for us. And they won't. With God's help, each and every one of us needs to practice our rudiments of democracy and decency every day if we want our society to thrive.

REFORMATION

continued from page 7

Luther did not set out to change the world; he was just trying to be faithful to God's call on his life, as detailed in scripture. The spirit of the Reformation Luther sparked continues in the work of people like you and me.

We are called to reshape and reform our world to be the place God originally intended it to be—restoring order, loving and serving each other with integrity and honesty, meeting each other's needs, and creating something of value from the raw materials he has supplied—all through the work of our hands.

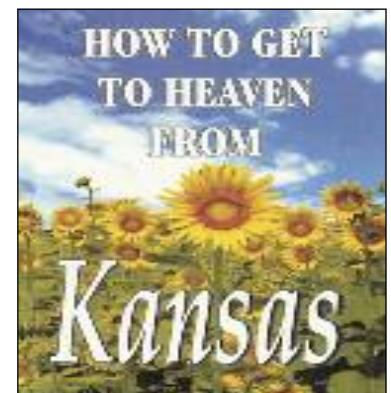
How are you participating in the ongoing reformation of our world through your work?

Hugh Whelchel is Executive Director of the Institute for Faith, Work & Economics and author of How Then Should We Work?: Rediscovering the Biblical Doctrine of Work. Hugh has a Master of Arts in Religion and brings over 30 years of diverse business experience to his leadership at IFWE.

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We need to return to putting empathy and compassion first. We need to believe that there is good

– John Noltner is the author of “A Peace of My Mind: American Stories.”



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

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

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

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

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

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entertainment

Cars 3 family friendly, offers many life lessons

moviereview

by **Michael Foust**

film411

CARS 3

STARRING: Owen Wilson, Cristela Alonzo, Chris Cooper, Nathan Fillion, Larry the Cable Guy, Armie Hammer, Ray Magliozzi, Tony Shalhoub, Bonnie Hunt
DIRECTOR: Brian Fee



says, excitedly.

Cars 3 is one of the most family-friendly films I've ever seen. There's no coarse language, no violence (unless you count the car crashes), and no sexuality.

It's also one of the most enjoyable animated movies I've watch, even if it's not as good as the first film in this series.

(It hits a lull in the middle of the film, but recovers nicely to finish strong.)

Finally, Cars 3 is packed with life lessons on humility and handling adversity. His friends give us a lesson on supporting a friend when he/she is down. And, the movie tosses us a surprising lesson on mentorship.

Remember Lightning McQueen -- the Piston Cup racecar champion who nearly always won and "ate losers for breakfast"?

Of course. Everyone does. Except Lightning McQueen.

"Did I used to say that?" he asks at the beginning of the new movie Cars 3 (G), struggling to recall his boast-filled winning days.

Sadly, time has caught up with our beloved hero. He's still funny, yes, but he's no longer fast -- at least not as fast as rookie sensation Jackson Storm, who is using the latest technology to win race after race. Lightning (voiced by Owen Wilson) tops out around 198 mph. And Storm? He's zooming along at 210.

"Enjoy your retirement!" Storm tells him.

It's like watching an aging Muhammad Ali. Or Michael Jordan. Or even Peyton Manning.

Things go from bad to worse when Lightning blows a tire and suffers a horrific, season-ending crash that sends him back to Radiator Springs. Sure, most talking racecars would have called it quits, but this is Lightning McQueen. He's going to regain the magic and get back to his winning ways ... right?

An energetic female trainer named Cruz Ramirez (Cristela Alonzo) -- who had dreams as a young girl of being a racecar driver -- is given the task of getting Lightning back on the track.

"I grew up watching you on TV," she

movienews

Notable July Movies at the Box Office

Spider-Man: Homecoming (PG-13 / July 7) -- We've all heard of reboots. But a reboot of a reboot? That's what Sony and Marvel will give us with the latest Spider-Man film, which is the sixth live-action movie and the second reboot in the past 15 years based on "Spidey." This one stars Tom Holland as Peter Parker/Spider-Man as he seeks to balance high school life with his world-saving chores. Rated PG-13 for sci-fi action violence, some language and brief suggestive comments.



Dunkirk (PG-13 / July 21) -- Ever wondered what a movie with very little dialogue would look like? We're going to find out when Dunkirk -- based on a largely forgotten Allied evacuation during World War II -- is released. Director Christopher Nolan, who also helmed the mind-bending films Inception and Interstellar, told a British newspaper earlier this year that Dunkirk would be unique in having few spoken words. The story, he added, would be told through the on-screen action. Rated PG-13 for intense war experience and some language.



Notable DVD Releases

Is Genesis History? -- The popular Bible-based documentary that sold out theaters earlier this year is now on DVD and streaming on Netflix. Host Del Tackett -- well known for his work on Focus on the Family's The Truth Project -- examines the scientific evidence for the Genesis account of the Creation and the Flood. More than 15 experts are interviewed who counter the popular pro-evolutionary narrative.



Summer fun, baseball and plenty of music to boot

musicscene

I hope everyone starts their month off by having a safe and fun Fourth of July. July is the month where families and friends get together to celebrate the adoption of the Declaration of Independence, also known as the birth of the United States, which was signed on July 4, 1776. I encourage you to get some sun, watch the fireworks and create a playlist of your favorite Christian artists. Also, I would like to thank each of you for being faithful readers of Metro Voice.

Faith And Family Night

The Kansas City Royals will host their annual Faith & Family Night at Kauffman



Cedric Austin

Stadium on Saturday, Aug. 5, at 6:15 p.m.

The event will feature Scott Dawson of Safe at Home and testimonies from select players as well as

a post-game concert by Newsboys. You do not want to hear how amazing it was from all your friends. You want to be there and see it for yourself! Secure your tickets at Royals.com/faith. Metro Voice is proud to be a community sponsor.

July New Releases

Anthony Brown & group therapy, "A Long Way From Sunday", Tyscot, Provident Records

Bright City, "Hello Maker", Bright City Collective, SHOUT Music

Greater Vision, "Still", Daywind Records - New Day Manifest, "Stones", Fuel Music, New Day Le'Andria Johnson, "Bigger Than Me", RCA Inspiration, Provident Records

Maranatha - Heart of Worship Hymns, Capitol Records

Bryan Popin, "I Got Out", Fuel Music, New Day

Gold City, "Treasures Of Gold", New Haven Records, Provident Records



■ Please see MUSIC page 17

MOVIES, STREAMING, BOOKS, MUSIC, INTERVIEWS & MORE!

streaming

'Rogue One' tops new streaming charts this month



by **Michael Foust**

If you ever want to have an engaging debate with a Star Wars fan, then just ask them to rank all eight films, from best to worst.

It often goes something like this: A New Hope (1977) and The Empire Strikes Back (1980) are either No. 1 or 2, The Phantom Menace (1999) is dead last, and the other films are somewhere in between. But where? And what about the newest ones?

Netflix members can enter the debate July 18 when Rogue One (PG-13), which opened in theaters just eight months ago, begins streaming. It will mark the first time that a Star Wars live-action film has been on Netflix and, in fact, the first time one has been on a streaming membership platform (Netflix, Amazon Prime, Hulu) of any kind. Remember: It wasn't until 2015 that the movies could be purchased for streaming.

In case you're just catching up, Rogue One is a stand-alone or spin-off film that chronologically falls just prior to the events of A New Hope. It tells the story of Jyn Erso, a determined young woman whose father just happens to be the scientist who designed the planet-destroying Death Star.

But don't hold that against her dad. He was a reluctant accomplice who did something no one could have done -- he intentionally designed it with a flaw.

"I've placed a weakness deep into the system," he tells her in a hologram message.

That's where Jyn comes in. She and her motley assistants set out to steal the Death Star blueprints and deliver them to the good guys -- the Rebels -- so that this monstrosity can be destroyed before the galaxy is forever changed. (Luke Skywalker enters the story arc here, although you'll have to watch A New Hope for that.)

So, is Rogue One appropriate for all ages? That's a difficult question. It contains no language or sexuality, but there's plenty of sci-fi violence, hand-to-hand combat, and shooting (with lasers). I took my then-8-year-old son to watch it in the theater but left my 5-year-old son at home.

Some parents may be more concerned about the worldview and the

New this month:

Netflix

Lion (PG-13, 2016) -- Twenty-five years after being adopted off the streets of Calcutta, India, a man sets out to find his biological family. Rated PG-13 for thematic material and some sensuality. July 9

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (PG, 2008) -- Four animals who escaped the Central Park Zoo try to make it on their own in Africa. One of the funniest animated films I've seen. Rated PG for some mild crude humor. July 1.

Amazon Prime

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (PG, 2005) -- Five children win a trip to tour a chocolate factory, led by the eccentric Willy Wonka (Johnny Depp). Rated PG for quirky situations, action and



mild language. July 1.

Eight Men Out (PG, 1988) -- Eight players on the 1919 Chicago White Sox team agree to fix and lose the World Series in one of the biggest gambling-sports controversies ever. Based on a true story. Rated PG for language. July 1.

The Hunt for Red October (PG, 1990). Set in the Cold War, a Soviet Union captain goes rogue and sails his submarine straight toward the United States. Rated PG for action violence and some language. July 1.

Star Trek movies I through IX (ratings vary, from PG to PG-13). Science fiction fans rejoice! This month on Amazon Prime, watch the first nine films in the Star Trek film series, from 1979's Star Trek: The Motion Picture through 1998's Star Trek: Insurrection. July 1.



Hulu

Glory (R, 1989). Based on a true story, the 54th Massachusetts Regiment becomes the first African-American volunteer company to fight in the Civil War. No sexuality, but rated R for violence and some language (including racial slurs). July 1.

Eight Men Out (PG, 1988) -- See above. July 1.

The Hunt for Red October (PG, 1990). See above. July 1.

Star Trek movies I through VI (All rated PG). Beam me up. July 1.

■ Please see STREAMING page 17

Kutcher's Netflix show makes bold stand for life

by **CBNNews**

A popular show on Netflix tackles hot-button issues like pregnancy and abortion, but not in the way anyone expected.

Ashton Kutcher plays a football player named Colt Bennett on the Netflix show "The Ranch."

Colt gets his ex-girlfriend Heather pregnant and suddenly faces a life-or-death decision.

Instead of pressuring Heather to have an abortion, Colt puts life first.

"I want you to know this kid will absolutely be my first priority," he says to her.

"You, you're going to be a great mom. And I'm going to be a great dad. And the three of us, we'll make a great family," Colt says.

However, Heather has other plans and says she isn't ready to be a mother.

Colt reminds Heather that what's most important is the child's life.

"It's not about what I want anymore, this isn't about me, it's about this kid, and we're going to have to make sacrifices," he



Heather (played by Kelli Goss) with Colt (Ashton Kutcher).

responds.

Colt even goes as far as saying abortion is morally wrong.

"This is wrong," Colt tells Heather. "You can't just take the easy way out."

Heather is relentless and decides to have an abortion anyway. Colt's gentleness and concern for the child eventually softens Heather's heart and she rejects abortion at the last minute.

"I can't. I can't do this," she says. "I thought it's what I wanted but, now that I'm here and it's all happening..."

Audiences are calling the show "revolutionary", especially since the pro-life voice

is rarely heard in Hollywood.

Kutcher believes it is time to take a fresh look at issues like abortion in the entertainment industry.

The pro-life plot broke the mold in today's world, where even Gilmore Girls is toying with the idea of abortion. In 2015, ABC's Scandal showed an abortion scene to the tune of "Silent Night," and, in 2016, shows like Jane the Virgin, Crazy Ex-Girlfriend and You're the Worst also included women who went through with abortion.

Hollywood is also churning out abortion films (unless they shine a negative light on abortion), from Grandma in 2015, which the liberal media lauded as "funny," to Obvious Child in 2014, which film writers praised as an "abortion romantic comedy."

The Ranch's pro-life plotline, in contrast, hasn't received much notice from the media. Except, that is, from an Indiewire TV critic who decried the show's "cop-out" after an "admirable setup" for an abortion.

Andrae Crouch and the Clark Sisters as being pretty influential in his music. When asked to define his music style he says, "it's a balance between gospel, classical, jazz, even theater. It is music wrapped up in the message of love and hope. I don't like to classify it just as gospel or Christian music. I think it is just music, but the message behind it is definitely one of love and hope." Anthony started his music career in 2012 with the release of Anthony Brown & group therAPy. The hit song from that album which seemed to play on every radio station around the country was Testimony. Besides Testimony, some of Anthony Brown & group therAPy's other hits are Do It Again, Water, Trust In You and the chart topping Worth. Every choir I know has sung Worth a time or two. Do yourself a favor. Run out and buy or download on any digital platform Anthony Brown & group therAPy's new album, A Long Way From Sunday, which is coming out this month.



lished a firm place at the pinnacle of Christian music, and have become the most awarded trio in the history of gospel music." For those of us who love southern gospel music, we are never disappointed by the sound or lyrics that Greater Vision has brought in years past. Not only is Greater Vision releasing a new album, but we will also enjoy the added baritone voice of Jon Epley. He has traveled with The Inspirations, The Ball Brothers, and the LeFevre Quartet. Be on the lookout for "Still," which will be released by Daywind Records in July.

Gospel Music on Another Level

Anthony Brown is an urban contemporary gospel artist and musician.

Anthony has had a lot of influences. As a young man he was really excited about classical music. He studied Chopin, Handel, Bach, and other great performers. Anthony thought the level of musicianship was pretty amazing. In gospel music he would attribute the Hawkins family,

STREAMING

continued from page 16

film's strong emphasis on the Force. A new character, Chirrut Imwe – who is blind – goes into battle while chanting, "I am one with the Force. The Force is with me."

That sounds a lot like pantheism, which holds that God and the universe are identical. That's a major difference from Christianity. (Hinduism has elements of pantheism.) A brief parent-child worldview that may be beneficial after the credits roll.

Rogue One also has positive lessons on family, sacrifice and courage.

Oh, yeah – about those Star Wars lists. Here's mine: 1. A New Hope, 2. The Empire Strikes Back, 3. The Force Awakens, 4a. Rogue One, 4b. Return of the Jedi, 6. Revenge of the Sith, 7. Attack of the Clones, 8. The Phantom Menace.

'Without Warning' concludes series

bookreview

After several devastating attacks on United States soil, the American president refuses to turn up the heat against the Islamic State, prompting J.B. Collins, a foreign correspondent for the New York Times, to take matters into his own hands.

Following The Third Target and The First Hostage (both of which were released in 2015), Joel C. Rosenberg opens his latest political thriller, Without Warning (Tyndale House Publishers), with Collins still gravely concerned with America's stance against ISIS. That concern deepens after he tries appealing to President Taylor, whom he has a personal history, to change the weak language in his upcoming State of the Union address.

Over the past year, Collins has been the point man on all coverage pertaining to ISIS. In fact, he's the only westerner to have met with the terror group's leader, Abu Kahlif, in person.

It was Collins who broke the news to the world that ISIS had captured and smuggled chemical weapons out of Syria. And he sat across the table from Kahlif when he vowed to destroy America. He also accurately reported the likelihood of another planned attack ISIS was coordinating, which was ignored by the president and various U.S. intelligence agencies, only to turn out to be devastatingly true.

All of that has led to Collins having a deep understanding of the Islamic State, their leader, and what it is, exactly, they are trying to accomplish. So when he drops the formalities and appeals to the president in person, asking him to stop telling American citizens that ISIS is "on the run," and that America is "winning" the fight against them, it comes both from the heart and from first-hand knowledge.

Rather than listen to Collins, though, Taylor—who after the unfortunate events that took place in The First Hostage is enjoying a sky-high approval rating—doubles down on his claim. Referring to the

terror group as ISIL, he proceeds to tell Congress and the American people that America is, in fact, winning the fight against them. He also cautions everyone to refrain from judging practicing members of Islam because, contrary to what some will have you believe, the Islamic State has nothing to do with Islam.

Collins, hearing the president's speech live, fears the current state of political correctness isn't just wrong, but dangerous. Little did he know just how right on the money he was...

With the Capitol Building suddenly under siege, the State of the Union address turns into a live viewing of ISIS's latest attack. Collins escapes, only to hear the president retain the same talking points when addressing the nation later that evening.

Fed up, J.B. decides to take action himself.

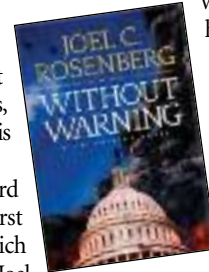
Knowing that the best way to kill a snake is to cut off its head, Collins vows to go after Abu Kahlif, who is still hiding out and avoiding detection from foreign intelligence agencies around the world. To do this, he teams up with unlikely partners who share similar goals, forming an unprecedented alliance to track down the terrorist mastermind.

As the tone of the book shifts into a Robert Ludlum-like spy adventure following a surprise twist, Collins quickly finds himself in over his head and running out of options. Just when it looks like things couldn't possibly get any worse, they do, kicking off a final act that is impossible to put down.

When it comes to building suspense and tension, Rosenberg is merciless. With an unflinching plot that moves at blazing speeds, Rosenberg has packed more twists and turns into this novel than ever before as he continues to examine the threat ISIS poses to the rest of the world. The jaw-dropping ending alone is worth the price of admission, and will leave readers speechless.

Joel C. Rosenberg has made a career out of beating headlines with his political thrillers, none of which have been as timely as Without Warning, the stunning conclusion to his bestselling J.B. Collins trilogy.

—Review by: *TheRealBookSpy.com*



MUSIC


continued from page 16

Hillsong

Who is Hillsong? This is most likely a question you will never be asked. Hillsong has been taking the Christian music industry by storm since the drop of their first album titled The Power of Your Love in 1992. Hillsong United formed in 1998 as part of Hillsong Church's youth ministry. The band consists of several rotating worship leaders from the church. United has since released several live and studio albums. Their latest studio album is titled, "Wonder". After listening to this album, I cannot find a single song I do not love. One of my favorite songs on the album is, "So Will I (100 Billion X)." The line that spoke most to me from this song was, "and as you speak, a hundred billion failures disappear." This album is definitely one that should be on your summer playlist. My other picks to listen to on this new album are Wonder, Not Today and Shadow Step. I wouldn't quite say that many of these songs would be usable for your worship team needs, but I will say you will definitely enjoy them for your listening pleasure.

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50+ Lifestyles A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

healthy living



How going to church extends your life

By Lorie Wilson

Once again, things the Bible says will improve our spiritual life are being scientifically proven to improve our physical health as well.

The latest is church attendance. The Bible tells Christian believers not to neglect meeting together (Hebrews 10). Now, research out of Vanderbilt University shows that people who regularly attend worship services actually live longer than those who don't.

Professor Marino Bruce, Associate Professor of Medicine, Health and Society, who is also a Baptist pastor, co-authored the study.

He says the data shows that regular church attendance is particularly beneficial, from a physical health



standpoint, for people between the ages of 40 and 65.

"Middle aged adults who attended church actually reduced their risk for mortality by 55 percent. For those who did not attend church at all, they were twice as likely to die prematurely than those who did, who attended church at some point over the last year."

The study examined the church attendance of over 5,000 people. Bruce says many people may be surprised that the reason church-goers fare better physically is because of what they give, not what they get. In other words, when people become committed to something they feel is more important than themselves, it

pays off even more than the benefits they receive from being part of a community.

"Most assume that people go to church for the social support. Actually, we found that they go to church for factors beyond social support. And that's where we begin to think about this idea of holiness, this idea of compassion, thinking about that we are participating in trying to improve the lives of others as well as being connected to a body larger than ourselves."

Bruce notes that the study does not only apply to Christians, but other faiths, as well.

"Any place of worship, any place where groups gather together to worship," he said. "So it's not only about a particular faith, it's about any faith."

In addition to church attendance, previous scientific research uncovered the health benefits of forgiveness and gratitude and giving all of which are things Jesus commanded his followers to do. He also tells us not to worry. Scientists say worry, commonly called stress, is a major health risk.

Just one drink?

Age-old debate for Christians may have a valid medical response

While the age-old debate about Christians drinking continues, new research shows it's just not good for you.

Scientists have known for a while now that alcohol is a carcinogen just like tar in cigarettes. But what's new is how very little alcohol raises the risk of cancer. Meanwhile, exercise, especially vigorous exercise, greatly reduces that risk.

When it comes to breast cancer, new research shows drinking just a tiny amount significantly raises the risk. According to a report by the American Institute for Cancer Research (AICR) and the World Cancer Research Fund drinking just 10 grams of alcohol a day can increase the risk of breast cancer in older women (postmenopausal) by 9% and younger women (premenopausal) by 5%. Ten grams is .35 ounces. A standard drink has 14 grams of alcohol. Research shows more alcohol is even more damaging.

The amount of alcohol in a drink varies, depending on the type. For example, 10 grams is in one beer, a small glass of wine and one ounce of liquor.

"I was most surprised by the alcohol result, that risk increases at just one drink a day, on average," said Dr. Anne McTiernan, a lead

author of the new report and a cancer prevention researcher at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle.

"The increase with one drink a day was small, but the risk goes up from there. So that's why AICR recommends no more than one alcohol drink a day for women to reduce risk for cancer."

The researchers examined 120 previous studies looking at a total of 12 million women.

Alcohol can damage DNA.

When that happens, it opens the door for cancer cells to develop. Alcohol also can increase the hormone estrogen, leading to certain types of cancers like breast cancer.

Breast cancer is the leading type of cancer in American women. The National Cancer Institute says 12% of women in the U.S. will develop breast cancer in their lifetime.

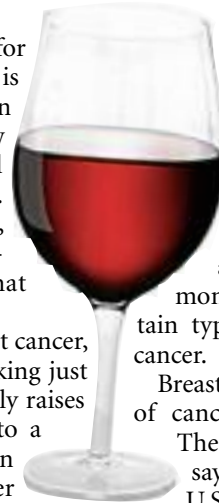
The research also found that

being overweight in adulthood can significantly increase the risk for developing breast cancer.

Studies are still being conducted on the effects of drinking and cancer in men but it is known that the rates of breast cancer in men has been increasing over the last twenty years.

On the flip side, exercise can go a long way to reducing your risk.

The researchers discovered that any amount of exercise is better than none, but the more vigorous exercise, such as running or biking, led to an even greater reduction in risk



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senior news/events briefs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - July 11, 2pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info or to sign up: centuryinsuranceagencyks.com or 270-4593 or info@century-health.com. Snacks & beverages provided. **MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR** - July 25, 6:30pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at Cotton O'Neil North at 4505 NW Fielding. For info or to sign up: centuryinsuranceagencyks.com or 270-4593 or info@century-health.com. Snacks & beverages provided.

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The changing face of caregivers

thecaregiver

By CBNNews

The face of the United States is changing with shifting demographics and majorities. And those changes aren't solely along racial, ethnic or religious lines.

Today, men make up about 40 percent of America's 40 million caregivers — a role traditionally viewed as predominantly female.

In 2015, Jonathan Hayden, 40, of Washington, D.C., became the caregiver for his father, who was diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment that would eventually develop into a form of memory loss called Lewy body dementia.

"I tend to think that he's had signs of it for a long time. He's never been much for remembering things," he told CBN News.

Hayden represents a changing demographic among people caring for relatives. Today, men account for between 40 to 45 percent of caregivers in the U.S.

In 1996, the number was only 19 percent.

"Men are doing things like providing help with bathing, dressing, eating, as well as giving injections or helping with wound care," said Jean Accius, vice president of independent living/long-term services and support for AARP. "These are things you may not typically think about a male family caregiver would be doing."

Hayden admits taking care of his father, a retired Episcopal priest, has been an emotional challenge, both in terms of his father's memory loss and dealing with his sometimes combative personality.

"My father has said some things that have hurt me to the core," Hayden recalled. "Hurt me to the core — left me [going] out of there crying."

Yet he also acknowledges how being a caregiver has helped him grow and learn about patience and forgiveness.



"We have to be patient with the person and recognize that they cannot control what it is that they're doing, and that it's not their fault," Hayden said.

"We come from a proud tradition, proud people, it's hard to give up," Hayden added, describing his father's desire to remain independent. "It's hard to let go. It's hard to say, 'Hey, pull me,' when you've been nothing but a leader and pulling everybody else."

Hayden credits his Christian faith, help from friends and neighbors, and the sense of community he receives from a support group for caregivers. There, he met a woman he started dating, bonding over their shared experiences with dementia.

That outlet, however, is something many men don't accept.

"Men tend to 'suck it up,' if you will, and take it in stride — not really looking for the help that they need," Accius noted. "That poses some potential health challenges."

Along their journey, Hayden and his father have found moments of healing from their sometimes rocky relationship.

Hayden told CBN News although being a caregiver was unexpected, it's a role he now proudly embraces.

"There's nothing feminine or less masculine about being a caretaker, being a nurse, whatever you want to call it," he observed. "You have to because they're your parents."



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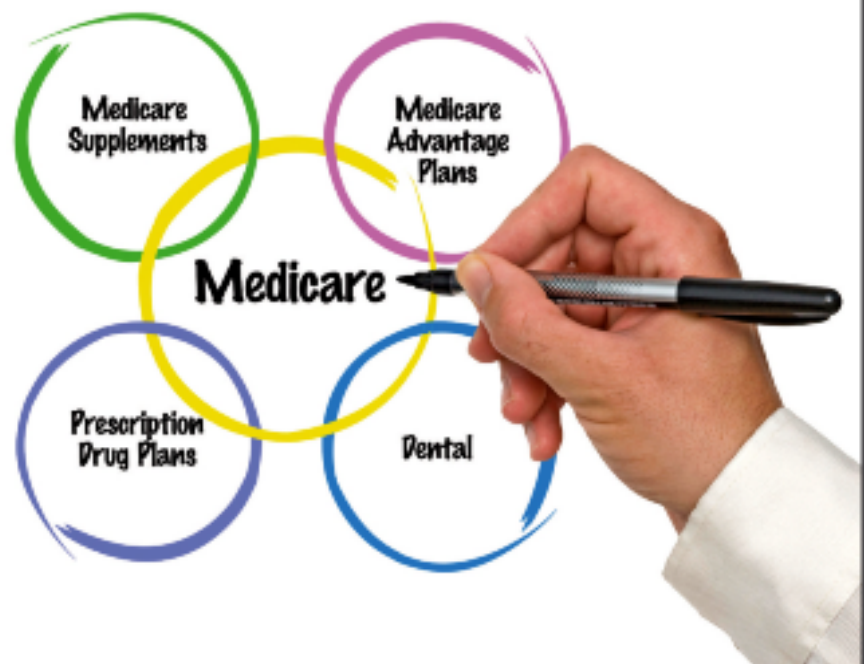
Get ready if you are turning age 65 within the next 12 months. You are about to be bombarded with mailings from insurance companies and agents promoting Medicare Supplement policies and other Medicare plans. Recently, a man came into our office with a small laundry basket full of mail he had received for Medicare plans. This can be overwhelming to a person who has had limited choice for health insurance provided in the past by an employer.

What should you do when you are flooded with this material? Do a little research on your own! A great resource is the Kansas Insurance Department at www.ksinsurance.org or Medicare's website, www.medicare.gov.

The Kansas Insurance Department explains Medicare parts A, B, C, and D, and how a Medicare Supplement works. Learn the difference between an issued age policy and an attained age policy for a Medicare Supplement. Explore how many options fit the type of coverage you need. You can also review the various Medicare Supplement plans and rates offered in Kansas. Notice that although the benefits for each type of Medicare Supplement plan are standardized, the premiums can vary dramatically. By doing a little research on your own, you can forget about the laundry basket of mail and move forward with an efficient plan best suited for you.

You can also attend a MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR offered by Century Health Solutions, a subsidiary of Stormont Vail Health, Topeka. The seminars are FREE and open to the public. In one hour's time, you can receive the professional education you need to learn about Medicare and its options. Our goal is to relieve the anxiety that comes along with turning 65 and entering Medicare.

Seminars are held twice per month. **Please feel free to call us at 785-270-4593 with questions** or to sign up for a seminar. Our business hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00am-4:30pm. Go to: <http://www.centuryinsuranceagencyks.com> or email info@century-health.com for more information.



sports

Sanya Richards-Ross Says: God Does Care About Sports, and Who Wins or Loses



Sanya Richards-Ross, the Olympic gold medalist track star, released the book "Chasing Grace: What the Quarter Mile Has Taught Me about God and Life" on June 6, 2017. (Photo: Sanya Richards-Ross/ Instagram)

By Christine Thomasos | Christian Post

Sanya Richards-Ross, the four-time Olympic gold medal winning track-and-field athlete, has said she believes that God cares whether people win or lose sporting events.

"It frustrates me when people say, 'God doesn't care whether you win or lose.' We don't get to pick and choose what God cares about," Ross told Christianity Today during an interview about her new book, Chasing Grace: What the Quarter Mile Has Taught Me About God and

Life, published on Monday.

"If something is important to us, He cares. There are lessons for us to learn when we win and when we lose," the 32-year-old expectant mother added.

For years people have questioned whether God cares about sporting events and who wins or loses. Last year, LifeWay Research released a survey of 1,000 Americans who were asked if they believe God determines the winner and loser at Super Bowl football games.

According to LifeWay, 85 percent

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

Here are a few Kansas City Royals trivia questions to ponder while we watch the boys in blue climb back into the American League Central race. (Answers are at the bottom of the page)

1. The Royals inaugural season was 1969, two years before they were originally scheduled to start. There was another team that joined that year which moved after the '69 season. Who were they and what team are they now?



2. The Royals have had two players win the All-Star Game MVP award. Who are they?

3. Who did the Royals face in the 1980 ALCS after winning the Western Division, and before going on to lose the World Series to the Phillies?

4. In what season did the Royals have their first 100 win season?

5. The Royals have had four players win the Rookie of the Year award. Who

was the first?

6. The Royals have thrown four no-hitters. Who accounted for two of them?

7. Only two Royals have struck out over 1,000 times in their careers. Name the current Royal who has struck out the most at 1,201 times and counting.

8. Six Royals pitchers have won over 100 career games. Who has won the most at 166?

9. How many times have the Royals won the American League Central Division?

10. On July 24th, 1983, the infamous "Pine Tar" incident occurred in Yankee Stadium in New York. What Yankee pitcher did George Brett hit a two-run home run off of to give the Royals a brief 5-4 lead?

of Americans said no and 11 percent said yes, which left 4 percent undecided in the matter. Chad Gibbs, the author of the book, God & Football: Faith and Fanaticism in the SEC, previously told CNN he believes that God might have a hand in the outcomes of games.

"I know many people who say God doesn't care about sports, He has more important things going on. My view of God is a little bigger than that," Gibbs said. "I think God can hear prayers about Sudan and Mark Ingram's knee at the same time. But I think it's obvious some things are more important than others, and on the list of things that should grieve our spirit, missed field goals are pretty far down the list."

Still, Britton recognized the importance of Christian athletes using their sports platform to glorify God.

"Worship and church is not just about a brick building," he said. "Therefore, the playing field can be a sanctuary where athletes get to glorify God and use the gifts God has given them to perform, pray and compete just like they're in church."

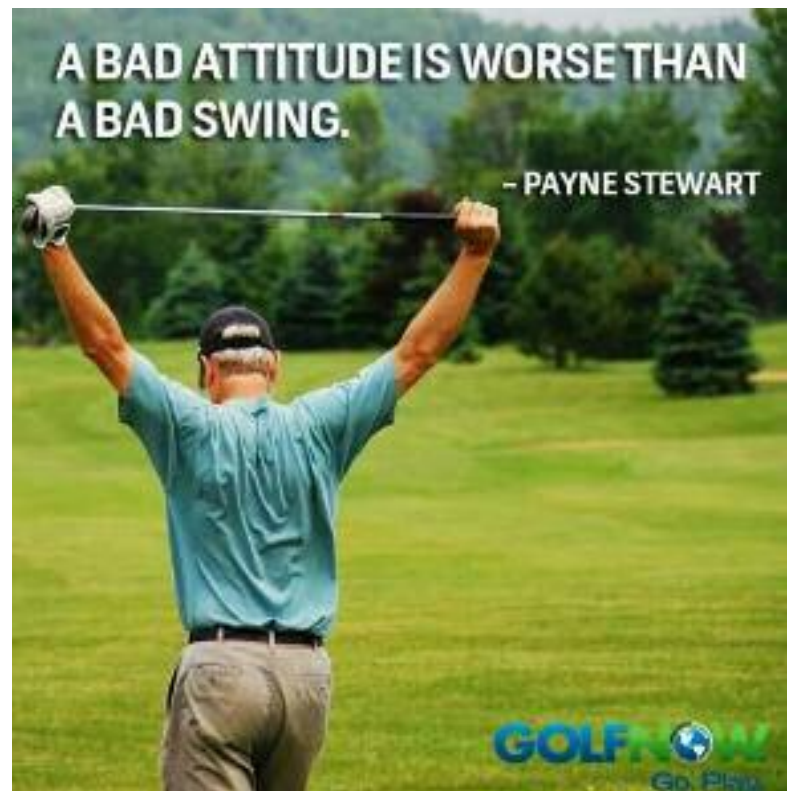
For Richards-Ross who officially retired from the track last year, it has been important to use her career to glorify God.

"I do believe my running and speed came from God," she told Christianity Today. "They were a talent I was blessed to have, so every time I stepped on to the track, I tried my best to use my talents for Him."



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TOURNEYS AND TIDBITS

GO BIG GOLF TOURNAMENT – July 14, 12pm. Lake Shawnee Golf Course. 4 man scramble. Fundraiser for Big Brothers Big Sisters. For info: emaydew@kansasbig.org

3RD ANNUAL COLTON CHRISTENSON MEMORIAL GOLF EVENT – July 22, 8am. Lake Shawnee Golf Course. For info: 913-594-0419

6TH ANNUAL NATALIE GIBSON MEMORIAL GOLD TOURNAMENT – July 21, 5pm. Prairie View Gold Club, 9840 SW 45th St. Dinner starts at 5pm, Brothers Blue play 7-9pm. For info: kim.swearington@greatlifegolf.com

GreatLIFE Golf is offering Jr. Golf. Call 660-646-6900 for details.

Firekeeper Golf Course is offering PGA Junior League, a fun, social and inclusive opportunity for boys and girls ages 13 & under to enjoy the game of golf. Participants wear numbered jerseys and play on teams with friends. For info contact the Pro Shop at 785-966-2100, or Michael Powell at mpowell@pbgaming.com

SUNFLOWER STATE GAMES – July 14-30, 8am. Sunflower State Games will take place July 14-30th in Topeka. The 28th Annual sports festival is open to Kansans of all ages and skill levels. The event will feature over 45 different competitions. (785) 235-2295 www.sunflowergames.com admin@sunflowergames.com

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ROYALS TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. (Seattle Pilots / Milwaukee Brewers)
2. (Bo Jackson-1989/Eric Hosmer 2016)
3. (The Royals swept the Yankees, 3-0)
4. (1977 – They lost to the Yankees in the ALCS)
5. (Lou Piniella in the 1969 inaugural season)
6. (Steve Busby in 1973 & 1974)
7. (Alex Gordon)
8. (Paul Splitteroff)
9. (Just once, 2015. They won the American League West title 8 times)
10. (Rich "Goose" Gossage)



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(Family Features) Turning your home into the living space of your dreams takes effort and commitment, but while the weather is warm and motivation is on your side, it's time to put your visions to the test.

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BURNHAM

continued from page 1

Today, Gracia lives in Rose Hill, Kan., the same city she and Martin came home to when on breaks from the Philippines.

Martin grew up with missionary parents in the Philippines. Gracia said she doesn't think she would ever have gone overseas on her own, but that she was called to the mission field when she fell in love with Martin.

FAITH

continued from page 1

Christians said yes. When this conviction is put into practice, however, the numbers shift downward. Only half (52 percent) of born again Christians say they actually did share the Gospel at least once this past year to someone with different beliefs, in the hope that they might accept Jesus Christ as their Savior."

With so little effort toward sharing the Gospel Message of hope, love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ, it's no wonder our society as a whole has steadily declined from its early biblical roots over the years. Christians are silent and simply being out numbered.

Steve Dighton, founding pastor of Lenexa Baptist Church couldn't agree more. "Evangelism is the lifeblood of the church, for when evangelism ceases the church dies a quick death."

And yet, pastors are struggling with sharing their faith outside of a large church setting, Lawless says, often getting out of balance between ministering to dysfunctional church members and pastoring the flock instead of looking for the lost.

For other pastors, they see the pulpit as the most effective means of evangelism. But that requires seeking individuals to actually find the church. For most of the world, that just isn't gonna happen.

Thom Rainer, president and CEO of Lifeway Christian Resources posed this question to his nearly 250k Twitter followers, "Why do you think many churches aren't as evangelistic as they once were?" Hundreds of responses poured in and were highly informative.

Here are the top fifteen responses in order of frequency:

1. Christians have no sense of urgency to reach lost people.
2. Many Christians and church members do not befriend and spend time with lost persons.
3. Many Christians and church members are lazy and apathetic.
4. We are more known for what we are against than what we are for.
5. Our churches have an ineffective evangelistic strategy of "you come" rather than "we go."
6. Many church members think that evangelism is the role of the pastor and paid staff.
7. Church membership today is more about getting my needs met rather than reaching the lost.
8. Church members are in a retreat mode as culture becomes more worldly and unbiblical.
9. Many church members don't really believe that Christ is the only way of salvation.

"If Martin had stayed in Wichita and worked at Cessna I would have been totally happy with that and loved my life in Wichita, but when he told me God wanted him to go back to the Philippines I was thrilled, because that meant I got to go with him," she said.

Burnham often runs into people who tell her how they prayed for the couple.

"Every time I hear that I'm just really humbled and thankful," Burnham said. "The Burnham Center is something else to be very grateful about."

10. Our churches are no longer houses of prayer equipped to reach the lost.

11. Churches have lost their focus on making disciples who will thus be equipped and motivated to reach the lost.

12. Christians do not want to share the truth of the gospel for fear they will offend others. Political correctness is too commonplace even among Christians.

13. Most churches have unregenerate members who have not received Christ themselves.

14. Some churches have theological systems that do not encourage evangelism.

15. Our churches have too many activities; they are too busy to do the things that really matter.

It's clear fewer and fewer Christians are intentionally and personally sharing their faith in Christ. This does not change the directive believers are given to do the work of an evangelist. The Church must be careful not to confuse church attendance and service in the church with personal and intentional evangelism.

Steve Barnes, Founder of 1millionstories.org and Connections Pastor at Lenexa Baptist Church, is passionate about encouraging pastors, ministry leaders and individual Christians to not only overcome the fears of sharing Christ but to encourage and mobilize The Church to do what is necessary to reach their communities in creative ways.

"We're all guilty of missed opportunities. Allowing our fears and excuses to keep us from sharing Christ has one result, people breathing their last breath without a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ," he states. "Whether a pastor, ministry leader or individual, we must be willing to learn what we need to know, practice what we need to say, and use any means possible to share the love of Jesus."

If The Church is going to make strides here in the United States as it does in other countries around the world, believers need to develop a deep sense of urgency and passion for the lost, overcome their fears and apprehensions, and assist others in doing the same.

On July 21 in Kansas City, there is an opportunity designed to assist and encourage church leaders and all believers with the steps necessary to be bold yet loving for Christ and mobilize congregations to be engaged in personal evangelism. Regardless of church size or budget, the Right Now conference is for any Christian wanting to be more effective at sharing the love of Jesus with a lost and hurting world. Cost is only \$15 per person, breakfast and lunch included. More information at www.1MillionStories.org/RightNow.

THE CENTER

Calvary now has four intercultural studies majors, a number Paxton expects to rise with the opening of the center.

The center will partner with churches and missionary sending agencies.

There are 3.1 billion people in the world considered unreached by Christianity, Paxton said, a number that is rising. "Unreached" in this context means anywhere the population is less than 2 percent evangelical Christian, such as the group the Burnhams worked with in the Philippines.

"Those are the kind of role models that I want our students to be able to emulate," Paxton said. "People who aren't just looking for your average life with a white picket fence and trying to build something for this world, but



Gracia Burnham and Joshua Paxton, assistant professor of intercultural studies, stand by a sign for Calvary University. —Courtesy photo

people who are willing to answer the call, to count the cost as Jesus told us to and go out and share this life-giving

message of the Gospel."

—From the Wichita Eagle.

By Katherine Burgess

JUSTICE

continued from page 1

account for 5 percent of the world's population but inhabit 25 percent of its jail cells. On any given night, 2.2 million Americans sit behind bars. And once they return to society, many fail to reintegrate. Within three years of release, about 40 percent of former prisoners return to jail. An estimated 65 million citizens have a criminal record, curbing their chances of finding a decent job or even a place to live. Metro Voice reported on the efforts of faith-based groups to address this problem in the March issue.

Missouri has about 45,000 people in county jail and the state's prison system combined. As for the prison system, Missouri has the 9th highest incarceration rate in the nation. In Kansas 16,000 individuals are incarcerated in county jails and state prisons. Kansas ranks 29 in the nation for incarceration rates.

In June, Christian leaders led by Prison Fellowship signed a "Justice Declaration" committing to change the conversation on incarceration and help garner support for lawmakers to rethink federal prison policies.

"On account of our Christian faith, we call for a justice system that is fair and redemptive for all," said James Ackerman, Prison Fellowship president.

So far about 100 Christian leaders have signed the declaration and several presented it, along with an 11-page white paper, to Republican leaders in hopes of getting the ball rolling on federal reforms.

While lawmakers in Washington struggle to agree on many issues, that's not the case for criminal justice policy.

"I find very few people who think the status quo works just fine," Russell Moore, president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission says. "We're all saying the same thing—we just need to work together and get something done."

Criminal justice conversations usually fall into one of two camps. Most Republicans campaign on being tough on crime, not letting people take advantage of U.S. laws, and punishing perpetrators. Most Democrats focus on injustice, noting minorities are too often the victims of unfair law enforcement and sentencing.

Moore, a declaration signer, says both

groups ultimately want the same thing: fewer people committing crimes and justice for those who do.

Conservatives and liberals worked together in the last Congress to draft legislation addressing one of the many justice system failings. Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, worked with Sens. Cory Booker, D-N.J., and Dick Durbin, D-Ill., to find a solution for inconsistent mandatory minimum sentencing laws—specifically for nonviolent offend-

ers.

Coalition, said Christians have an equal part to play.

"Our job is to help change the wind and help change the conversation," Salguero said. "Since there is a lot of bipartisan support, I think what this justice declaration is doing is putting a megaphone to the tens of thousands of evangelical Christians who really want this to happen."

With numerous weighty agenda items on their plates already, Republican leaders have yet to prioritize criminal justice reforms in 2017. But even if they do, law-



Lansing State Prison

"Since there is a lot of bipartisan support, I think what this justice declaration is doing is putting a megaphone to the tens of thousands of evangelical Christians who really want this to happen."

ers.

The bipartisan coalition advanced the proposed legislation out of committee but never built enough momentum to schedule a full vote.

Congress often works in fits and starts, and in 2017 it has been hard to coalesce around anything.

"Nothing is really getting done at all in the Congress," Moore said. "I think that lawmakers ought to see this as an opportunity to break through the logjam and do something that will help the country."

But politics often is downstream from culture. That's why Gabriel Salguero, president of the National Latino Evangelical

makers may not have a green light from the White House.

Attorney General Jeff Sessions was one of the few senators last year who pushed back on the mandatory minimum reform legislation and his opposition apparently hasn't wavered.

In May, Sessions issued a memorandum to federal prosecutors directing them to fully enforce mandatory minimum sentences.

Prison Fellowship's Ackerman said one-size-fits-all sentences are a big mistake, but he's optimistic the Trump administration will be a willing partner for criminal justice reform in the future.

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Painting and Glass Classes Offered

Kids Abstract Painting classes are being offered at NOTO Arts Center, 935 N. Kansas Avenue. Bring your little Picasso for a fun morning of painting discovery. No need to worry about clean up! Canvas and paint will be provided. Children will splatter paint, finger paint and create beautiful abstractions: July 8th, 9:00 am - 10:30 am, for Kindergarten - 3rd grade. July 8th, 10:30 am - noon, for 4th - 6th grade. Cost is \$15 per child. Instructor will be Darcie Huffman, owner and artist at Darcie Lane Studios.



Kid's Glass Class will be Aug. 12. Children will use fuse-able glass to create unique pieces of art! Perfect handmade gifts or treasures to keep for years to come; picture frames, dishes (large and small), ornaments, jewelry, nameplates, wall hangings, standing creatures, coasters, and kitchen items; For 3rd grade through 6th grade. Cost is \$15 per child. Instructor will be Kymm Hughes, owner and artist at Prairie Glass Studio.

The Wheel Barrel, 925 N. Kansas Avenue, has expanded its hours. The new hours for the grilled-cheese restaurant are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to midnight Friday & Saturday; and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Studio 62 Art Bar is Topeka's newest painting experience, and they have recently relocated to the NOTO Arts District at 907 N Kansas Avenue.

Recreate a painting based on one in the studio, or do your own thing, all with an artist on site to help if needed! And you can BYOB!

Don't forget First Friday, which has become a big deal in North Topeka these days, bringing people to the area in record numbers. Besides the Art Walk in NOTO, other North Topeka businesses have begun joining in and coordinating complementary events. Many are making plans to make 2017 better than ever in NOTO and the entire North Topeka area.

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

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

July 7th Art Walk will feature a Scavenger Hunt. You may start at any participating location, then return the form for a chance to win prizes.

It will be Vintage Vibe's FINAL First Friday! - July's First Friday Artwalk weekend will be their Final First Friday with July 8th being their last day open. They are closing for personal reasons. Periodic inventory reduction sales will start in mid-July.

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

MOTHER TERESA'S FARMERS MARKET - Saturdays 8:30-11:30am, Mother Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Church 2014 NW 46th St.

FIREWORKS BLAST-OFF - July 2, 7pm, Faith Family Life Centre. Free hot-dogs and ice cream. For \$1 special take-home cup with ice water or tea. Special Guest: Jed Zeppelin Band! Fireworks at 9:00 a.m.

2017 TOPEKA WALK FOR APRAXIA - Aug. 12, 10am Registration, 11am start, Sunflower Soccer Complex, 4829 NW 17th St. Fundraising event for children with Apraxia of Speech, helping children find their voice. You can participate even if you are unable to be at the Walk by making a donation to support our efforts. T-shirt deadline: July 16. For info and web links: Cindi Bramlage: twinz-mom77@gmail.com. See Topeka Walk for Apraxia on facebook

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