



EVENTS CALENDAR | Page 13

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SEE PAGE 17

CELEBRATING FAITH, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY IN KANSAS CITY

VOLUME 28 • NUMBER 10

October 2017

FREE—TAKE ONE!

## How should believers invest for the future?



Kim Jong-un

Faith, not fear of N. Korea, should guide investment of both finances and time

By **Dwight Widaman**

In a little-heralded news item last month, the Federal Reserve announced that the GDP for the second quarter of 2017 topped 3 percent. This comes after eight years under the Obama administration where growth never topped 2 percent.

Economic growth is just one indicator of the health of the economy. So while the stock market continues to break records, that confidence is not shared by all American investors. A re-

■ See **INVESTMENTS** page 23



Serving adopted and foster kids: What can you do?

Kairos International will gather believers from around the world Oct. 24 in show of spiritual unity

## UNITED IN CHRIST

By **Dwight Widaman**

By the time he was 12, Bruno Ierullo was so notorious in the Canadian crime scene, he was sneaking heroin into maximum security prisons.

"I was really bad and by 15, I had people working for me on the street," Ierullo, who is now a pastor, told CBN News.

When Ierullo got caught, he was sent to a detention center but later was ordered to attend an Anglican boy's school. A few years passed, but he was still involved in crime.

"It came to a point where I was involved with the Columbian drug cartel," he admits.

Once during a drug deal, they thought he was going to steal the drugs so they stabbed him in the stomach and held him at gun point. "I heard an audible voice say, You live by the sword, you die by the sword," says Ierullo. He walked right up to the guy with the gun and tried to convince him he wasn't stealing the drugs. "They just ran from me!" Ierullo was amazed.

After his encounter, Ierullo told his mom he wanted to serve God and enrolled at a Christian university. There he accepted Christ as his savior and

■ See **KAIROS** page 22

## Lynda Randle: On mission after God's heart

Conference aims to inspire diverse group of women

By **Leilani Haywood**

After being on hiatus for a few years, Lynda Randle, an award-winning singer, songwriter, author and pastor's wife is bringing back the Woman After God's Own Heart conference on October 20 and 21 at Colonial Presbyterian Church. The founder of Auntie Anne's Pretzels, Ann Beiler, will be

sharing her story of how God gave her the idea for her international company at the conference.

Other speakers include Grammy award nominee and Dove award winner Nichole C. Mullen; the founder of Rachel's Tea House in Kansas City, Carolyn Cofield; singer, songwriter and composer of 'Mary Did You

Women's  
Conference  
Oct. 20-21

■ See **CONFERENCE** page 23



Lynda Randle

## Scientology cult to greatly expand in Kansas City



**Dwight Widaman** | Metro Voice

In the late 1940s, fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard declared: "Writing for a penny a word is ridiculous. If a man really wants to make a million dollars, the best way would be to start his own religion."

Kansas City's Fox4 News reports the Church of Scientology might be expanding its footprint, making Kansas City the Midwest hub for the controversial cult.

Started by Hubbard, a science fiction author whose books have gone on to become Hollywood hits usually starring one of the church's leading members—Tom Cruise, the church is currently under growing criticism for its practices with several documentaries, including some of the most-watched shows on Netflix. One website that tracks Scientology and its adherents, says the church is a "vicious and dangerous cult that masquerades as a religion. Its purpose is to make

■ See **SCIENTOLOGY** page 23





# Kairos 2017

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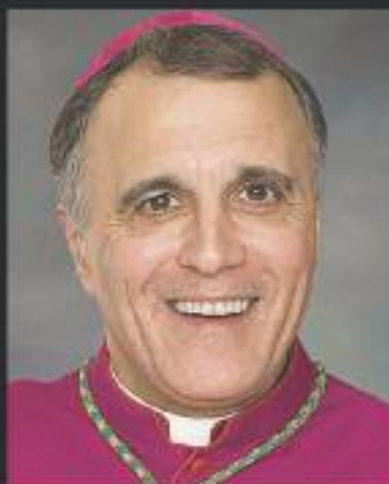
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## newsbriefs

**The Cambrian period and creation**

(WNS)--Paleontologists claim that 50 fossil remains they recently unearthed belong to a new species of marine predator that evolved 500 million years ago during the Cambrian explosion, a time during which multiple, anatomically distinct animal forms appeared suddenly in the fossil record. Evolutionists going all the way back to Charles Darwin have struggled to explain how so many life forms could appear so suddenly at once during the Cambrian period. Intelligent design advocates say the Cambrian explosion offers evidence of God's creative work. And young-earth creationists such as Frank Sherwin, a biologist with the Institute for Creation Research, argue that such fossils indicate that the flood of Noah's time destroyed numerous populations of complex and completely formed animals. "Apart from the greatly inflated ages, the Cambrian explosion is exactly what the flood geologist would predict based on Genesis Chapters 6-9," Sherwin wrote on the ICR blog.

**Muslims kill 20 Christians**

(WNS)--Fulani herdsmen killed 20 people and injured six others during a recent reprisal attack in Nigeria's Plateau state. The sporadic attacks continue as Nigerians petition for international intervention. The 20 people who died, including nine children, belonged to Baptist and Methodist churches in Ancha.

**WICCAN SUES TOPEKA PRISON**

By Dwight Widaman

A convicted murderer and practicing Wiccan has filed a lawsuit against the prison where she is incarcerated. Shari Webber-Dunn accuses officials of "imposing Christian beliefs" on her.

According to the suit filed by American Humanist Association, the women at the Topeka Correctional Facility are subjected to "Christian propaganda" and could be punished if caught with objectionable religious materials, the Topeka Capital-Journal reported.

The lawsuit takes aim at prison warden Shannon Meyer, Secretary of Kansas Department of Corrections Joseph Norwood, facility service administrator Kevin Keith and an unidentified corrections official.

Webber-Dunn, who is serving a minimum 40-year sentence for the 1994 shooting death of her husband, added the clear bias of the Kansas Department of Corrections and prison staff is apparent in the "oppressive message that



Christianity looms over the inmates at all times"

The lawsuit contends the "coercive atmosphere" includes Christian-themed radio and television

broadcasts, an 8-foot cross as well as the gospel messages.

"There is no valid reason why Christian materials should be displayed there in a state-owned and operated correctional facility," the suit reads.

Webber-Dunn has 17 years left of her prison term. She was convicted of aiding and abetting first-degree murder and conspiracy to commit first-degree murder.

During her trial, prosecutors contended she wanted to kill her husband to resolve a custody dispute and to dodge the accompanying legal fees.

According to the Encyclopedia of World Religions, Wicca does not believe in moral absolutes.

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# Legislators work to get hurricane relief for churches

By **Evan Wilt**

(WNS)--Four Republican U.S. senators on Sept. 18 introduced legislation to allow emergency federal funds to go to churches during natural disasters. Their efforts were supported by President Trump, who tweeted that churches should not be discriminated against.

Harvey, Irma, and Maria, hurricanes that left wide paths of destruction in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, showed the resilience of communities coming together for recovery efforts. Thousands of people lost their homes during the storms and many fled to houses of wor-

ship for shelter. Republican Sens. Ted Cruz and John Cornyn of Texas, Roy Blunt of Missouri and James Lankford of Oklahoma believe churches should be eligible for emergency federal grants, just like secular organizations.

Earlier this month, three churches in Texas sued after the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) denied them access to public assistance grants, which provide nonprofit groups money to repair or replace damaged facilities.

"This policy is discriminatory and wrong," Cruz said.

"We must ensure that religious organizations are eligible for federal assis-

tance on the same terms as other nonprofits after being damaged or destroyed during natural disasters."

It's unlikely the legislative effort will win support from across the aisle, but court precedent could be in the church's favor.

In June, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 7-2 in favor of a Missouri church receiving a public grant to improve its playground. The justices, including two appointed by Democratic presidents, ruled the state cannot deny the church grant money, which benefitted the broader community, simply because it is a church.



**Churches, which are FEMA's biggest partner in disaster relief, are currently banned from receiving funds or reimbursement for their own damage.**

## SAT-7 calls for help to equip the next generation

A satellite broadcast organization is inviting Christians to join in their annual week of prayer Nov. 5-12 for children and adults who are being exposed to the Gospel.

The satellite broadcasting ministry of

SAT-7 aims to meet the needs of the next generation through its holistic programming and their new channel: SAT-7 ACADEMY.

Children across this region are now being given educational programming

by Christians!

Thirteen million children in the Middle East and North Africa are currently out of school and at risk of missing out on their education. Even more are struggling due to a lack of quality in education. Many children born in times of conflict and turmoil find it difficult to imagine a better life because they've never experienced it. Many are at risk of falling victim to violent attacks, rape, prostitution and recruitment into fighting forces.


SAT-7 encourages you, your church, prayer group and friends to unite for this special Week of Prayer from November 5-12. Help raise up the next generation through your prayers.

Please pray together with Sat-7 by



downloading the prayer guide for the seven days of the week, with prayer points. For each day, there is an expla-

nation of the situation that needs prayer, Bible verses to meditate on, and prayer requests.



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## newsbriefs

### No faith in stained glass window funds?

(WNS)--Should a Massachusetts church be eligible for public preservation grants to help restore its historic stained glass windows? The City of Acton thinks so and awarded Acton Congregational Church \$100,000 under its Community Preservation Act. But a group of taxpayers sued, claiming the grant violates the Massachusetts Constitution's ban on using public money to benefit religious institutions. The state's Supreme Judicial Court heard arguments in the case in September and will issue

a ruling in the next few months. Douglas Mishkin, the plaintiffs' attorney, told justices the church could legitimately apply for the funds if it didn't have an active congregation. He pointed to Old North Church, one of Boston's most visited historic sites, as an example of a legitimate preservation fund recipient.





**Oxana Eliahu**  
Worship concert  
Saturday, October 21, 7 P.M.

Oxana Eliahu is a Russian born Messianic Jewish believer, worship leader, composer, songwriter, and producer of many Messianic CDs of praise and worship. Oxana lived in Israel for twenty years. Unique melodies and deep meaningful lyrics of her songs are truly inspired by the Holy Spirit and the Word of God. Full of deep emotions and passion, Oxana's songs are very touching and powerful. Easy on the ear lyrics and melodies with a mix of Western and Middle Eastern themes are very anointing. Each song is in itself a message of faith and hope, with a cry of a soul longing to come closer to Adoni. Oxana will be singing in Hebrew, English, Russian and Spanish! *There is no charge for the concert; a love offering will be received with gratitude.*

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## newsbriefs

### Evolutionary scientist admits flaws

(WNS)—Gerd Müller, a highly regarded Austrian evolutionary theorist, recently gave a presentation, published in Interface Focus, in which he admitted Charles Darwin's theory largely avoids explaining how life originated and how complexity developed. Müller did not espouse any creationist or design beliefs, but his presentation demonstrated that even the most staunch advocates of evolution are forced to admit the theory has many holes. The presentation was devastating "for anyone who wants to think that, on the great questions of biological origins, orthodox evolutionary theory has got it all figured out," Discovery Institute experts wrote on their organization's blog.

### Jail time for pronoun misuse?

(WNS)—A bill in California that would create a law making it a crime to "misgender" nursing home residents advanced in the state Assembly. The bill, SB 219, passed the state Senate in May. Among other provisions, the proposed law would make it a criminal offense not to call elderly LGBT residents at nursing homes or intermediate-care facilities by their preferred names and pronouns. Offenders could face a fine of up to \$1,000 and a year in prison. Supporters say the measure, called the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Long-term Care Facility Residents Bill of Rights, would protect LGBT senior-care residents from discrimination and harassment. In addition to outlawing "willfully and repeatedly" failing to use a preferred name or pronoun, the bill would make it illegal to deny admission to a resident or evict a resident for their sexual orientation. It also would require facilities to open restrooms to individuals based on their gender identity.

### Teen reversing his gender transition

(WNS)—An Australian teenager went public



earlier this month about his decision to transition back to his birth gender after taking female hormones. At age 12, doctors diagnosed Patrick Mitchell with gender dysphoria. Soon after, he began taking puberty-blocking and cross-sex hormones. By 14, he had breasts, long hair, and feminine features. But earlier this year, Mitchell decided he wanted to stop the process. He said he began to have a change of heart when a female teacher referred to him as "one of the girls." "I began to realize I was comfortable in my body," said Mitchell in an interview with Woman's Day. "Every day I just felt better." Mitchell's mother, Alison, said that while she doesn't blame the doctors who diagnosed her son, she does wish they would have waited before recommending treatment. "They were wrong to pigeonhole him so quickly," she said.

# Year 500: What has become of Luther's reformation?

By **Dale Hurd**

WITTENBERG, Germany -- This year marks the 500th anniversary of one of the most important events in history, the Protestant Reformation.

As the word continues converging on Wittenberg in eastern Germany, where 500 years ago a local professor of moral theology nailed 95 theses to a church door, and by that single act, changed the world.

Germany is now in the middle of a yearlong national celebration. But Luther's time was rarely this colorful and tidy as re-enactments today. The 1500s in Germany were cold, muddy, bleak and rude.

### Luther's Time: Back to the Future

There are interesting similarities between Luther's time and today. In 1517, the Holy Roman Empire, like the European Union, was beginning to disintegrate. New technology — the printing press — was as revolutionary as social

media, and pushing into the borders of Europe: the armies of Islam.

Even though he was an adopter of new technology, Luther would probably try to destroy one piece of new technology, just installed last week in Wittenberg: a robot that dispenses a blessing in seven languages.

It's interesting to watch a nation that has in many ways turned away from God — or at least away from biblical Christianity — celebrate Luther, a man of the Bible, so enthusiastically.

### The Secular Celebrate the Sacred

But how would Martin Luther feel about today's secular Germany?

Famous German Lutheran pastor Dr. Theo Lehmann says Luther would "turn over in his grave."

One of the world's leading authorities on the reformation, Yale professor Dr. Carlos Eire, says the number one reason Luther would be surprised by the celebration is that he didn't expect there to be a world in 2017.



"Luther expected the world to end in his lifetime or soon thereafter," Eire says. "If Luther could time travel, he would just be shocked about what has become of the Christian world, the fact that so few Europeans now attend church."

### Loud, Smelly and Rude

Despite the sophisticated looking busts and sculptures of his appearance,

Luther was not genteel. He liked to argue, and he did not like to be disagreed with. He was a product of his times, says Dr. Benjamin Hasselhorn, curator of the National Luther Exhibition at the Lutherhaus Museum in Wittenberg.

Hasselhorn says Luther's times were loud and rude.

"In central Germany in that time people were not polite. They were not quiet," says Hasselhorn. They were loud and they drank beer and they ate a lot of meat and they were rude, and so Luther was one of them."

### Luther an Anti-Semite?

One of the most controversial questions about Luther is whether he was an anti-Semite.

After expressing tolerance toward Jews earlier in his life, Luther wrote terrible things about the Jewish people later in life; writings that were even used by the Nazis.

Eire says, "Luther called for all syna-

■ See LUTHER page 21

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## Students serve Christ through serving foster kids

By **Kathy Kinnan**

*[Front page photo: Volunteer students (and one of their moms) from Whitefield Academy plant new flowers at the Show-Me campus.]*

What qualities must our young people need to be equipped for the world they will face as adults? More than a degree and work skills, we all are called to have a transformed life; one which is not just about making a living but living for a higher purpose. For knowledge to become wisdom, it must be experienced and understood through God's lens: our Christian faith is the foundation to every aspect of life and thought.

For Whitefield Academy, located in the Kansas City metro, that means serving at the Show-Me Christian Youth Home in La Monte, Mo. This service

trip provides each student with the opportunity to connect with the three things central to that growth: Christ, character, and community. On a week-long mission trip, students connect with kids just like themselves—in age, in interest, and even dreams for the future. The difference: for most of Show-Me kids is there isn't always a safe, stable home and family ready to care for them if they leave. The chance to serve other kids has opened Whitefield's students' eyes to the grace and blessings in their own lives and to the responsibility that each of us has to help others.



### Stepping out of their comfort zones

Whitefield Academy, a classical Christian Pre-K through 12th grade school, has long sought to provide students with opportunities to stretch themselves and their faith through the avenue of mission trips and serve days in their community.

Approximately, 15 years ago, Whitefield was looking for a safe environment

for their seventh graders to do a service trip. The school had tried several types of missions, including serving in Kansas City's urban core, but none seemed to be the right fit. Parents began hunting for a new safe, service-oriented opportunity that would be conducive to help their seventh graders get out of their comfort zones and be the "hands and feet of Christ." Their search led them to Show-Me and they have been traveling to the small rural community in Central

Missouri every spring since then.

### Work hard. Play hard.

We hope and pray the benefits of our week each year bring reciprocal benefits. Yes, we do work for Show-Me such as weeding, painting, cleaning, and sorting. Our "sebies" have dug ditches, planted gardens, cleaned bathrooms, babysat for children, and washed puppies. We play hard too, organizing a soc-

■ See **SERVICE** page 10

## The Mission Field in OUR Own Neighborhoods

Too often we think that the mission field in some far off country. We forget about the need happening in our backyards. Children, through no fault of their own, continue to be caught in the crossfire of a broken world, left absent of any parents or relatives able to take care of them. Across Kansas and Missouri, the need for loving, stable homes and families has never been greater or more critical.

As of September 2017, there were more than 6,500 kids on both sides of the state line in the KC metro area in Foster Care with thousands less available foster homes. Only a few lucky ones are able to find the family and community of support they need from individual foster par-

**74.2M children in US  
427,910 in Foster Care  
"More than 6,500 kids on  
both sides of the state line  
in the Kansas City metro  
are in the system, with  
thousands less licensed  
foster homes."**

—Sept. 4, 2017, KSHB TV 41

ents, ministries like Show-Me, or other similar organizations. Here, they are fed, housed, educated and given loving environments in which to thrive—things that most of us take for granted. That's why coming along side these organizations is crucial.

Without new foster parents or additional resources for organizations like Show-Me, many of these kids' childhoods will be spent bouncing from place to place trying to find the help they so desperately need. In their mission at Show-Me, the Whitefield kids learn one of the most important lessons: as Christians, we are ALL called to missions—to reflect God's love to those around us. But, missions can simply be doing the ordinary things we do for ourselves—like cooking a meal, sharing our resources, planting flowers, or watching a child—to help others. God does not require a unique skill set, only a willing heart. Right now, there are hurting children in our neighborhoods who need someone they can trust to show them Christ's love through a family.

## Considering adoption?

It's a big decision, making a lifetime commitment to a child. Beginning or expanding your family through adoption can be both exhilarating and terrifying at the same time. And the process can seem more than a little overwhelming.

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# Practical advice to avoid pitfalls and dispel fears



**RANDY BOHLENDER**

Senior Pastor at  
Hillcrest Covenant  
Church

## viewpoint

### BEING PRO-ADOPTION WITHOUT BEING SCAMMED

Adoption is an idea that rests in the heart of many couples but fails to come to fruition for a variety of reasons. Sometimes fear holds them back. Hearing stories of fraud causes them to avoid taking those first steps.

Recent news articles have told the stories of families who have lost significant sums of money in adoption proceedings. In some cases, the expectant mother bilked them out of funds. In others, the agencies closed down after accepting payments.

Whatever the reason, it's horribly discouraging to people who are trying their best to adopt and willing to lay out significant amounts of money to do so. The result is even more people who decide it's not worth trying.

If you're considering adoption and want to limit your financial risk, there are a few steps you can take. Due to all the variables, it's impossible to risk-proof an adoption process, but you can

put guards in place so you limit your potential loss and insure that you're being good stewards of the finances God's given you.

### CONTROL THE HOME STUDY PROCESS

The first step in adoption is getting a home study. It is a written assessment of your home, history, and preparedness for adoption and will be necessary to file for adoption with the court. There is no way around this, and a good social worker will actually help prepare you for your adoption.

Make sure you are getting the right home study. Home studies for foster-to-adopt, international adoption, and private adoption are all different. If you are going through a private agency, make sure you own your home study when it is over and if you choose to go to another agency, you don't need to pay for the home study to be released.

A home study will cost you up front. Someone is investing significant time in writing it for you, so they need to be paid for that – but once you pay for it, you should be able to use it elsewhere for a similar adoption rather than be locked in with one agency. Ask how many signed copies you will receive and if they insist that they don't give home studies directly to families, go elsewhere.

### AVOID ALA CARTE MARKETING CHARGES

Some agencies will offer you greater visibility in front of expectant moms if



you pay a substantial fee up front. That's a huge red flag – trust God to get you in the right spot rather than paying huge sums for websites or specific ads that highlight your family. Those dollars are hard to justify.

Direct marketing, Craigslist ads, even Facebook pages promoting your availability to adopt are more often invitations to being scammed rather than helpful in connecting with an expectant mother.

### BE CAREFUL ABOUT EARLY MATCHES

It's not unusual to have an expectant woman approach us when she's only 8-12 weeks pregnant, asking to see family profiles so she can choose a family to adopt her child. We are happy to help care for her in the process, but we don't match expectant moms and adoptive parents until the beginning of the third trimester.

At match, most agencies charge estimated fees for the care of the expectant mom. Many states have relatively modest limits on those amounts, but some do not. A large number of agencies

match early to collect those funds up front, knowing the expectant mother may or may not choose to go forward. If she chooses not to make an adoption plan, the expectant family forfeits those funds.

### ASK QUESTIONS

Once you are matched, you will most likely need to pay fees. Ask pointedly, if the expectant mother decides not to go through with her plan, what happens to those funds? Some of the fees will be unrecoverable (birth mother expenses) but your match fee should not necessarily be forfeited. Many agencies will offer you a credit on your next match. A few will offer a refund under unique circumstances.

In cases where families are not offered a cash refund, it does not mean they are been scammed. The agency has done all the work they were able to do in caring for the expectant mother, counseling, preparing you, etc. There is inherent risk in adoption that cannot be entirely mitigated, but that is true of any worthwhile pursuit.

Adoption is not easy or without pitfalls. Even so, it is a beautiful expression of the heart of God and a key part of standing for life. May the grace of God rest on those who say yes.

*Randy Bohlender and his wife, Kelsey, have ten children, six of which were adopted. They founded Zoe's House Adoption Agency. He recently became the Senior Pastor of Hillcrest Covenant Church in Kansas City.*

## 2017 ADOPTION LIST

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## Firefighter adopt baby he delivered on emergency call

By **Leonardo Blair**

A firefighter who was praying for a third child with his wife had his prayers answered when he was allowed to adopt a baby girl he delivered during an emergency call.

Now, six years after Marc Hadden of Myrtle Beach, S.C., helped deliver the baby he and his wife, Rebecca, say she continues to be a blessing in their lives.

"I will never forget that day. It was a day when a lot of things came full circle," Hadden told CNN.

A call had been made about a woman who was experiencing severe abdominal pain. When they got to the scene they realized the woman was in labor and she gave birth in the back of the ambulance.

"It was a pretty serious call for us," he told Today. "We got her on some oxygen, started some IVs, and literally as we were getting ready to leave the parking lot in the ambulance my partner said, 'We're about to deliver a baby right here.' We had no time to prepare. Before we could do anything — we hadn't even cut her clothes — Gracie came right out. Immediately she was handed to me."

"We went from caring for one patient to two: the woman and the baby," he told CNN.

While he was at the hospital on Nov. 14, 2011, the day Grace was born, Hadden learned the woman who gave birth may have been homeless and she wanted to give the child up for adoption.

Hadden told doctors he would like to be baby Grace's father, and when he told his wife about the newborn her response was: "Can we keep her?"



It was perfect timing. The Haddens, who had two sons at the time, were looking to adopt a third child because they were unable to have more children.

"We had prayed about it for so long," the firefighter said. "We wanted to adopt because we were unable to have more kids. We always dreamed of adopting a little girl."

Two days after her birth, Hadden and his wife took her home from the hospital. In March 2012 they were given full custody of the child they now affectionately call Gracie.

"To see my wife's face light up when we brought Gracie home. I can't even begin to tell you. ..." Hadden told CNN.

Gracie, who is now 6, is a budding gymnast and soccer player. Her older brothers Will, 15, and Parker, 13, made her a part of the family from the moment their parents brought her home.

Her family has already told her about the story of her birth and they plan to make sure she fully understands how she came into their lives as she grows older.

"She knows the entire story, but we know we'll have to reinforce it as she be-

comes older and becomes more cognizant of everything around her," Hadden told CNN.

"She's a special person," he said. "We know it and she knows it."

The Myrtle Beach Fire Department named Hadden Firefighter of the Year in 2011 when Gracie was born. At 48, he is now retired from the department and works on a volunteer basis.

"Every day I look forward to waking her up, getting her ready for school, then picking her up later on," said Hadden. "I am living the best days of my life. She contributed to all of our lives."

## Saint Francis keeps kids in prayer

Kevin, 13, would like to become a professional chef when he grows up and has been apprenticing at a local soul food restaurant. He also likes to play guitar, swim, watch movies, ride his bike, and visit the library. Eager and enthusiastic, Kevin makes friends easily and performs well in school — although he sometimes gets in trouble for talking too much. Friendly and polite, with a beautiful smile and an easy sense of humor, he gets along with just about everybody.

Several of his siblings have already been adopted, and Kevin would like a forever family of his own. He needs a loving family that understands his unique situation and parents to guide and support him.

Kevin is just one of the hundreds of children awaiting adoption in Kansas. He's also one of the children featured in Saint Francis Community Services' Fostering in Faith program. As a ministry, Saint Francis believes that one of the most powerful acts we can perform on behalf of children is to hold them in our prayers. In our own families, we pray for our children all the time — but sadly, many children have no family and no one to pray for them.

Fostering in Faith arose from that realization. We know that most congregations and religious organizations have within their fellowship groups of people to whom God has given a spirit of intercessory prayer. Fostering in Faith ensures that children desperate for "forever families" are remembered and held in prayer by our faith communities.

Each month, Saint Francis sends participating congregations a photo and brief biography of a child who needs faithful, caring people to pray for him or her. The biography includes a prayer composed specifically for that child to help guide you in prayer. Congregations typically include the material in their Sunday bulletin or distribute it to their members so they can pray for the child at home if they wish.

Your prayers can transform the lives of these beloved children of God and bless the lives of the families who adopt them. To learn more, visit [www.fosteringinfaith.org](http://www.fosteringinfaith.org).

To meet Saint Francis children in need of a permanent, loving family, visit [www.st-francis.org/adoption](http://www.st-francis.org/adoption).

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# The foster care crisis is ours and now is the time to save it

By **Robert R. Duke**

The decision to foster a child brings great challenge and great reward. You become the stabilizing force in a life disrupted by turbulent times. Knowing that reunification with the birth family is the goal, you open your home and heart. And you fall in love.

Several years ago, my wife and I embarked on this adventure. Today our family includes two biological sons, an adopted daughter, and a foster daughter who joined our family at three months old. She just turned two and likely will be reunited with her birth family soon. Saying good-bye will break our hearts, yet we are not called to an easy path—we are called to be faithful.

I can say unequivocally that we sense a calling on our lives to care for these little ones. Children living right in our cities and towns who have no one to hold them, take them to a park, or put a warm meal on the table—this trumps many things that command more attention. Children represent the future. They represent the hope and possibility of our communities, our churches, and our nation. All people, regardless of faith tradition, must come together to advocate for these children.

Since November is National Adoption Month, religious leaders must begin cultivating a massive interfaith movement to target not only adoption



but also the need for foster care. On any given day, approximately 402,000 live in foster care in the United States, and on average, these children remain in state care for nearly two years with eight percent of children enduring five or more years. We must do better than this.

Recently, a Jewish friend, who works for a foster-adoption agency, and I discussed how our faith backgrounds shape our views on how our communities should pursue foster parenting. The Hebrew Bible (Old Testament for Christians) includes several verses about taking care of those who are parentless (Isaiah 1:17, "...learn to do good, seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow."). This provides very tangible directions on community care. I also shared with her that as Christ-followers, fostering is a sacred responsibility that models Jesus' love for us. Just as God adopts us into

His family, we have the means to adopt these children—even if only briefly into our homes and forever into our hearts.

The care of children transcends all that divides us and encourages me to reach across artificial lines. I have friends who are foster parents from many (and even no) faith traditions. I have Republican, Democrat, and Independent foster parent friends. We come from different nationalities, ethnicities, socioeconomic means, and the list goes on. But our role as foster parents draws us together in solidarity and advocacy for often-forgotten, voiceless little ones in need of homes and people who care for them. In a world divided by politics and faith, I love the unity I feel with others regarding this issue. Let us come together in heart, mind, and spirit to solve this crisis.

People of faith are called to do no less, and Christians are called to do more.

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## SERVICE

continued from page 6

cer match against the Show-Me team, joining their track practice, playing volleyball and basketball and so much more.

Our trips have evolved over time with the students taking on more leadership roles. They help in the planning of their trip, they give the nightly devotions, and

plan and lead games. They see God stretching them to do things they didn't think they could do. They bond to their classmates and get to know their teachers in a way that being in a classroom doesn't accomplish.

### Cultivating Something Greater

Our juniors and seniors talk frequently with such fondness of their week at Show-Me. We even have had a

set of twin sisters continue their relationship with Show-Me after they graduated and come back year after year on their own.

Our students' time at Show-Me builds character, teaches what a hard day's work is like, and moves them outside their comfort zone to meet people and do things they've never done before. They learn how to give and not get something material for it in return, just

the satisfaction of doing a job well.

### Just Like Me

Our students get to encounter children that have different needs and some similar to their own; They often say the kids are "just like me" in terms of interests. The students realize just how much they have been given, and also what a responsibility they have to give back – "To whom much is given, much is required."

I believe the relationship that Whitefield Academy has developed through the years with Show-Me Christian Youth Home has helped to raise a group of people to love God, love others, and to give unselfishly. We couldn't ask for more than that.

—Kathy Kinman is Lead Teacher at Whitefield Academy in Kansas City.

Every child deserves a loving, caring home. A family they can call their own. A place where they belong. With people who will be there for them always.



**Adopt Kansas Kids**

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Adopt Kansas Kids works to connect foster and approved adoptive families with children throughout Kansas who need adoption. This service is provided by the Kansas Children's Service League through a contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

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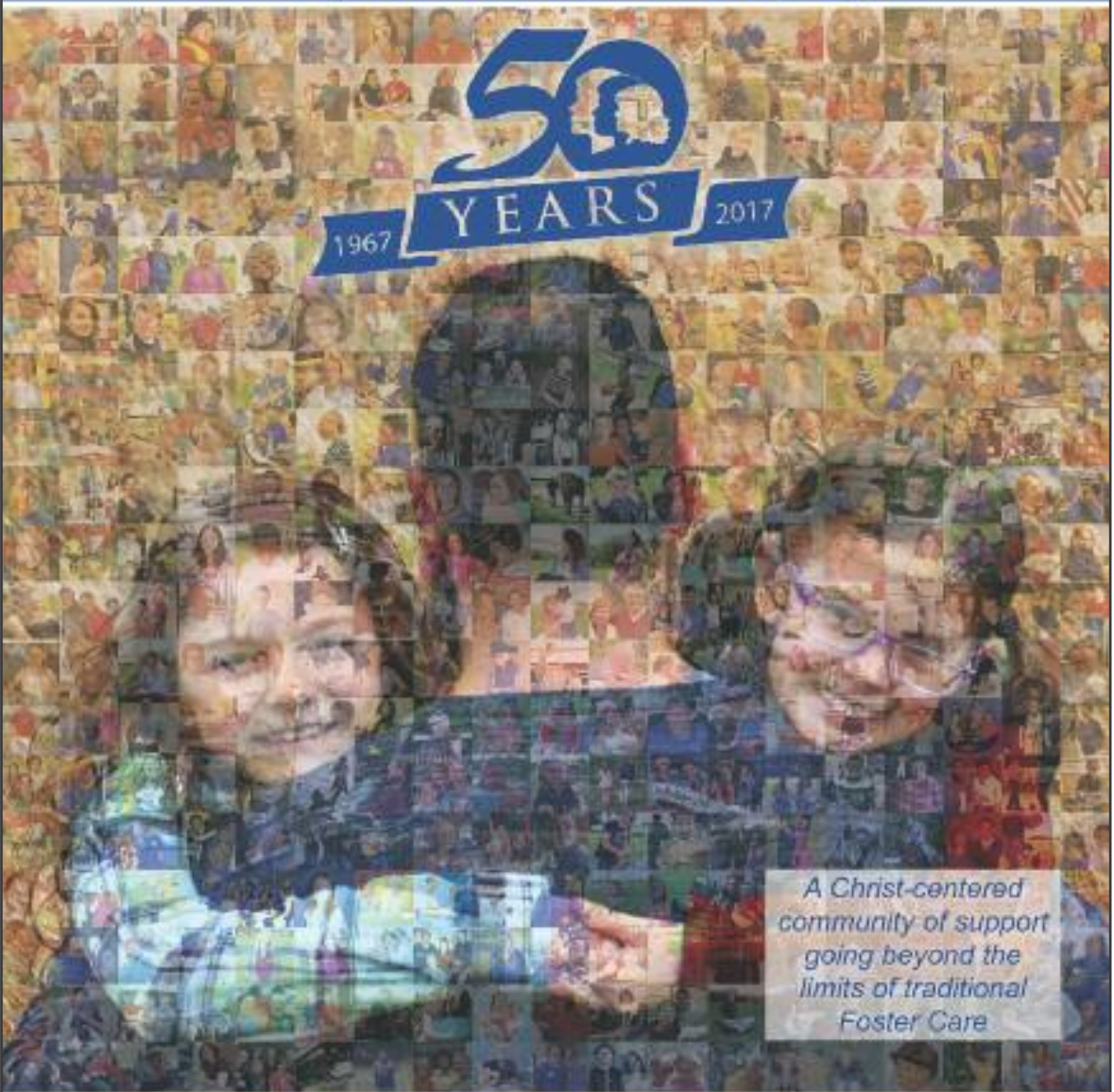


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# opinion

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## Prayer can make huge impact in Middle East and beyond



**TERENCE ASCOTT**

SAT-7 Founder and C.E.O and has lived in the Middle East region for over 40 years

### viewpoint

I recently read about Maryam Naghash, a 36-year-old believer in Iran who was refused an extension of her medical leave from prison, where she is serving a four year sentence for witnessing to her faith.

I was moved to pray for her. Then I thought – surely God loves her infinitely more than I or anyone could? Surely God knows her needs and what is the best for this sister. So why should I pray for Maryam? What difference would it or could it make?

Reflecting on the subject, it became obvious that, in praying, we are clearly following God's commands, and the example He gave us through the life of Jesus. God intends prayer to be the means of obtaining His solutions in many situations. At SAT-7 we pray in: preparation for major decisions (Luke 6:12-13); to overcome Satan's opposition (Matthew 17:14-21); to gather workers for the spiritual harvest (Luke 10:2); to overcome temptation

(Matthew 26:41); and to obtain the means of spiritually strengthening others, including our many viewers (Ephesians 6:18-19).

God promises that our prayers are not in vain (Matthew 6:6; Romans 8:26-27). He has promised that when we ask for things that are in accordance with His will, He will give us what we ask for (1 John 5:14-15). But, even then, He sometimes delays His answers for our benefit, urging us to be diligent and persistent in prayer (Matthew 7:7; Luke 18:1-8). Prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do our will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God's will done on earth because, of course, God's wisdom far exceeds our own.

Of course, we also pray because we have personally witnessed answers to prayer – sometimes dramatic answers!

But, none of this explains why God chooses to work with and in us through

**“Prayer should not be seen as our means of getting God to do our will on earth, but rather as a means of getting God's will done on earth because, of course, God's wisdom far exceeds our own”**

prayer. In the end, prayer is a mystery, an act of faith and obedience.

I lead a large satellite ministry called Sat-7. Through beaming God's word in to areas of the world not accessible to



Arab children watch a Sat-7 Christian satellite program in their own language.

missionaries, we are able to reach people with the Gospel. We thank God for all He is doing.

The week of November 5 – 12 is a Week of Prayer for the people in the Arabic speaking world. And, as the Lord leads you, pray for different SAT-7 viewers, personnel, channels and opportunities that listeners and viewers will hear and respond to the message of the Gospel.. Because, the mystery that it is prayer is the greatest

contribution that you can make to this ministry!

Terence Scott is SAT-7 Founder and Chief Executive Officer and has lived in the Middle East region for over 40 years.

In 1973 he moved to Beirut, Lebanon but after the start of the Lebanese Civil War,

Terence and his family evacuated to Egypt where he launched an Arabic youth magazine called “Magalla” – the first Christian magazine to be successfully distributed in more than a dozen Arab countries.

In 1995 he, along with Middle Eastern Christian leaders and around 20 partner organizations working in the region, launched SAT-7 as the first Christian satellite television channel in Arabic.

In December 2011, he was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Christian Ministries Degree from Belhaven University “for extraordinary work and achievements in promoting Christianity throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Contributing Editors: Cedric Austin, Alan Goforth, Stephanie Boothe, Michael Foust, Lee Hartman

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## Finding calm in the storm



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

### hopefortoday

Clay Center, Kansas – Once, after a long day of work, Jesus and His disciples climbed into a boat to cross the sea. They pushed out and settled in for a little break until work would kick back up again on the other side. Some of the disciples, due to their fishing experience, knew how to navigate the waters, so were comfortable on the seas. Jesus immediately laid down and fell asleep.

Very soon however, the winds picked up and they were in the middle of a full-blown storm. The wind speeds were high and created large waves that crashed down on their boat. They began taking on water and became fearful their lives might be lost at sea.

Meanwhile, Jesus continued to sleep.

His disciples were agitated at His disconnect from the urgency of the situation. Filled with panic and fear they angrily awoke Him saying, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38).

Jesus stood, looked out on the stormy sea and spoke directly to the wind “Calm!” and to the waves “Peace!” The disciples stood in amazement as suddenly the weather changed with the wind stopping and waters resting. They marveled.

Then He turned and confronted their lack of faith in Him. Their eyes fixed on the storm and they became controlled with anxiety and doubt. They lost all sense of reason, as panic took over.

The event communicated how Jesus has the power to control the greatest forces of nature and how He wants people to trust Him when walking through the disasters of life.

Jesus does not promise to calm every storm, but does show how through Him we can experience His peace.

If we are dealing with the effects of a hurricane, tornado or a wild fire, His



calm can reign. If we are dealing with a wayward child, bankruptcy or traumatic medical diagnosis, He can give us rest.

Sometimes He chooses to let the storms come and they cause great damage and pain, at other times we are spared with a sense of relief. There is a mystery to it. We do not understand God's ways. But one thing we do understand, His steadfast presence and abiding peace remain.

A prayer for you...

Lord God, I pray for those in our

country who are walking through the effects of hurricanes in the south and the forest fires in the west. I don't understand why these disasters were not suddenly stopped. Even so, I pray you will show yourself mighty to those who have suffered loss. Help them to trust in you despite devastation all around. May you lift their eyes heavenward and fill them with your joy and rest.

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



# 50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years  
Health • Finances • Events • Travel • & More!

## healthy living



### Recommendations for health care after 50

As people hit their 50s, health screenings become more important.

According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the goals of routine health care after 50 are to develop and maintain the doctor-patient relationship, encourage a healthy lifestyle, screen for disease, assess risk for medical problems (including mental health issues) and update immunizations.

Ask your health care provider about routine exams, screening procedures and immunizations and follow their recommendations. In general starting at age 50 you should get:

- Physical exam (check-up)—at least every two years or as recommended; height, weight and BMI calculation, blood tests, urinalysis and mental health screening
- Dental exam and cleaning—every six months to one year or as recommended
- Comprehensive eye exam—every two years or as recommended
- Blood pressure screening—every year or as recommended; more often if you have hypertension or other

■ See HEALTH AFTER 50 page 21

### Stay physically and mentally active

#### Move around

By being more physically active you can enjoy many benefits, so it makes sense to do as much as you can, and that includes within your every day normal activities.

- Stand up while on the phone.
- Take a short walk during breaks.
- Vacuum your carpet more.
- Walk around the room every time there is a commercial break.
- Wash the car by hand
- Be active shopping walking around the shops, carrying, loading and unloading shopping.
- If you work sitting down, get up whenever you can and walk around.
- Take the stairs instead of the elevator.
- Park further away and walk to the store entrance.
- Walk or cycle instead of taking the car for short journeys.

#### Work your mind

The more active your brain is, and the greater the variety of the ways in which you use your mind, the better you'll be mentally as you age. Find something that you enjoy and continue to try new

■ See STAY ACTIVE page 21



## A FIRST AID KIT FOR A CARE-GIVER

### thecaregiver

By Nancy Schonwalter, caregiver.com

One of the many training courses that I teach in the community focuses on caring for the caregiver. I give each participant a "Caregiver First-Aid Kit" as a reminder of the special significance they have in their role as a caregiver for their loved one.

The kit includes the following items:

The **MATCH** is to strike up and rekindle friendships and call on those friends when needed. Friends can help you when you need a break from the demands of providing care to your loved one.

By touching the match to the **CANDLE**, you are able to let the light shine through in your daily role as a caregiver.

The **POST-IT PAD** is for you to be creative and draw.

The **CRAYON** is for you to use in play, to color your world and to be creative.

The **LIFESAVER** is to remind you that you are a lifesaver to your loved one by your willingness to be a caregiver and that others can be a lifesaver to you when you need it. Just ask for help, and you'll be happily surprised at the results.

The **MINT** is to remind you that you're worth a "mint" to those who know you.



The best way to take care of others is to take care of yourself first.

The **HERSHEY'S KISS** is a reminder that you are loved and appreciated.

The **HEART-SHAPED GEMSTONE** is a symbol of how SPECIAL you are to your loved ones.

I remind each person that they **DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE** and **I THANK** them **FOR ALL THAT** they **DO!**

For all of you caregivers who are tirelessly providing care for your loved one every single day, you are appreciated! Remember to ask for help if you need it, even for an occasional break. Studies show that those who receive an occasional respite break come back refreshed and recharged, and are better able to cope with the demands of daily care.

## Changes hurt Missouri Medicare beneficiaries

### moneymatters

Effective this July 1, Missouri Rx – Missouri's State Pharmaceutical Assistance Program – has been reauthorized by the state legislature for another five years until August 28, 2022. Missouri Rx works with a person's stand-alone Part D plan or Medicare Advantage Plan to pay 50 percent of a person's costs at the pharmacy.

Eligibility benefits for MO Rx benefit has been reduced to only help those Medicare beneficiaries that are also enrolled into Medicaid. This change affects 64,000 enrollees that were eligible until July 1.

Missouri Rx coverage will no longer

pay 50% of the cost of Part D prescriptions for people enrolled in Medicare whose:

- Income is less than \$1,805 a month for a single person or \$2,428 a month for a couple.
- Enrolled into Extra Help from SSA sometimes called Low-Income Subsidy (LIS).

If you are affected by this change, you have a Special Enrollment Period for two months to change your Part D plan or your Medicare Advantage Plan. Contact your agent or call Medicare to make changes.

The Missouri legislature changed the bill to only assist those Missouri-

ans that are also on Medicaid. These Missourians are already getting their prescriptions at a very low rate.

The earliest the Missouri Legislature can re-vote on this change is January 2018.

To voice your concerns, opinions and objections to this change to MO Rx, please contact your

state senator or Gov. Eric Greitens. Use the link below to find your State Senator by zip code.

<http://www.senate.mo.gov/LegisLookup/ZipLookup.aspx>  
—Dolores (Dee) Lewis, helps individuals with Medicare Supplements and Advantage plans. She may be reached at 816-606-9040.



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# Kansas City's most complete guide to the events and concerts you want to see!

# the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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## FREE LISTINGS in the Metro Voice Calendar!

Metro Voice, PO Box 1114  
Lee's Summit, MO 64063  
[metrovoicelalendar@gmail.com](mailto:metrovoicelalendar@gmail.com)

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

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



**OCTOBER 20-21** A WOMAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART. COLONIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, 9500 WORNALL ROAD, KANSAS CITY, MO. 816-792-5353.

**PHIL AND PAM MORGAN.** November 2, 1:00 pm. St. Matthews Lutheran, 700 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. 816-524-7068.

**HOPPERS.** November 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m. Kansas Christian College's Cowen Memorial Auditorium, 7401 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. 913-722-0272.

**POSITIVE HITS TOUR.** November 9, 7:00 pm. Silverstein Eye Centers Arena, 19100 E Valley View Parkway, Independence, MO 64055. Special guests include: Skillet, Britt Nicole, Colton Dixon, and more.

**TIM HAWKINS LIVE.** November 12, 7:00 pm. Abundant Life, 304 Southwest Persels Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. Cost \$25-\$75. 888-780-1116.

MO. Travel North on I-35 North, go North of Liberty to the Polo/Lathrop Exit. Turn right onto 116 Hwy. Go 12 miles to 13 Hwy. Turn left and go ¼ mile. [pegda@msn.com](mailto:pegda@msn.com).

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

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

## CLASSES, SEMINARS, CONFERENCES

**HER CHOICE TO HEAL CLASS AND RECONCILIATION.** For more information, contact Jama at [jedlund@infgr.org](mailto:jedlund@infgr.org). 816-847-2911.

**PARENT SEMINAR - IT'S JUST A PHASE!** Through October 11, 6:30-7:45 (Wednesdays). West Family Church, Room 201, 8500 Woodsonia Drive, Lenexa, KS 66227. Our goal is to partner with parents in helping them navigate the ups and downs

■ calendar continued on next page

## SOUTHERN GOSPEL (Call for groups)

**SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS.** Will not be having music outreach for May, June, July and August.

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

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

**LIVE CHRISTIAN MUSIC VENUE.** THIRD FRIDAY, 7:00 pm. Bent Knee Cowboy, 13415 S. 142nd St., Bonner Springs, KS. 913-927-4567.

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

**CGMA NW MO CHAPTER MEETING, GOSPEL MUSIC AND POTLUCK.** SECOND SATURDAY. Faith Assembly of God Church, South 13 Hwy, Polo,

MO 64060. 816-628-5583.

**OXANA ELIAHU WORSHIP CONCERT.** October 21, 7:00 pm. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 9898 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS. No charge

**SMALL TOWN AMERICA TOUR WITH SEVENTH DAY SLUMBER, MANIC DRIVE, SHONLOCK, CONSUMED BY FIRE, VROSE, SPEC.** October 21, 6:30 pm. Marshall Family Worship Center, 225 Drake Road, Marshall, MO 65340. 417-894-8225.

**ADAM SCOTT YORK.** October 21, 7:30 PM. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W 80th St, Overland Park, Kansas 66204

**CROWDER AMERICAN PRODIGAL TOUR.** October 25, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm. Lied Center, 1600 Stewart Dr., Lawrence, KS 66045. 785-864-2787.

**FARM HANDS BLUEGRASS QUARTET.** October 29, 6:00 pm. St. Matthew's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 5047 NW Gateway Ave., Riverside, MO 64150.

## CONCERTS

**JOHN MARK MCMILLAN - THE MERCURY AND LIGHTNING TOUR.** October 11, 7:00 pm. Graceway, 5460 Blue Ridge Cutoff, Kansas City, MO 64133. 816-358-1515

**MARK LOWRY.** October 13, 7:30 pm. Countryside Christian Church, 1919 South Rock Road, Wichita, KS 67207. 316-686-7206.

**ORANGE TOUR.** October 17. Westside Family Church, 8500 Woodsonia Drive, Lenexa, KS 66227. [Orangetour.org](http://Orangetour.org)

**SANDRA MCCRAKEN.** October 20, 7:00 pm-10:00 pm. Grace Evangelical Presbyterian Church, 3312 Calvin Dr. Lawrence, KS 66049. 785-843-2005.

**NEEDTOBREATHE: ALL THE FEELS TOUR.** October 20, 7:30 pm. Uptown Theater, 3700 Broadway Rd., Kansas City, MO 64111.

**THE KRAMERS.** October 20, 7:00 pm. First Christian Church Kearney, 2151 S. Jefferson St., Kearney,

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of parenting through each season. 913-422-8257  
**SKILLBUILDERS EDUCATION & SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS AND CAREGIVERS.**

Tuesdays, through November 14, 9:30 am-9:45 am (coffee, meet, greet, support) 9:45 am-11:30 am (program). The Palmer Center, Craft Room, 218A North Pleasant, Independence, MO 64050. No charge. Various practical classes, see ad for examples.

**SKILLBUILDERS EDUCATION & SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS AND CAREGIVERS.**

Thursdays through November 16, 9:45 am-10:00 am (coffee, meet, greet, support) 10:00 am-11:50 am (program). Tomahawk Ridge Community Center, 11902 Lowell Blvd., Overland Park, KS 66213. No Charge. Various practical topics - see ad for example. 913-383-2519.

**SKILLBUILDERS EDUCATION & SUPPORT FOR WIDOWS, WIDOWERS, AND CAREGIVERS.** Fridays through November 17, 10:00 am-10:15 (coffee, meet, greet, support) 10:15 am-11:50 am (program). Platte County Resource Center, Board Room, 11724 NW Plaza Circle, Kansas City, MO 64153. Nor charge. Various practical classes, see ad for example.

**HEALING HEARTS THROUGH HOPE LIFE AFTER LOSS GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP.** October 5, 12, 19, 26; 6:00 pm-7:30 pm. First Baptist Church, 1460 Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-

308-1158.

**SUKKOT**, Oct. 4, 6:30 p.m. Opening Celebration. Adat Yeshua Messianic Congregation, 8512 Stearns Ave., Overland Park, KS 66214. 913-888-7272

**"AVOID PROBATE" SEMINARS.** October 5, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**FIRST DAY OF SUKKOT.** October 5, 10:00 am. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 9898 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS.

**CELEBRATING YESHUA'S BIRTHDAY.** October 7, 10:00 am. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 9898 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS.

**MARRIAGE CONFERENCE - MARRIAGE MATTERS NOW.** October 7, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Word of Life Community Church, 13201 E. 216th Street, Peculiar, MO 64078. \$55 per couple. 816-726-8191.

**2017 PASTORS & FAITH LEADERS SUMMIT IN OBSERVANCE OF CLERGY APPRECIATION.** October 7-8. Zion Grove Baptist Church, 2801 Swope Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64130. Guest Speaker Apostle Larry B. Aiken, Memorial International Church. 816-497-4886.

**POSITIVE PARENTING SERIES.** October 10, 17, 24; 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. Jewish Community Center, Conference Room A, 115th & Nall, Overland Park, KS. Three part workshop \$40 for a solo parent or a couple. 913-327-8259.



**OCTOBER 24-26 KAIROS 2017. KANSAS CITY**  
[WWW.KAIROS2017.COM](http://WWW.KAIROS2017.COM)

**SHEMINI ATZERT/HOSHANA**

**RABBAH/SIMKHAT TORAH.** October 12, 10:00 am. Or HaOlam Messianic Congregation, 9898 W. 95th St., Overland Park, KS.

**SIMCHAT TORAH.** Oct. 12, 6:45. Adat Yeshua Messianic Congregation, 8512 Stearns Ave., Overland Park, KS 66214. Rejoicing over the Torah. 913-888-7272

**DESIGN FOR LIFE WOMENS CONFERENCE 2017.** October 12-14. JQH Arena, 685 S. John Q

Hammons Pkwy., Springfield, MO 65897. Speakers: Debbie Lindell, Bobbie Houston, Pricilla Shirer, Lisa Harper, DawnCheré Wilkerson. [www.designedfor-life.org](http://www.designedfor-life.org)

**WOMEN ON THE FRONTLINES REGIONAL CONFERENCE.**

October 12-14. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Speakers include: Patricia King, Carol Koch, Joann Hunter, & Teri Secrest. WOFL is committed to empower, equip and mobilize Christian men and women, Special free events: Friday AM, "Coffee with Patricia", Sunday 10:00 am Teri Secrest, Sunday 6:00 pm Healing Service with Joan Hunter. Info & registration at [ChristTriumphant.org](http://ChristTriumphant.org).

**CREATING A LIFE YOU LOVE.** October 14, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Abundant Life, 414 SW Persels Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64081. Lead by Dr. Jennifer Degler. 816-554-8181.

**GOOD NEWS CLUB TEAM ORIENTATION TRAINING.**

October 14, 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Grace Christian Fellowship Church, 9200 Parallel Parkway, Kansas City, KS. Cost is \$6 at the door. Lunch is provided, and materials are available for purchase. 816-358-1138.

**"AVOID PROBATE" SEMINARS.** October 17, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

**BUILDING A STRONG MARRIAGE: A 3-SESSION PROGRAM FOR NEWLY MARRIED COUPLES.**

October 18, 25 & November 1; 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. Jewish Community Center, 115th & Nall, Overland Park, KS. \$40 fee. 913-327-8259.

**UNCONVENTIONAL BUSINESS LUNCHEON WITH JIM DALY.** October 19, 11:00 am-1:00 pm. Overland Park Convention Center, 6100 College Boulevard, Overland Park, KS 66211. Sponsored by: Integrity Resource Center.

**FIGHT NIGHT.** October 19, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm. Central Church of the Nazarene, 12600 West 87th Street Pkwy., Lenexa, KS 66215. A fun date night for couples of any age or stage. Filled with humor, fresh insight, and practical, new tools for turning conflict into deeper intimacy.

**2017 CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE, "WHAT'S IN YOUR HAND".** October 19-21. Sponsored by Heart of America Christian Writers Network. Workshop and networking for establishing and aspiring writers. Speakers, breakout sessions, numerous tracks on various aspects of writing, getting published and more. [www.haccwn.org](http://www.haccwn.org)  
**BOUNDARIES - WHEN TO SAY YES, WHEN TO SAY NO.** Fridays, October 20, 11:30 am-1:00 pm. GateWay of Hope, 801 N. Mur-Len, Ste. 111, Olathe, KS 66202. \$40 registration fee + \$20 per month for each month you attend. 8 week book study. Books not included. Using the best selling book by Dr. Henry Cloud Y Dr. John Townsend. 913-393-4283.

**A WOMAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART.** Oct. 20 - 21. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO. Lynda Randle, Nicole C. Mullen, Michael Trait and more. See ad. 816-792-5353.

**STEPHEN MINISTRY INTRODUCTORY WORKSHOP.** October 21, 8:00 am-1:00 pm. Crossroads Christian Church, 5855 Renner Rd., Shawnee, KS 66217. \$15. Will introduce churches and individuals to Stephen Ministry, show them how to begin Stephen Ministry in their congregations and allow them time to interact with an active Stephen Ministry team. 913-962-9966.

■ calendar continued on next page



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**OCTOBER 27-28 THE MARKET. CENTRAL CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**

**KAIROS 2017.** October 24-26, 9:00 am. Forerunner School of Ministry, 12418, Grandview, Rd. Grandview, MO. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Kenneth Copeland, and two dozen other Christian leaders. See ad. 972-885-9460. Round table discussion, worship, prayer, and impartation. www.kairos2017.com 972-885-9460.

**PREMARITAL COUNSELING SEMINAR.** October 27 & 28. Heart of America Ministries Church-Bible College & Theological Seminary, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Call 816-226-7061 for details.

**WOMEN'S CONFERENCE.** October 27, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm & October 28, 8:00 am-3:00 pm. Benson Convention Center, 1008 E. Sedalia Ave., Clinton, MO 64735. Free. Conference speakers: Sheila Gravett, Pastor Evelyn Elmore, and Sister Diana Allen. 417-296-3155.

**ALLIANCE FOR LIFE 2017.** October 29-31. Courtyard Marriott, 3301 LeMone Industrial Dr., Columbia, MO 65201. Keynote speaker Kristan Hawkins. 816-806-4168.

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE MO DISTRICT KANSAS CITY SOUTH ZONE-2017 FALL RALLY.** October 31, 9:00 am. St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 700 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. Cost for the rally is \$5. Opening devotion: 9:30 am. Lunch is provided. Please call if childcare is needed. 816-524-7068.

**GIRLFRIENDS' CAFÉ.** November 2, 6:30 pm. Nashua Baptist Church, Hwy. 169 North/Cookingham. No cost. Guest speaker/coffee and desserts. 816-734-4046.

**CITY WIDE FAITH COMMUNITY CONFERENCE.** November 4, 9:00 am. Calvary Temple Baptist Church, 2940 Holmes, Kansas City, MO 64109. \$15 per person. A City Wide Faith Community Conference that will include morning Roundtable Dialogue Sessions; Luncheon Plenary Sessions &

Afternoon Breakout Sessions. 816-497-4886  
**STATEWIDE MRL LEADERSHIP.** November 11, 10:00 am. Immaculate Conception Parish, Jefferson City, MO. More details coming soon.

**DIVORCECARE-SURVIVING THE HOLIDAYS.** November 11, 9:30 am. GateWay of Hope, 801 N. MurLen, Olathe, KS. 66212. Registration: \$40 in advance; \$45 at the door. You will learn how to deal with the emotions the holidays bring, tips for social events, ways to give your kids a good holiday experience and how to discover hope for the future. 913-393-4283.

**MARRIEDLIFE DATE NIGHT WITH DOUG FIELDS.** November 12, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. WFC Lenexa, 8500 Woodsonia Drive, Lenexa, KS 66227. Refresh your marriage. Dinner and childcare available with early registration. 913-422-8257.

**FALL CHERISH GATHERING.** November 17, 6:30 pm. The Rock KC, 12750 N. Winan Ave., Kansas City, MO 64163. Special guest speaker, Dr. Caroline Leaf. Creating an atmosphere that will revive and strengthen your soul. 816-243-1400.

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

**MATTRESS FIRM FOSTER KIDS SHOE DRIVE.** Through October 31. A shoe drive to benefit local foster youth and families. Mattress Firm will accept new shoes and monetary contributions to help local foster children walk with confidence. www.mattressfirmfosterkids.org

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**40 DAYS FOR LIFE/OVERLAND PARK.** Through November 5. Center for Women's Health Abortion Facility, 4840 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. 40 Days for Life is a global, peaceful prayer movement with 375 prayer vigils happening simultaneously across the U.S., Canada and in 124 countries around the world. Our local prayer vigil will take place on the public sidewalk outside the Center for Women's Health abortion facility 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. daily. 816-977-1750

**LIFE CHAIN.** October 1, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm. Northwest corner of 23rd & Iowa Street, Lawrence, KS.

**LIFE DAY WALK, RALLY AND LIFE CHAIN.** October 1. St. Joseph, MO. More details coming soon.

**LIFE CHAIN.** October 1, 1:30 pm. 9501 Nall Ave., Overland Park, KS 66207. Stand united for the unborn as a public witness and prayerful protest

against abortion. Johnson County location is along 95th Street from Quivira to State Line. www.lifechain.net 913-642-5433.

**OCTOBER NORTHLAND RESPECT LIFE DAY.** October 1. More info. MRL 816-353-4113.

**FOOD PANTRY.** October 3, 2017, 3:30 PM. Faith Baptist Church, 1460 Langford Rd., Lee's Summit, Missouri. Open to any community member who has a true need. No residence requirement. Just come by if we can be a blessing to you. First Tuesday of each month. (816) 308-1158

**FALL HARVEST PARTY.** October 7, 11:00 am-2:00 pm. Liberty Church of the Nazarene, 1400 Southview Drive, Liberty, MO 64068. Free Community Harvest Party. Come and join us for a great time of free family fun! Your family will love the bounce houses, pumpkin painting, carnival games, live music, food and more!

**PICTURE THIS ANNUAL FUNDRAISING BANQUET.** October 12, 6:00 pm. Kansas City Airport Marriott, 775 Brasilia Ave., KCMO 64153. Presented by Parkville Women's Clinic. Speaker Kirk Walden.

**VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION.** October 12, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. God has called if Not For Grace Ministries to bring His message of hope and healing to the abortion wounded. Come learn how you can impact God's Kingdom using your time and talents. vgregg@infq.org

**REMEMBERING OUR BABIES.** October 15, 7:00 p.m. JC Nichols Memorial Fountain, 50 W. 47th Street, Kansas City, MO 64114. A wonderful evening of remembering each of our babies. There will be luminaries around the fountain with each baby's name as well as a balloon release as the list

■ calendar continued on next page

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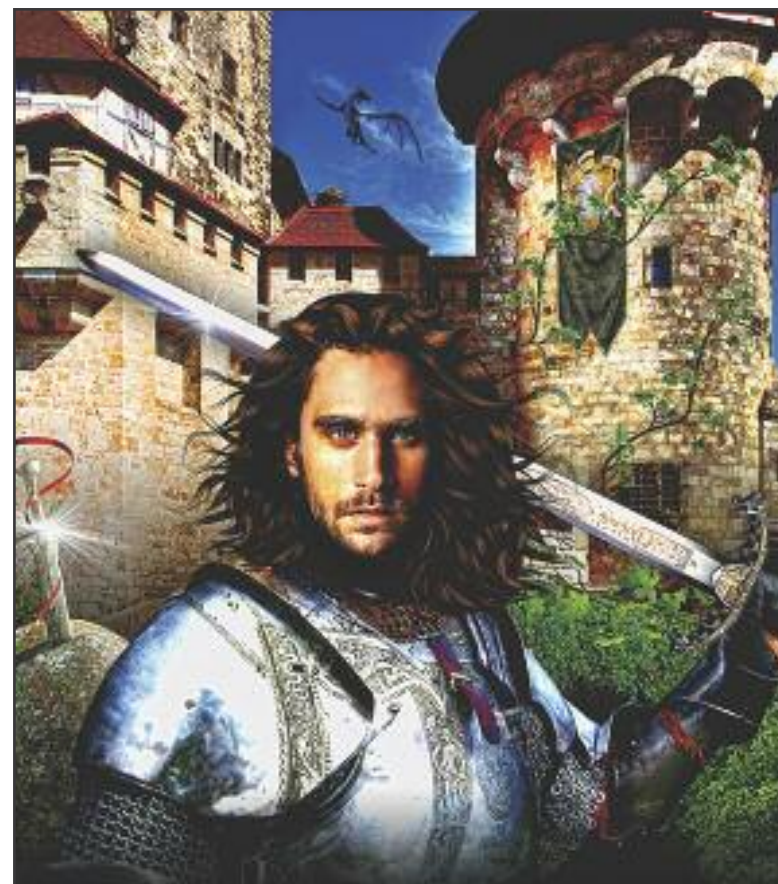


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**KANSAS CITY ANNUAL PRO-LIFE EVENT.** October 19. Overland Park Convention Center, 6000 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS. Sponsored by Vitae Foundation. Keynote speaker: Allen West. 573-634-4316.

**MOTHER'S REFUGE TASTE OF COMPASSION.** October 20, 6:00 pm. Adams Pointe Conference Center, 1400 NE Coronado Dr., Blue Springs, MO 64014. Dinner, Silent Auction, Live Music, Cash Bar.

**FINGER FOOD/SNACKS AND A MOVIE.** October 21, 5:00 pm-8:00 pm. Heart of America Ministries Church, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. 816-356-6380.

**GETTING BACK TO THE BIBLE.** October 27, 12:00 pm through October 28, 12:00 pm. Metro Christian Fellowship, 544 E. 99th St., Kansas City, MO 64131. 24-hours of scripture reading, beginning and ending with worship and praise. Come and be part of the audience. You can have a 30-minute segment or share time with a friend. [jaitracy@yahoo.com](mailto:jaitracy@yahoo.com)

**THE MARKET.** Oct. 27, 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Oct. 28, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Central Church of the Nazarene, 12600 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS Home décor, artisan extravaganza, cookie café, & more!

**TRUNK AND TREAT.** October 28, 2:00 pm-5:30 pm. Heartland of America Ministries Church, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. Includes: sandwiches, chips, cookies, and drinks. Games and prizes, Mystery Hunt, and Trunk N' Treat. 816-356-6380.

**TRAIL OF TREATS.** October 28, 4:00 pm. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 Northeast Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. This free event will have popcorn, pumpkins to paint, a hayride, hot dogs, s'mores, and games. Wear your costume, and be sure to bring a container for all your candy! 816-795-8848.

**HELPER HOUSE FALL FESTIVAL.** October 28, 12:10 pm. Helper Field, 4151 Raytown Road, Kansas City, MO 64129. Three Grills, Gospel Music & Inspiration, Multi-Ministry Christian Cook-Out! Bring your own meat to grill, or side dishes, we got wood and grills! 816-433-1124.

**BACKYARD BASH.** October 29, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman, Lee's Summit, MO. Food, games, prizes, bounce house, etc. Fun for the whole family! Everyone is welcome ... Invite your friends!

**TRUNK OR TREAT.** October 31, 6:30 pm. Nashua Baptist Church, 11408 N. Main Street, Kansas City, MO 64155. Come one, come all for candy and prizes; car trunks decorated in all sorts of ways and lots of smiles! 816-734-4046.

**TRUNK OR TREAT.** October 31, 6:00 pm. Fort Osage Church of the Nazarene, 19333 E. 24 Hwy., Independence, MO 64056. Come join us for a fun night of trunk or treat with lots of candy for all! 816-796-5879

**FALL FUN FEST.** October 31, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Connection Point Church, 10500 E. State Route 350 Hwy., Raytown, MO 64138. Enjoy fun activities such as inflatables, midway games, a puppet show, free cotton candy and popcorn, and lots and lots of candy! 816-353-1994.

**MISSOURI RIGHT TO LIFE ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER.** November 2, 6:00 pm. Adam's Mark Hotel, & Conference Center, 9103 E. 39th Street, Kansas City, MO 64133. Speaker: Melissa Ohden, she is a survivor of a failed saline infusion abortion in 1977. Reception at 6:00 pm & Banquet at 7:00 pm.

**CELEBRATION OF HOPE GALA.** November 4, 6:00 pm (cocktail hour) & 7:00 pm (dinner and program). Muehlebach Hotel, 1215 Wyandotte, Kansas City, MO. Sponsored by Catholic Charities. Honoring Women Religious who have served our diocese with the St. Teresa Kolkata Award.

**GRUB RUN 5K.** November 4, 8:30 am-11:00 pm. Kansas City Church, 7700 N. Church Rd., Kansas



OCT. 13

**VINTAGE BOARD GAME NIGHT FOR GROWNUPS. 6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M. NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES, 5235 OAK STREET, KANSAS CITY, MO**

City, MO 64158. \$25. Help us stomp out hunger and raise money for our food pantry. 816-781-7559.

**WEEK OF PRAYER.** November 5-12. SAT7 Prayer effort for middle East. [sat7usa.org/week-of-prayer](http://sat7usa.org/week-of-prayer)

**MARRIEDLIFE DATE-NIGHT WITH DOUG FIELDS-REFRESH YOUR MARRIAGE.** November 12, 6:30 pm-8:30 pm. Westside Family Church, 8500 Woodsonia Dr., Lenexa, KS 66227. Cost \$30/couple (includes: Speaker, Dinner, and Child-care). Catered dinner, kids-free date night that will bless, equip and encourage you and your spouse as a couple! 913-422-8257.

## FINE ARTS

**WE SHALL NOT BE MOVED: THE STUDENT SIT-INS OF 1960.** Through October 22. Crown Center, 2450 Grand Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108.

**I'VE GOT A CRUSH ON YOU.** Through October 29. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 West 10th Street, Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-421-1700.

**DRIVING MISS DAISY.** Through November 26. New Theatre Restaurant, 9229 Foster, Overland Park, KS 66212. 913-649-7469.

**SUPERHEROES AT THE SYMPHONY.** October 1, 2:00 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-471-0400.

**KANSAS CITY BALLET PRESENTS: ROMEO & JULIET.** October 13-October 22. Kauffman Center for the performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-931-2232.

**JACK AND THE BEANSTALK.** October 14 & 21. Puppetry Arts Institute, 11025 E. Winner Rd., Independence, MO 64052. [www.hazelle.org](http://www.hazelle.org) 816-833-9777.

**KAUFFMAN SPECIAL EVENT: 500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION HYMN FESTIVAL.** October 15, 4:00 pm-7:00 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-994-7222.

**GOIN' TO KANSAS CITY.** October 21, 7:00 pm. Good Shepherd Community of Christ, 4341 Blue Ridge Blvd., KCMO 64133. Featuring music with a Kansas City connection. 816-560-9148.

**HERITAGE PHILHARMONIC: AMERICAN VI-GNETTES.** October 21, 7:30 am. Blue Springs High School Performing Arts, 2000 NW Ashton Drive, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Free Admission. [www.heritagephilharmonic.org](http://www.heritagephilharmonic.org)

**GOIN' TO KANSAS CITY.** Oct 22, 4:00 PM. Good Shepherd Christian Church, 111 SW Woods Chapel Rd., Blue Springs, MO. A concert of music with a Kansas City connection (816) 560-9148

**MADAGASCAR-A MUSICAL ADVENTURE, JR. (SOUTH).** October 26-29. Bell Culture Events Center Mid-America Nazarene University, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT of Kansas City. 913-681-3318.

**MY FATHER'S DRAGON.** November 1, 10:00 am & 1:00 pm. Carlsen Center, 12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. Story of a compassionate and courageous young boy and his unlikely friendship with a splendid yellow-and-blue-striped dragon. 913-469-4445.

## FAMILY OUTINGS

**COMPLIMENTARY MUSEUM TOUR.** Thursdays through February 1, 2:00 pm. National World War I Memorial, 2 Memorial Dr., Kansas City, MO. 816-888-8100.

**SCARECROWN FESTIVAL.** October 7, 9:00 am -

12:00 pm. Downtown, Shawnee, KS. Free family-friendly event. 913-742-6226.

**29TH ANNUAL WESTON APPLEFEST CELEBRATION.** October 7, 10:00 am-6:00 pm (parade at 10:00 am) & October 8, 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Main Street, Weston, MO. 60 art and craft booths along the downtown Main Street. Fun children's activities.

**WATERFIRE KC.** October 7, Dusk-10:00 pm. Country Club Plaza, 4750 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64112. 816-359-9195

**42ND ANNUAL MISSOURI TOWN 1855 FESTIVAL OF ARTS, CRAFTS & MUSIC.** October 7, 10:00 am-5:00 pm & October 8, 11:00 am-5:00 pm. Missouri Town 1855, 8010 E. Park Road, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. \$10 per car/van and \$20 per school/commercial bus. Skilled interpreters will bring the antebellum living history site to life with the music, dance, games, crafts, and delicious food of 1855. 816-229-8980.

**VINTAGE BOARD GAME NIGHT FOR GROWNUPS.** October 13, 6:00 pm-9:00 pm. National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, 5235 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64112. \$5 general admission/free for members. Don't have a Clue what to do for your next Mystery Date night? Scrabble over to the museum where we have a Monopoly on classic board games. A \$5 per person for all-you-can-play games, cider, and Halloween goodies, there's little Risk involved. 816-235-8000.

**LIVE WELL AGE WELL.** October 19, 12:00 pm-6:30 pm. Johnson County Arts and Heritage Center, 8788 Metcalf Ave., Overland Park, KS. Spend the day enjoying educational sessions and panel discussion on topics relevant to aging well. 913-826-3032.

**DOGTOBER FEST 2017.** October 22, 10:00 am-4:00 pm. Kemper Outdoor Education Center, 8201 S. Jasper Bell, Blue Springs, MO 64015. Bring your best friend out for a day that celebrates all things canine. 816-229-8980.

**GREAT PUMPKIN SMASH.** November 4 & 5. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132. Watch them crush, kick, bounce and play with big orange pumpkins at scheduled events throughout the weekend. 816-595-1234.

**BEST LITTLE ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW IN INDEPENDENCE.** Nov. 20, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 21, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Sermon Center, 201 North Dodgion, Independence, MO. No admission fee. (816) 325-7370.

**I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS.** November 24-December 30. Bingham-Waggoner Estate, 313 W. Pacific Ave., Independence, MO. \$6 for adults, \$3 for youth 6-16. 816-461-3491.

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# entertainment

## Steve McQueen's faith explored in powerful documentary

### movienews

by **Michael Foust**

He was the "king of cool," the highest-paid actor in the world, and the idol of moviegoers from coast to coast. Some even called him the next John Wayne.

But for Steve McQueen – who starred in more than 30 films and 20 TV series during the 1950s, '60s and '70s – it wasn't enough. Fame didn't satisfy him. Neither did women, motorcycles or cars.

In fact, McQueen didn't find inner peace until the final months of his life, when he accepted Christ and had plans to tell the world about his new-found faith. But that public testimony never came, as McQueen died in 1980 at the age 50, having told only a handful of people how Jesus had saved him.

A new documentary may change how we view McQueen. Called *Steve McQueen: American Icon*, it follows his journey from a troubled youth to Hollywood stardom and then tells us the rest of the story – that is, how McQueen converted to Christianity. It is hosted by Greg Laurie, a lifelong McQueen fan

who serves as the senior pastor of Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside, Calif. Jon and Andrew Erwin (Woodlawn), along with Ben Smallbone (Priceless), direct it.

It is scheduled to show in theaters only two nights (Sept. 28 and Oct. 10), and is one of the most powerful and inspiring documentaries I've ever seen. It's also one that churches easily can get behind. (There's no language or sexuality.)

"The only time he was truly happy was when he became a born-again Christian," Marshall Terrill, the author of "Steve McQueen: The Salvation of an American Icon," tells Laurie in the film.

McQueen's pastor agrees: "There was a peace. There was a calmness" in McQueen.

Laurie also interviews McQueen's

wife (model Barbara Minty McQueen), actor/director Mel Gibson, stuntman Stan Barrett, and even the pilot who taught McQueen how to fly.

McQueen was known for such hits as *Wanted: Dead or Alive*, *The Great Escape*, *Bullitt*, and *The Towering Inferno*.

But toward the end of his life he dropped out of Hollywood and turned down major acting roles, sensing something was missing. He finally found it thanks to a series of providential encounters: one with a Christian on the set of a film and the other with a pilot. During the final hours of his life he

even met Billy Graham, who gave McQueen his personal Bible.

*Steve McQueen: American Icon* is *Ecclesiastes* on the big screen: A man obtains fame and fortune and then reaches the end of his life and proclaims: All is vanity.



## Plenty of music to welcome fall weather

### musicscene

I will start this article by saying Finally, we can go outside. As you read in my September article, our family enjoys being outside in the fall and spring. I'd much rather put a sweater on than sweat. Give me just a moment while I laugh a bit at myself. I really do hope you all enjoyed summer and having the kids home. While we wait for the leaves to turn, let's have some music news.



**Cedric Austin**

### October New Releases

Jeremy Camp - *The Answer* - Capitol  
CMG Label Group - Capitol  
Higher Vision - *For Your Kingdom* - Independent  
Jonathan Wilburn - *God & Country*



- Daywind Records  
- New Day  
Gaither Vocal Band  
- We Have This

Moment - *Spring House* - Capital  
Tye Tribbett - *The Bloody Win* - ESG



- Capital  
Cheryl Fortune -  
Simply Cheryl -  
Tyscot Records -  
Provident

Micah Tyler - *Different* - FairTrade Services - Provident  
Tasha Page-Lockhart - *The Beautiful Project* - RCA Inspiration - Provident  
The Perrys - *A Very Perry Christmas* - StowTown Records - Provident - Building

### Kansas City's own, Chrystal Rucker

"Everything that happens in life is not



designed to take you out," Rucker confesses. "There are things that God has to do to make us better so he broke me down only to help me so that I could help somebody else." Rucker's enlightened thinking stems from the teaching she learned as a child in Kansas City. The youngest of six children, her father was the late Bishop C.N. Rucker of Greater Holy Temple COGIC and her mother, Yvonne Rucker, is an evangelist. Rucker sang her first solo at a church banquet when she was two years old and has been singing ever since that time. In

■ See MUSIC page 19

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

### streaming



Amy Adams plays Louise Banks in the 2016 film "Arrival," which begins streaming this month on Amazon and Hulu.

### Thought-provoking 'Arrival' tops October streaming lineup

*Arrival* (PG-13, 2016) – which begins streaming Oct. 28 on Hulu and Amazon Prime – is not one of those films. It's the most thought-provoking alien invasion movie you've ever seen and perhaps the best one, too, despite not having a single laser shot, gun battle or abduction.

So if you prefer watching your movies without knowing even minor spoilers, then stop reading right now. But if you want to be convinced why you should watch *Arrival*, then stay put.

Got it? You've been warned! *Arrival* tells the story of translator Louise Banks (Amy Adams), who is one of the top linguistic experts in the world and whose knowledge is needed when gigantic, egg-shaped spacecrafts touch down worldwide. On paper, Banks' task is seemingly simple: communicate with the aliens and learn why they have come to Earth.

But in reality, her job is impossible. That's because the aliens and humans have no common frame of reference. How do you communicate with a creature who has lived its entire life in another galaxy? Our language sounds like, well, English. Their language sounds like a combination of dolphin sounds and organ music.

Banks, though, isn't the only linguist on the job. Language experts

■ See STREAMING page 18

### New this month:

#### Netflix

**Smurfs: The Lost Village (PG, 2017).** Smurfette (Demi Lovato), Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty set out to find a village of previously unknown Smurfs. The first half is pretty good. The second half? Not so much. Rated PG for some mild action and rude humor. Oct. 20.

**Meet The Robinsons (G, 2007).** A intelligent 12-year-old orphan boy seeks to build a machine to learn more about his birth mom. Oct. 23.



**Charlie and the Chocolate Factory (PG, 2005).** A young boy named Charlie wins a chocolate factory tour, led by the unusual Willy Wonka (Johnny Depp). Based on a book by Roald Dahl. Rated PG for quirky situations, action and mild language. Oct. 1.

#### Hulu

**March of the Penguins (G, 2005).** Emperor penguins risk their lives to protect their eggs and then

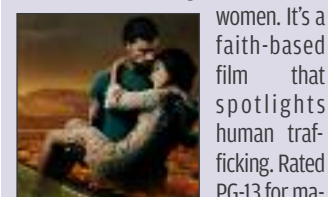
their young in frigid Antarctica. One of the best nature documentaries ever made, as it shows God's creation in all its glory.



Narrated by Morgan Freeman. Oct. 1.

**Love Finds You in Valentine (Unrated, 2016).** A California woman inherits a Nebraska ranch with the intent to sell it, but falls in love with the area (and perhaps a cowboy, too) after she visits it. Originally aired on the inspirational UPtv channel. Unrated. Oct. 1.

**Priceless (PG-13, 2016).** A man in need of a job agrees to drive a truck cross-country no-questions-asked, only to discover the cargo includes two



women. It's a faith-based film that spotlights human trafficking. Rated PG-13 for mature thematic material involving human trafficking, and some violence. Oct. 29.

**Other notables:** *Tiny House Hunters: Seasons 1-2* (Oct. 1); *Property Brothers: Season 5* (Oct. 1); *America's Funniest Home Videos: Season 28* (Oct. 9).

#### Amazon Prime

**Fight for Space (G, 2016).** Experts discuss the past and future of space exploration and explain the benefits it brings the United States. Documentary. Oct. 18.

**Priceless (PG-13, 2016).** See above. Oct. 29.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS SPECIAL PAGE POSSIBLE. CHECK BACK EACH MONTH FOR NEW REVIEWS.

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# What does it really mean to be Christian in Iraq?

## bookscene

by Joan Nienhuis

### The Last Christians by Andreas Knapp

Plough Publishing House, 233 pages

We read the headlines of Islamist terrorists taking over a city in Iraq. What that means for Christians in Iraq became a reality for Knapp when he began to get to know Iraqi refugees who had moved into his Leipzig neighborhood beginning in 2014.

He shares here the stories of many as well as his own visit to Ankawa and the refugee camp.

I was shocked, as was Knapp, when he heard the stories of those having to flee Mosul. Terrorists overran the city in June of 2014. Christians were given an

ultimatum, convert, pay a tax or leave. He writes, "...there is no place for Christians under ISIS's black banner." (Loc 120/2695) Christians had flourished there for 1,600 years but were now forced to flee to Syria. There may be no Christians in the city now as it has been declared a "Christian-free" zone by the Islamic State.

I was appalled at the suffering Christians had to experience as a result of the U.S. and British invasion of 2003.

"In response to the American invasion of Iraq, Muslim clerics called for a holy war."

(Loc 189/2695) Western countries were associated with Christianity and Christians in Iraq were the ones who suffered the attacks.

The personal stories Knapp has included are heart breaking. Yet the global

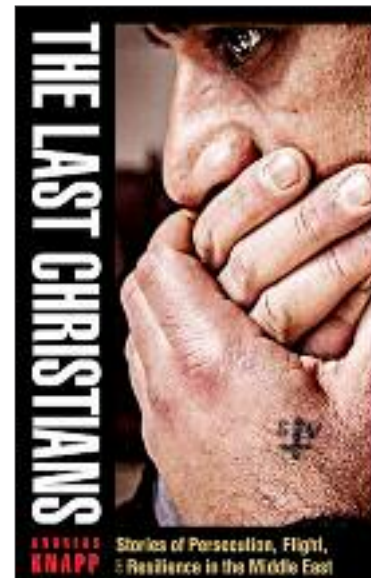
**There may be no Christians in the city now as it has been declared a "Christian-free" zone by the Islamic State.**

community has not risen to protect Christians in Islamic states. He shows that this has often been the case historically. The brutal treatment of Christians in the Middle East over the centuries has been generally ignored.

Knapp spends quite some time on the Armenian genocide of 1915, a topic Turkey would like to see erased.

I highly recommend this book. It will be shocking to those who have not paid attention to the persecution of Iraqi Christians, particularly those in Mosul. It will be enlightening to those who have opposed Syrian Christians entering the U.S. as refugees. It will bring to light the human tragedy that has caused those Christians to seek asylum.

You will receive insight into the his-



tory of Christian persecution as well. It is not a pretty story. Body mutilations and repeated rapes do not make for easy reading. The first hand accounts of such atrocities still happening today are difficult and shocking but they cannot be ignored. They are clear evidence of a Christian faith worth dying for.

## STREAMING

continued from page 17

worldwide are trying to communicate, and when several of them decide that the aliens are trying to say "weapon," panic ensues. Banks argues that the aliens instead were trying to say "tool," but can she convince everyone before a cosmic war ensues?

Arrival is based on the 1998 novel "Story of Your Life" by Ted Chiang, and it will challenge what you think about cultural and language barriers. The lessons, though, go much deeper than that.

At its core, Arrival is a movie about the blessings and trials of life, as it urges us to emphasize the former rather than the latter. It also poses a mind-bending question: Would you (and could you) live your life with joy if you knew what trials lay ahead. And is a life capped by a tragic death worth the pain? Arrival is not faith-based, but its view of life approaches that of a heavenly perspective. It also includes a pro-life message.

By Hollywood standards, Arrival is a mostly clean movie, with no sexuality and about four coarse words (f-word, b----rd, h--ll, OMG).

I've watched Arrival only once, but I'm wanting to watch it again.

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# In the Garden

## hymnhistory

by **Cedric Austin**

Here is the account of how the beautiful hymn "In The Garden" was written from the hymn writer himself, C. Austin Miles.

"One day in April, 1912, I was seated in the dark room where I kept my photographic equipment, and also my organ. I drew my Bible toward me and it opened at my favorite book and chapter, John chapter twenty. I don't know if this was by chance or by the work of the Holy Spirit. I will let you the reader decide. That story of Jesus and Mary in John 20 had lost none of its power and charm. It was though I was in a trance, as I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life, when she knelt before her Lord and cried, "Rabboni".

I rested my hands on the open Bible, as I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat, as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came unto the tomb, upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in, and ran away. John, in a flowing robe, appeared looking at the tomb.

Then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John. As they departed, Mary reappeared leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing there, so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him, with arms outstretched, and looking into His face cried, "Rabboni". I awakened in sunlight, gripping my Bible with my muscles tense, and nerves vibrating, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the lyrics exactly as it is sung today. That same evening, I wrote the tune. It is sung today as it was written in 1912."



## MUSIC

continued from page 17

spite of her singing ability, she planned to make teaching her career. She enrolled at the University of Missouri at Kansas City with a double major in English and Music. However, at the age of twenty-one, she became pregnant and says, "that changed a lot of things for me."

Rucker eventually left school and got a job as a clerk in the accounting department at an electronics store while continuing to sing on the weekends. The singing led to solos on CD recordings by Edwin Hawkins, Myron Williams and others. These songs led to more concert dates where Rucker began sharing her testimony of having a baby out of wedlock and how God helped her pull her life back together as a young mother. "My schedule had picked up so much that I couldn't keep a job," she laughs, looking back at that turning point in her life.

"Dorinda gave me major, major exposure within the Church of God in Christ (COGIC)," Rucker says of the legendary Clark Sisters alto, Dorinda Clark Cole, who is an executive officer within the (COGIC) music department. Within the (COGIC) denomination, Chrystal Rucker is a household name. Over the last decade and a half, she's made her own spine-tingling renditions of Judy Garland's "Over the Rainbow," Tramaine Hawkins' "Changed" and Lecresia Campbell's "Safety" fan favorites at concerts and convocations within the church. Check out Ruckers



music "You Deserve," "Excuse Me" and others on all digital media outlets.

### The Journey of Jeremy Camp

Award-winning musician Jeremy Camp leads worship all over the world every year. Jeremy says his success was born out of a life filled with personal suffering. It began with his marriage to Melissa, a marriage Jeremy entered into knowing that the woman he loved was dying. Jeremy remembers the day he met Melissa. He was leading worship for a church group in San Diego.

"I was singing and I looked up, and there was Melissa with her hands raised up so high. You could tell she was really worshipping Jesus," remembers Jeremy. "I kind of joke around now and say, 'I hit the wrong chords and sang a little flat.'"

"After only a few months of dating,

Jeremy was in love. "I said, Melissa, I need to tell you something, 'I love you.' But she said, 'I don't feel the same way.' " However a few months later, Jeremy received a call from Melissa, who gave him some devastating news. She had been diagnosed with ovarian cancer."

"I remember walking into the hospital, and she had just found out she had cancer, and she was smiling. I was like, 'Why is she smiling?' " "She said, 'I am doing okay, because I have been thinking, if I were to die from this cancer, if one person were to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior, it would all be

worth it."

Today, Jeremy is re-married and his thriving ministry is shared with his new wife, recording artist Adrienne Camp. "From that, you have the ministry of God bringing us together -- Adrienne and I, and what we have together to minister to people. And from that, three amazing children, who have changed my life radically. My encouragement... do not lose heart, because our affliction is just momentary and what He is preparing for us, what He has in store for us, it will blow us away." You can find all of Jeremy's music on all digital media

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# Local author uses fiction to help readers with tough facts

## bookscene

by **Jeanette Littleton**

In the past several years, society has focused more and more on dementia and Alzheimer's disease as more individuals—and their families—face the heart-breaking diagnosis.

One local author, Rebecca (R.J.) Thesman of Olathe, has chosen an un-

usual—and highly effective—way to address the issue. She wrote a book. But not a book on new treatments for Alzheimer's or practical help for caregivers. She chose the unusual vehicle of fiction to bless, inspire, and encourage readers. And from her series of books has grown a ministry to Alzheimer's patients and their families...and anyone who wants a good read. One book turned into a whole series and even a non-fiction book and Facebook support group to offer those practical helps.

We asked Rebecca to tell us more:

**MV: Tell us about your Reverend G books. What is the premise?**

Reverend G is a woman minister who is diagnosed with early onset Alzheimers. She has to leave her position and her congregation as she transitions to assisted living. Her greatest fear is the possibility of forgetting God. The trilogy takes her through the disease and shows the affects of Alzheimers on her family—but also includes some of the more humorous moments with a cast of characters. All my followers love Gabriel, the cat.

**MV: How did you come up with the idea for this?**

As a lifetime nonfiction writer, the idea took me by surprise. I woke up one day with this story in my head, and all I can

say is that God gave it to me as therapy and to teach me that I could indeed write fiction. My father suffered through trauma-induced dementia for 10 years, and my mother is currently in Stage 6 of Alzheimer's.

**MV: Why did you choose fiction as the method to share your insights?**

Years ago, I heard this statement and I have found it to be the truth: Nonfiction tells the facts, but fiction shows the truth.

**MV: Do you see any of yourself in Reverend G?**

Yes, because years ago I wanted to be a minister and earn my MDiv. At the time, women were not allowed in the seminary of my denomination unless they wanted to teach Sunday school to children or become pastors' wives. So ministry for me has become Plan B—



Rebecca (R.J.) Thesman of Olathe

working in nonprofits, becoming a certified Christian coach and a biblical counselor, becoming a Stephen minister. And of course, I consider writing to be a ministry.

**MV: What have been the results of writing this series?**

I found out I could indeed write fiction. I have met people all over the world who are caregivers, and I started an encouragement group on Facebook, "Sometimes They Forget." I have blogged extensively, written articles about caregiving and I have spoken in various venues. In February 2017, on my mother's birthday, I released my nonfiction book for caregivers, "Sometimes They Forget—Finding Hope in the Alzheimer's Journey."

**MV: What's been the most unexpected result?**

How much fun it is to write fiction.

**MV: How have you grown or changed through the process of writing these?**

Being more aware of how stress affects caregivers and how many caregivers actually become ill because of the stress. So I am more careful about setting boundaries. Being more aware of how the brain works and the importance of nutrition and exercise, so I am more determined to take care of myself. Understanding the importance of humor—to nurture the brain but also to help relieve stress.

—Thesman's books are available on Amazon or her website, RJThesman.net. You can learn more from Rebecca as she speaks at the Heart of America Christian Writers Network conference Oct. 19-21 in Overland Park, Kansas. For more information, see [www.HACWN.org](http://www.HACWN.org)

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## HEALTH AFTER 50

continued from page 12

conditions like diabetes, heart disease or kidney disease; ask your health care provider about the benefits and risks of aspirin therapy to reduce heart attack and stroke risk

five5 years or as recommended

• Diabetes screening—as recommended

• Skin exam to determine your skin cancer risk—every year or as recommended

• Baseline EKG (electrocardiogram)

• Colorectal cancer screening—beginning at age 50; earlier if at increased risk (e.g., due to family history of the disease)

• Immunizations—annual flu (influenza) vaccine, tetanus booster (every 10 years) and whooping cough, pneumococcal and hepatitis vaccines (as recommended)

• Screening tests for women in their 50s—annual clinical breast exam, pelvic exam and mammogram; Pap test, HPV test and bone density test (as recommended)

• Screening tests for men in their 50s—testicular exam at every physical exam or as recommended; prostate cancer screening as recommended.

## STAY ACTIVE

continued from page 12

variations and challenges.

- Enjoy a daily puzzle or the crossword.
- Opt for mental arithmetic rather than use the calculator.
- Read more of anything.
- Play mind-stretching games, like bingo, bridge, chess or computer games.
- Stay socially active.
- Take up a new interest - learn to knit or embroider, even gardening is good for the brain.
- Start a course, day or evening class.
- Go out more with a friend - enjoy the cinema, theatre, galleries.

## LUTHER

continued from page 5

gogues to be burned and for Jews to be driven out of Germany. He didn't call for a Holocaust. He didn't call for a mass extermination of Jews, but he had horrible things to say about Jews and the character of every Jew that now we would consider anti-Semitic for sure."

Dr. Hasselhorn says the question of whether Luther was an anti-Semite is complicated.

He says, "I think you can't answer that. You can say 'no,' but then you have to say he was an anti-Judaist.

But you also can say 'yes,' but then you have to say it was not modern anti-Semitism, it was early modern anti-Semitism, which is slightly different. Luther's attitude toward the Jews was driven by religious motives, not by ethnicity."

### God's Agent of Change

Luther was an imperfect vessel that God used to bring Christianity back to the authority of scripture.



He also changed the way we worship. Eire says Luther made Christianity a faith about the living, by doing away with purgatory.

"Before Luther, Christians used to spend a lot of their time, a lot of effort and sometimes a lot of their money, on masses for the dead, to get their relatives released from purgatory. And that changed completely."

Luther is a key reason we have so many protestant denominations today.

Eire says, "When he was born, everyone in Europe belonged to the same church. And when he died, there wasn't one church. There were various churches, all competing with one another."

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There were many reformers before and after Luther. But Eire calls Luther the match that lit a powder keg, setting several things in motion.

Hasselhorn quotes German Lutheran Pastor Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was killed by the Nazis, who said Luther "set in motion things he never would have wanted: the enlightenment, the secularization."

Hasselhorn says Luther "would have

many things to criticize about his church, what it has become today, [also] about Europe and about the Western world itself."

Perhaps Germans are fortunate Luther cannot return to see what has become of modern Germany and the Western world.

He probably would have spoiled the party.

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(From left) Jim Daly, Focus On The Family; Chuck Swindoll, Insight For Living; John MacArthur, Grace To You; June Hunt, Hope In The Night; Alistair Begg, Truth For Life; Tooy Evans, The Alternative with Dr. Tooy Evans; James MacDonald, Walk In The Word; David Jeremiah, Turning Point; Adrian Rogers, Live With Faith; Crawford Larilla, Legacy Moment; And More! Visit BRN Online for Program Schedule



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## KAIROS

continued from page 1

began his journey as a Christian.

"I had a vision of Jesus rescuing me from the darkness," says Bruno. He shares how he wanted to know more about Jesus so he read the Bible from cover to cover. "I was on fire for the Lord," he says.

So began a lifetime journey of serving God and bringing that message of saving grace to others. But there's another issue close to his heart—unity among believers.

"There is nothing more powerful than unity," he says. "Jesus is coming back for one bride."

Ierullo is one of the organizers behind an effort to bring Protestant, Evangelical, Charismatic, Messianic, Catholic and Orthodox leaders from around the world together in Kansas City Oct. 24–



**Speakers include (l. to r.) Bruno Ierullo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas Joseph F. Naumann, CBN's Gordon Robertson, and Will Ford of Christ for the Nations.**



26 for round table discussions, worship, and prayer. Christians who share their heart for John 17 unity are invited to join them in celebrating a year of destiny, as they come together for a historic, three-day meeting and then carry the blessing of unity back to their respective communities.

"God is calling His people to unity in Christ, as Jesus prayed in John 17. '...so the world would believe that God sent

His Son,'" says Matteo Calisi, Founder of United in Christ and Host Ambassador for Kairos 2017. "This unity is not about doctrines, but is a simple focus on spiritual unity, based upon our shared faith in Jesus Christ as the only means of salvation, recognizing the contributions of each diverse group, the hope of which can bring healing and revival to the nation."

The conference also celebrates the

significance of 2017 for the Church internationally, recognizing a number of historically significant anniversaries. These include the 500 year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation (1517), the 50 year anniversary of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal (1967), the 50 year anniversary of the modern Messianic Movement (1967) and the 40 year anniversary of the Ecumenical Charismatic Conference in Kansas City (1977).

"Kairos 2017 in Kansas City is the place to build bridges with leaders of other Christian traditions, to focus on our faith in Jesus, to celebrate our diversity and to help heal the wounds of the past," says Calisi.

Keynote speakers include Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Kenneth Copeland, and over two dozen other Christian leaders. Worship will be led by Catch the Fire Music, Misty Edwards, Laura Hack-

ett Park and Jaye Thomas.

The conference, which will take place at the Forerunner School of Ministry, 12418 Grandview Road in Grandview, will include panel discussions and dialogue promoting understanding and respect between Christian traditions as well as discussions of ways to work together with large group prayer, worship, prophetic intercession focused on God's presence, repentance, the unity of Christians, and revival. The meeting will close with a challenge by national leaders to carry the torch of Christian unity and revival back to their communities.

"When we come together, our evangelization will be greater than ever. By this, all men will know you are my disciples if you love one another. (John 13:35)," says Ierullo.

For more information visit [www.Kairos2017.com](http://www.Kairos2017.com)

## Are You An Aspiring Book Writer? How Should You Tell Your Message?

By Jeanette Littleton  
**Consider these options...**

1. Non-fiction. If you write a non-fiction book, you will focus on the facts of your subject. You may use illustrations, quotes from others, or be creative with your writing, but your tone will appeal more to the intellect than the imagination. Some people also include a creative non-fiction category, and unless you're writing for the research or academic-focused readers, all your non-fiction should have creative elements.

2. Fiction. Fiction includes various genres: romantic, historic, futuristic, current. Fiction weaves a story, usually with some sort of antagonist challenging the hero. There's usually a change in the main character's life, a character arc. While truths are often told in fiction, they're couched in emotions and a storyline. You can put your fictional characters in any setting for any age of readers—you can focus on adults, young adults, or children.

3. Biography. Maybe you want to tell the story of your pioneer grandmother overcoming the odds to settle in the west. Wonderful. If you can do a lot of research about your grandmother, you may come

up with a non-fiction biography.

4. Fact-based fiction. Let's look at that pioneer grandma again. Perhaps you have a lot of her journals and know a lot about how she thought and felt and situations she went through. But maybe you don't really know the full story and you start speculating. You imagine a high school sweetheart that shaped her whole life or a best friend who helped her during a tough time. You see the bones of the materials you know and start to flesh them out with your imagination. The basics of grandma are true, but you're adding to them. This would be considered fiction, even though it's based on

fact.

5. Memoir. Maybe you grew up intricately involved in the beginning of the Jesus Movement in the '60s. Maybe you'd like to bring that segment of society and history alive for the world. If you're focusing on your own experiences, that would be a memoir. Or, if you have detailed records from the pioneer grandma and are writing completely from her journals, that might also be a memoir.

Learn more about fiction and non-fiction writing at the Heart of America Christian Writers Network conference Oct. 19-21 in Overland Park. For more information, see [www.HACWN.org](http://www.HACWN.org)

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—Jeanette Gardner Littleton is a magazine and newspaper editor, as well as co-director of Heart of America Christian Writers Network. She has written one fiction book: *Hugs for Coffee Lovers*, and sev-

eral non-fiction books, including *When Your Teen Goes Astray: Help and Hope from Parents Who've Been There*.

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## ■ CONFERENCE

continued from page 1

Know' Buddy Greene; and Randle's brother, Newsboys lead singer Michael Tait.

"What sets this conference apart is that we target women in safe houses, who are survivors of sex trafficking, domestic abuse and living in homeless shelters," says Randle. "The theme is chain breakers and setting women free. Women have come to know the Lord in the conferences which had led to me mentoring a few women. My God is not in a box or a bulletin so I expect God to move mightily among these women."

Randle started the annual conferences in 2008 as a "two day, annual conference event for women of all ages, ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds and upbringings." Randle says. "The audience is very diverse with women from ages 13 to 92. We've even had men wanting to sneak in."

Attendees will hear Beiler's story of growing up on a farm in a traditional Amish family in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. Beiler has a 9th grade education and didn't have an extensive business

background or consider herself an entrepreneur when she started selling pretzels. "Our background was not one of intellect or savvy business experience but we are absolutely sure that God had a plan that He wanted us to follow," she says. The key to that plan is that she needed to "overcome herself."

"I knew I had to overcome myself in order to keep up with the demands of a growing business," she says. "That was the most difficult of all things I did as a business owner. Grow up and become mature and professional. It was painful to grow."

Beiler's Amish background instilled a deep belief to serve God and to help others. "As a Christian, I feel it is impossible to keep God out of the workplace," she says. "I talked openly about God but I also was very sensitive about my tone and my walk with God."

Kansas City native, Cofield founded Rachel's Tea House as an outreach ministry and organization to help teen and single moms and their babies. She launched Rachel's Tea House in 2000, after the loss of one of her daughters. Cofield knows the pain of losing a child, but she also knows the healing power of God that moves you from pain to



purpose, tragedy to triumph, grief to glory. Rachel's Tea House opened as a Crisis Pregnancy Center in 2002 and expanded to a Maternity Home in 2006, housing over 60 girls and their babies. Rachel's Tea House transitioned to a Pregnancy Resource Center in 2012, a community outreach program offering mentoring, support and encouragement to young moms facing the challenges of teen and single parenting.

Beiler Cofield, Mullen, Green and Tait fit Ran-

dle's heart for breaking down walls between Christians. The speakers come from very diverse backgrounds and have a common message of hope in Christ through their unique stories and music.

"We're going to see a lot of chains broken at this conference," says Randle. "At the last session every attendee will be given a paper chain link where we will talk about what has you in bondage. We will pray over the women for chains to be broken. It's going to be powerful."

Newsboys lead singer, Michael Tait, considers his sister Lynda to be an inspiration for him.

"For years now, my sister Lynda has truly been the inspiration for my occupation. The first song I ever sang in public was at one of her concerts. I can honestly say that I would have never dawned the stage if it had not been for her example."

To register for the conference, visit [LyndaRandle.com](http://LyndaRandle.com). Discounted tickets for groups are available.

## ■ INVESTMENTS

continued from page 1

cent poll found that among Americans who invest, world events are driving a fear of the future and the number one fear is North Korea's nuclear threats against the U.S.

In fact, CNN reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin warned that the escalating crisis over North Korea's weapons program risks developing into a "global catastrophe." U.S. President Donald Trump said at the United Nations in September that if attacked, the U.S. would completely destroy North Korea.

"We've got a lot of nervous people out there right now, and they're trading on those fears and their nerves," says Dan Celia with Financial Issues Stewardship Ministries on a recent "Financial Issues" radio program. "And a lot of people are buying into the fear. But remember, we are still hovering at the 22,000 range in the Dow. I'm not saying that we're OK if it drops 10 percent—nobody likes to see that—but at the same time, we can't get caught up in the bad news. It's true that conflict and war do wreak havoc on the economies of the countries involved, but in the meantime, we must remain level-headed in our finances and investments."

Ron Finke, who founded Stewardship Capital ([stewcap.com](http://stewcap.com)) in Independence, agrees that investors must look at the long view and invest with a biblical mindset.



"There are charts that show major calamity—political, wars for the last 50 or 80 years—and how it causes an index like the Dow to go down and up," he states. "I did a study of how the Israeli stock market reacted in the face of threat. It tracks almost perfectly with the Dow Jones 30 average—almost no effect."

Finke says this shows how Israelis, who are used to living under threat from their neighbors on a regular basis, have taken the long view in planning for their future, a view that American investors need to heed he says.

Asked what he sees as the number one fear factor among investors today, Finke responded with two things. "First is the overall height of the market. Having been primarily up for eight full years since March of 2009. Secondly, there is an incredible amount of fear over politics in general," Finke says. "The truth of the matter is there is a much smaller correspondence between anything political and the general health of corporate business."

Government, says Finke, doesn't lead the economy—it follows it. A large part of that is because of a general work ethic of Americans.

Congress may make it easier or harder, he says, "but 125 million Americans get up and work every day, not for Congress but for their families, and that's why capitalism works."

Finke also says there are biblical parallels that Christians can follow with the number one being what to look for in an unstable world.

"From our perspective as Christians, the factors to remember are that God's biblical principles are universally true and timeless. Such as practicing diversity for safety and the fact that risk is not a normal four-letter word. Everything involves risk and the parable of the wise

and faithful stewards shows that God expects people to risk their time, talent and treasure without having a guarantee of the results," Finke states. "The master gave a scathing rebuke to the guy who said he was afraid, 'so I didn't do anything'."

Finke emphasizes that Jesus talked more about financial matters than heaven or Hell. "He knew that money was the place we are so greatly tempted to put our faith."

If investment strategies need to be adjusted, Finke suggests leaving it to their financial advisors. He says he follows a strategy that can give investors a peace of mind.

"Our philosophy and practice is very distinct from the norm because we adjust our investing continually for the economic and financial conditions."

Finke gives the example of the height of the market at that time in late 2007 before things started falling apart. His firm was already becoming more conservative well before October 2008 when the wheels fell off. "Many people criticize market timing saying that you have to know the exact day," he says. "The truth is market trends develop over weeks."

That foresight helped protect his clients but it isn't just financial advice Finke offers. Finke says that investment of your time and talents is just as important to God's work and your future.

"I think that the stewardship principal is so important on a business level and personal level that when God finds people who want to be generous with their time and their money He makes it possible for them to invest both," Finke says that God's principles work so well that they also work for non-Christians citing Andrew Carnegie who was not a Christian but lived by Christian principles. It was an enigma. "He became so wildly successful because he practiced biblical principles. Warren Buffet is another example."

Finke believes every financial advisor must live what they preach, saying his company was giving about eight percent of their gross revenue to sponsorships like Habitat, Hillcrest Transitional Housing and other non-profits but it wasn't enough. "I asked our managers what they thought about that—did that

give them any heartburn, to keep plowing money into these ministries?" he said with a chuckle. "They responded that we should increase our giving to 10 percent! This is the first year we are holding to that commitment. We are basically now tithing a tenth on all of our corporate income."

Finke says that all believers are commanded to give back to the community without fear or worry for the future.

He once worked with a client through the 90s who regularly prayed and heard the Lord speak to her about her finances. She was a single, retired school teacher who had never been married. She asked Finke to figure what she needed to live a fairly long life. She then asked, "How much do I have after I've fulfilled the amount to insure my retirement?" She had \$40,000. Finke shares how God had told her to invest that money in kingdom work and the harvest. She gave that money to the Jesus Film Project.

She died a couple years ago after making it all the way through on a comfortable retirement. In the end she had money remaining and left it all to missions.

"I'm quite convinced that God will tell us what we need to know and we don't have to just have our finances floating on some sea. He expects us to listen to him and use our minds and faith."

And that faith in our financial future or how we connect with a hurting world around us cannot be based in fear of the current world climate.

"The good news is we have a great God, and maybe this will be a pivotal moment for all of us who know that God to get on our knees," Celia agrees. "Let's pray that those who are hearing some of the God-given wisdom have open ears and will hear and take heed. We need to be praying for our country and our country's leaders. That's first and foremost."

Finke agrees, "Christians often hear that the best investment is in our service to others. How can a person combine both monetary and service to secure a better future for their families and communities? That's the question we should all ask."

## ■ SCIENTOLOGY

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money. It practices a variety of mind-control techniques on people lured into its midst to gain control over their money and their lives. Its aim is to take from them every penny that they have and can ever borrow and to also enslave them to further its wicked ends."

But that criticism has not stopped the group from growing. Scientology currently has several properties in Kansas City, including a location on The Plaza and one on E. 39th and Main Streets.

In 2007 it purchased the old City National Building at 18th & Grand in downtown Kansas City for just over \$5 million yet has kept the building vacant for 10 years. Fox4 reports that it filed permits this summer to occupy the space and to inspect the property. But no permits have been filed to renovate the space.

In a statement to Fox-4 the church said, "Our restoration project is in the final stages of planning."

The church did not want to divulge how it will use the space or when interior demolition could begin. Project records from the Missouri Bid Network show the church has plans for a full gut job inside, to restore the building's historic exterior and create classrooms, a cafe, counseling rooms, chapel, theaters, and offices inside. In all, it could run a bill of over \$10 million.

The church told Fox4, "We are very



excited about this building and what it means to our parishioners in Kansas City.

Some ask if the cult members keep to themselves, what's to worry? Fox4 ended their segment saying, "The church has drawn controversy around the globe for its secrecy and the scores of former members who now speak out publicly against it. Its massive real estate sprawl surrounding its 'planet-wide spiritual headquarters' in Clearwater, Fla. has virtually taken over the city's downtown. Some of the spaces are occupied, while others have sat empty for years."

That may give some city planners pause as Kansas City's downtown development is in full-swing without the luxury of buildings either being demolished or being left vacant.



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