

metro kansas city
EDITION

DEEP AND WIDE
TOUR WITH
ANDY STANLEY

EVENTS CALENDAR | Page 14

metro

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VOICE

TOP MOVIES

A look at
the best
family-
friendly
movies of
2017

PAGE
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K-12 and College
Expo Feb. 24

Features Christian K-12
& 50 Christian Colleges

By Dwight Widaman

The area's only Christian education expo, including the largest Christian college fair, celebrates 20 years on Saturday, Feb. 24. The free event is 10 to 2pm at Colonial Presbyterian Church at 9500 Wornall Rd. in Kansas City. It's organized by Metro Voice.

A K-12 Northland Open House will also be held Thursday, March 1.

The event hosts the best area private K-12 schools and high schools, home-schooling resources as well as Christian colleges from 16 states. Colleges include many from out-of-state including Moody Bible Institute, Grand Canyon, Union University plus dozens of others from Missouri, Kansas.

In addition, free 45-minute seminars are offered on topics like: "K-12 Parent Panel Discussion", "Homeschooling 101", and "Finding Financial Aid and FAFSA."

For info visit metrovoicenews.com

Metro Voice to end print edition, expand online

After 29 years, we
are making changes
to reach the
next generation

By Dwight & Anita Widaman

2017 marked two important milestones for the Metro Voice. In April we were presented with an "Award of Excellence" at the annual convention of the Evangelical Press Association. The award was for newspaper of the year.

The EPA is the professional organization for evangelical magazines and newspapers across North America and beyond. Familiar names of members include Christianity Today, Decision Magazine, to a host of publications from

Focus on the Family and many denominational newspapers and magazines. It was a great honor and we share it with our readers, advertisers, staff and the many churches and organizations that distribute us each month.

Our second milestone comes with this, the January 2018 issue of the paper. As of our print date for the January edition (which was before Christmas) we became the oldest independent Christian newspaper in North America.

We will hold that distinction for two months—January and February. February will be our last printed newspaper as we transition to a totally digital publication with a weekly email sent to thousands of readers.

We have been praying about the decision for some time. We came to the




Happy New Year from Dwight, Hannah & Mason Potter, Anita and Emma Widaman.

conclusion that we could better serve our loyal readers AND gain a new generation of readers if we were willing to change and adapt to technology and reading habits. That's something difficult to do when you reach a certain age. It is no secret that those over 50 still enjoy the feel of a printed publication in their hands. Younger generations typically

See METRO VOICE page 23

2018 ANNUAL RESPECT LIFE ISSUE



BEHIND THE NEWS

KANSAS CITY
MARKS VIOLENT
MILESTONE IN 17

Church holds prayer
vigil for city's 137
murder victims so
far in 2017

In early December, Norton Heights Community Church in Kansas City held a prayer vigil for the 137 homicide individuals murdered in Kansas City so far in 2017.

The church also posted 137 highly visible crosses in its Northeast neighborhood to honor the dead and call attention to the ongoing carnage in Kansas City.

"The future must bear hope, there must be a better way and hopefully next year there will be fewer," Pastor Peter Judd told Fox4kc.

At press time, Kansas City had already passed last year's extraordinary totals and racked up the highest body count since 1993.

Tony Botello of Tony's Kansas City unspins the statistics. "This has been

See HOMICIDES page 23

For the “Year In Review” and notable deaths in 2017, visit metrovoicenews.com



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KS senator wants to return power to local school boards

State Sen. Dennis Pyle, a Hiawatha Republican, will introduce a constitutional amendment to prevent the Kansas Supreme Court from hijacking public education and closing schools.

The Kansas Legislature faces a possible impasse over school funding when it returns to Topeka in mid-January.

The Kansas Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional a recently-adopted funding mechanism and gave lawmakers a deadline of April 30 to adopt a new one for judicial review. Justices implied they might close schools if the legislature doesn't



PYLE

find an adequate and equitable funding solution that meets court muster.

Pyle said his proposed amendment would limit the authority to close schools to local boards of education.

“Parents deserve to have the decisions that impact their children and schools, made by their elected school boards—not unelected judges,” Pyle said in a press release.

An 11-member, bipartisan special interim committee met to discuss options to respond to the Court's ruling. Justices stopped short of naming a specific dollar amount necessary to appease the

state Supreme Court, but legislative staff told the committee that the state's budget will be short of projections by 2019, even without adding new money to school funding.

“It would seem from the opinion that the court is demanding some additional expenditure of funds,” said Rep. Blaine Finch, an Ottawa Republican who serves as the interim committee chair.

The Kansas State Board of Education estimated that school districts need \$600 million in new funding to meet the court's objectives. Raising such funds present a daunting task for lawmakers, who retroactively hiked taxes by

\$1.2 billion less than a year ago.

Kansas Policy Institute estimates lawmakers would need to nearly double the state property tax rates to raise \$600 million.

“Parents deserve to have the decisions that impact their children and schools, made by their elected school boards—not unelected judges.”

—Dennis Pyle

They would need to increase sales tax rates to nearly 8 percent, or add an almost 20 percent surcharge to income tax rates to raise the money the state board of education recommends.

A constitutional amendment is another way lawmakers could end the ongoing school financing court battles. According to a new poll, an overwhelming majority of Kansas voters think lawmakers should consider a constitutional amendment to end the school funding wars.

“Putting the issue of school authority before the voters is a sensible proposal for resolution of these continuing costly legal battles,” Pyle said in a release.

newsbriefs

Grassroots success

(WNS)—Delaware announced last week it is pulling a proposed rule that would have allowed students to change their gender or race without parental consent or knowledge. In response to public outcry, the state announced it is sending the proposal, Regulation 225, back to the Delaware Department of Education for substantive changes. “We’ve never seen so many people engage on an issue in such a unified way as we did with this regulation,” said Nicole Theis, president of the Delaware Family Policy Council. “We’re thanking God for the media opportunities to inform people and sound the alarm to wake up parents.”

ernment statute to print messages that conflict with his Christian convictions.



Fayette Circuit Judge James Ishmael agreed and reversed the commission's ruling. But the commission appealed to the Kentucky Court of Appeals, which ruled in Adamson's favor in May. The government agency appealed again, this time asking the Kentucky Supreme Court to weigh in. The Kentucky high court could have refused to hear the case, letting the appellate court ruling in Adamson's favor stand, but it did not.

Boys sometimes allowed

(WNS)—Girlguiding, the UK's version of the Girl Scouts, announced that boys who identify as girls will be allowed in girls-only tents, restrooms, and showers. The change was announced as part of the Girlguiding “Supporting Trans Members” policy. The policy also says it is not a requirement, or even best practice, for leaders to tell parents that a transgender member will attend a residential or overnight event with their daughters. These changes follow another controversial decision: In January, the group announced that men who identify as a woman can be Girlguiding leaders without notifying troop parents.

Kentucky high court revives bias case

(WNS)—The Kentucky Supreme Court has agreed to hear the discrimination case against Blaine Adamson, owner of Hands On Originals, a Lexington, Ky., print shop. And that could be a problem. Up to this point, Adamson has won all rounds in the case brought against him by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission. The commission ruled in 2014 that Adamson violated its nondiscrimination ordinance when he declined to print T-shirts promoting a gay pride festival for a local LGBT organization. Adamson appealed to a state circuit court judge, arguing he should not be compelled by gov-

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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, Love Worth Finding; Crawford Loritts, Legacy Ministries; And More! Visit BRNOnline.com for Program Schedule

New study reveals an American 'Tale of Two Patriotisms'

By **Paul Strand**

Two new surveys show conservatives and liberals significantly divided over what it means to be a patriot.

"We are now dealing with a nation that is fractured when it comes to patriotism," said Anne Sorock of the Ear To the Ground Listening Project, which labeled the surveys "A Tale of Two Patriotisms."

Heading up the polling was George Barna of the American Culture & Faith Institute.

"There are significant differences across the country regarding beliefs pertaining to America, pertaining to patriotism, even about citizenship," he said.

For instance, when asked if an accurate description of patriotism is believing America comes first always, Sorock said, "82% of conservatives think that was accurate and 47% of liberals."

Those surveyed were asked if it would be accurate to describe them as proud to be an American.

"65% of conservatives said that's a completely accurate description of them, and 37% of liberals said that was completely accurate, that they feel proud to be an American," Sorock explained.

Which is Patriotic: Fox News or CNN?

And the two sides certainly disagreed on which organizations are "very patri-

otic." 57% of conservatives said the National Rifle Association is, only 24% of liberals. 39% of conservatives labeled Fox News "very patriotic," only 19% of liberals did. Contrast that with who judged CNN "very patriotic:" 27% of liberals, just 12% of conservatives.

Liberals twice as likely to label themselves 'Culture Warriors'

Conservatives tend to believe they are losing or might be losing the so-called "culture war." Sorock suggested that could be because they're much less likely to get out and fight that war.

"We see that 22% of liberals feel that they themselves are culture warriors," she explained. "Only 10% of conservatives feel that way."

Tim Daughtry, a psychologist studying the moral underpinnings of political ideology, thinks liberals' dedication to winning that culture war over the long haul could have something to do with their success.

"Conservatives have concentrated on winning the next election whereas I think people on the Left have concentrated on winning the next generation," he said.

Barna and Daughtry both suggested this culture war hinges on worldview.

"We are a nation now with divergent worldviews. Worldview is critically im-



portant, because it's the lens through which we see and respond to the world. In a study we did earlier in the year, we saw that only 10% of Americans possess a biblical worldview," Barna said, adding it was much higher in previous centuries.

"And so you see people moving away from biblical truths, from traditional American values."

Could leaders actually unite the United States of America?

Both conservatives and liberals in these polls believe leaders could lessen the divides fracturing America but are doubtful they will.

"People were concerned that the leaders of America don't seem very concerned about uniting Americans, even

around a common theme of what it means to be American or to be a patriot," Barna said.

"To me, it says that if we're really going to be the UNITED States of America, at some point leaders have to point to and rally us around shared values. That's what vision really is. It's a shared value, shared understanding of what the future can and should be and how we're going to get there," he said.



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OTHER COUNTRIES COULD FOLLOW U.S. EMBASSY MOVE

President Trump's announcement is encouraging some countries to also consider moving their embassies to Jerusalem.

The Czech Republic issued a statement saying it recognized western Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. Israel is reportedly expecting Hungary to do the same. Budapest blocked a joint European Union statement that would have opposed Trump's move, according to the Times of Israel.

The same article cited unnamed Israeli officials saying that the Philippines was eager to move its embassy to Jerusalem, too.

And in a tweet, senior leader in the Indian Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Subramanian Swamy called for his country's embassy to be moved to Jerusalem.

Israel reunited the city in the 1967 Six-Day War after 19 years of division. The ancient Old City, including the Temple Mount, Western Wall and many churches are in the eastern part of the city.

"We were all moved to hear President Trump's historic statement, the recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital, and this statement is – of course – based on ancient right," Netanyahu said at the



Netanyahu

conference.

"The Jewish people determined Jerusalem to be its capital 3,000 years ago. Here our forefathers walked. Here our kings ruled. Here our prophets preached. Here are our roots," he said. "This is, in effect, our identity card."

Netanyahu said Trump had "inscribed himself in the annals of our capital for all time."

"His name will now be linked to the names of others in the context of the glorious history of Jerusalem and our people," he said.

Netanyahu also thanked the US Congress for passing the Jerusalem Embassy Act in 1995, which, he said, "provided a basis for the recognition until President Trump came and implemented this law."

"Here our kings ruled. Here our prophets preached. Here are our roots."

Kansas job numbers defy media predictions

Kan. Governor Sam Brownback is getting the last laugh as his term as governor nears the end. While the Kansas City Star and other liberal media outlets accused Brownback economic policies as having virtually destroyed the state, the facts ac-



BROWNBACK

tually paint a much different picture. Kansas' unemployment rate dipped to a new low in October, according to preliminary estimates from the Kansas Department of Labor and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate is down to 3.8 percent from September and down from 4.3 percent year-over-year. There have been few

times in Kansas' modern history where the unemployment rate has been lower.

"In October, 3,383 additional Kansans became employed," said Kansas Secretary of Labor, Lana Gordon. "This grew the labor force and factored into the unemployment rate dropping to 3.6 percent, the lowest it has been since August 2000."

Missouri legislator wants to protect the term marriage

State Rep. T.J. Berry of Kearney has pre-filed legislation that would replace marriage licenses with contracts of domestic union, reserving the term marriage for religious ceremonies. The resolution, filed twice be-



BERRY

fore, did not make it out of a House committee in 2016.

That resolution would have protected churches and businesses from penalties for denying goods and services for homosexual weddings.

Berry has called his proposal a compromise to the resolution by taking marriage out of the government's

hands and leaving the issue up to churches. His 377-page legislation would still allow the government benefits that apply to all married couples.

Berry's bill would likely have an uphill battle by some individuals who want marriage to be formally acknowledged. It did not receive a hearing during this year's legislative session.

newsbriefs

Power to the parents

(WNS)--At a time when lawmakers in Washington can't seem to agree on anything, parental rights advocates think their issue could erase the left-right divide, at least temporarily. Backers of the movement are trying to get Congress to pass an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would codify the rights of parents to make decisions for their children without government interference.

It's a tall order. Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds majority in both chambers of Congress. Republicans, who hold a slim majority in the Senate, can't even secure enough votes to pass major legislation, like healthcare reform. But William Estrada, director of fed-

eral relations with the Home School Legal Defense Association (HSLDA), believes the Parental Rights Amendment could be the issue that rises above Capitol Hill partisanship. "We realize it's a difficult task to amend the Constitution, but we're optimistic that if ever one could, this is the issue that could get the political will."



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RIGHT TO LIFE



God will carry us through the hard times

What the short life, and death, of our daughter taught us

By **Stephanie Boothe**

Allie Rose would have been 4 this year. She would be learning her letters, colors and Sunday school songs. Her big sister would be teaching her how to sing "Fuzzy Caterpillar" and her ABCs. Her daddy and I would be reveling in the chance to watch another beautiful dark-haired, blue-eyed baby girl learn and grow every day.

Instead, we mark this time of year with a great deal of sadness; as we only had three short weeks to love our beautiful Allie Rose on this Earth.

Let me correct that. We love her every single day, but we only had three weeks before Jesus took her home to him.

Losing a child is an unexplainable feeling. Even for the most faithful, you

find yourself questioning. Although you know everything happens for a reason, there's something almost cruel about getting to love that precious baby for three weeks, just to have her taken away. Now, I'm not saying I doubt God's plan because I know He knows what I cannot. And I never doubted He would see me through it, and He did.

But it doesn't mean I woke up the next day and said "OK, God. I get it." There were questions. There was sad-

ness. There was anger and doubt and every emotion. But something deep seeded in me kept me going.

Faith.

The faith that God would never

leave me. I thought about the poem "Footprints in the Sand," and I could picture God carrying me through this turmoil. And I knew God was right there with me, that he'd shoulder my burden when I couldn't. For the first time, I gave my burden to Him and I



Aletha Rose Boothe - Dec. 6, 2013 to Jan. 1, 2014.

could function. I knew that I needed to be strong for my family. For my husband and our four-year-old daughter.

He responded immediately.

Two very powerful events helped me to know I was going to be OK. We would be OK.

I have always known God put some amazing people in my life. My best friends never left my side. My family held my hand through every step of the process. My big brother sat with me in the funeral home and cried with me as we listed our mother as "preceded in death" on a newborn's obituary.

But the full force of God's support for us on Earth was really driven home the day of Allie's funeral. We planned a small visitation for just family and then a simple graveside service as very few people in our lives had met her. But when we pulled up to the cemetery, we were astounded. I'd never seen so many people at a funeral before.

People from every single walk of our

■ See ALLIE page 6

"Not long after Allie's funeral, God showed his love for us again – this time even more powerful than that cold January day."



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ABORTION FACTS

- 1 out of every 4 pregnancy ends in abortion in the United States.
- Nearly 1 in 3 women has had an abortion by the time she is 45.
- Nearly 4,000 children are aborted every day.
- Over 1 million abortions are performed in the U.S. every year.
- Since 1973, more than 58 million abortions have occurred in the U.S.
- The abortion rate in the U.S. is 19.4 per 1,000 U.S. women aged 15-44.
- Each year, about 2% of U.S. women aged 15-44 have an abortion; 47% of them have had at least one previous abortion.
- 50% of U.S. women obtaining abortions are younger than 25. Women aged 20-24 obtain 33% of all abortions, and teenagers obtain 17%.
- Black women are 4.8 times as likely as non-Hispanic white women to have an abortion, and Hispanic women are 2.7 times as likely.
- 37.1% of all abortions are performed on black women who make up only 14% of the total population of U.S. women of child-bearing age.
- Approximately 50% of U.S. women who have an abortion are using a contraceptive method during the month they became pregnant.
- In cases where prenatal testing helps diagnose cases of Down Syndrome in babies, about 90% of these babies are eliminated by abortion yearly.

Kansans for Life

Valentine Banquet

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Sue Ellen Browder

Despite training at MU's School of Journalism as a reporter, Sue Ellen Browder worked for Cosmopolitan Magazine helping write what she now says was propaganda used to sell casual sex, contraception, and abortion to single girls.



In recent years, her reporter's penchant for in-depth research, coupled with her willingness to engage in some honest self-reflection, resulted in her book *Subverted—How I Helped the Sexual Revolution Hijack the Women's Movement*. In it she documents the purposeful campaign of misinformation that led to legal abortion in America, and the heartbreak of abortion in her own life.

Those she knew then included Betty Friedan and Lawrence Lader, the abortion extremist whose book was used to influence the U.S. Supreme Court justice who wrote Roe vs. Wade. She also reports that Friedan didn't start out pro-abortion, but was convinced by Lader of the lie that women could not gain equality in education or the workplace without abortion. Browder was actually at the D.C. meeting where key feminists and abortion supporters formally joined together. Now pro-life and Catholic, her clear-eyed look back, and courageous look forward, offer inspiration to individuals, and a culture, that continues to suffer from the unholy alliance of the "women's" movement and abortion.



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■ ALLIE

continued from page 5

lives showed up for the funeral of a child most of them had never met. It must have taken hours for the line to go through and hug us. I sat there sandwiched between my dad and my husband hugging people I hadn't seen in years. Friends from college, our brothers and sisters from church, co-workers from our old jobs. More people from my hometown than I could even imagine. The top executives from my company were there.

What's most impressive about this turnout is it was the coldest day of the year. Sub-zero temperatures, and these people stood in the freezing cold to honor the all-too-short life of a child they never knew. To be perfectly honest, I don't remember what the elder from our church said during the service as I spent the entire time watching a girl from my office rub her hands together and fight back the tears in this weather.

I couldn't believe she — and so many

others — were there, and I took great comfort in knowing that God had brought all these people to us. He was showing us that He would take care of us through all of them.

Not long after Allie's funeral, God showed his love for us again — this time even more powerful than that cold January day.

The first time my husband and I attended church after Allie's death, the elder called on my husband to lead the closing prayer. My husband says the most beautiful prayers, and this day was no exception. As he thanked the Lord for sending His son to die for our sins, I was immediately overcome with emotion.

It felt like the wind had been knocked

out of me, and I immediately started crying.

It's the first time I remember being overcome by the Holy Spirit, and I was filled with a comforting thought that HE alone knew my pain. That God knows, first hand, the pain of losing a child.

In that moment, I knew and fully trusted God to guide me through my grief.

He has.

I miss Allie Rose every day. I think about her every day. But there has to be meaning in her life and in her death.

Maybe I'll never know what that meaning is, but we still honor her in our family pictures and have slowly started placing pictures of her up around our house.

God graced us with another baby two years ago — a son — whom we love so fiercely. Sometimes I think God knew

his precious life had to come into this world, and probably would not have if we hadn't lost Allie.

Let me just say our son could never and will never be a replacement for the beautiful baby we lost, but we knew in our hearts that our family wasn't complete. And the joy and laughter our son has brought into our home may not have happened otherwise.

Again, his life takes nothing away from his sister, and he will grow up knowing that God sent us the most beautiful rainbow when we'd recovered from the storm of losing her. Allie's baby brother and big sister will know their angel sister and will always know how loved she is.

As we prepare for the New Year — the anniversary of her passing — we look on with trepidation knowing New Years will always be a difficult time for us. But we take comfort in knowing her precious life is in the hands of God and — just like the poem — God will carry us through the hard times.

“Allie's baby brother and big sister will know their angel sister and will always know how loved she is.”

Student pens “10 Reasons Why I’m Pro-life”

While the pro-abortion side would like everyone to believe they are really pro-choice and not pro-abortion, it's truly a deception. Making abortion “safe, legal and rare” is just smoke and mirrors. Abortion is a money-maker for places like Planned Parenthood, who rake in cash for committing one of every four abortions nationally.

Articles have popped up occasionally

touting the fact that yes, pro-abortion people are just that: in favor of, and happy about, abortion. To that end, Salon.com published a piece entitled “I am pro-abortion, not just pro-choice: 10 reasons why we must support the procedure and the choice.” While it is a disturbing read, it clearly shines the light on those in opposition to the pro-life position.

Lauren Galvan, founder and president of Brown Students for Life, responded with a list of her own on why she's pro-LIFE:

1) I'm pro-life because being able to abort our offspring is not a fundamental right and in fact is the complete antithesis of female empowerment and equality.

2) I'm pro-life because well-timed pregnancies give children a healthier start in life, but taking the lives the babies who aren't well-timed and not providing mothers experiencing an unplanned pregnancy with the support she needs to carry the baby to term is wrong and needs to change.

3) I'm pro-life because I take motherhood seriously, and abortion and the lack of support society gives to women robs a mother of her chance to be one.

4) I'm pro-life because intentional childbearing helps couples, families and communities to get out of poverty, but

that doesn't justify aborting an unwanted human being. Each baby should be wanted and they are. Sometimes it just takes time for a family to find an unwanted baby, adopt her, and make her part of the family.

5) I'm pro-life because reproduction is a highly imperfect process, and even babies whose genes decide to go against them deserve to see the world — even if it is just for a short period of time.

6) I'm pro-life because I think morality is about the well-being of sentient [human] beings, including the pre-born, who are human and can feel and perceive things as well.

7) I'm pro-life because though contraceptives are imperfect, and people are too, babies should not have to suffer the death penalty because of faulty man-made creations or mistakes.

8) I'm pro-life because I believe in mercy, grace, compassion, and the

■ See STUDENT page 11

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Young woman blessed by services

Amanda, an Alternatives Clinic client, recently shared her story: "I am so blessed to have become a client of the center. The day I walked into the center's doors I felt right at home."

Amanda continued, "The ladies at the center have been with me through my ups and downs and have helped me out a lot. They are family to my daughter and I. When I had no where to go, the ladies at the center helped me get a place to live. They helped with utilities, clothes, diapers, and food when I could not provide for myself."

"Not only has the center helped me out financially and emotionally, but they have helped me in my walk with Christ by providing me with a Bible and praying with me and for me and keeping me strong in my faith."

With tears in her eyes, Amanda went on to share, "I am a recovering addict. I have been clean for two years last August and honestly, with all of the financial and emotional distress that I was going through, who knows how



Amanda and her daughter Zoey.

strong I could have been if I'd had to do it alone?

"...they have helped me in my walk with Christ by providing me with a Bible and praying with me and for me and keeping me strong in my faith."

done and what you are doing for us."

In closing Amanda added, "The center has also provided parenting classes and any resources I needed. God bless you and thank you for all you have

Alternatives Clinic is a nonprofit pregnancy resource center located in Harrisonville providing free and confidential services to Cass County and surrounding areas, including pregnancy testing; limited obstetrical ultrasound; peer counseling; parenting, and life skills classes and community referrals. For more information on our services or how you can support us through volunteering, prayer or financial gifts, please call 816-887-5100.

Missouri Right to Life

"Show Me Life" Pro-Life Action Day

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

(registration begins at 10:00 a.m.)

Missouri State Capitol ~ 1st Floor Rotunda



"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not."

Dr. Seuss The Lorax

We need you to ACT!

- Come to Jefferson City for Pro-Life Action Day to lobby your legislators and to encourage them to pass pro-life legislation.
- Join the Noon Rally for inspiration, information, and instruction for the best pro-life action!

Featured Speaker for the Noon Rally

Carol Tobias, National Right to Life Committee President

Transportation is available from many areas of the state.

Contact the Missouri Right to Life State Office, 573.635.5110, or visit www.missourilife.org for further information.

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- Maintains awareness with legislators at the State Capitol
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- Research of new ministry work opportunities
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Mother's Refuge helps young women realize God's plan

Mother's Refuge is not a cold, impersonal shelter; it is a home for the unborn, for those who have no place to turn during an uncertain time in their life. We are a safe haven, where a young woman can come to live anytime during her pregnancy and receive the love and guidance she needs to give birth to a healthy baby.

As the new year begins, we have new hope, which is exactly what we give the young moms who call Mother's Refuge home. We offer hope, a new start at life, and a fresh start. We provide everything a homeless, young, pregnant woman will need to be able to choose life for her unborn child. Those who had no hope blossom, and precious babies thrive, bringing life to those around them. We think we give them life, but really it is the other way around. They fill our home and hearts with unconditional love, joy, and faith of a greater purpose than just ourselves.

God said he knew us before we were formed in our mother's womb, that He has a great plan for us to give us hope and a future. We serve God at Mother's Refuge by being the hands and feet of Jesus. We provide a way for young women to give

"They fill our home and hearts with unconditional love, joy and faith of a greater purpose than just ourselves."



life while they experience hope, and take the steps necessary to provide a good future for their child, one that was planned for them long before they were born.

We are so grateful for the many precious life's we have had the privilege to serve during the past 30 years. Each one was and is special, each one made our home a brighter place, and each one has a pur-

pose and plan set by our great creator. Their stories are all different, just like ours are, but we have one thing in common, we are loved by a Father that formed us and gave us the opportunity to live out His plan.

As we honor the sanctity of human Life this month and celebrate the hope of a New Year, let us remember those less fortunate that are scared, hungry, cold, and pregnant. Please stand with us as we provide a way for each young lady to realize their Heavenly Father's plan for them to give life to his precious creation and hope for a better future.

Volunteer perspective

By **Elizabeth Ong**

In a fast paced world of ever changing values, the philosophy of Birthright has remained reassuringly consistent for 49 years: "The essence of Birthright is love. Birthright is unique and committed to offering free, non-judgmental help to women facing unplanned pregnancies. Birthright offers love, hope and support to each woman, to help her make a realistic plan for her future of her unborn child." Having started volunteering a year ago, I find these words to be put to practice daily at our Birthright of Greater Kansas City.

As an adoptee and mother of three, I always considered myself a supporter of "life" but chose not to get into the divisive political fight. I thought the answer was to change hearts and minds, but other than donating some diapers and praying more, I never took any discernible action. When I realized the organization I had been

donating diapers to was walking distance from my house and my work hours somewhat flexible, I decided perhaps God was shining a light to tell me that my path to action was clear.

I found at Birthright a group of diverse women with unique perspectives and approaches brought together by similar desire to make a difference for women and children in our culture that increasingly does not want "life" considered one of the choices. At Birthright we are not instructing, judging, or demanding anything of those who come to our door; we simply listen, support and are present. Some young women from troubled backgrounds have never had this type of encounter.

We have an uphill battle to continue to make sure our name is known, both to the young women who may face an unexpected pregnancy and to those who might not understand that supporting life and being pro-woman go hand in hand.

Families Make the Difference

Every child deserves to grow up in a safe, nurturing environment. When a child's family is not able to provide for that child, a foster or adoptive family can. You can make a difference by becoming a "family" for a hurting child. You can also make a difference by providing support for foster or adoptive families.

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Missouri legislative update

By Missouri Right to Life



Missouri Right to Life extends sincere thanks to Governor Eric Greitens and to the Missouri Legislature for your passage of Senate Bill 5. Many unborn babies and their mothers will be protected because of your actions and, hopefully, saved from the horrors of abortion.

Missouri Right to Life urges passage of the following important pro-life legislation during the 2018 legislative session:

Pass the Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act to stop abortion on babies who are feeling excruciating pain during abortions.

Ban Dismemberment Abortions in which living unborn children are aborted by a procedure in which forceps are used to pull the baby out of the womb in pieces. This procedure is used in 95% of second trimester abortions nationwide.

Redirect federal funding of family-planning dollars to qualified health centers and state rural health agencies to ensure that tax dollars are going to agencies that uphold state laws and that women receive quality health care.

Renew Pregnancy Resource Center Tax Credits to support the life-saving work they are providing for women in crisis pregnancies.

Pass Two-Custodial Parent Notification before an abortion for a minor.

Pass Simon's Law to prevent hospitals and physicians from putting a do-not-resuscitate order in a minor child's medical file without the parent's knowledge.

Maintain Oversight and Require Accountability of Abortion Clinics Thank you for your consideration of these important concerns.

MLK Sr. intervened to stop abortion of niece

By Micaiah Bilger

Alveda King, the niece of civil rights advocate Martin Luther King Jr., continues her uncle's legacy by fighting for the rights of unborn babies.

King's advocacy comes from a very personal conviction. Before she was born, her mother considered aborting her.

King shared her story this fall in Rome ahead of the conference "Promoters of Humanity in a Transforming World." King who is Protestant, shared her pro-life work with Pope Francis.

When it comes to her own advocacy, life issues have always hit home for King, whose parents in 1950 became pregnant with her before they were married.

King said her parents had considered getting an abortion until her grandfather, Martin Luther King Sr., "prophetically" intervened. Though they didn't have ultrasound machines at the time, King said her grandfather had strongly rejected the claim that the fetus was "just a lump of flesh." He said that the baby was a granddaughter whom he had seen in a dream three years earlier.



Alveda King meets with Pope Francis.

After hearing Martin Luther King Sr. describe how his granddaughter would look, Alveda King's parents decided against the abortion and she was born in 1951.

Despite her own life being saved, King said she grew up and aborted two unborn children herself. They are decisions that she now profoundly regrets. She said her grandfather eventually influenced her journey to become pro-life.

When she became pregnant again after her two abortions, King said her grandfather urged her to choose life for her child which she did. Today she is one of the nation's leading pro-life voices.

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What is Vitae's Secret?

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The Sin I Couldn't Face Life After My Abortion

I knew Jesus was my Lord and Savior. I knew He had forgiven my sins and covered them with His blood. But there was one sin I couldn't face—couldn't talk about or even acknowledge. It was too horrible. Repulsive. If anyone knew, I was sure I would be disqualified from any kind of ministry.

I was a deacon's wife, a Sunday School teacher, a ladies mentor and a Christian School teacher.

I was able to share all of my life and past sins and failures when appropriate except for that one.

My pastor would tell me that the only thing about me that he could fault was my lack of self-confidence! Lack of self-confidence!!! Are you kidding me? I am a murderer! I committed the worst sin in the world! If I even told you about it right now you would remove me from all my positions.

I felt like a fake and a fraud. I was dead inside but couldn't talk about it or seek council or deal with it in any way. When I was in the ladies room, the flyer with If Not For

Grace (INFG) tear-off information was hanging on the bathroom doors. I would look at them and wonder if I needed that but then stuff it down even further by saying, "No. I'm good."

It wasn't until I volunteered for Rachel House that I was required to go to INFG. I was resistant in my heart. I knew that by attending that I would open myself up to pain. But I was like someone who had a wound that had grown closed over and infected.

During the Her Choice to Heal class I did dig up a lot of pain, but I was finally able to deal with it. My abortion was over forty years ago but had kept me wrapped in chains that no one could see—keeping me from being used the way God wanted to use me. Reconciliation Weekend was the icing on the cake. It sealed the healing in a way that cannot be described—only experienced.

Now those chains are broken and I am set free. Now I pray God will use me as He chooses. Thank you If Not For Grace.

Find out more regarding If Not For Grace opportunities for the abortion-wounded at www.infg.org.

Get ALL of your 2017 Missouri taxes refunded

It is possible to get ALL of your 2017 state taxes refunded this year AND HELP CHILDREN AT THE SAME TIME. If you make a gift to MBCH Children and Family Ministries (MBCH CFM) or The LIGHT House through one of our tax credit projects, you could get a refund of all the taxes you owe to the state of Missouri.

Here is how it works:

Check to see what you owed the State of Missouri last year (line 31 on Form MO-1040 or line 11 on MO 1040A)

Make a gift of double that amount to either MBCH CFM or The LIGHT House and write in the memo line of your check "Tax Credit"

Mail the check to either MBCH CFM at 11300 St. Charles Rock Road, Bridgeton, MO 63044 or The LIGHT House at PO Box 22553, Kansas City, MO 64113.

You will receive a Tax Credit Application to fill out and return which MBCH will then send to the state to secure your 50% tax credit.

Your tax benefit from this will vary based on your federal tax bracket percentage because you also get a charitable deduction for the full amount of your gift.

For instance:

If you are in a 25% tax bracket, your total tax benefit will be equal to 81% of your gift. This is more than enough to get you a full refund of your 2017 state withholdings.

If you are in the 39.6% tax bracket, your total tax benefit will be equal to 95.6% of your gift. This is again more

than enough to get you a full refund of your 2017 State withholdings.

Even if you do not itemize your deductions and can therefore not utilize the charitable deduction created by your gift, you still get the benefit of the 50% tax credit. This is enough to allow you to get a full refund of your state withholdings if your gift is twice the amount of your taxes owed.

By receiving anywhere from 50% to 95.6% of your gift amount in tax benefits you are able to greatly multiply the impact of your charitable giving. At 50% you can provide \$1,000 worth of ministry at an out-of-pocket cost of only \$500. Someone in the top bracket can provide that same \$1,000 worth of ministry for only \$44 out-of-pocket cost.

What a great opportunity you have before you. You can make a substantial gift to help children and families in crisis and have most of that gift come out of your taxes. It is like "designating" that your tax money be transferred to the Children's Home to further its mission to "serve God by helping children youth and families."

There are tax credits available for those wishing to make a yearend gift of \$100 or more (which is the state's minimum). But remember, in order for your gift to count against your 2017 taxes, your gift must be received (or postmarked) by December 31st. The earlier you send your gift, the earlier you will get your paperwork back from the state (which you will need to file your taxes). For more information, or for help in making such an investment, call the MBCH Development Office at 1-800-264-6224.

VITAE TRANSFORMS CLIENT LOAD FOR PARKVILLE WOMEN'S CLINIC

By **Martha Schieber**

Wonderful things happen at the 2,400 Pregnancy Help Centers in this country, and in the Greater Kansas City area, abortion-determined women are being directed to area centers thanks to the digital marketing strategies of the Vitae Foundation. Case in point: Parkville Women's Center.

"We rely heavily on people searching on the internet and referrals," Parkville Women's Clinic Executive Director Sonya Rice stated. "What Vitae is doing is huge! Their campaign transformed our client load. As a result, we have to hire another nurse."

Before Vitae's latest campaign began in July, Parkville's center had a little more than 50 clients coming in each month. Since July, they have seen a 25 percent increase in clients. Now it's 70 to 80 clients a month.

Vitae fuels their digital messaging strategies with research-based messages. These messages help reach women facing difficult choices during unplanned pregnancies, especially those who are determined to end their pregnancy.

Rice talked about how difficult it is to counsel abortion-determined women. One woman who

came in via Vitae's digital strategies was 18 and lived at home in an abusive situation. "Kendell" (not her real name) denied her pregnancy until her mom took her to Planned Parenthood. She was too far along to get an abortion there. Kendell found Parkville Women's Center on an internet ad and filled out the form that Vitae created for the center.

"Because of our compassion, she feels safe. While she didn't make the choice we wanted, we love her still in spite of that. Clients come back because they say they didn't feel judged. It's this unconditional love pregnancy center staff have for these clients, regardless of the outcome."

— Sonya Rice, Parkville Women's Clinic Executive Director

she was in a restaurant and there sat Kendell, this young woman who had been prayed for relentlessly, but with whom communication had ceased.

"We did an ultrasound, and she was 23-weeks pregnant. I did adoption counseling and pulled out all the stops for this client," Rice explained. "She felt that because of the abusive situation at home, the baby's father being away at college and her wanting to enter the military, she just couldn't see her way to have the baby."

During the many texts that went back and forth between Kendell and Parkville's nurse, it was learned that she was going to be taken by a special coalition across state lines to an abortion facility that performed late-term abortions in Illinois. It was what her mother wanted.

Time passed. Rice said that she had been in that ultrasound room with her that first day they'd met. Kendell explained that her mother insisted on the abortion, and they were given free transportation to Illinois and free housing.



She hugged Rice, who had been in that ultrasound room with her that first day they'd met. Kendell explained that her mother insisted on the abortion, and they were given free transportation to Illinois and free housing.

"She said she appreciated her experience with us, and she wished it could be different. She wanted to come back to visit about her abortion experience. It was not good," Rice stated. "This isn't a typical success story, but as we grieve, we are happy she came back to us and said she'd never have an

abortion again."

This 18-year-old girl endured a traumatic experience but now thinks of the people at Parkville Women's Center as family. "Because of our compassion, she feels safe. While she didn't make the choice we wanted, we love her still in spite of that. Clients come back because they say they didn't feel judged. It's this unconditional love pregnancy center staff have for these clients, regardless of the outcome."

When women see one of Vitae's online ads and they click on it, they are taken to a page where they can fill out information that goes straight to the Pregnancy Help Center, like Parkville's. These landing pages provide women a chance to explain what is going on in their lives.

"We love these pages," Rice stated. "Vitae has these capabilities with their research to do what we can't. It's exactly what we need."

With more abortion-minded (considering abortion as a possibility) and abortion-determined (only want an abortion) women coming to Parkville Women's Center, they are expanding not only staff but the depths of programs they offer to clients, including the fathers.

"How many places can a young person in crisis like this go and get all these services for free? We are the best-kept secret in town, until we connect with the women that need us," Rice noted.

Vitae Foundation collaborates with over 300 PHCs across the country. Via the Meet Life Campaign in Missouri, Vitae provides its research-based digital strategies to 41 PHCs in the Show Me state.

—Martha Schieber is the communications director at the Vitae Foundation.



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Kansas legislative update

Jeanne Gawdun | KFL Lobbyist

President Donald Trump made good on one of his campaign promises early in his presidency by nominating strong conservative judge Neil Gorsuch as the successor to the late U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia.

The U.S. House passed legislation to repeal and replace several of the major provisions of the Affordable Care Act (aka Obamacare) and block most federal funding of Planned Parenthood. Unfortunately, the legislation stalled in the U.S. Senate.

The U.S. House also passed the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, which would ban abortions at 20 weeks gestation due to the medical evidence that unborn children feel pain. The U.S. Senate has yet to take up the legislation. In 2011, Kansas became the second state in the nation to enact similar legislation, and it is still in force (at least 15 other states have since passed passed pain-capable bans).

Kansas was once again a leader in pro-life legislation in 2017 with the enactment of two first-in-the-nation laws:

1. "Simon's Law" prevents "Do Not Resuscitate" (DNR) orders from being placed on children without parental knowledge or consent. Proponents of the bill testified that many children with chromosomal abnormalities were being denied life-sustaining treatment due to some in the medical community's negative view of their "quality of life." The law also requires the disclosure (upon request) of any existent hospital policy concerning the refusal of life-sustaining care.

2. The "Disclose Act" updates the state's 1997 informed consent provisions for women considering abortion. The Act requires the disclosure to women of relevant information on the physicians providing abortions, such as the holding of local hospital privileges and malpractice insurance, the length of employment, and Kansas residency.

As the year draws to a close, pro-lifers in Kansas anxiously await a de-

STUDENT

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power of fresh starts. Just because abortion is legal now doesn't mean we can't create a new culture of life — one in which all pre-born children and all mothers are protected and honored by the law.

9) I'm pro-life because the future is always in motion, and we have the power and responsibility to shape it well. Abortion, the greatest human rights violation of my generation, will end in my lifetime.

10) I'm pro-life because I love my future daughters and would never deny them the right to live, no matter how they were conceived or when they were conceived. As a mother, I would do everything in my power to ensure that my daughter first lives, and then lives well.

How she became pro-life on a liberal campus

Lauren Galvan decided to keep an open mind about the abortion issue when she started her freshman year at Brown University in 2012.

It was during a biology class at Brown when Galvan came to the conclusion that unborn babies are human beings who deserve the same right to life that other humans do.

She wrote:

"Ironically, coming to Brown, arguably the most liberal school in the Ivy League, was the first step in my conversion to the pro-life cause. After taking 'Vertebrate Embryology' the spring semester of my freshman year, I profoundly changed my disposition on human personhood, and I became firmly pro-life."

"The scientific reality of fetal development first catalyzed this resolution. In every embryology textbook, I found — as you will find — irrefutable evidence that an individual human life begins at conception. At that point, a living organism with unique human DNA is created. This is simply a scientific fact, and no amount of arguing from pro-choicers can make it untrue. What they mean to say is that this fertilized embryo, though human and alive, is not yet a person and therefore not protected under the category of human rights."

Galvan then articulately explained the



pro-life position in her column and pointed out the danger of allowing society to decide who is a "person" with rights and who isn't. She brought up the human rights abuses of slavery and genocide, which supporters justified with claims that the targeted groups of people were not really people.

"Our right to life would not depend on others' opinions of us, but rather on the simple and indisputable fact that we are all human and that each human life deserves protection under the law," Galvan wrote. "This is the pro-life position in a nutshell."

Motivated by her conclusions, Galvan went on to found the Students for Life at Brown club. She said she can't even imagine identifying with the "pro-choice" label that she once did during her high school days.

"... for to say 'I am pro-choice' to other people is to tell them that I would have or could have supported their parents' decisions to terminate their lives. To me, that is the absolute equivalent of telling someone that his or her life has neither meaning nor purpose," Galvan continued. "All human life has value, and it's time we start protecting it."

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The origins of Planned Parenthood stem from racist ideals

By **Abigail Robertson**

WASHINGTON – Planned Parenthood hails its founder, Margaret Sanger, as a champion of civil rights, but one thing they don't talk about is the racism behind her fight to legalize abortion.

A group of African-American leaders want to focus attention on her ideology and how it affected black birth rates.

Sanger strived for a society that limited births to those she deemed fit to have children.

"I think the greatest sin in the world is bringing children into the world that have disease from their parents, that have no chance in the world to be a human being practically – delinquents, prisoners, all sorts of things – just marked when they're born. That to me is the greatest sin," Sanger said in a 1957 interview with Mike Wallace.

"We do not want word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population," Sanger said in 1939.

As the founder of America's largest abortion chain, Margaret Sanger's ideology for Planned Parenthood was cemented in eugenics, the belief and practice that aims to eliminate certain groups of people.

As a eugenicist, Sanger encouraged the sterilization of persons with less desirable qualities, and strongly encouraged the reproduction of groups with more desirable qualities. Sanger's disdain for blacks, minority groups, and the sick and disabled spawned the birth of an abortion corporation that profits off the killing of the weakest and most vulnerable. From its conception, Planned Parenthood was built upon the roots of exterminating individuals deemed "unfit" for the human family.

KANSAS

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cision from the state Supreme Court as to whether the Kansas constitution contains a so-called "right to abortion." The enormity of such a decision is stated in the petition to the Kansas Supreme Court found on the KFL website:

"The Kansas State Constitution guarantees the 'right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' When adopted in 1859, it did not state, nor intend to create, a 'right' to abortion. In fact, in that same year, just before and after the



Sanger

Many pro-choice advocates see her as a heroine, but critics call her a racist eugenics promoter who targeted black communities with her Planned Parenthood clinics.

"Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, once said colored (sic) people are like weeds; they need to be exterminated," Dr. Alveda King, director of Civil Rights for the Unborn, said.

"People don't understand that 79 percent of abortion clinics are located in minority communities and that minority communities shoulder a disproportionate number of abortions," said Penny Nance, president and CEO of Concerned Women for America.

King says while African-Americans make up only 13 percent of the U.S. population, more than 30 percent of aborted babies are from black mothers.

"Under the veil of secrecy and deception, 60 million plus babies have not been born because they were aborted legally since '73 – one-third of that population belong to the African-American community," King said.

Planned Parenthood recently celebrated its 100th anniversary, prompting pro-life leaders to unite under the banner "100 No More," to educate the public on the devastating impact Planned

adoption of the Kansas Constitution, our legislature passed laws making it a crime to kill an unborn child by abortion. We, the undersigned citizens, object to the recent interpretation by certain Kansas judges that a broad and extreme right to abortion should be "read into" our constitution — and further protest that such a judicial opinion authorizes the inhumane dismemberment of fully formed unborn babies while they are still alive. We, the undersigned, urge the Kansas Supreme Court to interpret the Kansas Constitution to protect the Right to Life."

Margaret Sanger in her own words

"We don't want the word to go out that we want to exterminate the Negro population." -Margaret Sanger

In a letter to Dr. Clarence Gamble in December, 19, 1939, Sanger expounded her vision for the "Negro Project," a freshly launched collaboration between the American Birth Control League and Sanger's Birth Control Clinical Research Bureau. In it she says, "We should hire three or four colored ministers, preferably with social-service backgrounds, and with engaging personalities. The most successful educational approach to the Negro is through a religious appeal."

"I accepted an invitation to talk to the women's branch of the Ku Klux Klan." -Margaret Sanger

In 1926, Sanger spoke at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Silver Lake, N.J. Following the invitation, Sanger describes her elation after receiving multiple speaking requests from white supremacy groups. She writes of the experience on page 366 of her book, *An Autobiography*:

I accepted an invitation to talk to the women's branch of the Ku Klux Klan ... I saw through the door dim figures parading with banners and illuminated crosses ... I was escorted to the platform, was introduced, and began to speak ... In the end, through simple illustrations I believed I had

accomplished my purpose. A dozen invitations to speak to similar groups were proffered."

Speaking of African Americans, Sanger stated, **"They are...human weeds,' 'reckless breeders,' 'spawning... human beings who never should have been born."** -Margaret Sanger

In "Pivot of Civilization," Sanger penned her thoughts regarding immigrants, the poor, and the error of philanthropy. Sanger's ideology of racial and social hygiene bleeds through her writings on breeding an ideal human race:

"Our failure to segregate morons who are increasing and multiplying ... demonstrates our foolhardy and extravagant sentimentalism ... [Philanthropists] encourage the healthier and more normal sections of the world to shoulder the burden of unthinking and indiscriminate fecundity of others; which brings with it, as I think the reader must agree, a dead weight of human waste."

"I think the greatest sin in the world is bringing children into the world." -Margaret Sanger

In an 1957 interview with journalist Mike Wallace, Sanger advocated that the greatest evil is a family that chooses to bring children into the world. Sanger, who advocated for a system requiring every American family to submit a request to the government to have a child, told *America Weekly* in 1934 that it has "become necessary to establish a system of birth permits."

Parenthood has had on the black community.

"100 No More" hopes rallies like a recent one in Washington, D.C., will spread countrywide to enlighten people about Sanger and her tragic legacy.

"I have a serious concern about the number of abortions taking place in the minority communities, particularly the

black community," Pastor Nate Thomas said. "I see this as a form of genocide. It's something we need to take a serious look at."

Planned Parenthood receives about \$500 million each year from taxpayers.

"Ninety-six percent of the time if a pregnant woman walks into their clinic, she will have an abortion," Nance said.

Pro-life advocates want Congress to move that money to women's clinics that do not perform abortions.

"They outnumber, around the country, Planned Parenthood clinics 20 to 1," Nance said. "They truly help poor women. They truly help 'the least of these,' but they don't do abortions."

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The shocking, life-saving power of humility

By **Susanne Maynes**

The nervous 18-year-old girl sat close to her boyfriend, clinging to his hand as though it were a life preserver.

"If my parents find out I'm pregnant," she said, "they'll kill me."

Having spent 10 years helping women as they wrestle with pregnancy decisions, I've heard this phrase countless times. Most women do not pursue abortion lightly. They consider it because they feel desperate.

Here are a few more dilemmas I learned about in the client room of a pregnancy center:

"My mom said she'd throw me out of the house and cut off my college money if I ever got pregnant."

"This baby isn't my boyfriend's. We had a fight and I spent the night with an old friend. Now I won't be supported by either of them."

"I'm a single mom and I barely make ends meet for the three kids I already have. I can't have another baby."

The circumstances surrounding unplanned pregnancies are often shockingly difficult. Ministering to those considering abortion requires a great deal of empathy.

In his January 2016 sermon on the sanctity of human life, Matt Chandler mentions a tell-tale symptom of a lack of empathy: when we ask a question that begins with "Why don't they just..." we demonstrate a lack of compassion.

We make judgments from a place of privilege. We don't take into consideration the frame of reference from which

the other person operates—their history, their environment, their challenges.

In other words, we fail to understand their story.

When we ask, "Why don't they just make an adoption plan?" we don't factor in the fear and shame a woman faces by carrying a child she plans to "give away."

When we ask, "Why don't they just stop sleeping around?" we fail to understand the low self-value and lack of hope for the future that so many young women experience today.

If our background is middle class suburbia, we must be careful of uttering thoughtless questions downward from the perch of privilege rather than from a graciously low position of empathy.

Here's the thing: the young woman we are trying to help may have been raised in generational poverty. She may not have benefitted from the presence of her father in her life, let alone had a chance to observe a healthy marriage between her parents.

Given the postmodern culture that influences her, she may have little or no understanding of godly morals.

To this young woman, offering herself sexually to a man who is reasonably kind to her seems like a fair exchange for a relationship. If she's lucky, from her perspective, he won't hit her or go to jail too often.

Plus, her kids will have a father figure... at least for a while.

This may not be the kind of life we know, but it is the kind of life we must come to understand if we are to minister effectively in a society that has gone off its moral rails.

Amid this tragic madness, how can we reach out to offer compassion and truth to those considering abortion?

Jesus himself is our example.

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. — Philippians 2:4-8

Jesus beautifully demonstrated humility. He willingly took on a human form. He willingly suffered the most humiliating and horrific death possible. He is the supreme example of setting aside social standing, rights and privileges for the sake of others.

Jesus—Son of God, Word made Flesh, Lord and Savior—was approachable. He did not judge or condemn. He never asked the question, "Why don't they just...?"

Instead, he cut across traditional boundaries of race, gender and economic status to scandalously hold conversations with those considered "beneath" a Jewish rabbi's attention.

He asked good questions which allowed truth to dawn in the hearts and minds of people. He made them feel

safe, yet challenged them to want something better than where they were stuck.

Jesus came to preach the good news of the Kingdom of God. In this Kingdom, the playing field is level. In this Kingdom, there is no perch of privilege from which to look down at others.

Here, according to Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Likewise, there is neither the girl considering abortion, nor the church lady who doesn't understand her. The same Lord died for each of them.

What about the dilemmas I mentioned earlier? Every one of those mothers chose life—and the woman with back problems? No wheelchair.

Kansans for Life

45th Anniversary of Roe vs. Wade
62 million U.S. Abortion since 1973



Rally, Pray, March for Life in Topeka Jan. 22!

KS COURTS:

STOP DISMEMBERING

the 1859 KS constitution to justify dismembering big, live

UNBORN BABIES



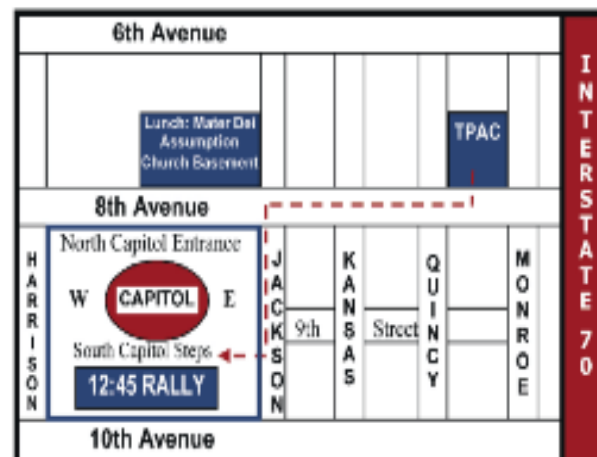
KS CITIZENS:

THE KANSAS SUPREME COURT'S LIBERAL MAJORITY

is expected to rule our 1859 state constitution includes a right to do live dismemberment abortions!

IF SO, ASK YOUR REP & SENATOR TO VOTE TO PUT AMENDING THE KS CONSTITUTION ON THE BALLOT

- 8:30 AM REGISTRATION** - Location for registration, coffee and donuts, as well as workshops, will be the ground floor Capitol's Visitor Center inside the North Entrance. Exhibit booths will be on the first floor rotunda. Enjoy donuts, visit booths, drop off donated baby items, pick up legislator room lists, etc.
- 9:00 - NOON LOBBY** - Take a tour, watch KS Legislature in action, and other activities to be announced. Info at registration.
- 9:30 - 10:30 WORKSHOPS** - Location: Capitol Visitor Center, ground floor, North Capitol Entrance.
Room 3: Joe Patton on "Preparing for the upcoming Kansas Supreme Court decision."
Room 4: "Rescatemos Nuestra Raza: Defendamos la Vida del Pequeño Irrepetible."
- 11:00 - 12:30 CATHOLIC MASS** - Topeka Performing Arts Center Auditorium (TPAC) followed by March; See map below.
- 11:00 - 12:30 EVANGELICAL PRAYER SERVICE** - Room 4 North, Capitol Visitor Ctr. ground level. Join March at 8th & Jackson.
- 12:30 - 12:45 MARCH FOR LIFE** FROM TPAC TO SOUTH CAPITOL STEPS LED BY THE KS KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- 12:45 - 1:15 RALLY FOR LIFE**, south Capitol steps with the Governor of Kansas, featured speaker: abortion survivor **Melissa Ohden**, Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Rev. David Epps, legislators, etc.
- 11:30 - 2:30 LUNCH** - Mater Dei-Assumption Church basement. Lunch for a free will donation, or bring your own.
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM WORKSHOPS /Mtg.** Location: Rooms 3 & 4 North, Capitol Visitor Center, ground floor, North Capitol Entrance.
Room 3: Membership meeting. Room 4: More from abortion survivor Melissa Ohden including Q & A.



For late-breaking info and updates go to the KFL Facebook page: Kansans for Life; KFL web site: www.kfl.org; or TW: @kansansforlife



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the events calendar

Compiled by Anita Widaman

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

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



JAN. 27 ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND. THE INSPIRATION OF BROADWAY. 7:30 PM. MISSOURI THEATER, ST. JOSEPH, MO 64501. 816-279-1225

CONCERTS

DAVID SMART. January 5, 7:30 pm. Homer's Coffee House, 7126 W. 80th St., Overland Park, KS.

PHIL & PAM MORGAN. January 14, 10:30 am. Sycamore Grove Mennonite, 27221 S. Sycamore Grove Rd., Garden City, MO. 816-862-8514

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS MUSIC OUTREACH WITH SPECIAL GUESTS: LIBERTY HIGHWAY. January 20, 6:00 pm. Moment of Truth Bible Baptist Church, 310 Randolph Rd., Claycomo, MO 64119. 816-452-4426.

ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND. January 27, 7:30 pm. Missouri Theater, St. Joseph, MO 64501. 816-279-1225.

TOBYMAC HITS DEEP TOUR. February 23, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64106. Featuring: Toby Mac, Danny Gokey, Mandisa, Ryan Stevenson, and Finding Favor, and Aaron Cole. 816-949-7100.

WINTER JAM. March 16, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106.

BELIEVE KANSAS CITY. March 23, 7:30 pm & March 24, 9:30 pm. Kansas City Convention Center, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Special Speakers: Jeff Walling, Merci Neff, Kalied Dance Crew. 417-781-2273.

SOUTHERN GOSPEL
(Call for groups)

SWEET SPIRIT & FRIENDS. Will not be having music outreach for November and December, see you in January 2018.

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

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

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

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

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

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 AND RECONCILIATION WEEKEND. Are you struggling emotionally and spiritually after having an abortion? We offer a grace-filled journey for healing and restoration. Sponsored by: If Not For Grace Ministries. Contact

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GRAMMY-NOMINATED ERNIE HAASE & SIGNATURE SOUND

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February 2-3 Kauffman Center for Performing Arts

CSLewisOnStage.com **816.994.7222**



JAN. 21 **JOURNEY TO FINANCIAL PEACE. 2:00 PM-3:30 PM (SUNDAY'S). PISGAH BAPTIST CHURCH, 112 PISGAH DRIVE, EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO. 816-630-5121.**

Jama at jedlund@infgr.org.

A NIGHT OF HOPE WITH JOEL OSTEEN. January 5, 7:30 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. 816-949-7100.

HEALING HEARTS THROUGH HOPE. January 11, 2018 through February 15, 2018; 6:00 pm-7:30 pm (Thursdays). Faith Baptist Church, 1460 Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. There is no charge for the group but preregistration is requested. 816-308-1158.

"ROMANTIC GETAWAY" IN KANSAS CITY. January 14-15. Chateau Avalon, 701 Village West Parkway, Kansas City, KS. Presented by: Mountain Top Marriages. Speakers: Roger and Laureen Traver. 913-780-3423.

NAMI FAMILY-TO-FAMILY COURSE. January 15, 6:30 pm-9:00 pm (Monday's). Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS 66211. Free 11-week course for family and friends of those struggling with mental illness. 913-744-1672.

"AVOID PROBATE" SEMINARS. January 16, 7:00 pm. Lewis Living Trust Center, 700 NE Langsford, Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-524-3200.

2018 SPRING SEMESTER. January 16, 6:00 pm. Heart of America Bible College, 7600 Blue Ridge Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64138. 816-356-6380.

LIVE2LEAD SIMULCAST. January 18, 7:30 am-12:00 pm. Connection Point, 10500 E. 350 Highway, Raytown, MO 64138. Attendees learn from renowned leadership experts from a variety of industries, gain a new perspective on relevant topics and get practical tools to take home with them.

GOOD NEWS CLUB TEAM ORIENTATION TRAINING. January 20, 9:00 am-4:00 pm (8:30 am registration begins). Mt. Sinai Missionary Baptist Church, 3634 Brooklyn, Kansas City, MO. Cost

Course. 816-630-5121.

SOUTH KANSAS CITY AGLOW. January 24, 9:30 am. New Vision Christian Center, 12400 Grandview, MO 64030. 816-966-1033.

INFG VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION. January 25, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. 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.

LOVE-INSPIRED FOR LIFE. Feb. 2 & 3. Church of the Resurrection, 137209 Roe Ave., Leawood, KS Women's event. 913-544-0771.

VALOR & VIRTUE CONFERENCE. Feb. 3. 8:30 a.m. -3:30 p.m.. With Josh McDowell. KCvalor.com

DRIVING RISK AWARENESS FOR TEENS. February 5, 10:00 am-11:30 am. Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, 5801 W. 115th St., Overland Park, KS. Free. Learn about driving risks for teens and create a teen-parent driving agreement. Open to all 9th & 10th graders and their parents. 913-327-8259.

DEEP AND WIDE TOUR WITH ANDY STANLEY. Feb. 12, 9 a.m. Westside Family Church, 8500 Woodsonia Drive, Lenexa, KS. 913-422-8257.

ROOTED FOR LIFE. Mar. 3, 9 a.m. Cornerstone

\$6 pay at door. Lunch is provided, and materials are available for purchase. 816-358-1138.

JOURNEY TO FINANCIAL PEACE. January 21, 2:00 pm-3:30 pm (Sunday's). Pisgah Baptist Church, 112 Pisgah Drive, Excelsior Springs, MO. \$95 per person or per couple. 9-week Video



JAN. 19 **MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON DC. RALLY, MARCH, SEMINARS. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT MARCHFORLIFE.ORG**

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Baptist Church, 19856 Highway Y, Sedalia, MO Speakers: Trillia Newbell, Melissa Ohden, Love & The Outcome. Women & Teens Conference. 660-827-4833.

20TH MIDWEST CHRISTIAN K-12 EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO. February 24, 9:30 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. FREE SEMINARS! 50 Christian Colleges from 15 States! 25 K-12 Schools from Metro KC area. MO & KS Homeschool Organizations. Finances. 816-524-4522.

ARISE 2018 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE. April 5-8, 10:00 am. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Drive, Kansas City, MO 64134. Featuring Kathy Gray and Tammy Trent. 816-763-0708.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

FOOD PANTRY. January 2, 3:30 pm-6:00 pm. Faith Baptist Church, 1460 Langsford Rd., Lee's Summit, MO 64063. 816-308-1158.

MO LEGISLATIVE SESSION BEGINS. Jan. 3. Capitol, Jefferson City, MO.

NEW YEAR WORKSHIP WITH DANIEL BRYMER. January 8-15, 7-8:30 PM, Hillcrest Covenant Church, 88th & Nall, Prairie Village, Ks. Weather related questions, call 913-341-1059.

WASHINGTON D.C. MARCH FOR LIFE BUS DEPOT. January 17-20. Depart Sedalia January 17

■ calendar continued on next page

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return January 20. One night stay in DC on January 18. Fare includes: bus, hotel room, metro bus pass, driver tips: 1 person room \$425, 4 person room \$270/person. Carol Turner 660-620-1590.

MISSOURI LIFE CARAVAN. January 18, 19, 20. All bus boarding begin at approximately 7:30 am. Old Cathedral (Basilica of St. Louis, King) where a brief Prayer Rally will be held. \$190 per passenger (meals not included; bring extra spending money). The Annual Bus trip to Washington, DC for the 45th Annual National March for Life. Missouri Right to Life (Reservations and Bus Information) 314-434-4900.

ANNUAL PRO-LIFE PRAYER VIGIL. January 19, 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. Across the street from The Federal Courthouse, 400 E. 9th Kansas City, MO. 816-353-4113.

MARCH FOR LIFE WASHINGTON DC. January 19. Rally, March, Seminars. marchforlife.org

KANSANS FOR LIFE. January 22, 12:30 pm (March for Life). 12:45 pm (Rally for Life). 3:00 pm (Workshop). Kansas Capital, Topeka, KS. Rally, Pray, March for Life. Contact kflawrence@gmail.com

A TASTE OF NICARAGUA. January 28, 5:00 PM Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 Northeast Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO. Enjoy the food, music, and activities and learn about the holistic approach where love empowers. (816) 795-8848

KANSANS FOR LIFE VALENTINE BANQUET. February 8, 5:00 (Silent Auction/Social Time); 7:00 pm (Banquet & Program). Ritz-Charles, 137th & Antioch, Overland Park, KS. Speaker: Sue Ellen

Browder. 913-642-5433.

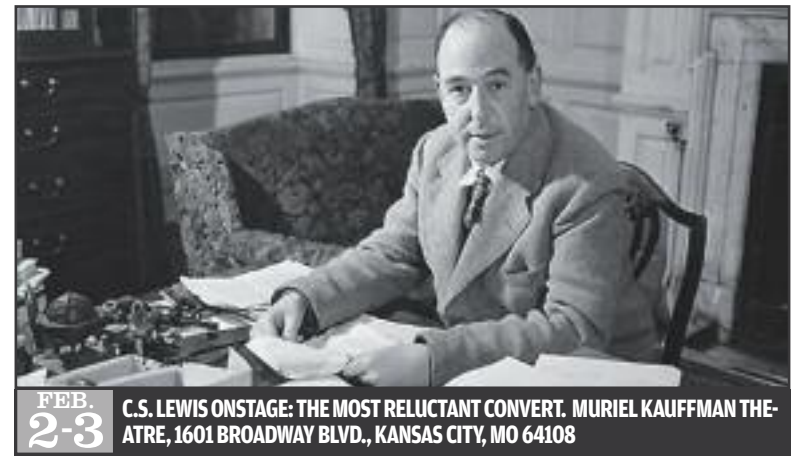
NIGHT TO SHINE KC. February 9, 6:00 pm. Arrowhead Stadium, 1 Arrowhead Dr., Kansas City, MO 64129. Unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love, for people with special needs, ages 14 and older. We need hundreds of volunteers. 816-359-2699.

OPENING RALLY THE SPRING 2018, 40 DAYS OF LIFE! February 14, 9:00 am-March 25. Center for Women's Health Abortion Facility, 4840 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS. Bill Velker with Life International will be speaking. Rally will be held on the public sidewalk outside the facility. 40daysforlifeKC@gmail.com

FAMBLITZ LIVE. February 17, 3:00 pm or 6:00 pm. Woods Chapel United Methodist Church, 4725 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64064. FREE! FamBlitz Live is a fast-paced, high-energy, family-oriented event sponsored by WCC Children's Ministry. Think Nickelodeon Kids' Choice Awards with a Super Bowl atmosphere! Seating is limited, so registration is required. 816-795-8848.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & COLLEGE EXPO. February 24, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. FREE! 25 K-12 School, Homeschool, 50 Colleges from 16 states! Watch for more details! metrovoicenews.com

DISCOVER MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY. March 1, 6:00 pm. Maranatha Christian



FEB. 2-3 C.S. LEWIS ONSTAGE: THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT. MURIEL KAUFFMAN THEATRE, 1601 BROADWAY BLVD., KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

Academy Gym Campus, 15000 W. 63rd Street, Shawnee, KS 66216. For families that would like to learn more about Christian education and Maranatha Christian Academy. 913-631-0637.

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE CONVENTION. June 28, 29, 30. Overland Park, KS. nrlconvention.com www.nrlc.org

FINE ARTS

DREAMS OF THE KINGS: A JADE SUIT FOR ETERNITY-TREASURES OF THE HAN DYNASTY FROM XUZHOU. Through April 1. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City,

MO 64111.

THROUGH THE EYES OF PICASSO. Through April 8. The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak St., Kansas City, MO 64111. 816-751-1278.

KANSAS CITY SYMPHONY POPS CONCERT-THE BEST OF RODGERS AND HAMMERSTEIN: SOME ENCHANTED EVENING. January 19-21. 8:00 pm. Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108. 816-471-0400.

THAT OLD BLACK MAGIC. January 19-February 18. Quality Hill Playhouse, 303 W. 10th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-421-1700.

FOLLY KIDS SERIES: FOUR SCORES AND SEVEN YEARS AGO. January 29, 9:45 am-11:00 am. Folly Theater, 300 12th St., Kansas City, MO 64106. To young Lemuel, who has escaped slavery in Georgia, life in Gettysburg is everything he had dreamed it would be. His ideas about the North and the South, as well as what it means to be a free man are challenged, however, when he unexpectedly befriends Jacob, a young Confederate soldier. 816-474-4444.

C.S. LEWIS ONSTAGE: THE MOST RELUCTANT CONVERT. February 2 and 3. Muriel Kauffman Theatre, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108.

HONK, JR. February 15-18. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene University, 2030 E. College Way, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT Kansas City. 913-681-3318.

SHREK-THE MUSICAL. February 22-February 25. Bell Cultural Events Center Mid-America Nazarene University, 2030 E. College Way, KS 66062. Sponsored by CYT Kansas City. 913-681-3318.

FINDING NEVERLAND. February 27-March 4. Kansas City Music Hall, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105.

RIVERDANCE-THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD TOUR. March 16, 7:30 pm; March 17, 2:30 pm; March 17, 7:30 pm. Muriel Kauffman Theatre, 1601 Broadway Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64108.

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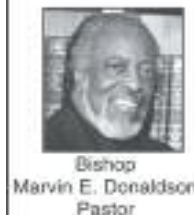
SERVICES

Wednesday

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

Sunday

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



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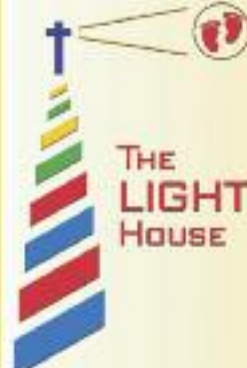
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FAMILY OUTINGS

FREE COFFEE WITH THE BIRDS PROGRAM OFFERED. January 2, Tuesday mornings. Miller Nature Center, 909 N. Kansas-7 Highway, Olathe, KS. Come enjoy winter bird watching from the comfort of an indoor wildlife viewing room during and informal program. Ages 18 and older at the Johnson County. 913-764-7759.

SUPER PRIZE MONTH. January 2-January 31. National Museum of Toys and Miniatures, 5235 Oak Street, Kansas City, MO 64112. Team up with the world's smallest superhero, Miniaturia, to save the museum from the evil Giganto-Ray in an exciting, family-friendly scavenger hunt. 816-235-8000.

MID-AMERICA RV SHOW. January 11-14. Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-513-5000.

KANSAS CITY RESTAURANT WEEK. January 12-21. Check out multi-course lunch and dinner menus. www.kcrestaurantweek.com

KANSAS CITY BOAT & SPORTSHOW. January 18-21. Kansas City Convention & Entertainment Facilities, 301 W. 13th St., Kansas City, MO 64105. 816-513-5000.

TROPICAL WEEKEND. January 20-21, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Kansas City Zoo, 6800 Zoo Dr., Kansas City, MO 64132. Animals in Discovery Barn, Tropics and Helzberg Penguin Plaza will enjoy tropical enrichment items. Get in an island state of mind by making a lei in the lobby.

KC REMODEL + GARDEN SHOW. February 9-11. American Royal Center, 1800 Genessee St., Kansas City, MO 64102. 816-931-4686.

HARLEM GLOBTROTTERS. February 24, 7:00 pm. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., Kansas City, MO 64106. 816-949-7100.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

BUILDING BETTER MOMS. The United

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

2ND MONDAY - PRAYER FOR AMERICA. 10:30 AM. Pleasant Valley Baptist Church, 1600 N. 291 Hwy., Liberty, MO (I-35 & 291 Hwy.).

2ND & 4TH MONDAY - MOPS. 9:30 a.m. MOPS. First Baptist Raytown, 10500 E 350 Highway, Raytown, MO. Support groups for mothers of pre-school-aged children. Offers creative activities, social events & learning opportunities. 816-353-1994.

3RD MONDAY. KC CONSERVATIVES. 6:30 PM. Grandview Buffet, 12407 Blue Ridge Ext., Grandview, MO 64030. Outstanding conservative speakers share insight into the vital issues impacting our community, state & nation. 816-761-9828.

TUESDAY - ROCK LIFE RECOVERY. 6:30 pm-8:00 pm. Church on the Rock Outreach Center, 1700 SW Market St., Lee's Summit, MO 64082. 6:30 pm-7:30 pm: 12 Step Meeting. 7:30 pm-8:00 pm: Small Groups. www.cotroc.org 816-246-7625.

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

TUESDAY - IF NOT FOR GRACE PRAYER. 9:30 am. Crown Pointe Church, 5950 NE Lakewood Way, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. kmiller@infng.org

TUESDAY - FEAR NOT SUPPORT GROUP. 7:00 pm-8:30 pm. 913 NW Colbern Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. Christ-Centered support group for anxiety

and depression. Material based on the Christian 12 Steps; Serenity Prayer also Anxiety Centre "The Anxiety/Phobia Workbook" by Edmund Bourne.

TUESDAY - CELEBRATE RECOVERY. 7:00 pm. Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 7851 W. 119th St., Overland Park, KS. This 12-step Christ centered program. Drop in any Tuesday! Contact Craig Hauser, 913-449-7265 for more info.

TUESDAY - HEARTLAND HEALING ROOMS. 7:00-8:30 pm. Christ Triumphant Church, 401 NE Chipman Rd., Lee's Summit, MO. www.heartland-healingrooms.org.

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

termediate Dance, 8:00 pm-9:00 pm: Intermediate/Advanced Dance. 913-327-8000.

1ST TUESDAY - CHRISTIAN NIGHT. 6 - 8 pm. Skate World, I-35 & Shawnee Mission Parkway, Mission, KS. 913-262-0711.

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

For the full Calendar, visit our website at metrovoicenews.com

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George - Adult Ed class at 1:30 PM
Rivka - Worship concert 7:30 PM

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The thirteen best family-friendly films of 2017

movienews

by **Michael Foust**

It's never easy making a "best-of" list for an entire year. I'm always asking: Did I leave anything out? And did I include anything that really didn't belong?

It is, though, a little easier if you narrow it down to family-friendly films. There just aren't that many of them.

Here, then, are my favorite family-friendly films of 2017. An asterisk (*) notes a film that might not be appropriate for young or very young children. (Also: I made this list prior to watching *The Last Jedi*.)

The Case For Christ* – An award-winning newspaper journalist sets out to disprove Christianity and is surprised with what he discovers. Based on the life of Lee Strobel. Rated PG for thematic elements, including medical descriptions of crucifixion, and incidental smoking.

Cars 3 – An aging Lightning McQueen tries to make a comeback against a field of newer and faster cars. Animated. Rated G.



Despicable Me 3 – Gru, our favorite villain-turned-hero, considers turning back to villainy after he is fired from his job and meets his long-lost brother. Despite the potty humor, this one has some good life lessons. Animated. Rated PG for action and rude humor.

Dunkirk* -- The British live to fight another day in World War II thanks to one of the largest military evacuations in human history. This one's not appropriate for children, even if it is one of the least violent war movies of the modern era.



Contains about eight coarse words. Rated PG-13 for intense war experience and some language. I counted eight coarse words: misuse of "Christ" (2), h-ll (2), misuse of "God" (1), f-word (2), s--t (1)

Is Genesis History? – Del Tackett interviews more than a dozen scientists and scholars as he examines the science behind the creation account and the flood.

■ See MOVIES page 19

An interview with the author of "936 Pennies"

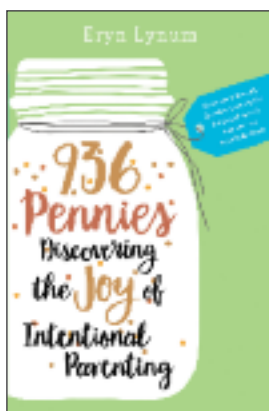
localauthor

by **Jeanette Gardner**

Eryn Lynum, who is ready to welcome her fourth child into the world, knows that our time of influencing our kids is short. But God has given her a vision on how we parents can use our time wisely. Her book, *936 Pennies* (Bethany House Publishers), will be released to bookstores and Amazon in February.

Tell us about the premise of your book and how it came to be.

The Lord used a simple gift, a mason jar with 936 pennies, to change how my husband



and I viewed parenthood. We received the jar at our second son's child dedication service, along with this challenge from our pastor: "Every week, when you get home from church, remove one penny from the jar. And it will remind you of the time you have left to raise your child before he goes out on their own." Our son was already one-and-a-half years old, so we had to begin by removing 76 pennies. The task was heavy on my heart. I set up a second jar, into which we now deposit our penny every week. This way, as we see the pennies in one jar going down, we see them building up into the second jar, which reminds us that we are not losing this time, rather we are investing it. Every week this practice causes us to

stop and ask ourselves: How are we investing this time?

What do you want parents to learn from reading your book?

I pray that through this book He will align readers' hearts with Psalm 90:12, "Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." I pray that He helps parents to move beyond the nagging guilt, haunting fears, and overwhelming pressures of parenthood and into His freedom and joy. I want parents to gain a new perspective on the time we have been given.

What words of advice do you have for parents who have already used up, say, 800 of the 936 pennies in their child's life?

In the book I share this: "If your jars are half spent, or even empty, and you're lamenting the opportunities you never took, the pennies lost among the couch

■ See AUTHOR page 19

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

musicscene

by **Cedric Austin**

Happy winter everyone! I hope each of you had an amazing Christmas with your family and friends. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, my wife and I get to celebrate our 12th anniversary. I can definitely say I am a blessed man. When asked why we chose December, we simply say because it's not hot. There is nothing like celebrating your anniversary while looking at Christmas lights and drinking hot chocolate. Enough about me...

January New Releases

Brooke Robertson - Have My Heart EP
Eric Birdine & The Messengers - The Message Vol. 2 - Bless His Name
Remedy Drive - The North Star
Charity Gayle - Lord You Are My Song (Deluxe Edition) - People & Songs - Independent
Rapture Ruckus - TBA EP
Rend Collective - Good News
Rapture Ruckus - TBA EP
Todd Dulaney - Your Great Name
Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - Clear Skies
Cory Asbury - Reckless Love - Bethel Music

Ernie Haase & Signature Sound



From its formation in 2003, Ernie Haase has built Signature Sound into one of the most popular and beloved quartets in all of Southern Gospel music. The group has traveled all over the world, offering energy, excitement and encouragement through its powerful brand of gospel music. EHSS continues to gain fans all around the globe with its unique performances and unmistakable four-part harmonies. EHSS is one of the most celebrated quartets in Southern Gospel History mentioned with the same

"trailblazing" reverence as groups like The Statesmen Quartet and The Cathedral Quartet.

Signature Sound will be in the area this month with their Inspiration of Broadway tour.—Saturday, Jan. 27 at the Missouri Theatre in St. Joseph. See the ad in this issue for details.

EHSS has sung and sold to millions worldwide, a feat that has not been accomplished by any other Southern Gospel quartet. From concerts in Latvia and India to South Africa and New Zealand, events all around North America, TV appearances on ESPN with NASCAR, multiple NBA appearances singing our National Anthem, and even a specialty tour of historic American theaters in support of the EHSS Broadway project featuring Les Misérables legend J. Mark McVey, Signature Sound is a world-renowned quartet that spans a wide variety of genres and cultures.

As group founder, Haase is a creative, hard-working tenor whose early roots with the unforgettable and legendary Southern Gospel quartet, The Cathedrals, helped begin his dream to form a powerhouse group of his own. Along with many appearances through the years on the widely regarded Gaither Homecoming Tour, his goal was soon accomplished and then some...as EHSS quickly gained an international platform in gospel music. Check out their latest project "Clear Skies" on all digital music outlets.

Todd Dulaney



Todd Dulaney spent most of his life pursuing a baseball career, playing 5 years of professional baseball. Now, his joy comes from serving the Lord in any and every capacity of life. He is steadfast and sold out to God and his eyes are focused on ministry and fulfilling His purpose. Dulaney's dream is

■ See MUSIC page 20

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Because of the Christmas holiday and the studio announcement deadlines, the streaming releases were not available at press time. The streaming review will be posted on the Metro Voice Web Site Jan. 1.

AUTHOR

continued from page 18

cushions, or the hurt that has left tarnish on those coins—there is hope . . . Time is fleeting. Tomorrow is never promised. And legacies are made today. And that is exactly what we do have: today.”

What would you say to the parent who isn't finding instant reward from following the advice you present in your book?

Take a step back and focus on the

grace and peace of God. Don't become overwhelmed by everything you “need to do” in order to invest time well. In 936 Pennies I share a practice I have been doing for a couple of years now called a “Peace Plan.” It is based on Proverbs 12:20, which tells us, “Those who plan peace have joy.” Every month I take time to write specific habits, circumstances, or practices in my life that steal my peace. And then I pray over and write out specific things I can do that month to uproot those “peace thieves.”

People make a lot of resolutions and fresh starts this time of year. What kind of resolution do you recommend regarding parenting?

When we address the attitudes of our hearts, our attitudes toward our children change. Instead of vowing to be more patient or to take our kids on more elaborate trips this year, why not focus on writing a Peace Plan each month or praying with your kids each night, or reading them a short devotion from God's Word each day? I truly believe these small, intentional shifts in

thinking, and acts that we can do every single day, help us to slow down these 936 weeks, and invest them in more intentional ways.

Learn more at Eryn's blog, www.ErynLynum.com.

—Jeanette Gardner Littleton is co-director of Heart of America Christian Writers Network, based in Kansas City. Eryn connected with her publisher, Bethany House, at HACWN's annual conference.

MOVIES

continued from page 18

Unrated.

Leap! – An orphan who dreams of being a ballerina escapes to Paris and enrolls at a world-famous dance school. The film's “follow-your-heart” theme doesn't stand up to biblical scrutiny, but the rest of the film is nevertheless fun. Animated. Rated PG for some impolite



humor, and action.

The LEGO Batman Movie – Our caped crusader has always been a loner, but in this animated film he sets out to prove that he doesn't need anybody. An-

imated. Rated PG for rude humor and some action. It has a few potty-type words but also some great lessons.

The LEGO Ninjago Movie – A masked high school-aged superhero discovers that the town's hated villain is his father. Animated. Rated PG for some



mild action and rude humor.

The Man Who Invented Christmas* – Author Charles Dickens is running out of ideas (and money) until he conceives of a character named Scrooge and writes A Christmas Carol, which helps popularize the holiday among the masses. Rated PG for thematic elements and some mild language. I counted one



coarse word (a--) and several instances of “bloody.”

The Resurrection of Gavin Stone – The phrases “good comedy” and “faith-based film” usually don't mix, but this movie fills both roles. It's hilarious – and inspiring. The plot: A washed-up famous actor tries out for a role in a church play. Rated PG for thematic elements, including a crucifixion image. No language or sexuality.

Same Kind of Different As Me* – A homeless man impacts the life of an interna-

tional art dealer – and helps save his marriage, too. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements, including some violence and language. The film has about four coarse words: h-ll (1) and the n-word (3).

The Star – The Nativity story as told through the eyes of animals. Genuinely funny. Animated. Rated PG for some thematic elements.

Wonder* – A boy with facial deformities enters middle school after being homeschooled his entire life. Perhaps the best anti-bullying film ever made. Rated PG for thematic elements includ-



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Ernie Haase performs Broadway

Fans of Ernie Haase and Signature Sound have an opportunity to see them in concert like they've never seen before.

The group will perform with J. Mark McVey in "Inspiration of Broadway" at the Historic Missouri Theatre in St. Joseph on Saturday, January 27 at 7:30 pm. Tickets are on sale at the Performing Arts Association by calling 816-279-1225.

GRAMMY-nominated Ernie Haase and Signature Sound - known worldwide over the past decade for rich harmonies, energetic performances, and their love for the American spiritual serves as the perfect complement to Broadway star J. Mark McVey's (Les Misérables legend) extraordinary voice.

The Inspiration of Broadway showcases five-part harmony and lush symphonic arrangements, and highlights hope-filled classics like "Climb Every Mountain," and "You'll Never Walk Alone," as well as heart-lifting selections including "I Got the Sun in the Morning" and "Get Happy."

While not gospel music you may have heard a few of them in your church.

Ernie has been singing profes-

See HASSE page 20

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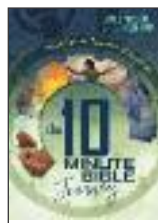
Resolving to Read...

by **Jeanette Gardner Littleton**

As you enter a new year, here are some books that might help you get a great start:

The 10 Minute Bible Journey (Answers in Genesis)

Just released by Answers in Genesis, this fast-paced devotional overview of God's Word, written by Dale T. Mason, has an easy-to-understand apologetics emphasis in 52 illustrated, chronological accounts.



The Summary First Bible Read-Through Plan Bookmark

Also released by Answers in Genesis, this free bookmark will help you turn any Bible into a chronological Bible by giving you daily passages to help you read the Bible through in a year. It accompanies the 10-Minute Bible Journey and is also a stand-alone



PDF free download at <https://answersingenesis.org/store/product/bible-read-through-bookmark/?sku=90-4-088>

Kids NIRV Devotional (Zondervan)

Help your kids get into the habit of reading God's Word every day! Written by Kansas City author Mark Littleton, this has been a Zondervan best-seller for years. This offers teaching and stories that are on your children's level. Available on Amazon and in many bookstores.



Divine Time Management (Faith Words/Hatchette Book Group)

Trying to get a grasp on your schedule but finding the busyness saps your joy and life? In this recently released book, Elizabeth Grace Saunders tells how as she began pursuing God's wisdom in time management, by trusting Him she could achieve the happy, prosperous, confident life He planned for her. Filled with practical advice and biblical and personal encouragement!



MUSIC

continued from page 18

to write music, which ministers to the heart of God and touches the heart of man. Not what's hot, but what delivers, what heals, what restores, music that God inhabits.

Dulaney grew up as a singer and an elite athlete. After graduating from high school in 2001, Dulaney was drafted from Community College in Mt. Carmel, IL, by the New York Mets to pursue a professional baseball career. While refining his athletic skills, Dulaney realized that there was a higher calling upon his life. He accepted an invitation to travel and perform background vocals for gospel artist and Grammy winner Smokie Norful.

Todd has worked and shared the stage with many award-winning artists, including Vanessa Bell Armstrong, Jessica Reedy, Maurette Brown-Clark, Michelle Williams, Donnie McClurkin, Fred Hammond, Dr Bobby Jones, Ernest Pugh, TRIN-I-TEE 5:7, Nicole and David Binion and Tye Tribett just to name a few. God has opened many doors on his behalf allowing him to minister in song at churches worldwide. Dulaney has made appearances on BET's Bobby Jones Gospel, TBN "Praise the Lord", 15th Street Live, Atlanta Gospel Live, BBT, TCT "I'm Just Sayin'", The 2011 Merge Summit and (3) nominations for the 2012 Stellar Awards second round ballot, and recently received a Grammy Award nomination for Best Gospel Album.

HAASE

continued from page 19

sionally since 1990 when he joined the legendary Southern Gospel quartet, the Cathedrals, as their tenor singer. After the group's retirement, Ernie traveled as a solo artist. But his heart was in quartet music.

So he formed Ernie Haase and Signature Sound Quartet in 2003. As a group, Ernie Haase & Signature Sound is both GRAMMY-nominated and GMA Dove Award-winning, a radio favorite in the United States and internationally, and a leader in CD sales and long form music video sales. J. Mark McVey made his Broadway debut as Jean Valjean in Les Miserables after having won the Helen Hayes Award for Outstanding Actor while on tour. He was also the first American to perform the role in London's West End. Mark reprised the role with the Los Angeles Philharmonic to sold-out crowds at the Hollywood Bowl



and again for the 25th Anniversary Tour of Les Miserables where he won the Ovation Award and the Broadway-World.com Award on his way to eclipsing 3,268 performances in Les Miserables. McVey made his Carnegie Hall Debut with Marvin Hamlisch and continues to perform with numerous

symphonies around the country and the world.

Ticket prices range from \$12 to \$45. Tickets for the performance may be purchased by phone at the Performing Arts Association, 816-279-1225 or at the office, 719 Edmond Street, St. Joseph or online: saintjosephperformingarts.org.


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Setting eternal goals

By Marjorie Truesdale
Heart of America Ministry Women

As I look forward to the New Year, I am thinking through priorities, setting goals and making plans. I take the following seriously:

Already I have scheduled my 6 month physical. I am careful of my eating habits. I am now working out 30 minutes a day, six days a week. And, I plan to floss daily!

My spiritual goals include:

■ Spending time daily “feeding” on the Word of God. Buying my new journal is on my short shopping list. I am just finishing the One Year Bible and I’m planning to use the Chronological Bible in 2018. (The entire text of the Bible in 365 daily readings arranged in the order events actually occurred.)

■ Obeying the last words of Jesus before He left earth which were, “go and make disciples...” I have a short list of acquaintances who are not Christ-followers, so I am committed to keep praying for them and asking the Lord, “How can I reach out in a meaningful way?” (Matt. 28:19)

■ Teaching which was also part of Christ’s commissioning. He said, “teaching them to obey...” (Matt. 28:20) I am already praying for His

■ See GOALS page 23

STAYING MENTALLY ACTIVE

We’ve all heard the saying, if you don’t use it you’ll lose it. Studies show that mental decline is not an inevitable part of ageing. People who lead intellectually stimulating lives are more protected against dreadful conditions like dementia.

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 variations and challenges.

- Enjoy a daily puzzle or the crossword.
- Opt for mental arithmetic rather than use the calculator.
- Read more - The Bible’s a great place to start.
- 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 day or evening class.
- Go out more with a friend - enjoy the cinema, theatre, galleries.
- Start volunteering at your grandkids’ school in a reading program.
- Organize those family photo albums.



KNOW WHEN TO ASK FOR HELP

thecaregiver

Mary Ann has been caring for her husband with late-stage Alzheimer’s disease for five years. In spite of his diagnosis, he is still relatively independent and helps his wife maintain their 30-acre property. Mary Ann faces some health issues of her own, but she still finds the energy to care for an elderly aunt who resides in a nearby nursing home and a close friend in assisted living.

Care Plan Type: In transition from casual to formal

Care Team: Adult children, family dog, friends, elder law attorney, and cleaning lady

Planning for the Future: “I am in the process of improving my care plan. My husband has an upcoming appointment for a complete physical at a VA facility to determine

if he can get additional help for his Agent Orange exposure in Vietnam. If all goes well, I will call a home care agency to help me put a formal care plan in place. When the time comes, I have found a memory care facility that I think is good. His name is on the wait list, but I won’t place him until the time is right.”

Activities: “My husband likes to walk our dog and does that at least twice each day. He has a stent in his heart, and it is important for him to exercise. He really loves our dog. Without her, he would be lost.”

Pro Tip: “Do whatever you can to keep your loved one as active as possible—especially as you take over some of their responsibilities. I am hoping that when I do get home care that I can get a male caregiver to tinker with him. My husband has a wonderful workshop and used to build furniture. Although he doesn’t do that anymore, there are small projects that he could work on with proper supervision.”



A guide to cutting the cord

money matters

BY LUKE DAVIS
Stewardship Capital

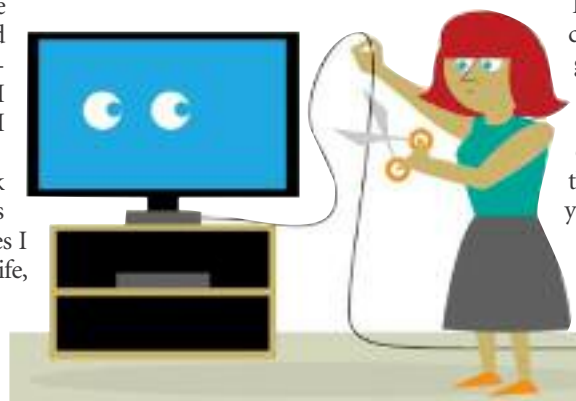
I’m all about saving money. I was raised by parents who never paid full price for anything and valued the “deal” more than the actual item being purchased.

When people ask me how by age 30 I had a “paid off” home mortgage, zero debt and significant savings, my answer is always the same, I learned to spend less than I make.

I could write a book about all of the short-cuts and cost savings techniques I utilize in all aspects of my life, from food, to clothing to entertainment. But today I thought I would focus on a topic that has be-

come all the rage with millennials, “cutting the cord”.

For many people the cable bill has become the equivalent to a car payment. I have a friend that was paying nearly \$300 per month on TV and internet. Finally they said enough was enough and starting looking for ways to slim down their overall cost. They were able to significantly reduce their cost, while still keeping the channels and services they really used.



With the advances in technology and increased competition there is no better time to re-evaluate what you are paying for TV service. The internet has opened a whole new avenue to getting media content into your home and as a result, the consumer has never had more options for service. However, with these new options comes a new level of complexity.

First, in order to access internet based content you must have a device that can stream the media from the web to your TV whether it be Apple, Roku, Microsoft, Google, or Amazon.

It seems like just about every tech company has their own electronic gadget that promises to put world class entertainment at your fingertips. The services each offer vary, but they all do basically the same thing – which is connect your TV to the internet in order to send content directly to your TV screen. All require high speed internet access as well as an available HDMI port on your TV so please be aware of this

■ See CUT THE CORD on page 23

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Recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital confirms reality



JERRY FELDMAN

Leader of the Messianic congregation of Adat Yeshua

myopinion

Jerusalem is a complex issue that has a simple solution. Jerusalem already is and has been the capital of Israel. This fact has eluded every news agency in the world, especially in Europe, let alone every Arab and Muslim country. Any objection to this fact established by international law in 1950, is simply a violent and insatiable "need" for the annihilation of Jewish historic and Biblical national land identity.

If and when the anticipated day comes that all parties agree to the political and negotiated question of the status of Jerusalem, then why cannot the US, and others, already establish embassies in the very Jerusalem that all parties assume will be Jewish Jerusalem?

In other words, the US is moving the peace process forward by recognizing the already existing "Jewish" Jerusalem that is and will be Jerusalem in all final agreements.

It also is congruent with the realities on the ground. A united Jerusalem as it



exists today is the reference point for any "other" scenario involving the so-called Palestinian claims to a Palestinian Jerusalem. As President Trump rightly indicated, these realities are not changed by this decision.

What he did was to recognize what will (and already is) be the Israeli Jewish national capital in so-called West Jerusalem for the relocated U.S. embassy. This point eludes the press and the Muslim world (for propaganda purposes) with its violent and blustering

rage and inflammatory, even apocalyptic, claims of injustice and offense.

Turkey's President Erdogan touted the rage rhetoric that to recognize (Jewish) Jerusalem is an affront to all Muslims of the world. In other words, the very existence of Israel, Jerusalem and the Jews are an affront to all Muslims. And that is the reality.

We need to understand, by Abu Mazen's own words, that "peace process" for the Palestinian Authority is nothing less than the destruction of Israel and

the triumph of the Islamic Arab world over all things Israel. These are war talks, not peace talks. Namely, "give us what we demand, or we kill you"! Their reality is that Jerusalem is and has always been Muslim, and the idea of Jerusalem for the Jews must be decided on that premise.

Please! Reality is reality, no matter what imagined reality one can create. The mythological and maniacal rhetoric of the Muslim world concerning Jerusalem is their own real politique. They assume their rhetoric is true because they declare it to be true.

The timing and strategic realities of the US recognition of Jerusalem could not be better or perhaps will ever have had a better opportunity. It confirms the reality on the ground. The Arab Muslim world lives in its own "reality" of "NEVER", over something that already is. In other words, Jerusalem can only exist as a Muslim entity, with no Israel and no Jews. Sorry, but our president recognizes this false rhetoric for what it is. He simply is acknowledging what is real and wants to stop negotiating in terms of that which is not.

■ See JERUSALEM on page 23

“The mythological and maniacal rhetoric of the Muslim world concerning Jerusalem, is their own real politique. They assume their rhetoric is true because they declare it to be true.”

MY SUSTAINING HOPE IN THE NEW YEAR



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

hopefortoday

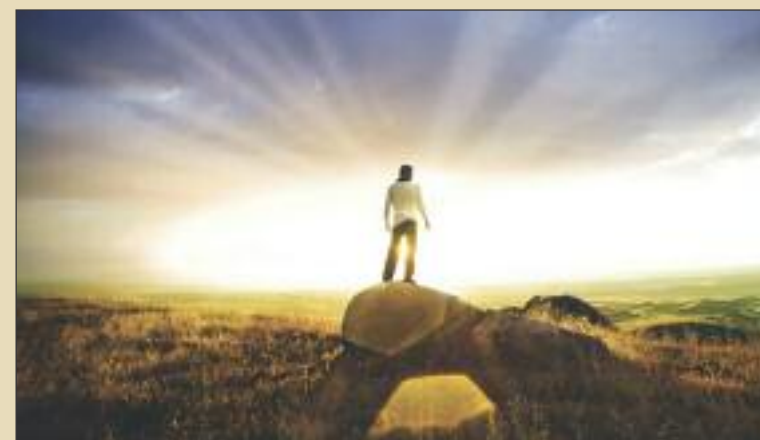
Clay Center, Kansas – Two months ago my family and I laid my father (Paul Decker) to rest after he unexpectedly died of advanced pancreatic cancer on November 13, three days after his diagnosis. The holidays were obviously different for our family knowing dad was gone. It is not only unique for us but for thousands of others who lost a loved one in 2017.

After we buried my father and traveled back home to Kansas from Ohio, death visited again. Within days, I found myself standing next to a friend in a hospital bed who had just lost her husband in a horrific vehicle accident, where she also received multiple injuries. No one is immune. If you are in a situation like this, where can you find hope in this New Year? As you see others dancing the night away and having

good times with family and friends, you may feel an emptiness, because a spouse or parent is gone and not coming back.

On that November Monday night, at 10:00 p.m., I received a call I will never forget. My mother, in shock and in the deepest of tears told me dad was gone. As I hit the floor in overwhelming despair, nearly 1,000 miles away, I was soon drawn to pick up my Bible. I flipped to 1 Corinthians 15:54-55 and read it for myself and to my mom and sisters via cell phone, "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O death where is your victory? O death, where is your sting." Within minutes, Jesus' relationship with me and His Word were giving me grace-filled hope. The hurt did not stop, nor the tears dry up. Even so, Jesus and His Word became my Rock. My refuge. My sustaining hope.

Furthermore, additional hope was found in the story of my father's life. On September 3, 1972, during the last night of a series of camp meeting services in New York, he surrendered to



Jesus and became a new man, and then a year later was called by God to be a

“If you are facing death or grieving someone who has died, where is your hope?”

pastor. For 34 years my dad pastored churches throughout the Great Plains and Midwest.

Knowing dad trusted Jesus as His Lord and Savior and served Him gives me hope. The grace of God that saved him, kept him and took him to his eternal home, assures me, that one day

by that same grace, I will see him again. Jesus' relationship with me, His holy Word and the life-changing story of my dad is my sustaining hope.

If you are facing death or grieving

someone who has died where is your hope? Start out 2018 with a commitment to Christ. Let His grace wash you clean of all you have ever done wrong. Surrender your life to Him. Time is short. Do it now. Live each day to its fullest for the glory of God and the good of others.

A prayer for you...

Lord God, as I walk through this valley of grief and pain, be my hope. Forgive me of all my sins and become my hope for today and all eternity. Teach me your Word that through it you will become my solid rock. In Jesus name. Amen.

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

GOALS

continued from page 21

wisdom about classes He wants me to teach, the schedule, and who to invite.

In order to know His heart for the year, I have found that I need to schedule a day on the calendar to meet with Him – refusing to check email, answer the phone or do the laundry. I spend an extended time worshipping and listening to Him. I can expect an amazing thing to happen:

“He says ‘whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it’” Isaiah 30:21

I challenge you to take care of your soul as if you will die tomorrow.

JERUSALEM

continued from page 22

Yet, I caution a zealot-like exuberance over this decision by our president. As Christians and Messianics, do not be guilty of said criticism indicated above. A blind "eschatological" exuberance with uninformed and sometimes ignorant "Biblical Zionism" is not healthy to the integrity of the reality on the ground, either, and the significantly multi-layered issues that arise through this process. We should never take an "us and them" approach as triumphalism equated with "Biblical" banner waving. Real lives and issues that affect millions, especially Palestinian Arabs and both Muslim and Christian, as well as the children of all parties is not to be snuffed out by evangelical triumphalism or arrogant and self-congratulatory victories at the expense of others.

We need to pray for peace, that the prince of peace, "who is God over all forever praised" (Rom. 9:5), will truly bring peace "to men of good will" (a better translation).

METRO VOICE

continued from page 1

cally get their news only from the Internet and then primarily through their phones.

We believe we have a responsibility to, as conveniently as possible, make news with a Christian worldview easily accessible. We also need to be where all generations find their news to fulfill our motto: "Be Informed. Get Involved. Engage Your Faith."

Beginning March 1, Metro Voice will send out a once-a-week email filled with the latest local, state, national and world news, plus the latest concert announcements, entertainment reviews and news on faith and culture. You can then click on the stories that interest you and it will lead you to our greatly expanded website featuring more news and videos.

Because our website is now being updated daily, we are really becoming a daily news source for the Kansas City area. All of the things you love about Metro Voice will remain: news from a Christian perspective; the huge calendar of events, music, book, movie and streaming reviews; lively and thought-provoking opinion, special features on education, retreats and camps and the life issue. Plus stories on people making a difference for Christ in our communities. In fact, since our full effort will now be devoted to our website and weekly email, the possibilities on what we can cover are endless! No longer are

side note

Don't miss a special February feature including an interview with Dwight and Anita Widaman and a retrospective from Christian community leaders. Plus, we'll reprint our most popular newspaper covers over the years.

we constrained by 24 pages of newsprint.

We could not do this without the unfailing and loyal support of our many advertising sponsors, who include small businesses, churches, ministries and individuals. After meeting with them during December, we are so blessed to report that 100 percent of these wonderful people have committed to transfer their advertising support from print to our new digital effort. Every single advertiser has said they will be there for us in this new and exciting transition. Did you catch that? Every advertiser. That is a blessing from God.

So what can you do? Glad you asked! Here are seven ways you can actually partner with us for the future:

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5. Send us your church or community events and news. Be our eyes and ears in the community so we can share that information with others.

6. Donate. While we will continue to provide all that we do at no charge, please fill free to support our work as you would a missionary. There are so many people we can reach in the area and your support makes that possible.

7. Pray. Our sincerest desire is to be available to a new generation while keeping all the things our regular loyal readers love about Metro Voice. This will require flexibility on our part and us learning new skills.

This news may be a shock to you. It is certainly a paradigm shift for us but one we are truly excited about. Both Anita and I feel a renewed passion and mission for what we do. We look forward to you joining us on this new journey. Happy New Year!

HOMICIDES

continued from page 1



Crosses representing victims.

a historically bloody year in Kansas City," Tony writes, "whilst City Hall has been mostly focused on Mayor Sly's development agenda."

"Police are fighting for their budget," Tony continues, "the Citizen Task Force turned out to be a joke, and worst of all neither law enforcement nor City Hall has released a plan to confront the rise in KC murder!"

There were 53 homicides in all of the metro excluding Kansas City, Mo., and 34 of those were in Kansas City, Kan.

Five of those murders were in Johnson County. That represents one murder for every 117,000 people. In Kansas City, Mo., there has been one murder for every 3,500 people.

This means that a person in Kansas City was 33 times more likely to be killed than a person in Johnson County, a county in which legal gun ownership is almost assuredly higher than it is in Kansas City, Missouri.

CUT THE CORD

continued from page 21

before to purchasing. The prices, available services, and ease of use of these different devices can vary, but being a techie who has played with virtually all of them, my recommendation as best value are those produced by ROKU. They are easy to use, inexpensive and offer the most variety in the streaming services they make available.

After determining how the content will reach your TV, next you must

determine what content you wish to pay for. Many "on demand" services like HULU, Netflix and Amazon Prime provide countless hours of programming that is available when you want it to be. These services tend to be low in cost and high in quality content. However, they do not provide access to live programming, particularly sports and news both of which are the life blood of the cable and satellite companies. For live TV service you must subscribe to an internet TV. Sony Vue, Sling, and Youtube TV are just a few of many

companies that now offer their own packages of live TV content at greatly reduced prices.

But you can save even more! As antiquated as it might sound, my mother and father-in-law still rely on an antenna for their television service. Before you roll your eyes let me say antenna TV has come a long way over the past few years.

Most content is now broadcasted in HD, and an ordinary antenna provides roughly 25 channels in the KC area, many of which are not available to the average cable subscriber.

Another great source of free entertainment is the public library. They offer the latest movies and shows on disc to rent free of charge. Free online content is also widely available on the web. Most networks offer on demand access to all of their programming online and websites such as YouTube, Vimeo and Metacafe provide thousands of hours of free content.

I have found my greatest weapon in taming my budget is to pay as little as possible for the things I want and need.

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