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**Kansas faith-based adoption agencies under attack by ACLU**



Members of the Kansas LGBT community rallied at the State Capital to force faith-based agencies to place children in LGBT homes.

When Cara DeCoursey faced an unplanned pregnancy 28 years ago, the Catholic teen knew she was going to give her child up for adoption.

"I found strength in a faith-based adoption agency. Choosing adoption, for me, was a decision made out of necessity. I was too young to raise a baby," she said. "It was a decision made out of love. I wanted what was best for my child and that was a mom and a dad. I was born and raised Catholic and this is what I wanted for my son."

DeCoursey offered written and verbal testimony to Kansas lawmakers last week in defense of a proposal known as the Adoption Protection Act. The legislation would codify current practices in Kansas, allowing private adoption services to operate according to their faith.

Eric Teetsel, president of the Family Policy Alliance of Kansas, said in other states, agencies like the one DeCoursey used nearly 30 years ago are under

■ Please see **ADOPTION** page 3



**Concerned Women of America CEO Penny Nance with Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach and his daughter**

**Big-name Speakers Highlight CWA State Conference**

Penny Nance, CEO of Concerned Women for America in Washington, D.C., was the keynote speaker at the Kansas State CWA Conference on March 15, but other well-known local-based speakers were also on hand to address a roomful of concerned women from across Kansas. Before Nance spoke, others such as Kansas Secretary of State Kris Kobach, Topeka Rescue Mission Executive Director Barry Feaker, Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt and Joe Patton, former State Representative, talked about important

■ Please see **CWA** page 2

**Chiefs mascot speaks out at Prayer Breakfast**



**KC Wolf shares lessons learned through accident, recovery**

Before the Apostle Paul could write a substantial portion of the New Testament, God had to get his attention in a dramatic way on the road to Damascus.

Dan Meers, the man who has portrayed KC Wolf, the furry mascot of the Kansas City Chiefs, since 1990, had a similar experience before writing his book. He told the story to over 700 people in attendance at the 57th annual Kansas Prayer breakfast, which was held the morning of March 14 at the Ramada Hotel and Convention Center, 420 S.E. 6th Street in Downtown Topeka. The event was sponsored by Topeka Fellowship Inc., as it is every year.

Meers has long been known for his pregame antics at Arrowhead and decided to take them to the next level for Military Appreciation Day during the 2013 season.

■ Please see **CHIEFS** page 2

**Online censorship affecting Metro Voice on Facebook?**

*Editor's Note: Have you noticed fewer Metro Voice news stories in your Facebook news feed? It's almost like we're being censored. The staff of Metro Voice has seen a noticeable difference in how effectively our website stories show up on FB newsfeeds. It started around the first of March just after the re-launch of our expanded website and our efforts to increase our local and national news coverage. In late February our website traffic jumped dramatically as we became a daily news site with 5-6 new stories published each day. Before March, we had seen over 40,000 views of one story we posted on the website. But, strangely, as our website has continued to rank as the number one Christian community website in the region, our FB reach has decreased somewhat.*

OneNewsNow reports that "an in-depth analysis of Facebook's publicized algorithm change has revealed that the social media giant is drastically reducing users' news feeds to conservative outlet websites – while boosting those of

■ Please see **FACEBOOK** page 4





# Life Lessons From a Little One

## GRACE FOR TODAY

by **Jessica S. Hosman**

I write today after four weeks of many ups and downs with a sick little one. Four weeks that eventually landed us in the hospital for six long days and many sleepless nights.

Laying down to sleep in a tiny hospital bed with my boy each night, I dreamt of going home and snuggling with him in his real bed. I couldn't imagine one more night seeing him hooked up to IVs and woken throughout the night for yet another high temperature read. But each afternoon, when told it would be at least one more night, God's grace met us both and saw us through as my boy continued to smile and bravely face whatever came next.

I watched one afternoon as Zechariah slept, curled into a ball and hooked up to IV fluids. After four nights in the hospital, I too was exhausted. My body wanted to sleep, but my restless spirit bid me to pray. I got down on my knees on that hard hospital floor and began crying out to the Lord. While I had prayed much throughout the hospital stay, this was the first time I intentionally carved out time to just be raw before Him. Many tears flowed and with them came new strength as I placed my child into His hands. By the time I finished, I was more refreshed than if I would have taken the long nap my body craved. I later discovered that around the same time, Zechariah's first grade class was also praying for him and making cards to bring him cheer. Within hours, miracles started to occur. My little one who had been unable to drink much of anything for a week had suddenly become thirsty! Within a short window of time he was able to drink more than he had in the past seven days combined and was finally able to come off the IV. The

next morning, he arose a new child. Before long, we were home... something that looked absolutely impossible just 24 hours before.



I'm not writing this to say I have a simple answer and I know that no two situations are the same. I know that there are many reading this who have trials much more severe than ours. For days, we didn't see an end in sight and I felt I'd never find

the strength for one more day of trials and uncertainty. For you, this may have been the case for years. While I can't say I know when the season will turn, I can say with confidence, it will. And as you place your situation into God's hands, He will supply the grace to take a day at a time and make it through. The fact that you are breathing today is proof that He already has. You haven't quit. You haven't given up. And through His grace, you won't.

There's something about the faith of a child. And we all know the Lord beckons us to become like them. While my child smiled in the face of adversity, and as the faith of a classroom of small children joined together in prayer, I too was able to come like a child to my Father and place my fears, my tomorrows and my precious son in the palm of His hands. The results in our situation were nearly instantaneous. But even if they hadn't been, I know God's grace would have continued to meet us there.

Please stay encouraged. The road may be more difficult than you ever imagined, but you do not walk it alone. Take the time to be raw like a little child before Jesus. Cry, scream, be real. And place your today and all of your tomorrows into His hands. He'll meet you. He'll strengthen you. And by His grace, you also will be able to smile and continue to stand.



Jessica Hosman

## "Don't buy" the lie that Christianity is declining

CBN News – Some news stories might make you think religion is on the decline in America. Not so, according to a recent study from Harvard and Indiana University Bloomington.

"But we show that rather than religion fading into irrelevance as the secularization thesis would suggest, intense religion—strong affiliation, very frequent practice, literalism, and evangelicalism—is persistent and, in fact, only moderate religion is on the decline in the United States," the report states.

Scholars Landon Schnabel and Sean Bock go on to write that American religion is still a vital part of society.

"And although religion is simply becoming less salient in other societies, it remains important in the public sphere and central to cultural divides in the United States," their study concludes.

"Therefore, rather than following the pattern we would expect on the basis of the secularization thesis, American religion remains persistently and exceptionally intense."

Schnabel and Bock say that studies going back several decades show that the number of evangelicals grew from 1972, when they made up 18 percent of the population, to a consistent number of around 28 percent from 1989 to 2016.

They went on to say that mainline Protestants, who are "perhaps the most moderate of American religionists," have decreased in number especially quickly from 35 percent in 1972 to 12 percent in 2016.

The study does mention, however, a dramatic increase in those with no religious affiliation after the rise in the number of evangelicals.

"Notably, rapid disaffiliation started shortly after evangelicalism rapidly grew and rose to prominence in the public sphere," they wrote.

Still, the conservative evangelical organization, Family Research Council, is encouraged by the positives in the study.

"So the next time you hear that Christianity is 'going the way of the Yellow Pages,' don't buy it," FRC wrote in a blog on the study. "Liberals only argue that to disparage and diminish you.



## CHIEFS

continued from page 1

"The plan for my pregame entrance was to have KC Wolf, dressed in Army fatigues, jump out of the lights at the top of the stadium and zip line down to the field," he said. "The zip line attached to the lights above the press box on the south side of the stadium. It then stretched all the way across the field to the north side and connected to the huge steel beams that connected another bank of lights. The zip line hung 260 feet above the field."

As if that weren't enough of a challenge, he decided to begin the entrance by jumping off the lights on a 20-foot bungee cord. Meers practiced the stunt on the crisp Saturday afternoon of Nov. 23. As soon as he jumped, he knew something was wrong.

"I was supposed to free fall about 20 feet, and then the bungee cord would bounce me back up and I would begin so zip line out over the football field," he said. "However, instead of falling 20 feet, I fell 75 feet. I hit the seats so hard that I knocked two of them out of the concrete where they were mounted. The bungee pulled me back up, and I traveled 200 feet above the field, hanging from the bungee cord."

Needless to say, the injuries were extensive – seven broken ribs, a collapsed lung, and a fractured tailbone, to name a few – and rehabilitation was a long, painful journey. Meers decided to make something of the unexpected time off. With nothing but time on his hands, God reminded him about the book that had been on his bucket list for some time, and the life-changing experience was the catalyst for finally writing his book, "Wolves Can't Fly."

"I decided that if I was ever going to do it, this was the time. I realized I had an opportunity to share not only about being a mascot but about how faithful God is."

While some thought him lucky to be alive after the accident, Meers thought he was instead blessed.

Meers told the audience he believes there are "no such things as accidents – just incidents in God's plan."

God always has a purpose behind the pain, he said, and the greater lessons are learned in pain.

While recuperating, Meers concluded that the most meaningful things in his life were not "things," but relationships: his faith, family & friends. Meers, 50, became emotional several times while relating the story, and stated that his number one goal

now is to love other people.

He noted that when he was gone it wouldn't be important how many years he was the Chiefs' mascot.

"If the only thing they say is 'He loved God and loved people' – I'm good with that," Meers said.

God wants to have a relationship with you," Meers told the audience. He mentioned the story in the Bible where the disciples were in a boat when the storms arose, which were then calmed by Jesus.

He said that if you want peace in your



life, "peace comes from having Jesus in your boat."

Fear and faith are both contagious, he said, and noted that the decision to be made is "which one to feed."

"Every day you have something to be thankful for and something to complain about," he said. "Whichever you focus on – that's what kind of day you will have." He explained that he could have focused on death, paralysis or pain – but instead decided to focus on positive things.

"You can 'rise & shine' or 'rise & whine,'" he said.

### OTHER DIGNITARIES

Gov. Jeff Colyer was also on hand for the breakfast, along with a number of legislators and other state and local officials.

In his remarks to the audience, Colyer noted that although there were lot of politicians at the breakfast, they were outnumbered ten-to-one by pastors and their spouses."

Colyer noted that it was important for all of us to pray for pastors and spouses, in the same way they pray for elected officials.

As he also talked about the importance of faith and family, Colyer stressed the importance of using your life to make an impact.

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# Young Bible readers more likely to be faithful adults

Most churchgoing Protestant parents of young adults say their kids grew up to be Christians.

But half of them don't actually practice the Christian faith, their parents say, according to a LifeWay Research survey released today (Oct. 17). And the biggest factor predicting their spiritual health as young adults is whether they read the Bible regularly as kids.

Those are among the findings of the study, which was conducted Sept. 22-Oct. 5, 2016, among Protestant churchgoers about parenting and spirituality.

For the study, researchers surveyed 2,000 Protestant and nondenominational churchgoers. All attend services at least once a month and have adult children ages 18-30.

Researchers wanted to know what parenting practices pay off over the long haul when it comes to spiritual health, said Scott McConnell, executive director of LifeWay Research.

"Churchgoing parents want to pass on their faith to their kids — and to see their children make that faith their own," McConnell said. "But they don't always know how best to make that happen."

## Spiritual disciplines

LifeWay Research took a twofold approach to the study.

First, researchers asked parents about 40 factors that could affect a child's moral and spiritual development. Among them: whether the child's parents had been divorced, whether the family prayed or ate meals together, what kind of school the child attended, how often the child went to church or youth group, and even what kind of



music the child listened to growing up.

LifeWay Research then asked parents to describe their adult children's spiritual health, using eight observable factors. Each child received one point if he or she:

- Identifies as a Christian.
- Shares his or her faith with unbelievers.
- Is involved in church.
- Reads the Bible regularly.
- Serves in a church.
- Teaches others at church.
- Serves in the community.
- Supports local or foreign missions.

Parents gave observations for a total of 3,472 adult children. Eighty-five percent identify as Christians, according to their parents, giving them at least 1 point on the 8-point spiritual health scale. But only 3 percent had a score of 8, the highest possible. Two-thirds had a score of 2 or less. Half had a score of 0 or 1, meaning they either don't identify as Christians (11 percent) or they identify as Christians but have none of the

other spiritual practices (39 percent).

LifeWay Research then compared the results of all these young adults to find out which factors predict the highest spiritual condition.

The top factor: Bible reading. Twenty-nine percent of the young adults regularly read the Bible while growing up, according to their parents. On average, that group has 12.5 percent higher spiritual health than otherwise comparable individuals who didn't, LifeWay Research found.

In addition, spiritual health levels are 7.5 percent higher on average for young adults who regularly spent time praying while growing up (28 percent), regularly served in church (33 percent) or listened to primarily Christian music (22 percent) than for comparable individuals who didn't.

And scores average 6.25 percent higher for young adults who participated in a church mission trip while growing up (27 percent) than for comparable individuals who didn't.

Doing all five of these practices in

childhood could boost a young adult's spiritual health score 41 percent, putting the young adult above the 90th percentile, McConnell said.

"Practicing your faith — in specific ways — really pays off later in life," he said.

Jana Magruder, director of LifeWay Kids and author of *Nothing Less*, said it's easy for parents to be caught up in the busyness of life — and not to ground their kids in the practice of reading the Bible.

"The key takeaway from the study is a simple yet profound finding that God's Word truly is what changes lives," she said.

Researchers identified a few factors that point to lower spiritual health for young adults. Those whose parents say they did not want to go to church as teens (22 percent) score 5 percent lower on spiritual health as young adults. Those whose parents say they were rebellious (16 percent) had scores 3.75 percent lower than others, and those who listened primarily to secular music (58 percent) had scores 2.5 percent lower.

Attending popular church activities such as youth groups and Vacation Bible School predicts spiritual health for young adults — but only when linked to core practices such as reading the Bible and serving, McConnell noted. Other activities, such as family meals, did not show up as key predictors in this study.

Parents' behavior is also related to

their adult children's spiritual health, LifeWay Research found. Young adults had higher spiritual health scores if they grew up with parents who spent time:

- Reading the Bible several times a week.
- Taking part in a service project or church mission trip as a family.
- Sharing their faith with unbelievers.
- Encouraging teenagers to serve in church.
- Asking forgiveness when they messed up as parents.
- Encouraging their children's unique talents and interests.
- Taking annual family vacations.
- Attending churches with teaching that emphasized what the Bible says.
- Teaching their children to tithe.

All these little things can pay off, McConnell said, by showing kids what practicing your faith looks like.

"In the end, parents hope the light will go on and their children will want to follow God on their own," he said. "At any age the Holy Spirit can flip the light switch, and these habits can help kids grow in their faith."

The survey was sponsored by LifeWay Kids for use in the book "Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith," which was released Oct. 2.

For more information about *Nothing Less: Engaging Kids in a Lifetime of Faith*, click here.

— by Bob Smietana

## ADOPTION

continued from page 1

attack.

"Some would rather see these agencies close their doors than be able to serve if their service is inspired by beliefs with which they don't agree," Teetsel said.

"The only reason to oppose this bill is if you believe that Kansas should stop allowing current faith-based providers to continue operating as licensed agencies," Austin Vincent, an adoption attorney, told legislators.

Several states including North Dakota, Virginia, Rhode Island, Michigan, Mississippi, South Dakota and Texas have passed similar laws protecting faith-based adoption agencies, but the Kansas proposal met stiff resistance.

Before lawmakers held a single hearing on a pair of proposals—one in the House and one in the Senate—media initiated pre-emptive strikes. The *Wichita Eagle* published an article entitled, "Adoption bills would let agencies refuse LGBT couples based on religious beliefs," nearly a month before a hearing on either bill was scheduled.

Both the House and Senate Federal and State Affairs committees held hearings on the proposal last week, the same day LGBT advocacy group, Equality Kansas hosted its annual rally in the state-

house.

"Taxpayer dollars should not be used to discriminate against other taxpayers," Thomas Witt, the executive director of Equality Kansas, told lawmakers. He later admitted that the bill wouldn't apply to any agencies that are contracted through the state to provide foster care.

Catholic Charities agencies do not receive taxpayer money for adoption services. The organizations only place children for adoption in homes with a married mother and father.

"That means they will not place children in a home of co-habiting or single heterosexuals, including the celibate leaders of their faith," Vincent said. "The restrictions are not animus towards anyone, rather what the agency believes provides the best home for children."

He said in many instances, that choice is the desire of the desire of the birth mother.

"If she wants a couple who share her values and wants the caring assistance of an agency, she must have a faith-based agency as an option," he said.

For DeCoursey, placing her son for adoption 28 years ago was the most difficult decision of her life. Today, he is a successful pharmacist who specializes in oncology medication to help cancer patients.

"He wants to make this world a better place," she said. "He loves Jesus Christ, and I can proudly say that I had a part in his love for the Catholic Church."

—From the *SentinelKSMO.org*

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## C5Alive Luncheon to Feature Kansas Governor Jeff Colyer

### Governor's Row House to provide setting

The monthly C5Alive "POWER Luncheon" will be held April 12, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will feature Governor Jeff Colyer as Guest Speaker.

The cost to attend the luncheon is \$10 for C5Alive members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$12 at the door. Non-members and other guests pay \$15. C5 luncheons are open to the public and everyone is welcome to attend, organizers said. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org).

C5Alive is an organization founded in 2009, dedicated to developing and uniting Christian Leadership in the community, involving businesses, non-profits and churches.

In addition to monthly

"POWER" luncheons held on the second Thursday of each month, C5 also hosts periodic business fairs and other events, including the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fest, held on N. Kansas Avenue and in Garfield Park on the day before Easter.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. For more information about C5, go to [C5Alive.org](http://C5Alive.org), [facebook.com/C5Alive](http://facebook.com/C5Alive), or call 785-640-6399.

Next month's luncheon will be held May 10, 11:30am - 1 pm at Topeka Bible Church. Featured speaker at the May luncheon will be Rev. Jim Congdon.



## FACEBOOK

continued from page 1

liberal publishers."

"Conservative publishers have lost an average of nearly 14 percent of their traffic from Facebook, [while] liberal publishers have gained about 2 percent more web traffic from Facebook than they were getting prior to the algorithm changes implemented in early February," researchers from *The Western Journal* divulged. "This algorithm change has, in effect, censored conservative viewpoints on the largest social media platform in the world – [a] change that in the short-term, [is] causing conservative publishers to downsize or fold up completely, and in the long-term, could swing elections in the United States and around the world toward liberal politicians and policies."

### NO DENYING

Making its case in point, two of New York City's rival publishers that cover similar topics with different editorial slants were examined by *The Western Journal* — the right-leaning *New York Post* and the far-left *New York Daily News*.

"For example, the *Daily News* recently ran a headline after the Parkland shooting that read, 'Brave Florida survivors plan day of action for gun sanity and to call out 'blood on hands' of NRA puppets,' [and] headlines like that garnered the *Daily News* a 24.18 percent increase in traffic from Facebook, while the right-leaning *Post's* traffic dropped 11.44 percent in the same time period," *The Western Journal's* George Upper reported.

"These results are similar to the 'surprisingly profound and partisan' findings of analysis conducted by *The Outline*," Upper noted. "However, whereas *The Outline* analyzed user engagement on Facebook itself, *The Western Journal* looked at actual traffic driven to news websites by Facebook — which directly impacts revenue for these sites."

A negative effect on traffic to Republican Web pages — not just conservative news sites — was also witnessed as a result of Facebook's algorithm change.

"Facebook's recent changes to users' newsfeeds had caused engagement on President Trump's page to drop by 45 percent — almost half," *Breitbart News* reported. "This was followed by a story in *The Outline*, which revealed that the engagement of conservative sites, including *Fox News*, *Breitbart News*, and *Gateway Pundit* had also taken a hit — while liberal mainstream sites like *CNN* and the *New York Times* were largely unaffected."

The head of Facebook's News Partnerships team, Campbell Brown — a former anchor on *NBC* and *CNN* — contended that Facebook made the change to censor news publishers according to its own internal biases on key issues.

"This is not us stepping back from news — this is us changing our relationship with publishers and emphasizing something that Facebook has never done before ... It's having a point of view, and it's leaning into quality news," Brown explained to attendees at recent technology and publishing conference, according to *Recode.net*. "We are — for the first time in the history of Facebook — taking a step to try to define what 'quality news' looks like and give that a boost."

Apparently, to Facebook, the best news coverage out there is liberal.

## more information

So is there a way to help Metro Voice get seen? The industry experts we have consulted say the best way for our Facebook stories to be seen is to go grassroots. That means while we at Metro Voice may have little control over how Facebook makes our stories visible, you have considerably more control.

The best way is to share interesting posts to your FB page. If 1000 people are sharing a story, it is difficult for FB to ignore, or hide. It can be a hassle but it is apparently how it works on a supposedly public platform of free speech. Do your best to repost our stories, like the stories you find interesting, and encourage your friends to actually like the Metro Voice page itself. It has to be done at a grassroots level.

Thanks for your years of support of our newspaper, and now, our expanded digital presence. With your help, we should be around for many more.

"Based on *The Western Journal's* analysis — and an overwhelming amount of insider reports from new media publishers — it is clear that Facebook's definition of 'quality news' is news with a liberal slant," Upper pointed out.

### NUMBERS SPEAK VOLUMES

The analysis proving Facebook's clear political bias to shape Americans' take on hot-topic issues was by no means weighted, as researchers used a wide array of media outlets from both the right and the left before coming to the conclusion that Facebook is the orchestrator of a new leftist news movement.

"To conduct this evaluation, *The Western Journal* selected 50 publishers known to receive a significant amount of online traffic from Facebook," Upper explained. "These publishers include traditional print or television outlets such as *The Washington Post*, *CNN* and *Fox News*, as well as new media outlets like *Salon*, *Vox* and *The Daily Caller*. *The Western Journal* then assigned each publisher a number between 0 and 100 based on Media Bias/Fact Check News — a third party website that analyzes publishers for political bias and places them on a continuum between 'extreme left' and 'extreme right.' Next, *The Western Journal* checked the monthly Facebook traffic for each of these sources using data from global digital market intelligence company, SimilarWeb, and compared January traffic to traffic from Feb. 4 through Mar. 3, adjusted for the slightly shorter time period. According to available internal data, Facebook began rolling out this major algorithm change on Feb. 6."

After examining the results, the negative impact on conservative publishers was clear.

"The 25 on the liberal side of the scale averaged a 1.86-percent boost in traffic from Facebook, whereas the 25 news organizations on the conservative side averaged a 13.71-percent decrease in traffic," Upper revealed. "Based on this analysis, it is clear that liberal news sites are being promoted in Facebook users' news feeds more often than conservative sites."

Looking at the numbers a bit closer, the designed trend of shifting social media followers to the left becomes obvious.

"After removing the 15 publishers with the least traffic from Facebook, the trend becomes even more clear," Upper asserted. "Of the remaining 35 news sources, the 12 most liberal sites averaged a boost of 0.21 percent — in other words, they don't appear to have been affected in any meaningful way. The 11 sites in the middle — which ranged from 'left-center' to 'least biased' on the MBFC News scale — saw a significant increase in Facebook traffic of 12.81 percent."

When comparing viewership directed to right-leaning news sites with traffic driven to left-leaning media hubs, the contrast becomes more than apparent.

"The 12 most conservative sites lost an average of 27.06 percent of their traffic from Facebook," Upper stressed. "Of the 12 most liberal sites, six saw double-digit decreases in traffic, while four saw double-digit increases and two — *The Washington Post* and *HuffPo* — saw single-digit increases. *CNN's* traffic increased 43.78 percent. Of the 11 sites in the middle of the scale, nine saw traffic increase. Only two — *CBS News* and *The Atlantic* — saw a traffic decrease. Among those 11, only two — *USA Today* and *The Economist* — can truly be considered centrist, according to the MSFC News scale. Their traffic increased by 23.16 percent and 1.12 percent, respectively."

News outlets leaning toward the right that benefitted from Facebook's algorithm change were the exception — not the rule.

"Of the 12 most conservative sites, only two benefited from increased Facebook traffic — the *Daily Mail* with 3.51 percent and *Fox News* with 31.67 percent," Upper continued. "The other 10 saw decreases ranging from 3.13 percent at *Breitbart* to a whopping 76.49 percent at *Independent Journal Review*. On Feb. 15, *IJR* announced significant layoffs to an 'already skeletal staff,' *The Daily Caller* reported. *Rare*, a conservative leaning news media publication owned by Cox Media Group, experienced a 68.7 percent drop in traffic after the algorithm change. *Rare* will shut down entirely at the end of the month, *Axios* reported."

### MORE EVIDENCE ...

More changes in the way America views news was noticed as a result of Facebook's engineered shift to the left.

"The average impact per news site with the most desktop sessions from Facebook also varied significantly depending on the political leaning of the site," Upper noted. "*Fox News* was the only conservative site that saw significant growth in this calculation. If *Fox* were removed from the group of 12 conservative sites shown above, the average drop would grow to 32.4 percent among the remaining 11."

Campbell confirmed that Facebook's "move fast, break things" attitude goes hand-in-hand with its history of manually and intentionally suppressing conservative news — as the social media giant no longer pursues its previous goal of becoming a neutral platform for news and information.

"How this manifests in the coming months is not totally clear to us right now," Campbell admitted at the event held by *Recode*. "These are conversations we've just started having with a lot of publishers. But in terms of us taking a big step in that direction, I think, yes, I think this is, I think this is us having a very clear point of view."

—OneNewsNow

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# FINANCIAL PLANNING

## Quit job for school?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I have \$72,000 in debt from student loans and a car loan. We're trying to pay off our debt using the debt snowball system, and we each make about \$45,000 a year. She's a teacher, and she's planning on going back to school for her master's degree, but she's thinking about quitting her job to do this. She'll be able to make more money with the additional education, and she would only be unemployed for two years. The degree program will cost us \$2,000 out of pocket per semester for two years. Does this sound like a good idea?

Chris

Dear Chris,

There's no reason for your wife to quit her job to make this happen. Lots of people — especially teachers — hold down their jobs and go back to school to further their education. I'm not sure trying to make it on one income when you're that deep in debt is a good idea.

Whatever you do, don't borrow more money to make this happen. Cash flow it, or don't do it. We're talking about \$8,000 total, and you've got \$72,000 in debt hanging over your heads already. My advice would be to wait until you've got the other debt knocked out, then save up and pay cash for school. You could slow down your debt snowball, and use some of that to pay for school, but I'd hate to see you lose the momentum you have when it comes to getting out of debt.

The choice is yours, but don't tack on anymore student loan debt. I know her income will go up with a master's degree, so from that standpoint it's a good thing to do. But if you do a good thing a dumb way, it ends up being dumb!

—Dave

## Pre-planning explained

Dear Dave,

My grandmother passed away a week ago. She was 98, and I know both she and my grandfather had pre-paid for their funerals in 2004. However, there were outstanding costs of \$1,500 with the funeral services we had to pay out of pocket, because she had outlived the insurance policy attached to the pre-payment plan. I know you say it's always better to pre-plan, not pre-pay, for a funeral. Can you refresh my understanding of this?

Rebecca

Dear Rebecca,

Let's use a round figure, and say the cost of a funeral is \$10,000. What would \$10,000 grow to 25 years from now if it were invested in a good mutual fund? Now, juxtapose that number with the increase in the cost of a funeral over that time. The average inflation rate of consumer-purchased items is around four percent. So, the cost of funerals, on average, has risen about four percent a year. By comparison, you could've invested that money, and it would've grown at 10



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

**davesays**

or 12 percent in a good mutual fund.

Now understand, I'm not knocking folks who are in the funeral business. But lots of businesses that provide these services realize more margin in selling pre-paid policies than they do in caskets. In other words, they don't make as much money selling the casket as they do selling a pre-paid policy on the casket.

Do you understand my reasoning? If we knew the exact date she pre-paid, and how much she pre-paid, that figure invested in a good mutual fund would be a whole lot more than the cost of a reasonable funeral. It's the same principle behind the reason I advise folks to not pre-pay college, or just about anything else, that's likely far into the future. The money you could've made on the investment is a lot more than the value of pre-paying.

Pre-planning, on the other hand, is a great idea for many things — including funerals.

I'm truly sorry for your loss, Rebecca. God bless you all.  
—Dave

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## How the Bipartisan Budget Act Can Help You

Peggy Beasterfeld

Owner, Peggy's Tax and Accounting Service



The Internal Revenue Service is continuing its effort to encourage taxpayers to do a "paycheck checkup" to make sure they have the right amount of tax taken out of their paychecks.

To help taxpayers understand the implications of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the IRS unveiled several new features to help people navigate the issues affecting withholding in their paychecks. The effort includes a new series of plain language Tax Tips, a YouTube video series and other special efforts to help people understand the importance of checking their withholdings.

The new tax law could affect how much tax someone should have their employer withhold from their paycheck. To help with this, the IRS urges taxpayers to visit the Withholding Calculator on IRS.gov. The Withholding Calculator can help prevent employees from having too little or too much tax withheld from their paycheck. Having too little tax withheld can mean an unexpected tax bill or potentially a penalty at tax time in 2019. And with the average refund top-

ping \$2,800, some taxpayers might prefer to have less tax withheld up front and receive more in their paychecks.

Taxpayers who need to adjust their withholding will need to submit a new Form W-4, Employee's Withholding Allowance Certificate, to their employer. If an employee needs to adjust their withholding, doing so as quickly as possible means there's more time for tax withholding to take place evenly during the rest of the year.

The IRS always recommends employees check their withholding at the beginning of each year or when their personal circumstances change to make sure they're having the right amount of tax withheld from their paychecks. With the new tax law changes, it's especially important for certain people to make sure they have the right amount of withholding.

The law increased the standard deduction, removed personal exemptions, increased the child tax credit, limited or discontinued certain deductions and changed the tax rates and brackets.

When personal circumstances change that reduce withholding allowances they are entitled to claim, including divorce, starting a second job, or a child no longer being a dependent, an employee has 10 days to submit a new Form W-4 to their employer claiming the proper number of withholding allowances.

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# opinion

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## Why the Adoption Protection Act Matters

By Will Graham

Faith-based adoption agencies in Kansas have been helping children find their forever homes for more than 60 years. Today, their ability to help kids is threatened.

In 2006, Catholic Charities was forced to shut down after 100 years of serving in Boston. Agencies in San Francisco, Illinois, and Washington, D.C. have also been forced to close because of their policy of only placing children in homes with a married mom and dad. Why? The ACLU and other groups launched a national campaign against faith-based adoption providers. Their goal is to coerce agencies with whom they disagree to violate their convictions or shut down.

But Kansans will not be intimidated.

The Adoption Protection Act ensures that faith-based adoption providers will be allowed to continue to operate in accordance with their sincerely held religious beliefs. It simply codifies what has been practiced in Kansas for decades. Seven states have passed similar laws, including Virginia, whose 2012 law serves as the model for this bill.

There are too many kids in need of forever homes to be driving providers away. Crucially, faith-based providers excel at placing hard-to-place children, like those with special needs. These kids shouldn't be denied forever homes because adults are fighting about sexual politics.

The Adoption Protection Act also ensures birth mothers have choices when making the heroic decision to place their child in the home of a forever family.

Family Policy Alliance of Kansas is



working closely with a coalition of mission-aligned groups to protect faith-based adoption providers, but needs help to get this law across the line.

The first orphanage in the United States was founded by the Sisters of the Order of Saint Ursula in New Orleans in 1727. When a treaty transferring ownership of the "Louisiana territory" from France to the United States was signed in 1804, Sister Marie Theresa, Superior of the Sisters of the Order of Saint Ursula, wrote a letter to her new president.

Emboldened by faith, and a sense of responsibility for her fellow missionaries, Sister Marie Theresa asked whether, "The Treaty of Cession and still more the spirit of justice which characterizes the United States of America" will guarantee "the continued enjoyment of our present property?"

In other words, "Will we be allowed to continue to do our work in this new America?"

Two months later, the president wrote

back. This is his answer:

*I have received, holy sisters, the letter you have written me wherein you express anxiety for the property vested in your institution by the former governments of Louisiana. The principles of the constitution and government of the United States are a sure guarantee to you that it will be preserved to you sacred and inviolate, and that your institution will be permitted to govern itself according to its own voluntary rules, without interference from the civil authority. Whatever diversity of shade may appear in the religious opinions of our fellow citizens, the charitable objects of your institution cannot be indifferent to any; and its furtherance of the wholesome purposes of society, by training up its younger members in the way they should go, cannot fail to ensure it the patronage of the government it is under. Be assured it will meet all the protection which my office can give it.*

*I salute you, holy sisters, with friendship and respect.*

Thomas Jefferson

In this short statement, Jefferson affirms the right of conscience, self-governance without interference from civil authority, and the contributions of faith-based groups to society. Jefferson promises to use the full powers of the office of the presidency to defend these rights.

Should the members of the Kansas legislature do any less?

The Adoption Protection Act guarantees the same right as Jefferson's letter, and for the same reasons. Faith-based adoption providers have been helping Kansas kids find forever families for decades. Today, their ability to serve our state by living out their faith is threatened. Some would rather these agencies close their doors than be able to serve if their service is inspired by beliefs with which they don't agree.

That's wrong. It is un-American. And the consequences of their exclusivism fall most heavily on those most in need: homeless kids.

What's next? To move ahead, the Adoption Protection Act must be "worked." (A hearing in which members of the committee introduce and vote on amendments, etc.) The Chairman of the House committee has yet to schedule a hearing to work the bill.

He needs to hear directly from you.

Representative Barker's office number is (785) 296-7674. His email is john.barker@house.ks.gov. The message is simple: "Please work the Adoption Protection Act as soon as possible."

That's it. Small message – big implications.

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## TURNING THE TIDE ON AMERICAN VIOLENCE



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Evangelist  
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Are you becoming increasingly concerned about your child's safety at school? Has your church begun discussions on providing security during worship services? Have you had some uneasiness while at public gatherings, wondering if some incident might take place? Unfortunately, this is where we are in American life right now. More and more people are having these concerns and rightly so.

Our society is becoming more dangerous and I am not the first to ask, "What is the solution?" Let us start with identifying the problem. The epidemic of violence is highlighted by cold blooded mur-



ders in our schools and inner cities. And it also involves the brutality of physical and sexual assaults in homes, on the streets, on campuses and in workplaces.

There is a place for new legislation, better enforcement of existing laws, awareness campaigns and task forces. But they all have limits. They can help restrain violence and provide all kinds of data and resources for combating it. However, none of it goes to the source.

What is the ultimate problem? The human heart. The Scriptures say, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?" (Jeremiah 17:9) It is where a person's values, beliefs and standards lay. This is what gives them the justification to terrorize. It is where they become a god unto themselves and exert power over others to destroy.

Only the presence of God in a human heart can give what our society is calling for. But ironically, that is missing from the public debate. America has a chronic heart condition, and the more we stray from God, the more violent our nation will become. It is truth and consequence.

To end the violence in our streets requires humbling ourselves before God and asking for His help. We have tried it our way, let us try it His way.

Our world has never seen the horror of violence more than in the death of Jesus of Nazareth. It was brutal. Yet, through it, a morally perfect man, took on Himself the evil that existed in every human heart. He bore the sheer depravity of all mankind. And when He rose again from the dead, He overcame the darkness. Through it He became what every heart,

every city longs for – peace. Jesus Himself became our peace. In Him, a person of brutality can become one of tenderness. In Him, a monster can be changed into a beautiful and precious child of God.

A prayer for you to pray – Lord God, search my own heart. Let the change in my city begin with me. Point out if I have hurt people physically or with my words. I am sorry Lord for how I have treated others. Rid the evil within me. Forgive me for what I have done. Make me into a kind and loving person by your power. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Listen to Clint Decker's radio broadcast, *The Unbreakable Truth*, at 2:50am & 10:50am on Upper Room Radio, KFGB 97.7FM, Topeka's local Christian radio station. He can be reached at [decker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:decker@greatawakenings.org)

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# Do we really have to love everyone?

By Joe McKeever

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? The unsaved do that... But love your enemies and do good and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great..." (Luke 6:32-35)

I was a freshman in college, with everything that implies: I was green, scared, eager, excited, learning, stupid, silly, and a hundred other things.

Among the civilians working on our campus was Mrs. Grigsby. I can see her to this day: stern, tight-lipped, unfriendly, and unloving. We thought she looked more like a man than a woman. She was all business, never a "good morning," and generally unpleasant, we all thought.

Among her other duties, Mrs. Grigsby cleaned the hallways and bathrooms of our dormitory. (Students were expected to keep our own rooms clean. What a joke.)

The guys in our dorm would make nasty jokes about Mrs. Grigsby behind her back. She was a convenient target and no one spoke up in her defense.

One day my girlfriend back home in Alabama told me something unsettling. "I have a relative who works at the college where you go." She had never met her, but was told this by her mother. A day or two later, she broke the news to me.

"Her name is Grigsby."

Yikes. My girlfriend was related to the campus nightmare.

How in the world was I to deal with this,



I wondered. What if the word ever got out that I was in any way connected to that woman, however remote. What was I to do?

You know the rest of this story, I expect. In time, I introduced myself to Mrs. Grigsby and discovered that she had the sweetest smile. She was unfriendly to the boys in the dorm because they were a pretty raucous bunch. Behind that façade was a nice lady.

It was a good lesson.

The Lord delights in putting into our paths people who are not like us, who do not like us, who seem strange – in order to knock us out of our little selfish ways.

Love this woman. Love this family. Love this tribe.

When we learn to love those we had previously written off, we grow and become a little more like Jesus. After all, He loved us

when we stood around the cross spitting and jeering and cursing. That was us, you know.

Someone on Facebook asked the other day, "How will we know that someone we meet is the Lord appearing to us?" Various answers came in. The best answer was just two words: "In retrospect."

Only after it's over do we look back and realize that person who ministered to us, or allowed us to minister to them, or showed up at the critical moment, happened to be from the Lord. Or the Lord Himself.

Our job is to love everyone, friendly or not, gracious or not, deserving or not.

Joe McKeever has been a disciple of Jesus Christ more than 65 years, been preaching the gospel more than 55 years, and has been writing and cartooning for Christian publications more than 45 years. He blogs at [www.joemckeever.com](http://www.joemckeever.com).

## Truth vs. equivocation: What's the foundation of your worldview?

by Denise Shick

*Men, I'll be honest. Winning isn't everything ... Men, it's the only thing!* (UCLA Bruins football coach Henry Russell 'Red' Sanders)

That quote seems to summarize much of our culture's ethos. How we play "the game" means little. What matters – above all else – is winning.

Those are the thoughts that bounced through my brain as I contemplated some new "findings" related to transgenderism. Headlines about these "studies" claim: "Scientists uncover 20 genes linked to being transgender – supporting claims the condition has a physical basis."

Most people who see such headlines are too busy with the basics of everyday life to even read the accompanying articles, much less to analyze them. They likely will forget they even saw the headlines – until the topic arises, perhaps in a conversation with a friend.

Here's a likely scenario:

Jill: "I saw Caitlyn Jenner on TV yesterday. Oh my gosh, Stephanie, I know I need to be more modern, more understanding, but watching the interview just creeped me out."

Stephanie: "I understand, girlfriend, it does seem pretty weird. But we have to face facts. People can't help how they were born."

Jill: "What do you mean?"

Stephanie: "Well, just a couple days ago I saw an article that said some people are born that way; they can't help it."

Jill: "So I guess I really do need to be

more understanding."

Stephanie: "That's right; we have to accept the truth."

But are Jill and Stephanie accepting the truth? What is truth? Dictionary.com defines truth as "conformity with fact or reality; verity." Webster's defines it this way: "the body of real things, events, and facts."

Now here's what the Daily Mail article about the study said: "Critics of transgender identity say the condition is 'all in the mind', and transgender people have a psychological problem rather than a medical one. But by highlighting genetic mutations that affect brain development, the latest findings point towards transgender identity having a physical basis." (Emphasis mine)

What do we call the words "point towards"? We call them equivocal. That means they are vague, ambiguous. Truth is not equivocal. Now that doesn't mean that the study's findings are false. No – what it means is that the findings cannot yet be declared to be unequivocally true. The words point towards mean might, not are.

But because Jill saw that article headline – and didn't have or take the time to read and analyze the article – now both she and Stephanie have a slightly altered worldview. They now believe that transgenders have no choice; that they are being true to their genetic makeup.

Score one for the radical change agents. They won – not with truth, but through an implication. It appears that transgenders are genetically predisposed to their desires. Don't bother to wait to see if the study is confirmed to be true, just print that headline and let busy people draw their conclu-

sions from it.

The Daily Mail article continued: "Presenting their research at the Society for Reproductive Investigation conference, the researchers said: 'We identified genetic variants in 20 genes that may play a role in transgender identity.'" If the sentence omitted the word may, this would be huge news. But that little word is, again, equivocal.

Just below that, the article quotes a geneticist, who said, "It lends legitimacy, if that needs to be added, that transgender is not a choice but a way of being." Please read that again: "It lends legitimacy." More equivocation. The geneticist didn't say, "This is an established fact." Lending legitimacy means it could be true, not that it is true. It could be true that we are being visited by beings from other planets. Some recent videos lend some legitimacy to that idea. But there's a huge chasm between saying space aliens may be visiting our planet and space aliens are here.

We need to be discerning media consumers. Not every headline provides us accurate news – even if the headline refers to scientists. My plea to my readers is that we build our worldview on facts that we can confirm. And here's a first step: If you read a headline and don't have or take the time to read and analyze the accompanying article, then please dismiss that headline; behave as if you never saw it.

We win when we honor the truth. Anything less is a loss – personally and for our society.

Truth matters.

Denise Shick is the founder and executive director of Help 4 Families, a Christian ministry that reaches out to family members and brings understanding of the emotional and spiritual issues that families face when a loved one is gender-confused.

## Human Trafficking: KC at Center of Dark World

by Phillip Cosby

We are witnessing an accelerating global cultural descent, where flesh is cheap and human slavery is back, flourishing and defined as human trafficking. The FBI reports that human trafficking is now the #2 moneymaker for organized crime, exceeded only by drug trafficking. To the human trafficker, humanity is a profitable reusable commodity for labor and commercial sexual exploitation.

Sexual human trafficking has a wide scope of victims and customers. Most troubling to law enforcement and the general populace is the commercial sexual exploitation of children under the age of 18, with the average victim being 13 years old. These child victims are from both international slave trade and domestic origins equally.

In the U.S. children run away, experience homelessness or are thrown away at the rate of nearly 1,740,000 per year. Roughly 300,000 of those adolescents are involved in commercial sexual exploitation (prostitution and pornography) annually.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reports the internet posting of 300,000 new child porn images monthly, with child pornography being the fastest growing crime in the U.S. and a list of 736,000 registered sex offenders within the U.S. What law enforcement agency can possibly keep up with this pace of illicit cyber activity? In a recent discussion I had with a local cyber crimes detective who focuses on sexting and child pornography, he informed me that federal resources for the prosecution of child pornography is being shifted to international cyber espionage concerns in the wake of recent wiki leak events.

Although just one tool of an effective strategy, recent legal remedies by the Kansas and Missouri legislature to vigorously prosecute "johns and pimps" and recover victims have been laudable as both states now have above average laws to address this tsunami. The recovering of victims and the rehabilitation of the same are two different methodologies, neither of which are easy to identify or resource.

Commercial exploitation of children is a pandemic and as a Christian community we must ask what cause and effect dynamics are accelerating this phenomenon and what is our response? Moral compromise and indifference is numbing. A blush has become rare. Denial, desensitization and despair are dulling clear and steady resolve. Understanding the plight of the victim of sexual exploitation and rescuing them out of this river of hopelessness is not simple and is resource intensive. Equally we need to understand and confront the forces that are throwing these victims into the river upstream.

It was only ten years ago that a handheld apple was still an edible fruit. Emerging mobile technologies and social networking have exacerbated the availability of highly graphic and addictive sexualized images. "Sexting" has become commonplace among youth. With ever increasing bandwidth and speed, the internet with all of its good applications, has become the home of hard core illegal obscenity with 1/3 of cyber traffic being pornography. Remember the simple song "be careful little eyes what you see." Newly minted internet domain extensions such as .sex, .XXX, .affair and .porn have gone mainstream. The cyber wars

rage, lending more prophetic weight to one of the names of the evil one as "prince of the power of the air" Eph. 2:2

These visual sensual assaults have had the effect of shredding to our cultures moral fabric and public safety. As NYPD Detective Vernon Gilbreth taught,



"pornography is the fuel that acts as a catalyst for fantasy driven criminal behavior."

In September 2013 the Kansas City Star headlined "ONLINE ADS FUEL ILLICIT LURE," reporting KC ranking second only to Houston in percentage of men responding to sex ads, teeming with unmet demand for sex with prostitutes who advertise on the Internet, reports show that 106,624 Kansas City area men were responding to commercial sex ads each day.

Sexual immorality is nothing new. Sexual fidelity within the covenant of marriage is not an obscure doctrine. The New Testament uses the word "sexual immorality" forty times and clearly commands repentance, purity and fidelity in marriage. Ancient Rome was known for sexual promiscuity yet in the face of depravity the early Christian Church upheld sexual purity central to a devout faith and community health. The Church was and should still be the voice proclaiming the beauty and virtue of procreative sex in the covenant of marriage and clearly confronting the immorality of sexual deviant behavior.

The growing scourge of human trafficking and child sexual exploitation if unabated will rapidly dismantle what is called in the law "Crimes Against the Public Morals" and "Community Standard." Let us be resolved to be the "salt and light," for it is here at precisely this point that the battle rages and the faithfulness of the soldier tested.

Do I believe there is hope? Yes, most certainly. In spite of a reluctant prophet, Nineveh's judgment was pronounced, yet abundant mercy was realized. There is hope. I have seen one set to flight a thousand in this battle. God is jealous for His people and His mercy is near to those who call. Pray about what you can do, and then act to protect yourself, your children, families and community from this blight.

Eph 5:11-17: And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprov'd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

Phillip Cosby is State Director, American Family Association of Kansas and Missouri and a new Metro Voice contributing Editor





## 10 QUESTIONS TO ASK WHEN CHOOSING A SUMMER CAMP

by **Christa A. Banister**

Help your child have a healthy, happy experience at summer camp by asking these questions before you sign up.

Looking for a camp that will offer your child a safe, happy opportunity to develop new skills this summer? Start with the basics: Ask the director of any camp you're considering how long it's been operating and what licenses it has. You should be aware, however, that state licensing requirements vary widely, and in many cases, are minimal.

If the camp is accredited by the American Camp Association, you can be assured that the day camp or sleepaway camp on your list has satisfied the nonprofit organization's more than 300 standards on health, safety, facilities, programs and staffing. But many good programs are too new or too small to get ACA accreditation, which costs money and staff time. Even an accredited camp can be a poor match for your child if the camp's "culture" doesn't fit his temperament.

That means a parent considering any program needs to ask lots of questions. Here are 10 to ask the

camp director:

### 1. What's the camp's philosophy?

Is it one you're comfortable with as a parent? Is it a good match for your child's temperament? Is competition or cooperation emphasized? If it's a camp run by a religious organization, what religious observances or practices are part of the program? If you're looking at a sports camp that touts an affiliation with a celebrity athlete, how much time — if any — will the sports star actually spend there?

### 2. How does the camp recruit, screen and train its staff?

Do counselors have criminal background checks? First aid training?

### 3. What about return rates?

How many counselors are returning this year? The ACA says at most camps, 40-60 percent of the staff returns. If the number you're given is lower, ask why. How many campers return? Fifty percent is good, and more is better.

### 4. What's the ratio of counselors to campers?

ACA guidelines for overnight camps call for a 1:6 ratio for ages 7 and 8, 1:8 for ages 9-14; and 1:10 for ages 15-18. Day camp guidelines call for 1:8 for children ages

6-8; 1:10 for children ages 9-14; and 1:12 for ages 15-18.

### 5. How old are the counselors?

The ACA recommends that 80 percent of the staff be 18 or older and that all staffers be at least 16 and a minimum of two years older than the campers they supervise.

### 6. What medical staff work at the camp and what backup facilities are nearby?

While most states have regulations for camps, there is no federal oversight of camps' health and safety. The ACA recommends that an overnight camp have a licensed physician or registered nurse on the site every day, and that day camps should have direct phone access. If your child takes medication, has food allergies or a chronic medical condition, be sure you are comfortable that the camp will be able to handle your child's needs.

### 7. What is the camp's approach to discipline and how does the camp handle conflicts between campers?

Find out what the camp's rules are and what breaches would result in a camper being sent home. You should be comfortable that the camp's practices are in line with your parenting practices.

### 8. What does a typical daily schedule look like?

This will help you decide if your child will be happy with the level of physical activity or the amount of time devoted to arts and crafts. Ask how much freedom a child has to choose activities.

### 9. Will the camp be transporting the children?

What vehicles are used and how often are they inspected? Who

drives them and what training do drivers have?

### 10. Ask for references.

Finally and most important, get the names of parents with children the same age who have attended the camp. While it's true that a director is likely to give you the names of campers who had good experiences, you'll be able to get a fuller view of the camp by asking the right questions, says ACA President Ann Sheets.

"Ask 'Is there anything you didn't like about the camp?' And let your child talk to their child, too," she says.

*"Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."*  
Mark 6:31





# WHY SUMMER CAMPS ARE STILL IMPORTANT

April showers bring May flowers but also thoughts of summer camp for the kids. The Midwest offers countless options – both close to home and a half-day's drive away – that each provide life-altering experiences for the spirit and body.

You may be asking yourself "Should I send my child to camp?" Our answer – a resounding "YES!"

## TRANSFORMED LIVES

At camp, young people have the mental room to consider some of the most important issues of life. This break from the craziness of their regular routine allows campers to think about their

future, to evaluate unhealthy patterns, and to discover the truth that God loves them and has an amazing plan for their lives.

## ADULT MENTORS

According to researchers, kids spend on average less than 40 minutes in meaningful conversation with their parents each week. At camp, caring adults, counselors and mentors come alongside campers, helping them think through decisions and experiences in a way that will prepare them for their future. Many campers point back to a positive role model they met at camp as one who helped shape the direction of their lives.

## NATURE AND ADVENTURE

Campers explore nature, participate in new adventures and test their limits in a healthy environment surrounded by the grandeur of God's creation.

## LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS

Good friends who exert positive peer pressure can make all the difference in a kid's life. Friendships with caring adults and other campers, forged through shared experience and the compressed time at camp, can last a lifetime and provide a connection that helps young people navigate the challenges of life.



## TEMPORARY COMMUNITY

In a setting separate from their daily routine, with an opportunity to shed the expectations and pressures of others, campers are freed up to truly be themselves, to live

above artificial limitations and blossom into who they were created to be.

—Provided by the Christian Camps and Conference Association

# There is a camp for everyone

Today, there are camps to meet every interest, price range, and schedule. Knowing your options, as well as your child's personality, will help you identify programs from which your child will benefit most.

## Resident Camp

Most offer a variety of programs for children starting at age seven. Resident camp options include coed, single sex and specialty camps that focus on a particular program. Resident camps offer varying overnight accommodations such as cabins, tents, and teepees.

## Day Camp

Similar to resident camps except campers are somewhat younger,

starting at four-year-olds, and everyone returns home at the end of the day.

## Specialty Camps & Programs

Campers can embark on adventures as varied as learning how to ride a horse, water ski, or dance. If your child has a special interest, there likely is a camp that specializes in it.

## Special Needs Campers

A physical, medical, or mental disability is not a roadblock for a camp experience. Each year more than a million special needs children benefit from summer camp. Some camps specialize in serving certain groups while other camps integrate special-needs campers into the total

camp population.

## Session Lengths Vary

Children may stay at camp for a few days, a few weeks or the entire summer. At camp, there's a session length for every child, budget, and schedule.

## Cost

Camp remains a very affordable option for most everyone. A large range of price options are available, depending upon the choice of camp, the facilities offered and the camper's needs. The average resident camp fee is \$85 a day, while the average day camp fee is \$43 per day. Many camps and other organizations offer financial assistance based on need.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR GETAWAY!**

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# Chip and Joanna Gaines are remaking their hometown

Chip and Joanna Gaines are remaking their hometown

Make a trip to the hometown of Chip and Joanna Gaines—Waco, Texas. That's the advice of Carla Pendergraft for those who need a Fixer Upper fix after the final season of the home renovation show finishes airing this year.

"The Gaineses always talk about how much they love Waco," said Pendergraft, the marketing director for the Waco Convention and Visitor's Bureau.

HGTV introduced viewers to the quirky and talented Chip and Joanna Gaines in 2013. The couple announced the upcoming fifth season of Fixer Upper, now HGTV's most successful show ever, would be their last.

"We never could have imagined in a



magazine, and their line of home decor items at Target stores. After the show started, the couple bought property with a landmark pair of silos in Waco and turned it into Magnolia Market, a Fixer Upper Disneyland with a retail store, bakery, and outdoor gathering space.

"Right now they're getting about 32,000 visitors a week to Magnolia Market," Pendergraft said.

million years that God would've had this kind of a journey for Jo and I and our family and our beautiful business here in Waco," Chip Gaines said in a video posted on his wife's blog Tuesday.

Over the past few years, the Gaineses have leveraged their fame into a business empire, with books, a quarterly

The Gaineses' success has washed over their hometown of Waco in waves. According to Pendergraft, tourist attractions such as the zoo and museums have seen a 20 percent increase in visitors since Fixer Upper first aired. A spring festival at Magnolia Market drew 70,000 people.

Fixer Upper came along right as a burst of economic growth hit the Interstate 35 corridor in Central Texas, and in Waco the Gaineses have become mascots of good fortune. Realtors told Pendergraft they sold houses to couples who first saw Waco on HGTV and then decided to relocate.

"They fall in love with the show and with Waco as depicted on the show," she said.

It's not just the Gaineses' style that has attracted people to Waco, but their substance, too. The couple, who have four children, talk openly in the media about their Christian faith and how it drives their commitment to family.

"I think that there's a hunger for that in America," Pendergraft said. "I think people come here who are hungry for being able to espouse their faith and live in a community where you don't have to be embarrassed to say, 'Do you have a church home? I'd love to invite you to mine.' ... I think Chip and Joanna, by their values and by what they've talked about, have made that clear that that's what they're about, too."

The final season of Fixer Upper premiered last November. A companion show called Behind the Design is premiered last fall and provides more details on how Joanna Gaines decorates the hometown homes renovated on Fixer Upper.

— by Lynde Langdon / WNS



George Strait sang a song called, "I Saw God Today." He saw God in a flower growing in the crack of a sidewalk. He saw a beautiful red sunset and a brand-new baby girl in the newborn nursery at the hospital. If you notice, he saw God in the smaller, slower pace of life. Far too many people are living life in the fast lane and won't slow down to smell the roses. At that speed, you will hardly ever see God.

prints are every where if you just stop and look. Have you looked for God today? You haven't? Why not? If it is true that His fingerprints are everywhere, why are you missing Him? Isn't it time to start slowing down and looking for God? If you seek Him, you will find Him. If you need help, send me an email at thecountryparson@yahoo.com.

*Be Encouraged,*  
Scott Perkins  
The Country Parson

## Woman at center of Brown v. Topeka Board of Education landmark segregation case dies



This undated file photo shows Linda Brown. Brown, the Kansas girl at the center of the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that struck down racial segregation in schools, has died at age 76.

The woman, who at age 10 stood at the center of the landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education* that ended school segregation laws, died Monday. Linda Brown Thompson was 76.

The 1954 decision stemmed from her father Oliver Brown's attempts to enroll Linda in Sumner Elementary School in Topeka.

"Sixty-four years ago, a young girl from Topeka brought a case that ended segregation in public schools in America," stated Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer. "Linda Brown's life reminds us that sometimes the most unlikely people can have an incredible impact and that by serving our community we can truly change the world."

Although the school was closer to the Browns' home, it was deemed a white school and the Topeka Board of Education said Linda had to attend Monroe Elementary instead, an all-black school

which was about two miles farther.

Brown joined with several other plaintiffs in a class action headed up by the NAACP that challenged the legality of segregated school districts. In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court ruled that segregated schools violated the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment.

"As a young girl, her courage in the face of one of the darkest forces in American history fundamentally changed our nation," the NAACP said in a written statement. "For that, we owe her our eternal gratitude."

Brown went on to attend Washburn and Kansas State universities. She later worked as an educational consultant and public speaker. According to Linda, her father was concerned about her having to walk so far just to get to a segregated school.

■ Please see BROWN page 23



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## Fresh Home Upgrades for Spring

(Family Features) After a long winter cooped up indoors, spring is the perfect time to start re-imagining your home and making upgrades that create a fresh, welcoming vibe. These project ideas – some big, some small – can help breathe new life into your home so you're ready to enjoy your favorite rooms to the fullest.

### Air it out

Months of closed windows and doors can make any room feel dusty and stale. As soon as temperatures allow, throw open the windows and skylights to let the fresh air chase away the remnants of winter. It's a perfect time to launder window treatments and clean area rugs. After a few passes with a carpet cleaner, allow rugs to air-dry outdoors. If you're considering an

update to the overall decor, changing out these textiles is an easy and affordable way to create a new look. Just donate the used drapes and rugs after cleaning instead of bringing them back into the room.

### Shift your outlook

When contemplating changes to a room's aesthetic, most people focus on the floor, walls and elements like furniture and accessories. As some homeowners are discovering, there's a whole other space waiting to be discovered. The ceiling, a fifth wall of sorts, opens up endless creative design opportunities.

Whether you're seeking more natural light, access to fresh air, a sense of spaciousness or a way to bring sophistication to a room, a skylight may be just



the solution. For example, Velux room-darkening and light-filtering blinds can add a splash of color just where you least expect it, and they're efficient in shielding your space from the sun, meaning the blinds and installation are eligible for a 30 percent tax credit. Learn more at [whyskylights.com](http://whyskylights.com).

### Paint to perfection

Over time, once cheerful walls can grow dull. Create a livelier ambiance



with a fresh coat of paint, either in the same shade or something completely new. If you're not sure exactly where to start, tackle the project room by room. To choose the right hue, select a favorite item in the room, such as an heirloom throw blanket or a piece of wall art, and consider color shades that complement the item well.

### Make what's old new again

Sometimes a fresh perspective is as simple as rearranging a room to better fit your needs. Over time, the furnishings can become almost an afterthought because they've been in place so long. Try moving things around to create new conversation groupings or to highlight a piece that has been tucked away in the shadows. An updated arrangement may inspire to you add and embellish with some simple new accessories or accent pieces for a room that only looks brand new.

### Get earth smart

With all of the new growth and hues of green that abound during spring, it's natural to be more mindful of the environment. Earth-friendly upgrades like switching out inefficient lighting or installing low-flow toilets and shower heads can make a

sizeable difference. Another option for energy conservation: Look for ways to maximize natural light for heat and to brighten rooms. Well-placed windows and skylights can harness energy naturally, so you can minimize your reliance on electricity for comfort and convenience.

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### Spring Out to Jacksons!

**Amette's Tip:**

Spring weather is already here, and buds are swelling so if you have fruit trees, berry bushes and roses, now is the last chance to clean up last year's problems with ferti-lome Horticultural Oil Spray. If iris leaves are poking through the soil and leaf spot was a problem, you should apply ferti-lome Broad Spectrum Fungicide now! Overseeding a poor lawn now with ferti-lome New Lawn Starter and 100% weed free TriPower may be an alternative to pursue if you didn't overseed last fall. In that case, we recommend a later application of ferti-lome Weed-Out Turf which will kill the crabgrass after it comes up and prevents any new crabgrass from sprouting.

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**NOTO artists partner with Zoo animals to paint**

As part of Topeka Zoo's annual Roar & Pour Art Auction, they partnered with Amused Gallery for an animal artist collaboration. The nine artists paired up with nine Topeka Zoo animals to create one-of-a-kind works of art. All of the artists volunteered their time and talents to create masterpieces for the art auction.

Staci Dawn Ogle, co-owner of The Hive NOTO, 918 N Kansas Ave sees art as something that transcends painting on canvas or pointing a camera. While her art may be about herself, being an artist is about so much more. She teamed up with Steve the alligator to create original paintings.

"Working with the alligator was a ton of fun," Staci said. "I just went with my favorite colors and applied a general background to the canvas, taking into account how I thought the alligator would paint, and adjusting my brush strokes from there."

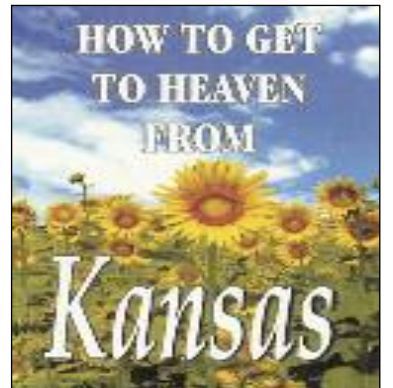
"The idea to paint a water scene was something I discovered early on. It took about 12 hours to complete the final stage. The name of the painting is 'Scuba Steve.'"

Get a sneak peek of this painting in



NOTO Arts & Entertainment District at the April First Friday Art Walk, You will also be able to purchase prints in the future at The Hive NOTO. The original piece will be auctioned off at the Friends of the Topeka Zoo (FOZ) Roar & Pour Wine Fest April 28th.

Another artist, Jordan E. Brooks from Pandamonium Arts, collaborated with "Betsy" The Milk Snake for the Topeka zoo animal painting.



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

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

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

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

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



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

# the events calendar

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Get your event in **Highlighted in Blue** in print, our online calendar and promoted in social media for only **\$29!**

## CONCERTS

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**THE BERRYTON PICKERS** - First Sat. of ea. month, 7-9pm, Berryton Baptist Church. Bring snacks, have fun!

**KANSAS PRAIRIE PICKERS** - Fourth Sun. ea. month, 1pm, Auburn Community Center. Foot-stomping, hand-clapping tunes. Concessions available

**THE LESTERS IN CONCERT** - Apr. 14, 7pm-9pm, Berryton United Methodist Church, 7010 Southeast Berryton Road

**SKILLET IN CONCERT** - Apr. 14, Kansas Expo Centre. Joy Unleashed - The Tour, also featuring For King & Country. Ticketmaster.com

**THE HOUSE JUMPERS** - Apr. 21, 7:30-11pm, Faces by Mayfield, 802 N. Kansas Ave. (785) 380-1667

**FREE DYSART FAMILY CHRISTIAN CONCERT** - Apr. 28, 6pm, Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell. Westminster will be hosting The Dysart Family who write, sing and play their own original Christian music. They travel throughout the USA, particularly the

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**BOBBY BOWEN FAMILY BAND CONCERT** - May 27, 6pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene. Country Gospel Bobby Bowen Family Band in Free concert! (785) 234-1111. [www.BobbyBowen.com](http://www.BobbyBowen.com) [FamilyOfGodChurch@hotmail.com](mailto:FamilyOfGodChurch@hotmail.com)

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**SPIRITUAL PAUSE** - Every Wed., 12-12:30pm, Carole Chapel at Washburn Univ. Informal worship service. 785-233-1844

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

**BINGO AT FAIRLAWN HEIGHTS ASSISTED LIVING** - 3pm, 1st Sat. of ea. month. Facilitator: Pastor Carole

**FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET** - First Saturday

of every month, 7:30-10am. Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church. Free will offering.

**FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** - Sundays at 10am sharp, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 900 block of NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor John Menkveld - which is in turn followed at noon by The Hope House FREE Community Food & Clothing Banks.

**FIRST WEDNESDAY WESLEY CAFE** - First Wed., 6:15pm, Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th. A worship service will follow at 7:00. 785-478-3697 or [www.swumc.org/wesley-cafe-sign-up-1.html](http://www.swumc.org/wesley-cafe-sign-up-1.html)

**GOOD FRIDAY DINNER** - Mar. 30, 5-8pm. Mission Hill, 7627 SW 17th St. Please bring a main dish and side dish or dessert to share.

**GOOD FRIDAY WORSHIP** - Mar. 30, 6-7pm. Crestview United Methodist Church, 2245 SW Eveningside Dr.

**THE 7 LAST SAYINGS OF CHRIST** - Mar. 30, 6:30pm, Open Arms Outreach Ministries, 2401 SE 11th St. Featuring speakers from Topeka, Wichita, Manhattan and Denver.

**COMMUNITY EASTER EGG HUNT** - Mar. 31, 3-5pm, New Mt. Zion, 2801 SE Indiana Ave. Food, games, prizes, bounce house, bicycle raffle, face painting

**EASTER WORSHIP** - Apr. 1, 7-12. Crestview United Methodist Church, 2245 SW Eveningside Dr. 7am sunrise service with light breakfast following; 8:30am worship; 9:40am Sunday school; 10:50am worship.

**EASTER BREAKFAST & SERVICE** - Apr. 1, 8:30am: breakfast; 9:30am: service. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. For info: 266-3247

**EASTER WORSHIP** - Apr. 1, 10am, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. The public is invited to attend. For info: 286-0467.

**EASTER BREAKFAST & SERVICE** - Apr. 1, 7:00 Sunrise Service at Ted Enslay Pergola at Lake Shawnee. 8:30am: worship; 9:45am: breakfast; 11am: worship. First Southern Baptist Church, 19th & Gage.

**EASTER BREAKFAST** - Apr. 1, 8:30am. Worship at 10a. Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place. For info: 286-0601

**EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE** - April 1, 7am, Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site, 124 N.W. Fillmore. The service is sponsored by West Side Baptist Church.

**INDOOR GARAGE SALE** - April 7, 8am - 4:30pm, Oakland United Methodist Church, 801 NE Chester. Serving Doughnuts and coffee and for lunch hot dogs, chips, soda and bottled water.

**FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET** - Apr 7, 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, 6020 S.E. 44th, Tecumseh

**TASTE OF COUNTRY** - Apr 7, 8 AM - 2 PM, Crestview United Methodist Church, 2245 S.W. Eveningside Drive. Lunch served 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Country Store: crafts, baked goods and snacks. Menu: pulled pork sandwich, choice of two sides (potato salad, cole slaw, or baked beans), fruit cobbler and drink. Cost: \$7 adults and \$5 ages 10 and under. Mission fundraiser. Information: 272-3676.

**SPRING FLING!** - Apr. 8, 11:30am-1pm, Susanna Wesley United Methodist, 7433 Southwest 29th Street. Free. Games, balloon animals, face painting, kids crafts, a model airplane demonstration, hamburgers and hotdogs, a compliments booth, and a gospel music performance.

**CATFISH FRY FUNDRAISER** - Apr. 13, 12-4pm, 1244 SE Republican Avenue. Donation \$12; (Dinners come with 2 sides) 785 233-9545

**ANNUAL SPRING DINNER** - Apr. 14, 4pm, Grantville United Methodist Church, 3724 South Street. Chicken Casserole or Ham; Vegetables, Salads, Dinner rolls, pies and drinks. Free will offering for Dinner. Bazaar, Cake Walk and Bake sale 3-7 p.m. (785) 2463621 [grantvillechurch@grantvilleumc.com](mailto:grantvillechurch@grantvilleumc.com)

**ANNUAL PORK LOIN DINNER** - Apr. 14, 4:30-6:30pm, Elmont United Methodist Church, 6635 N.W. Church Lane. The cost is \$9 per person.

**"LET THERE BE LIGHT" FILM** - Apr. 14, 6:30pm, Wanamaker Woods Church of the Nazarene, 3501 S.W. Wanamaker. Tickets cost \$8 in advance or \$10 the day of the show. Advance tickets are available at the church or by calling (800) 965-9324 or [www.ITickets.com/FFN](http://www.ITickets.com/FFN). For info, call (785) 273-2248.

**MOVIE NIGHT** - April 21, Doors open at 5:30 and the movie begins at 6:00 PM. Highland Heights Christian Church, 29th & Tecumseh. The movie to be shown is "Gifted" Snacks will be provided.

**60TH ANNUAL SMORGASBORD FOR MISSIONS** - Apr. 24, 5-7 PM, St. John's Lutheran, 901 SW Fillmore.

Chicken/Ham/BBQ Meatballs, salads, pie, roll & drink for \$10-Adults, \$4-Children 6-12, Free-Under 6. Benefit for Topeka Rescue Mission, Doorstep, The Lutheran Hour, Topeka Lutheran School, and more. Contact Jim Simpson 379-5703.

**ELEGANT CLUTTER UPSCALE SALE** - May 8, 9am - 2pm. Elmont United Methodist Church, 6635 N.W. Church Lane.

**DAY CAMP** - June 25 - 29, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Trinity Presbyterian Church 4746 S.W. 21st for children entering 1st - 7th grades. Cost: \$60 per child. Bring sack lunch daily, no refrigeration. Information and registration 785-272-2620 or [camps@trinitypresbyterian.net](mailto:camps@trinitypresbyterian.net)

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

**MEDICARE MONDAYS** - First Mon. of ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library (Menninger Rm 206), 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging and Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545

or [nhonl@tsclp.org](mailto:nhonl@tsclp.org)

**MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR** - Apr. 10, 2pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info or to sign up: [centuryinsuranceagen-cyks.com](mailto:centuryinsuranceagen-cyks.com) or 270-4593 or [info@century-health.com](mailto:info@century-health.com). Snacks & beverages provided.

**EMPOWERED TO CONNECT CONFERENCE** - Apr. 13 & 14, Topeka Bible Church, 135 SW College Ave. Aimed to help adoptive and foster parents understand how to connect with "children from hard places."

**PRICILLA SHIRER SIMULCAST** - Apr. 28, 9am-5pm. Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. \$15 through Apr. 9, \$20 beginning Apr. 10. Cost includes a lunch, snacks & drinks. For info: 286-1204

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

**SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP** - plays Mon. & Wed. Mon. at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame,

**C5 Alive** *Developing and Uniting Christian Leadership*

• Business • Non-profits • Churches

---

Membership open to all Christian businesses, non-profits, churches & individuals!  
Luncheons & Tradeshows & some other events open to the general public!

**C5Alive POWER Luncheons are held 2nd Thur. each mo.**

**Apr. 12, 11:30-1 -- "POWER Luncheon"**  
at Governor's Row House. Featuring Gov. Jeff Colyer

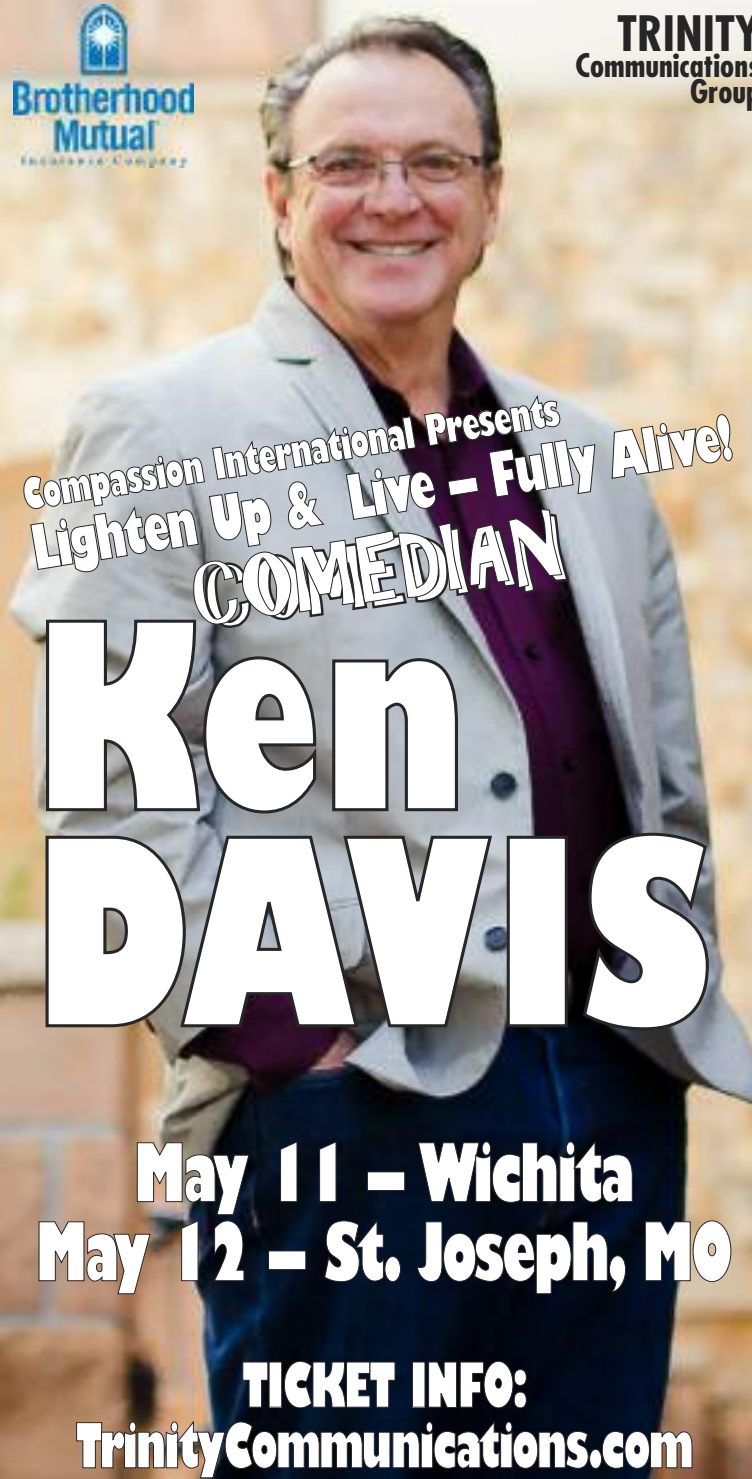
Public is welcome! RSVP to  
[info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or 785-640-6399



**EASTERFEST** • Mar. 31, 10-3 - 5th Annual Easter Parade & Fun Fair - North Topeka

- May 10, 11:30-1, Power luncheon, Topeka Bible Church, Featuring Rev. Jim Congdon
- June 14, 11:30-1, Power luncheon. Speaker: Barry Feaker

For info: [www.C5Alive.org](http://www.C5Alive.org) or [Facebook.com/C5Alive](https://www.facebook.com/C5Alive)



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**TICKET INFO:**  
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**THE Dysart FAMILY**



**Saturday, April 28, 2018**  
**6:00 PM**

**Westminster Presbyterian Church**  
1275 SW Boswell  
(13th & Boswell, across from Boswell Park)

**Contact: Rev. Jayne L. Ruiz, 785-357-0339**  
[jayneruiz@msn.com](mailto:jayneruiz@msn.com)

[www.dysartfamilymusic.com](http://www.dysartfamilymusic.com)



from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wed. at First Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors.

**SENIOR STRETCHING EXERCISES** — each Mon., Wed., Fri.; 9:30-10:15am, Seaman Community Church, 2036 NW Taylor St. Enter on the east side of Fellowship Hall. No charge. 785-354-8777 or 785-213-6016

**SAFE STREETS COALITION MEETING** — First Wed. of the month, 11:45am-1pm. Great Overland Station. For info: 266-4606 or jwilson@safestreets.org

**LIBRARY'S LEARN & PLAY BUS** - Every Tuesday 1-3pm, Auburn Community Center.

**SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH** — Weekdays, except holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reservations/cancellations required 24 hours in advance by calling Meals on Wheels of Jefferson & Shawnee Co. at 295-3980. Each meal includes 1% milk & sugar-free items for diabetics. 215- 0064.

**SHAWNEE SWINGERS SQUARE DANCE LESSONS** - Wednesday's, 7pm, Croco Hall, 6115 SE Hwy 40, Tecumseh. Starting Sept. 20. Call 785-817-3071.

**COUNTRY AND BALLROOM DANCING** - Thursdays 6-9pm. Croco Hall. Info: Edwina 379-9538 or 478-4760.

**SHEPHERDS CENTER LINE DANCING GROUP** - meets 2nd & 4th Thur, 2-4 at First UMC, 6th & Topeka. Park on the WEST side & use the WEST door. Immediately inside, turn left & walk the ramp to the library, then left to elevator. Push [B] for fellowship hall.

**SHEPHERDS CENTER HHS WALKING GROUP** - meets 2nd & 4th Thur, 9:30-11 at HHS, 21st & Belle. Entrance for walkers is on WEST side. To walk a shelter dog call Kelsey: 233-7325.

**NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS** — NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market

**SAVING DEATH ROW DOGS ADOPTION BOOTH** - Every Sat., 11am - 2pm, Petco, 1930 SW Wanamaker. Some Sat. adoption booths are held at PetSmart, 2020 SW Westport Dr. Updates at savingdeathrowdogs.com

**SLIDERDAYS** — 12-1pm, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. Join us every third Saturday for Line Dancing!! Cost: Free-will donation!! 50% of your donation will be applied to the renovation of the Jayhawk Theatre.

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

**TOPEKA FOLK DANCERS CLASSES** - Sundays, 2-4pm, 2637 SE 41st St. Dances from 20 countries. No partners or experience necessary. No fee. 215-0968.

**HEALTHY STEPS MONTHLY MEETUP** — Mar. 6 — Dec. 4, West Ridge Mall. Mall walking; log each time you walk — at the kiosk near the lower level, northwest mall entrance. Each visit gives you another entry into monthly prize drawings. Monthly Meetups 9-10am, First Tuesday of every month - special speakers, free blood pressure checks and prize drawings. Mall Walking hours: Mon-Sat 7am. - 9pm; Sun 11am - 6pm

**MOONLIGHT EGG HUNT** — Mar. 29, 8-9pm, Shawnee North Nature Trail and Fitness Loop Trail, 300 NE 43rd St. \$10 pre-registration required. For info: 251-6800

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION** — Mar. 31, 7-11am, First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage. \$5. Proceeds used for Sunflower Lions Club Vision Screening small children, and purchasing eye examinations and eye glasses in the Topeka community

**5th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR** — Mar. 31, 10am-3pm, North Kansas Avenue & Garfield Park. Topeka's annual Easter Parade will begin at 10am at the tracks in NOTO and proceed north on Kansas Avenue to Garfield Park. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the playground in Garfield Park. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair will be 10-3 in Garfield Park, in the Shelter House & in the Gym, including vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, pony rides, laser tag, bubble soccer and more. Win bicycles at the Football Toss at 2pm. Cake Walk at noon and 1pm. Bands, gymnastics, ballet and other entertainment will be on hand. For info: info@C5Alive.org or 640-6399.

**CYCLING EVENTS** — April. Gravelleurs Raid, Gravel Grinder, Bazaar Road Race, Fat Tire Festival, Jayhawk

Cycling Classic. These and other cycling events in April are offered by Kansas Cyclist. For details: www.kansascyclist.com/

**HOPE EMBRACED** — Apr. 5, 6pm, Fellowship Bible Church/. Doors open at 5:30. Lifeline Childrens Services fundraiser features shared stories of adoption. Jessa.swearingen@lifelinechild.org

**WAKE UP WITH WASHBURN** - Jennifer Graf Smith — Apr. 5, 7:30am, Washburn University - Bradbury Thompson Alumni Center. Jennifer Graf Smith, is director of image and brands at Michelin Tire. \$10 for members of the Alumni Association and \$13 for non-members.

**MY JOURNEY IN ART THERAPY BY CHARLES ANDERSON** — Apr. 6, 12pm, Creations of Hope Gallery, 909 N. Kansas Ave. The Creations of Hope gallery is proud to present this exhibit and special presentation by art therapy pioneer Charles Anderson, ATR, whose legacy and impact can be hard to quantify in words. Reflecting upon themes of struggle and survival, moments of dismissal, and windows of opportunity, Mr. Anderson guides us through his life. He illustrates moments recalling his identity as an artist, an art therapist, and African American man and, in turn, lends insight into the ways he navigated the perceptions and expectations that society often placed upon him. &nbsp;The exhibit opens on Friday April 6th and runs through May. Special presentation by Charles Anderson is on Saturday, May 19th, 2:00-4:00 pm. The gallery is located in the NOTO Arts District and is open Fridays 12-5, Saturdays 11-3, and is open late the Frist Friday of each month. (785) 7837558 www.facebook.com/creationsofhopeart cweeks@valetopeka.org

**GARAGE SALE** — Apr. 6 & 7, 8am-12noon., First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage, (enter from 19th and Stone). Something for everyone; no clothes. Proceeds used for community and youth activities.

**TULIP TIME 2018** — Apr. 6-23. Over 100,000 tulips & daffodils in bloom at 3 locations: Old Prairie Town at Ward Meade Park, Ted Ensley Gardens, Doran Rock Garden in Gage Park. For group tours & other info: 234-1030

**TULIPS AT TWILIGHT** — Apr. 6-15, 6-10pm, Old Prairie Town. See more than 40,000 tulips illuminated by candle light and more than 30 lighted displays. Live music and Old Prairie Town building tours on Friday and Saturday evenings. \$5 donation; children 5 and under free. For info: 785-251-6991

**SPRINGFEST AT WESTBORO MART** — Apr. 7, 5-8pm, Oakley & Huntoon. Free. Pet Friendly. Free pony rides, free face painting and balloon art, ballet dancers from Ballet Midwest's production Swan Lake, live music, special activities and art exhibits hosted by individual merchants and food trucks. (785) 221-1361

**JOURNEY FOR SIGHT 5K WALK/RUN & 10K RUN** — Apr. 7, 8am start, Combat Air Museum, Forbes Field. Funds raised support Lion's Club Eyeglass Procurement Programs. Register online at active.com or topekaliions.org, or in person at Gary Gribbles Running Sports.

**PAWS IN THE PARK** - Apr. 7, 10am-2pm at 21st & Belle, Topeka West Soccer Field. Helping Hands Humane Society is celebrating 20 years of Paws in the Park. Register at the HHS gift shop or call Justin Brokar at (785) 233-7325.

**COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS: A COMMUNITY CONVERSATION** — Apr. 9, 11:45am-1:45pm, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 Southwest 10th Avenue. Open to the public. This event will breakdown what those rankings mean in Shawnee County followed by a panel discussion regarding what steps we can take to increase the health of our community led by Shawnee County Health Officer Dr. Pezzino.

**VENDOR/CRAFT FAIR FUNDRAISER** — Apr 14-15, 9-5, Oakland Community Center, 801 NE Poplar St. In support of Stormont Vail Cancer Center in Topeka. Drawing for prizes on Saturday. (785) 580-8730

**B&C EQUINE BICYCLE RACE** — Apr. 14, 12-1. http://horserecuc.weebly.com

**2018 NATIONAL NIGHT OUT MEETING** — Apr. 18, 6:30 pm, Topeka and Shawnee County Library. First meeting to organize NNO on August 11. Come register your neighborhood event and share ideas.

**2018 TOPEKA CORPORATE GAMES** — Apr. 20-22, SportZone, 3907 SW Burlingame Rd. The Sunflower

State Games presents the 2nd annual Topeka Corporate Games. This special event is designed for area businesses to encourage healthy and active lifestyles to their employees while building camaraderie. SSG is proud to partner with SportZone and Gage Bowl in hosting this multi-sport event that includes Basketball, Bowling, Cornhole, Dodgeball, Indoor Soccer, and Volleyball. Registration is now open at sunflowergames.com

**6TH ANNUAL BRIDGE2BRIDGE 5K RUN/WALK** - Apr. 21, 9-11am, Downtown Topeka. Traverse sidewalks, streets, bridges in this urban experience. Course is USATF certified. 8 age categories. All ages welcome. See Bridge 2 Bridge 5K Run & Walk facebook event page

**BALLET MIDWEST'S ROMEO & JULIET** - April 21, 8pm & April 22 at 3pm, Topeka Performing Arts Center. Tickets through Ticketmaster or at TPAC. The classic, tragic love story told through the beauty of dance.

**BALLET MIDWEST: MY FIRST BALLET: A PRINCE AND PRINCESS BALL** - April 21, 2pm, Topeka Performing Arts Center. Tickets \$12; incentive if purchased by April 15- 1 free with purchase of 2 tickets. Available at Barbara's Conservatory of Dance, M-Th 4:30-8:30 & Sat. 9:30-1:30, or at TPAC the day of the show. See dances by Sleeping Beauty, Cinderella, Belle and more- with Princess, too; then join the dance parade and play games.

**CELEBRITY PANCAKE FEED** — Apr. 28, 7am-12 noon, Combat Air Museum, 7016 SE Forbes Avenue. (785) 862-3303. Price: \$6. Join the local civic, political and other local Shawnee County celebrities who will be flipping and serving pancakes all morning, for all the pancakes you can eat, with sausages, orange or coffee and good music. A "fly-in" market will be run during the pancake feed and local musicians will entertain.

**NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER** - May 3, Local Observances at Noon in the Capitol Rotunda, (For info: Dave DePue 785-249-7604, or dave.depue@capitol.com.org)

**4TH ANNUAL BREAKTHROUGH HOUSE GOLF TOURNAMENT CYPRESS RIDGE GOLF COURSE** — May 7, 12:30pm. Four-Person Scramble. (785) 213-8506 www.breakthroughhouse.org E-mail didio4@cox.net

**YOUTH FOR CHRIST GOLF CLASSIC** - May 11, 11:30 reg.; 12:30 shotgun start, Lake Shawnee. Several sponsorship levels available. Lots of prizes! 232-8296 or topekaafc.org

**RELAY FOR LIFE** — Jun. 1, 6pm, Hummer Sports Complex. Celebrate cancer survivors, remember loved ones lost to cancer, & take action for lifesaving change. The opening ceremony, which includes a Survivors Lap, will begin at 7:00. Food vendors, silent auction and basket raffle, kids carnival. Start a fundraising team, join an existing team, make a donation or volunteer. shawneecountyrfll@gmail.com www.relayforlife.org/topekaks

**MEETINGS & CLASSES**

**C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON** — Apr. 12, 11:30-1, POWER Luncheon, Governor's Rowhouse, 811 SW Buchanan. Featured Speaker: Gov. Jeff Colyer

• Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door

• \$15 for non-members & repeat guests.

• Please RSVP to info@C5Alive.org, so we know how much food is needed!

Open to the public — Put POWER in your life with great food, great speakers and great company! Invite a friend to join you!

**SAVE THE DATE: May 10, 11:30-1, POWER Luncheon, Topeka Bible Church. Featured Speaker: Rev. Jim Congdon.**

**SAVE THE DATE: Apr. 12, 11:30-1, C5 POWER Luncheon, Governor's Rowhouse, 811 SW Buchanan. Featured Speaker: Gov. Jeff Colyer.**

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA MEETING** - Join other concerned individuals to pray and unite in action for Shawnee Co. and our Nation. For info about monthly meetings: 785-260-5659 or ks.cwfa.org.

**THE HEAT** - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Sun. - 4-5pm Yoga; Mon. - 12-12:45pm Zumba; 5:30-6:15pm Kickboxing; 6:15-7pm Pilates Fusion; Tue. - 12-12:45pm Yoga; 5:30-6:15pm Zumba; 6:15-7pm Cardio Interval; Wed. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Thu. - 12-12:45pm Pilates; 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Interval - Low intensity; 6:15-7:00pm Cardio Interval - Moderate intensity; Fri. - 12-12:45pm Kickboxing; Sat. - 8-8:45am Kickboxing

**TOPEKA TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB** - 3rd Sun. of each month except May, Sep. & Dec., 7pm, Papan's Landing Senior Center, 618 NW Paramore St. Family Memberships include children & grandchildren up to 18 yrs. A place to meet friends to discuss all aspects of Metal Detecting, club business, plus socializing & entertainment.

**STEP UP — BUILDING THE SMART STEP-FAMILY** — Every Sun. 11am, Northland Christian Church, Room 4, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. Focusing on the challenges facing step-families and blended families. Contact Thomas Munker at 249-3054 for info.

**DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE** — 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

**FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX)** — Every Sun., 6:01pm,

Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or fxthelawn@gmail.com.

**LADIES' SMALL GROUP** — Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. 286-0467.

**BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPOUS** - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register at cornerstonetopeka.com. 478-2929.

**TOPEKA MANKIND PROJECT** — Mondays, 6:30pm, 2112 SW Morningside Rd. Supports men in becoming their best selves, including physical, mental & emotional health & wellness. Open to any man. Brian Thomas: brian.thomas01@gmail.com or 785-727-9439

**THE FORCE (Students Taking Action)** — 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St. Committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. Youth 12-18 invited. 266-4606.

**HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS** — 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

**TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB** — 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

**OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL** — Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or ourladyofthefaithful@gmail.com. Facebook: "Our Lady of the Faithful."

**SUNRISE OPTIMIST CLUB** — Every Tue., 6:30am, Sunrise Optimist Complex, 720 NW 50th St. 246-1291.

**MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES** - Tuesdays Noon -1pm. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study group for Year One of Flo Menninger's course on Four

Years through the Bible. Read and discuss Genesis through First Kings. Nominal charge for materials. Call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache: 408-5433.

**FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES** Aerie 4319: First & Third Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: Third & Fourth Tue. month 6pm, 2941 SE Fremont Street. The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternalism in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, gladness and hope. www.foe.com 785-266-7307

**O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints)** - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at www.faithfamilylife.com

**DADDY'S GIRLS EMPOWERMENT MEETINGS - Do you want MORE...** Come join us for our More Luncheons where Real Women get together: share, learn and grow to return to our homes, families workplace, churches & other places of influence restored and rejuvenated to pursue God's MORE...at Topeka Public Library, 12 noon, every 3rd Wednesday. Sponsored by Daddy's Girls Inc. Please to RSVP make lunch reservations: daddysgirlsinc@gmail.com or 785-969-0491

**INNOVATIVE NETWORKING GROUP OF TOPEKA** - every other Wed. 11:20am - 12:30pm. www.INGTopeka.com - go to Event page to see times, locations & register

**S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God) youth group** - Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

**AWANA** — Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

**AWANA** — Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

**AWANA** — Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

**TOPEKA PRAYER GROUP** - Every Wed., 6:30pm, 409 SW Buchanan St. Do you believe that God hears and answers prayers? Do you believe Jesus wants to lead His people by His Holy Spirit? Come join us in prayer



# Marketing Concepts

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**MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB** – 1st Wed., 9am–3pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (east door). Anyone with an Embroidery machine is invited to attend, there are no dues or formal meeting agenda. Lunch is on your own. Teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call 379-5159.

**SAFE STREETS MEETING** – 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. 266-4606.

**STUDENT IMPACT** – Every Wed., 6–8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

**CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE** – Every Thurs. 7–9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

**INTENTIONAL MOM** – 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9–11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Auditorium, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! 234-5545.

**WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL EDUCATION EVENTS** – Blue Moose Bar & Grill, 11:30 AM on the third Thu & Fri each month. Free, but RSVP required. On Thu Brian discusses family wealth strategies. On Fri. Amy discusses wealth strategies that apply to women. 785-271-2536 Jennifer.Ward@wellsfargo.com

**OPERATION BACKPACK** – 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

**TOPEKA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY** – 4th Thurs., 7pm, Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th St. No program in Nov. or Dec. Promotes & stimulates the education, knowledge & interest of the membership & the public in family history, genealogical records & research. 233-5762 or lgstopeka.org.

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

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

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

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

**A GOOD YARN CLUB** – 2nd & 4th Sat., 9–11am, Wana-maker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wana-maker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Anne, 272-9249 or kittens812@sbcglobal.net

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

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

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

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

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

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

**PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY** – Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/

accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

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

**"HEALING HEARTS" support group/Bible study** – Sundays 6-8pm. For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addiction or have had affairs. Video & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Janet Mitchel, 673-4294.

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

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

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

**GRIEF SUPPORT** – First Monday each month, 3:30-4:30pm, 400 SW Oakley. Call Donna Park for info: 783-7527 or valeotopeka.org. Open to public. Free.

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

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

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

**OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS:**

MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

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

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

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.ia.org.

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

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

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

**PARENTS OF ESTRANGED ADULT CHILDREN SUPPORT GROUP** - Third Tue. Ea. Month, 6:45-8:45pm, Topeka Public Library, Rm 202. Info: Jeff Landers - 224-5946

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

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

**THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA** – 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information

& friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**GRIEFSHARE** – Every Thur. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Susanna Wesley UMC, 7433 SW 29th St., Mar 1 thru May 24. A Christ-centered program for those who have lost a loved one may be struggling and have questions on how to go forward. The class includes a video, sharing of stories, and a workbook (free). Call Shari Combs at 785-478-3697 for more information.

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

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

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

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

**TOPEKA NAR-ANON FAMILY GROUP** – For families & friends who are affected by someone else's narcotic addiction. Every Sat., noon-1:15 pm, rm. A, 1st Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar, enter on S. side, door A. www.naranonmidwest.org

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

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All About the Kaw: A Speakers Series April 11, 12pm-1pm "Crossing the Kansas River on the Oregon Trail" Tom Ellis

Tom is a writer and historian whose research interest is focused on 19th century Kansas. He is retired from Washburn University and the Kansas Historical Foundation. This speakers series complements our current exhibit *The Kaw: A Prairie River Shapes a State* and is FREE to members. Non-members pay regular admission. Bottled water available but no food—bring your own lunch! Visit www.greatoverlandstation.com for more information!

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# entertainment

‘I Can Only Imagine’ a ‘leap forward’ from previous films

## movienews

by Michael Foust

The same filmmakers behind *Woodlawn*, *Mom’s Night Out* and *October Baby* are set to release their next film in just a few days – and director Jon Erwin believes it might be their best one yet.

*I Can Only Imagine* (PG) will debut in theaters March 16, telling the story behind one of the most popular songs in the history of Christian contemporary music. The film follows the life of MercyMe lead singer Bart Millard, who grew up in a home with an abusive father but then watched his dad come to Christ later in life.

Erwin calls the film a “leap forward” for he and his co-director brother, Andrew.

It stars Golden Globe nominee Dennis Quaid (*The Rookie*, *Soul Surfer*) as Millard’s father, Oscar winner Cloris Leachman (*The Last Picture Show*, *Young Frankenstein*) as his grandmother, and country music artist Trace Adkins as Millard’s manager.

The *Metro Voice* recently spoke with Erin about the film. Following is a transcript, edited for clarity:

**The Metro Voice:** Give us a preview of *I Can Only Imagine*.

**Jon Erwin:** What an amazing story. I always claim the words of George Lucas, who said films are never complete; they’re only abandoned. Films are full of mistakes, but we’re trying to make them better and better every time. In my opinion, *I Can Only Imagine* is a leap forward for us. It’s an incredible true story behind the best-selling, most-played Christian song of all time. We all love the song, but no one knows the story behind the song. I remember when I was talking to (MercyMe’s) Bart (Millard), and we were kicking around the idea of doing it as a movie, I just said: “Hey, Bart, if I put a gun to your head and said, ‘Is God



real?’ what would you say?” He said “absolutely.” And he said, “(It’s) because of the change I saw in my dad. I saw a monster transform into my best friend and the man I wanted to become. There’s no other explanation for it.” Bart’s dad, in the fourth quarter of his life, became a Christian, and his dying wish was to reconcile with his son. It was that reconciliation that inspired a song that has brought hope to millions.

**The Metro Voice:** How can Christians and churches use this, and what type of message should they be expecting?

**Erwin:** What we’re passionate about is giving churches, pastors, youth groups, moms and dads, tools to engage this culture and this generation. If you can tell the right story in the right way emotionally, it stops people in their tracks and they say, “Man, I want what’s in that movie.” With *Woodlawn*, we’ve seen tens of thousands of decisions for Christ ... mostly young people. And many say, “Can someone explain to me what’s in that movie?” A movie can be an incredible tool of instigation. We’re building on that with *I Can Only Imagine*. ... It’s a way for churches to engage their community at a neutral site. If you study frequent moviegoers that buy the majority of movie tickets and you study the generation leaving the church today, it’s the same group of

people. This is where they are. And you can talk about it afterwards. The local church is the hope of the world, and I want to support pastors in their work. We give them cultural tools.

**The Metro Voice:** You have talked about how Christians need to think differently about Christian films and films in general. What do you mean by that?

**Erwin:** Entertainment is America’s second largest export. It’s seen all over the world. And a story that is well told is an incredible tool to communicate with people. The problem with the phrase “Christian film” is that it implies that the film is only for Christians. And I think we should think differently and begin to think about how to use film as a way for Christians to engage people in their communities, in their town, in their church. Jesus told stories, and He told stories that people could relate to. And He told those stories to explain God to people. So, I think that we should think bigger when it comes to what we can accomplish through faith-based film. Maybe it can be a tool for Christians to engage non-Christians in their world through a well-told story, instead of something to disconnect from culture. I think that we’re just scratching the surface of what Christian films can be. We’ve seen great results, but we’ve only just scratched the surface.

‘Paul’ director: It was essential that film ‘stay in line with Scripture’

## movienews

by Michael Foust

Filmmaker Andrew Hyatt understands why Christians are hesitant to trust Bible-based films out of Hollywood. As he acknowledges, the track record hasn’t been so great.

That’s why – ahead of the release of his film *Paul: Apostle of Christ* (PG-13) this Friday – Hyatt wants Christians to understand that the people behind the movie are Christians, too.

“We’re believers,” he said. “We’re passionate about the biblical story just as much as our audience is. It was just as important to us to get it right – to stay in line with Scripture.”

The story stars James Faulkner (*Downton Abbey*) as Paul and Jim Caviezel (*The Passion of The Christ*) as Luke. Irish actor John Lynch plays Aquila, and British actress Joanne Whalley is Priscilla.

I recently spoke with Hyatt. Following is a transcript, edited for clarity:

**Question:** Why did you want to make *Paul*?

**Hyatt:** “I just was really inspired to dig into Bible stories and Bible characters and find the community in them. We felt like it was so rare to find biblical movies that take not only truthful and scripturally accurate approach to these characters, but that also revealed the human side to them. I just started writing the script. I started with a massive, A-to-Z story that was way too long and needed to be 10



movies. And we eventually whittled it down to what you’re going to see on March 23.”

■ Please see PAUL page 17

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



## streaming

### ‘Hans Zimmer: Live In Prague’ tops streaming releases

By Michael Foust

Music is one of God’s great gifts, but it’s enjoyed best when it’s live.

This month on Netflix, subscribers can enjoy a concert from one of the world’s top composers – Hans Zimmer – who also happens to be one of the most well-known and best film scorers, too. Called *Hans Zimmer: Live In Prague*, the two-hour-plus performance before a live audience at O2 Arena includes performances of songs he made for such films as *The Lion King*, *Pirates of the Caribbean*, *Gladiator*, *The Dark Knight* and *Interstellar*.

No, you won’t be sitting on the front row, but it’s the next best thing.

(For the best effect, turn off the lights and turn up the volume.)

All total, he and an orchestra and choir perform music from more than 12 movies. Yet you don’t have to be a seasoned moviegoer to enjoy it. That’s because these are not just great film scores but great tunes, too.

Here’s the best news: The concert is mostly family-friendly. *Hans Zimmer: Live In Prague* is rated TV-G, contains no language, and doesn’t include any scenes from the films. (Which means you don’t have to worry about little ones seeing the Dark Knight kill the bad guys.) There are only two caveats: 1) A handful of the women on stage are dressed less than modest, and, 2) He discusses the Aurora, Colo., movie theater shooting.

I watched the concert with my young children, and we loved it (minus a couple of parts we fast-forwarded). My kids enjoyed

hearing the score from *The Lion King*, I enjoyed listening to the score from *Interstellar*, and throughout the concert we were able to discuss the complexities and wonders of orchestral music. It was a mini Music 101 class. The light show was entertaining, too.

Also new to streaming platforms:

### Netflix

*Life Is Beautiful* (April 1, PG-13) – This 1997 film won three Oscars and tells the story of a Jewish father who goes to great lengths to shelter his son from the truth of a concentration camp – a concentration camp that is their new home. Rated PG-13 for holocaust-related thematic elements.

*The Magic School Bus Rides Again: Season 2* (April 13, TV-Y) – The new adventures of Ms. Frizzle and her class continue in this animated series, which is a sequel to the classic cartoon and book series.

### Hulu

*Lawrence of Arabia* (April 1, unrated) – It won seven Oscars, starred legendary actors Peter O’Toole and Alec Guinness, and was based on the true story of World War I British Army officer Thomas Edward Lawrence. It was originally released in 1962. Unrated.

*The Conspirator* (April 1, PG-13) – John Wilkes Booth assassinated President Lincoln, but several others – including a lady named Mary Surratt – were alleged to have played a role. This is her story. The American Film Company, which was founded to produce historically accurate period dramas, made this 2010 film. Rated PG-13 for some violent content.

### Amazon Prime

*The Conspirator* (April 1, PG-13) – See above.

*Michael Foust is a movie critic, a husband, and the father of four small children.*





## DVDs

### 'The Greatest Showman' leads April DVD releases

By Michael Foust

If you're wanting it to be family-friendly, then the history of musicals on the big screen has been a mixed bag.

The 1960s gave us such family classics as *The Sound of Music* and *Mary Poppins*, while in the 70s we got the ever-so-popular but oh-so-racy film *Grease*. In recent years, we've had *Chicago* (not family-friendly), the newest *Annie* (mostly family friendly), *Beauty and the Beast* (if only they hadn't included you-know-what) and *La La Land* (perhaps OK for teens).

Which brings us to *The Greatest Showman*, the 2017 hit that shocked Hollywood by remaining in the Top 5 for eight straight weeks and ending its run as the third highest-grossing musical of all time.

It is loosely based on the life and career of P.T. Barnum, the promoter who opened a circus showcasing "unique persons and curiosities" -- a bearded woman with an incredible singing voice, a man with hair all over his face, an obese person dubbed the "world's heaviest man," and a short man the size of a child.

This month, movie buffs who didn't see *The Greatest Showman* (PG) in theaters can catch it on DVD beginning April 10. (It began streaming on digital platforms in March.)

It features toe-tapping modern tunes that are as enjoyable as anything I've heard in a film and a positive message that Christians can embrace. The message: Stand up for the downtrodden. Most of the film's characters were born with genetic differences that made them soci-

etal outcasts.

Lettie Lutz, the bearded woman in the film, summarizes the movie's theme when she tells Barnum: "Our own mothers were ashamed of us [and] hid us our entire lives. ... You gave us a family."

Of course, it's not hard to imagine lyrics such as "I make no apologies ... this is me" being borrowed by the LGBT movement, but the film contains no gay characters. It has minimal language (a handful misuses of "God") and minimal violence.

*The Greatest Showman* is OK for teens and perhaps older children, too, although I'd urge parents to watch the trailer first. (The bearded woman wears several low-cut dresses that could make some families uncomfortable.)

Also on DVD this month:

*Forever My Girl* (PG, DVD April 24, Digital April 10) – A world-famous country singer tries to win back the hometown girl he abandoned years earlier. It's a (mostly) squeaky-clean romance that I enjoyed. Rated PG for thematic elements including drinking, and for language. (Outside of three OMGs, I caught no coarse language.)

*The Post* (PG-13, DVD April 17, Digital April 3) – This Steven Spielberg-directed film recounts the story of The Washington Post's controversial decision to publish stories about the Pentagon Papers. Rated PG-13 for language (about 50 coarse words) and brief war violence.

*Paddington 2* (PG, DVD April 24, Digital March 27) – The adventures of our lovable Peruvian bear continue in this wonderful film that's full of kindness and optimism. It's almost the perfect family-friendly film. I highly recommend it. Rated PG for some action and mild rude humor.

*Michael Foust is a movie critic, a husband, and the father of four small children.*

# Can Roseanne save America?

Can Roseanne save America?

Ever since Donald Trump rode down his escalator and announced he was running for president, a good swath of America, not to mention the overwhelming majority of its media, has been having the collective equivalent of a nervous breakdown.

It got worse when he actually became president and it hasn't stopped since. The ramifications have been, to put it mildly, depressing — families divided, longtime friendships shattered, the society even more sundered than it was during Vietnam.

This has largely been the left's doing, to be honest — they tend to react more emotionally — but some on the right are responsible too.

Enter Roseanne Barr.

The woman whose sitcom with John Goodman broke ground thirty years ago as a symbol of working class progressivism returned, after a three-decade hiatus, Tuesday night, but this time — oh, apostasy! — as a Trump supporter.

(Actually, Barr has been in the Trump camp on Twitter and elsewhere for some time, but this was her first venture into the theatrical realm.)

Was it a great show? It's hard to say because the extraordinary shock of seeing an actual highly sympathetic though irascible self-admitted "Deplorable" — Roseanne — as the protagonist of a network television show is so far from our daily entertainment reality it overwhelms all other considerations.

Yes, there were a fair number of funny lines. But forget writing, acting, directing, and the rest, it was positively thrilling to see something fictional transpiring on the television screen that reflected the half of America that has been so consistently and deliberately hidden from view or reviled by Hollywood. You almost couldn't



believe your eyes. Was this actually happening? When were Matt Damon or George Clooney going to walk in to set these people to rights? It had to be coming after the commercial. But it didn't.

The show reminded me of how much I liked the real "Deplorables" while covering the presidential campaign. They were the furthest thing from the caricature promulgated by Obama, Hillary, and other elites, but kind and decent people with normal struggles as portrayed in this new Roseanne series. Not that the producer-star doesn't give the other side their innings. Her sister Jackie, who comes back as a life coach in a "Nasty Woman"

sweatshirt, has her moments and is usually shown sympathetically, if a little goofily, in the show.

Everyone's a bit goofy — and that's the point. You're struck by how long it's been since people in our society have been able to talk to each other in something resembling a civil manner — and maybe even poke fun at their own foibles and opinions. If only they could be like they are on the Roseanne show, quirks and all.

But can they? Will a show like this instigate even a little genuine change?

—By Roger Simon



## PAUL

continued from page 16

**Question:** When you look at the story of the Apostle Paul, there's a ton of material. How, then, did you decide what story to tell?

**Hyatt:** "We asked: How do we show the world, how do we show the audience, a real glimpse of who this man was, who this guy was? That's how we landed on this idea of Paul at the very end of his life. Who was the man who wrote 'I've finished the race'? — who for 30 years has been traveling the world, preaching the gospel, stoned twice, put in prison often, beaten, shipwrecked? Who is this gritty, rough guy? So, we landed on this idea: Let's tell the story of Paul at the very end and let him share something with the world."

**Question:** What year does the story take place? What is the setting?

**Hyatt:** "Our story takes place right around A.D. 66-67. This is Rome at the time of Emperor Nero. It was believed that Nero burned half of Rome down. He wanted to burn it down and rebuild it in his own image. It didn't work out for him, and he saw this upstart group and blamed the Christians. That's where you get this widespread, massive persecution. Our movie jumps right into that moment. Paul has already been tried and convicted, and he's awaiting the execution in the cell. In the movie, Luke sneaks into Rome just to bring his friend some comfort in his last days. But what comes out of it is this beautiful pallet of: What did the Christian community in the first century look like? What did they do to take care of each other? How did they live in such a persecuted place and still love each other? It's about Paul in his last days speaking some wisdom and reminding them: 'This is where it all started. It started with Christ.

It's about loving each other."

**Question:** And there's some drama in the story, with Luke trying to get Paul's story told in Acts without the Romans catching him.

**Hyatt:** "We liked this idea: Where did the Bible come from? Where did Scripture come from? It came out of a current need. So when Paul is writing 2 Timothy, it came out of a real love and a real relationship. The same with Acts. Why did Luke sit down and start writing Acts? It came out of a need. The community needed to hear from Paul and hear about his life. We play on this idea that Paul is preparing for his death and Luke is saying: 'I'm going to write this stuff down because there's going to be a whole new wave of Christians who are never going to meet you, and this is how they can meet you — through this story.'"

*Paul: Apostle of Christ is rated PG-13 for some violent content and disturbing images.*





## healthy living

### The Top 10 Reasons to Exercise Regularly

Support your overall wellness, your future self will thank you.

We all know that exercise is important. However, it does more for your health than many people realize. By exercising regularly you'll support several areas of your overall wellness that your future self will thank you for. If you're having trouble convincing yourself to get up and move, here are 10 significant benefits of regular exercise.

#### Support Cognitive Function

Working out also supports your cognitive function. When performing physical activity, your heart rate increases which pumps more oxygen to your brain. By exercising regularly you can support your brain health.

#### Improve Endurance

Aerobic exercise or any form of cardio can help improve your endurance. If you go for a walk or run consistently, you may notice that the more frequent you go, the easier it gets. Your body becomes accustomed to the type of exercise because you're improving your endurance.

#### Enhance Quality of Sleep

If you have trouble sleeping, exercising regularly can help improve your quality of sleep. The more you work-out and tire out your body, the easier it will be for you to hit the hay.

#### Increase Strength

Incorporating weight-lifting into your workout routine can help improve your strength, which can be beneficial for everyday activities. Whether you lift heavy objects at work, need to carry your kids or grandkids, you're always Better off Healthy...and strong!

#### Reduce Stress/Tension

Feeling stressed? Hit the gym! Many people use the gym as a form of therapy, for good reason. As you work out, your body releases endor-



phins, or "feel-good" hormones that improve your mood and reduce stress/tension.

#### Support Cardiovascular Health

Support your heart health by exercising consistently. Your heart is a muscle and just like the other muscles in your body, it should be worked out. The way to do it is by getting your heart pumping when you work out, especially as you perform cardiovascular exercises such as running, walking, swimming or biking.

#### Supercharge Your Metabolism

Exercising regularly has shown to boost your metabolism, which is responsible for chemical reactions that occur in your body. A slower metabolism will have trouble with weight-loss while a faster one can help you lose fat and burn more calories.

#### Transform Your Physique

One of the most obvious reasons that people work out is to transform their body. Aside from looking and feeling better, weight loss is beneficial for your heart health and overall wellness. As you burn calories through exercise and eat a healthy diet, you'll begin to see your physique transform.

#### Boost Confidence

As you exercise regularly and start to see results, you'll also notice a boost in confidence levels. As you start to feel good about your progress, it will radiate outward. Whether you're excited about your weight-loss, your increased strength or faster mile time, every small milestone is something to be proud of.

#### Make Your Future-Self Proud

Exercise regularly today so you can be thankful years from now that you did. The more frequently you work out, the more accustomed your body will be to it. Whatever life throws your way, remember that you're always Better off Healthy.

## The Great Lie About Retirement Communities

Imagine a life where you are in control, where you spend your days the way you would like, with a variety of appealing activities to choose from and free from challenging responsibilities. Would you get up late? Would you get together with friends often? Would you take up a new hobby or volunteer a few hours a week for the sole purpose of helping the community? What's amazing is all these things are possible without even getting in your car. Shopping and restaurants are within walking distance. Exercise facilities, entertainment venues and meditative sanctuaries are a stone's throw away. You're safe. You're free. You're happy.

This dream is not a far-off reality from a choice offered to senior adults in a retirement or "senior living" community. Unfortunately, what puts people off are a host of misconceptions. When most people hear the words "retirement community," a negative picture comes to mind. That negative connotation is what I call the Great Lie.

According to a 6-year study, "many [people] believe senior living communities are filled with sick and debilitated old people who are inactive and who only complain about their health." While most senior living communities do have facilities to care for those who are frail, that is only one aspect of today's retirement community, which is modern, wellness-oriented, and activity-filled. But many — if not most — people have very negative feelings toward retirement communities.

What the average person on the outside of retirement or senior living communities doesn't realize is that when new members are polled, the overwhelming response is some version of "I should have moved here years ago." The barriers to making that move earlier are uncertainty and fear; enduring the hardship of downsizing and selling the home; braving the loss of familiarity; and, sometimes, the convenience of friends and family. Once the barriers are toppled and the move is made, the result is opportunities for personal growth, friendship and community, and a newfound freedom that comes with an abundance of stress-free time.



So, what are the misperceptions that are keeping the average retiree from looking at these communities as more than a last resort? The first is "I'll live longer at home." In fact, the opposite has been shown to be true. According to brookdale.com, "as spouses pass, children leave home and neighbors move away, it can be hard for seniors to stay active and social." Isolation leads to depression, illness, and increased risk for physical and psychological effects, including cognitive decline. Living in a senior community, where activity is encouraged and more easily attained by even those with mobility issues, encourages a continued vibrant life. And this promotes wellness and longevity.

When visiting a community, it is important to keep in mind that you are probably not seeing the more active members of the community, because their activities often take them off campus, while the activi-

ties of the more frail members will likely be something closer to home.

Another misperception is "I'll have a wider circle of friends if I stay in my home." A senior having lived in the same geographical area for a long time probably feels like they have many longtime friends, but how much time is spent with each of those friends? Despite America's fight for integration of all kinds, people naturally gravitate toward other people like them. Kids gravitate toward other kids, young adults to other young adults, and seniors gravitate toward other seniors. Because of this, when a senior moves into senior living, they are immediately surrounded by a large, new group of friends from all backgrounds who have many things in common.

"I'll be isolated in a retirement community," is another common

■ Continued on next page

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■ Continued from previous page

perception. In today's senior communities, you'll only be as isolated as you want to be; the focus is on quality of life. Whether you live in a home you own or an apartment you rent, you're free to come and go. Many members who were previously living at home dramatically blossom after moving to a retirement community.

Fourth misperception: "I'll expand my interests and have new experiences at home." As a senior, the difference between experiencing new things at home and experiencing new things in senior living is like comparing making dinner for yourself at home and going to a restaurant. Sure, you can look up a recipe, buy the ingredients, come home and cook the meal, and then sit down and enjoy it. But, the next day, you have to go through all the steps again. However, if you go to a restaurant, there are employees who will present you with a menu, take your order, and cook the meal for you. They are prepared all day to do just that: to serve you with minimal effort on your part. All you have to do is enjoy it.

A final misperception is "I will lose control of my present and future if I move into a senior living community." It is not the goal of these communities to take control of your life. Their goal is to present you the opportunity to enjoy your life through programs, services, and freedom of choice. Another benefit to a retirement community is the safety it provides by looking out for seniors, a vulnerable demographic. Safety equals freedom equals control for seniors.

The truth of senior living communities is that they can provide the beginning of a new life full of activity, safety, security, and new friends and opportunities. It's a community of like-minded individuals looking out for each other and growing through new stages of life together. It is freedom. I encourage you not to let your preconceived ideas keep you from the benefits. We would love to have you visit to see the reality of what Advent Christian Village, our vibrant senior living community in north Florida, has to offer you or your loved one.

*About the Author: Craig Carter has been employed at Advent Christian Village since 1992, and has been President/CEO since 2008. A native of Dowling Park, Florida, Craig earned a degree in Business Administration and Social Welfare from Aurora University and a Master of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern.*

## MORE FACTS YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT SOCIAL SECURITY

By Bill Holthaus  
Social Security Assistant District  
Manager in Topeka, KS

What kind of questions do you and your friends ask about Social Security? When do my benefits arrive? What are Social Security work credits, and do they have anything to do with the way my benefits are figured? Will I be automatically enrolled in Medicare? Read on to find the answers to these questions.

1. Social Security benefits are paid in the month following the month for which they are due.

When you meet all the requirements for eligibility, the benefit check you receive is payment for the prior month's benefits. For information on the payment of benefits, you can read our pamphlet, What You Need to Know When You Get Retirement or Survivors Benefits at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10077.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10077.pdf).

To know when checks will be paid, you can save the Schedule of Social Security Benefit Payments to your "Favorites" or print it by visiting [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/calendar.htm](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/calendar.htm).

2. We don't pay benefits for the month of death.

Social Security uses the same throughout-the-month rule to determine eligibility for the benefit that is due for the month of death. You must live through the full month to be eligible for the payment. See the pamphlet above in the section titled If a beneficiary dies at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10077.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10077.pdf) for more information about when a check is due.

3. Survivors benefits can replace a percentage of the worker's earnings for family members.

The eligible family members of a retired or disabled beneficiary may receive a monthly payment of up

to 50 percent of beneficiary's amount. Survivors benefits usually range from about 75 percent to 100 percent of the deceased worker's amount. Visit our Understanding the Benefits publication for an explanation of the amounts family members receive at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10024.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10024.pdf).

4. Work credits determine eligibility for benefits, but your lifetime earnings are used to calculate your monthly benefit amount.

Retired workers need 40 work credits to be eligible for benefits, but your work credits alone do not determine how much you will receive each month. When we figure your retirement benefit, we use the average of your highest 35 years of earnings. See Your Retirement Benefit: How It Is Figured at [www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/EN-05-10070.pdf).

5. If you receive retirement benefits before you reach age 65, you will be automatically enrolled in Medicare.

Medicare Part A (hospital insurance) helps pay for inpatient care in a hospital or skilled nursing facility following a hospital stay. It also pays for some home health care and hospice care. Medicare Part B (medical insurance) helps pay for services from doctors and other health care providers, outpatient care, home health care, durable medical equipment, and some preventative services. When you're already receiving retirement benefits, we automatically sign you up for Medicare Parts A and B when you turn age 65. You can then decline Part B if you choose, since it requires a monthly premium. If you are not receiving retirement benefits as you approach age 65, you should contact Social Security three months before age 65 to sign up for Medicare Part A and B. Even if you don't want to retire at 65,

you should sign up for Medicare only. For more details, check out our Medicare page at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare).

\*\*\*\*\*

### IS IT MEDICARE OR MEDICAID?

A lot of people have a difficult time understanding the difference between Medicare and Medicaid. They're both health insurance programs run by the government.

Let's start with Medicare. Medicare is the national health-care program for those aged 65 or older and the disabled. You pay for some Medicare expenses by paying the Medicare tax while you work. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is the agency in charge of both Medicare and Medicaid, but you sign up for Medicare A (Hospital) and Medicare B (Medical) through Social Security.

You can apply for Medicare online at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/). If you're already receiving Social Security retirement benefits when you reach age 65 or are in the 25th month of receiving disability checks, we will enroll you automatically.

Medicare Part C (Medicare Advantage) and Part D (Prescription Drug) plans are available for purchase in the insurance marketplace. Social Security administers a program called Extra Help to help people with low income and low resources pay for premiums, co-pays, and co-insurance costs for

Part D plans. You can find out more about Extra Help and file for it at [www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/medicare/prescriptionhelp). Each year, The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services publishes Medicare and You available online at their website at [www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you/medicare-and-you.html](http://www.medicare.gov/medicare-and-you/medicare-and-you.html). This publication is a user's manual for Medicare.

Each state runs their own Medicaid program under guidance from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. Medicaid offers care for the most vulnerable among us. While it does not require paying taxes while working, it does have guidelines about how much income and resources you can have to qualify. Medicaid provides coverage for older people, people with disabilities, and some families with children. Each state has its own eligibility rules and decides which services to cover. The names of the Medicaid program may vary from state to state. You can read about each state's Medicaid program at [www.medicare.gov/medicaid/by-state/by-state.html](http://www.medicare.gov/medicaid/by-state/by-state.html). You can find each state's Medicaid contact information at [www.medicare.gov/about-us/contact-us/contact-state-page.html](http://www.medicare.gov/about-us/contact-us/contact-state-page.html).

Medicare and Medicaid are two of the major insurance programs that provide healthcare to the American public. Understanding each program, as well as how the two programs differ, can help you and those you care about find the right healthcare program.

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# sports

## TNT Sports Broadcaster, Ernie Johnson, talks faith



Ernie Johnson, one of America's top sports broadcasters, has become one of the industry's top faith voices as well. Johnson is profiled in the new issue of Fellowship of Christian Athletes magazine where he says that at the age of 41, he realized life was about more than becoming the best broadcaster he could be.

As the lead anchor and face of TNT Sports and host of "Inside the NBA," Johnson was used to appearing in front of huge crowds, both in person and on television.

But speaking about his faith for the first time at an FCA event made him nervous.

In the new story titled "Totally Honest," Johnson talks about his faith journey, the opportunities God gives him to shine for Him, and how Johnson strives to be the servant rather than the served.

Johnson was at the top of the broadcasting game, working alongside Hall of Famers and NBA champions Charles Barkley, Kenny Smith and Shaquille O'Neal for the Emmy-winning "Inside the NBA." Once a producer suggested the show go unscripted, it skyrocketed in popularity.

Now, 20 years after accepting Christ into his life, Johnson recalled what first brought him to an introduction to Jesus. His two oldest children, Eric and Maggie, asked Ernie and his wife, Cheryl, why they didn't attend church as a family. After some discussion, Ernie and Cheryl decided to attend Crossroads, a nondenominational church they drove by frequently in Atlanta.

Johnson was moved at the first service he attended, when the pastor asked the congregation two questions: Who's the provider in your family, and are you pursuing happiness or wholeness?

Those questions challenged Johnson, who knew he needed to be a better husband and father. Johnson returned to Crossroads the next three weeks, and then asked the pastor, Kevin Myers, out to lunch. On Dec. 10, 1997, at an O'Charley's restaurant, he prayed to God and became a Christian. Cheryl made the same decision a few months later.

Their pastor explained to them that

even before they became believers, God was working in their lives. For example, beginning in 1990, they began adopting children out of love, empathy and compassion.

That year, Cheryl watched a "20/20" report on overcrowded orphanages in Romania, where thousands of children were being neglected. Five months later, in 1991, Cheryl convinced Ernie to adopt Michael, a 3-year-old boy with special needs. Michael eventually learned how to walk and later speak. Two years later, the Johnsons adopted Carmen from Paraguay. Then in 2011, they added half-sisters Allison and Ashley to the family. Cheryl had met the girls through her work with Street Grace, a faith-based organization mobilizing community leaders to end the sexual trafficking of children throughout the U.S.

"She has taught me so much," Ernie said of Cheryl. "I wanted to play it safe sometimes. She had bigger dreams. ... You have to put other people first. This can't be all about you."

Ernie and Cheryl Johnson (back row, far right) celebrated Father's Day in 2016 with their six children – Maggie, Carmen, Michael, Eric, Allison and Ashley – and Ernie's mother, Lois.

As his faith grew, Johnson considered leaving TNT. Should he continue his career after turning his life over to God? Should he try to find a faith-based job? He asked Cheryl what he should do. She responded on his spiritual birthday by giving him a large compass as a gift. Cheryl's handwritten note with it reminded him to remember the day he found his ultimate direction in life—and to let God direct him.

Johnson ended up staying with TNT. He knew the platform God gave him would provide opportunities for him to share his faith. And God did just that.

Several moments for these opportunities stand out. First, in August 2003, after noticing a bump near his ear, Johnson was diagnosed with stage two Non-Hodgkin lymphoma. During that time, "Trust God ... Period" became his mantra. He was candid about his

## Beyond Tebowing: Inspiration From Tim Tebow For Kids And Adults

By Deb Chitwood

Like many, I first heard of Tim Tebow because of the new term "tebowing." According to Your Dictionary, "tebowing is defined as the act of getting down on one knee to pray, regardless of what others around you are doing."

I'm one of those people who doesn't follow football except to enjoy the Super Bowl commercials and half-time program. But Tim Tebow is unique as a professional athlete – first as a professional football player and now as a professional baseball player. I appreciate that he's not afraid to do something different than what the other athletes around him are doing. So I've always enjoyed hearing about him.

### INSPIRATION FROM TIM TEBOW FOR CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOLED KIDS

Tim Tebow was homeschooled until he went to college. In a Good Morning America interview ("Tim Tebow reflects on breaking ground as a homeschool student: 'It's pretty good to view yourself as differ-



ent"), Tim Tebow said: "You can be homeschooled and you can be the cool kid, and you can break the trends and you can show that, yeah, you're different, you're unique, but in a good way."

I love that he has a book specifically for Christian homeschooled kids: Know Who You Are. Live Like It Matters.: A Homeschooler's Interactive Guide to Discovering Your True Identity. Look inside the book at Amazon and see if it's a book that your kids would like. I know my kids would have loved it when they were homeschooled.

Tim Tebow is definitely one of the best role models for homeschooled Christians. This is a great opportunity for kids to learn from someone who's famous but has continued to keep his identity and values.

### INSPIRATION FROM TIM TEBOW FOR ALL CHRISTIAN KIDS

Kids don't need to appreciate football to love and learn from Shaken: Young Reader's Edition: Fighting to Stand Strong No Matter What Comes Your Way. I often feel like the posi-



tive messages a person gives when they aren't on top are the most powerful. Tim Tebow has experienced both incredible highs and lows in his professional career. This book shows an amazing real-life example of faith and growth mindset for young Christians.

### INSPIRATION FROM TIM TEBOW FOR CHRISTIAN ADULTS

Shaken: Discovering Your True Identity in the Midst of Life's Storms is the adult version. This was a New York Times Bestseller and the 2017 Christian Book of the Year. Who couldn't use some extra inspiration to make it through the times when life doesn't go as we had hoped?



### THE TIM TEBOW FOUNDATION

You'll find more inspiration at the Tim Tebow Foundation. The mission of the Tim Tebow Foundation is "to bring faith, hope and love to those needing a brighter day in their darkest hour of need." It's great to see Tim Tebow's values making a difference in so many ways.



Ernie and Cheryl Johnson (back row, far right) celebrated Father's Day in 2016 with their six children – Maggie, Carmen, Michael, Eric, Allison and Ashley – and Ernie's mother, Lois.

cancer after the NBA's All-Star weekend, and six grueling chemotherapy treatments later, Johnson's cancer was in remission, where it has remained since. He returned to "Inside the NBA" in 2006, never missing a show. A year later, Johnson won the Emmy for outstanding studio host.

"God sometimes whispers and sometimes shouts that His way is better than my way," Johnson said during his acceptance speech.

Years later, Johnson experienced hardship again when his beloved father died in 2011. About a month later, Michael, who has muscular dystrophy, was put on a ventilator to remain alive. Since then, Johnson spends most of his mornings caring for Michael, now 29, at their home.

Then soon after the most recent presidential election, "Inside the NBA" decided to discuss on air the results that left the country divided. In just over two minutes, Johnson's commentary resonated with many and was

shared millions of times on social media.

"I never know from one election to the next who's going to be in the Oval Office, but I always know who's on the throne," Johnson said into the camera. "I'm on this earth because God created me, and that's Who I answer to. I'm a Christian. I follow a guy named Jesus; you might have heard of Him. And the greatest commandment He gave me was to love others. And Scripture also tells us to pray for our leaders, and that's what I'm going to do. I'm going to pray for Donald Trump."

Johnson sums up these opportunities to shine for Jesus—and the many more chances that will undoubtedly follow—with one concept.

"The Son of Man came to serve, not to be served," Johnson told FCA. "Being a servant is where I find myself."

The March/April 2018 issue also includes a devotional with Ernie Johnson, the "6 Questions" feature with ESPN and SEC Network commentator Maria Taylor, a Q&A with Abilene Christian basketball coach Julie Goodenough and player Sierra Allen, a story on FCA Lacrosse's work in Ukraine and an essay from David Booth of the Detroit Red Wings.

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## YFC Golf Classic is a Tournament of Champions For Teens

Topeka Youth for Christ's 2018 Annual Golf Classic will be held on Friday, May 11th at the Lake Shawnee Golf Course. The four-person, 18-hole scramble begins with a shotgun start at 12:30 PM.

The YFC Golf Classic helps YFC build transforming relationships with teens through a variety of ministry programs designed for today's teens, like Juvenile Justice Ministry, City Life Clubs, YFC Core and YFC Camp.

YFC reaches young people everywhere, working together with



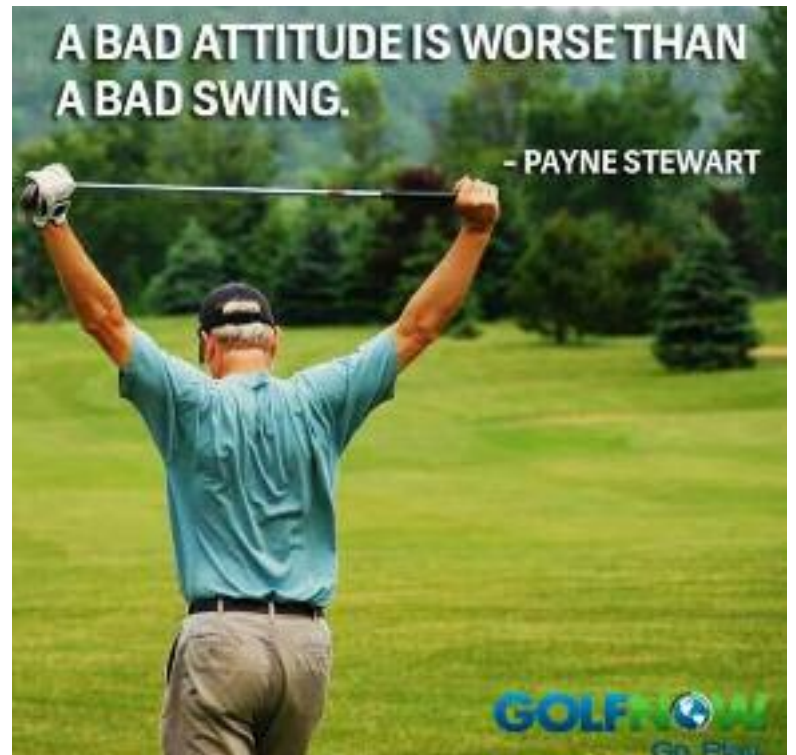
the local church and other like-minded partners to raise up lifelong followers of Jesus who lead by their godliness in lifestyle, devotion to prayer and the Word of God, passion for sharing the love

of Christ and commitment to social involvement.

Every day at thousands of community centers, high schools, middle schools, juvenile institutions, coffee shops, and local hangouts, YFC staff and volunteers meet with young people who need Jesus.

To sign up for the YFC Annual Golf Classic Tournament go online to [topekayfc.org/golf\\_classic/](http://topekayfc.org/golf_classic/). Awards and prizes will be given for first and second low teams, scored in two flights of players. Individuals will receive awards and prizes for closest to the pin, longest drive, and longest putt. The entry fee for the fundraiser is \$500 per team or \$125 per individual. The fee includes green fees, cart for two, a box lunch, two muligans, Gary Woodland Hole and great door prizes! Individual and corporate sponsorships are still available.

For more information please call (785) 232-8296, or email [info@topekayfc.org](mailto:info@topekayfc.org). You may also find more information at [www.topekayfc.org](http://www.topekayfc.org).



## GOLF HUMOR

- "The golf swing is like a suitcase into which we are trying to pack one too many things." - John Updike
  - After church one Sunday, one of the congregants walked up to the priest and said, "Father, is it a sin to play golf on Sunday?"
- "My son," said the priest, putting his hand on the man's shoulder, "I've seen you play golf. It's a sin any day."

*"What other people may find in poetry or art museums, I find in the flight of a good drive."*

- Arnold Palmer



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# New Resident Church Guide

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Pastor Cordell Fischer  
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(785) 861-0422  
www.greatIAMchurch.com
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**  
Pastor Beaux Bryant  
c/o Seaman Baptist Church  
2015 NW Buchanan, Topeka Ks 66608  
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org  
Sun. School 9:30 am  
Sun. Service 10:45 am  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**  
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka  
785-234-5545  
Worship: 8:00 - 9:30 & 11am  
Sunday School & Bible Studies:  
9:30 & 11am  
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka  
286-1204  
Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am  
www.northland.cc
- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
730 SW Fairlawn Rd., Topeka, KS  
(785) 272-6322 • www.FairlawnNaz.org  
Sunday Worship: 10:40 am  
Adult, Youth & Children's Sun. School 9:15
- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**  
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS  
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org

- Sunday Services:  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Bible study--all ages  
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"  
Sunday Worship 9:30 & 10:45am, 5pm  
~ Sunday School for all ages ~  
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka  
785-862-0988  
www.topekabaptist.org
  - 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"  
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka  
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com  
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm  
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm
  - 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)  
Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117  
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor  
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am  
www.gccinoverbrook.com  
office@gccinoverbrook.com
  - 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**  
300 SW Roosevelt, Topeka KS 66606  
Pastor Marilyn Hahn McGinnis  
10 a.m. Sunday (Non-traditional Service)  
See "About Us" at our website  
www.kawriverkeruv.com  
Questions? kawriverlordshouse@att.net
  - 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka  
233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com  
Sun. 9:30am - Sunday School for all ages  
Sun. 10:30am - Worship & Word, Children  
Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult  
~ Nursery care for all services ~

- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**  
Meeting at Buck Creek School House  
5 mi. east of Perry on Hwy 24, 13th & Phillips Rd.  
Childrens Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.  
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,  
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
- 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**  
Serving Christ - Loving People  
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248  
Dr. L.D. Holmes, Sr. Pastor  
www.wwnaz.org  
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am  
Children's Worship 9 & 11 am  
Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs  
6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service  
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups  
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University  
~ Nursery care at all services ~
- 14. GRACE LIFE CONNECTION**  
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in an upside-down world*  
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Papan's Landing Senior Center  
621 NW Parmore St. Topeka, KS  
Pastor Pete Whitebird
- 15. OAKLAND UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
801 NE Chester, Topeka, KS 66616  
235-1010 • ourmc@att.net  
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Children's worship time 10:30am  
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Student Ministries & Kid City  
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- 18. CHRIST THE KING CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
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Topeka, KS 66614 • 273-0710  
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Sunday 7:30, 9, 11am, 6pm  
www.cktopeka.org
- 19. SEAMAN COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church  
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS  
354-8777 • www.seamanchurch.com  
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am  
Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am  
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm
- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1937 NE Madison St,  
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594  
Pastor Dale Stockburger  
Sunday Worship: 10 am and 6pm  
Junior Church for kids: Sun 10am  
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
Meets at 522 SW Polk  
785-220-5418  
Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
Sun. Worship 10 am  
www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com
- 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH**  
1231 NW Eugene St.  
Topeka, KS 66608  
Pastor Roger Randel  
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Wednesday Bible Study 7pm  
234-1111 • FOGchurch.com
- 23. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 785-379-5642  
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM  
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Tecumseh, Kansas 66542  
www.highlandheightscc.com  
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**PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND SILENT AUCTION** - The Sunflower Lions Club will hold their next semi-annual Pancake Breakfast and Silent Auction at First Christian Ch. 1880 SW Gage, on Saturday March 31, beginning at 7:00am until 11:00am. Cost is \$5 at the door. Proceeds are used for Vision Screening small children, and purchasing eye examinations and eye glasses in the Topeka community.

**GARAGE SALE** - The next semi-annual Seekers Garage Sale will be Friday and Saturday April 6 & 7, 8am-noon, at First Christian Ch., 1880 SW Gage, (enter from 19th and Stone) Something for everyone; no clothes. Proceeds are used for community and youth activities at First Christian Ch.

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## CWA

continued from page 1

issues such as human trafficking, abortion, immigration and religious freedom.

CWA is the largest public policy women's organization in the nation. The Kansas CWA chapter is headed by State Director Barbara Saldivar. Their mission is to promote and protect Biblical values and Constitutional principles through prayer, education and advocacy.

"As an organization we are committed to conservative issues such as the sanctity of life, religious liberty, sexual exploitation and education, among others," Saldivar said.

A Meet & Greet with Nance, Governor Jeff Colyer and over eighty legislators took place at the Kansas State Capitol prior to the CWA State Conference, Impact 2018, which was held at the First Church of the Nazarene, 1001 SW Buchanan St. Both



noted that sex trafficking cases dealt with by Topeka Rescue Mission's Restore Hope ministry went from four in 2014 to over 130 in 2017.

Kansas State Legislature declared war on Human Trafficking in April, and Feaker now wants the City of Topeka and Shawnee County to do the same.

Freedom Now USA is a movement

of Kansas," he declared, explaining that the outdated method used now means that the unelected judges are not answerable to anyone.

Schmidt's presentation followed similar themes, as he noted that Kansas went from an F to an A rating after passing Jessica's Law.

"Transporting for the purpose of



CWA conference speakers Kobach, Schmidt, Stracke, Patton, Feaker, Tyson; Humphries.

men and women, many of them couples, attended.

After the conference began with a prayer by Linda Highland, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Phillis Setchell, Feaker spoke about sex trafficking in Topeka and across the state. He compared the current struggle against sex trafficking to that of William Lloyd Garrison's against slavery in the mid-1800s.

Garrison was the voice of abolitionism, and he became the leader of the emerging anti-slavery movement. His publication, *The Liberator*, reached thousands of individuals worldwide. His ceaseless, uncompromising position on the moral outrage of slavery made him loved and hated by many Americans. Garrison saw moral persuasion as the only means to end slavery. To him the task was simple: show people how immoral slavery was and they would join in the campaign to end it.

Garrison lived long enough to see the Union come apart under the weight of slavery, and see Abraham Lincoln issue the Emancipation Proclamation during the Civil War. Thirty-four years after first publishing *The Liberator*, Garrison saw the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution go into effect, banning slavery forever. It took a lifetime of work, but in the end, the morality of his position won the day.

Feaker noted that the fight against slavery went for 246 years in America until 1865. This past February 1st was National Freedom Day in recognition of passage of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1865. Now we face a similar fight, Feaker said.

"Sex trafficking/slavery is a \$99 billion business," Feaker noted, "and it's second only to the drug business." He

with a mission to support state efforts to eradicate human trafficking – modern-day slavery – from all 50 states. Feaker said the initiative in Kansas is well on its way and is fighting to unify legislative, judicial, law enforcement, civic and community leaders, non-profit providers, and the faith community behind the common mission of eradicating human trafficking in Kansas, but he noted there is much work to be done.

#### Other Speakers, similar themes

Kobach then took the stage and spoke about human trafficking by coyote smugglers across the southern border of the country, some of which ends up in Kansas, noting that Kansas City is a major hub for such activity. Such trafficking often leads to lengthy and virtually un-ending servitude to pay off the smugglers.

Kobach noted that Kansas once had six sanctuary counties, but is now down to three: Shawnee, Butler and Harvey. Sanctuary counties make it harder to combat human trafficking, he said. There is a Senate Bill that would withhold funds from sanctuary counties that he supports.

Law Enforcement in Kansas needs to be better enabled to fight this battle, Kobach said.

Kobach then noted that there is a case before the Kansas Supreme Court that could determine that "Liberty" in the Kansas Constitution means the right to abortion.

"That would be even worse than federal law," Kobach said, noting that Kansas could become the abortion capital of the nation if the court gets it wrong.

"We need to change our way of selecting judges for the Supreme Court

trafficking" is now a criminal offense in Kansas," he said.

More people are enslaved today than at any time in our country's history, Schmidt said in demonstrating the size of the human trafficking problem. He pointed out that children are being taken from cities all over Kansas to be sold into slavery through sex trafficking.

"It is one of the great moral issues of our time," he concluded.

After a break for lunch and a prayer by Donna Lippoldt, State Coordinator for National Day of Prayer, Patton spoke about the state constitution in relation to abortion.

Patton, now President of Kansans for Life, had sobering comments about the abortion holocaust. He said that the next six years will decide total victory or total defeat on the abortion issue in the state of Kansas. He showed slides demonstrating why that is the case.

"We need a pro-life referendum state-wide," he said.

Kansas currently has three abortion clinics – two in Wichita and one in Kansas City.

Later on in the day, State Senator Caryn Tyson presented the Senate Finance Report, and noted that spending by the legislature continues to increase even during a time when some of Kansas' biggest industries have been in decline, including agriculture and aeronautics.

The tax cut previously passed in Kansas was a good thing, she noted – the problem was the legislature kept increasing spending, and now skyrocketing taxes will adversely affect us as citizens if we do not hold our legislators accountable.

State Representative Susan Humphries then spoke about the Adoption Protection Act, noting that of

## BROWN

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"I was a very young child when I started walking to school," Brown said in a 1985 interview for the documentary series "Eyes on the Prize: America's Civil Rights Years."

"I remember the walk as being very long at that time. In fact, it was several blocks up through railroad yards, and crossing a busy avenue, and standing on the corner, and waiting for the school bus to carry me two miles across town to an all-black school."

Brown said her father was also concerned that the idea of "separate but equal"

didn't apply to black schoolchildren.

"My father was like a lot of other black parents here in Topeka at that time. They were concerned not about the quality of education that their children were receiving, they were concerned about the amount, or distance that the child had to go to receive an education," Brown said.

Oliver Brown, for whom the case was named, became a minister at a church in Springfield, Mo. He died of a heart attack in 1961. Linda Brown and her sister founded in 1988 the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research.

35 child placing agencies in Kansas, only 14 are faith-based, and they often serve the most problematic cases.

The bill only restricts the state from discriminating against faith-based agencies, she explained. It does nothing to restrict other agencies from anything they are doing. The opposition to the bill is based on a misunderstanding, she said.

#### Nance Speaks Out

Nance, whose face is familiar to many from being seen so often on various national news programs, then took the stage in a sort of question and answer session with CWA National Field Director Janae Stracke, also fielding questions from the audience.

"We are reaching a tipping point in America, Nance declared, noting the real threats to cultural issues being discussed at the conference.

CWA is representing every conservative Christian woman, she noted, and these women should consider themselves a modern-day Esther, whom the Bible said was "born for such a time as this."

You can ignore God's calling, Nance said, and God may raise up someone else; but you and your family will suffer.

Penny related a story of being at White House dinner, and being able to speak to President Trump. She told him directly about Planned Parenthood and the charges leveled against them for what they do.

"We know the truth, because we know the Author of truth," Nance declared.

Nance also noted that the feminist movement seems to have suffered from the Stockholm Syndrome: they used to abhor pornography and the objectification of women, but now they seem to find it preferable.

Porn has now become even more about violence, such as portrayed in 50 Shades of Grey and other shows, she noted.

She also said that she is praying for more than one more Supreme Court

retirement, thus making possible the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

When speaking about the abortion issue, Nance noted that at 20 weeks, unborn babies have fingernails and eyebrows and can hear and respond to their mother's voices – they can also feel pain.

"Doesn't that deserve protection?" she asked.

"Trump is the most pro-life president in our history, without a doubt!" she declared, indicating that his court nominations would continue to be pro-life.

She noted that Trump has nominated a large number of lower court judges also. "So many circuit court judges have been appointed and approved – that is a legacy!" she exclaimed.

Nance is also "thrilled" with former Kansas Representative Mike Pompeo being chosen as Trump's next Secretary of State. "He is the man for the job," she said.

When asked about career government employees who have a personal desire to subvert President Trump's agenda, Nance said, "This president doesn't suffer fools lightly," noting that there is more to be done concerning the "deep state" and "it will be done."

Nance also spoke about what it means to be assertive, yet compassionate. Nance advised women to be determined.

"Don't settle!" she implored.

Nance held a book-signing at the end of the conference.

#### What Now?

One of CWA of Kansas' goals for 2018 is to have Feisty & Feminine workshops across the state.

"These workshops will embrace God-given femininity, intertwined with a little feisty," Saldivar said, "to deliver a message of strength and redemption."

The first one is on the calendar for June 9 in Wichita. For more information or to schedule a workshop in your area contact Concerned Women for America [ks.cwfa.org](http://ks.cwfa.org).



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