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Franklin Graham slams WSJ for fictionalizing Hell



Rev. Franklin Graham reprovved a recently published column in the Wall Street Journal (WSJ) for portraying Hell as a fictional, manmade concept – and warned skeptics about believing the columnist's misleading assertion. WSJ columnist Scott G. Bruce of Fordham University argued that mankind will be better off once it dispels of what he considers the notion of Hell – which is presented as a reality in the Bible. "In some distant, better future, the foreclosure of Hell will be an important step in the maturation of human communities," Bruce contended in his WSJ column last Friday. As a segue into his argument, Bruce mentioned a statement made by Pope Francis this spring reportedly rejecting the Bible's teaching that Hell is a real place.

■ Please see HELL page 2

Loving Your Neighbor Well: Show That Culture Is Not King, Jesus Is



What is standing in our way of becoming friends with our neighbors who think differently than we do?

That particularly bitter New York winter whipped harsh promises against the front door of my neighbor's house — promises that remained elusive and unimaginable. Behind that door, my neighbors, Ken and Floy Smith, and I were talking. Ken leaned in, a warm mug of weakly percolated decaf coffee in hand, and asked the question that put our opposing worldviews into perspective: "Do you believe that what is true determines what is ethical? Or do you believe that what is ethical determines what is true?"

Before It Was Hate Speech

Decades ago, when this question unsettled my God-rejecting-but-otherwise-moral life (as I would have described it then), I believed the latter. I believed that ethics drove truth, and that truth was a cultural creation, born out of the sheer goodness of humanity and the felt needs of people. When my neighbor asked this question, I immediately rejected it as ill-informed and vulgar — somewhat like the weak decaf in my mug. I shot back with years of schooling in situational ethics: Truth is a social construct. Truth takes its shape in the eyes of the

■ Please see NEIGHBOR page 23

Non-profit to open apartment building for women in need



You Can Begin Again/You Can Begin Again Too of Topeka, Kansas has announced the opening of a 10-unit apartment building to be used for young women who are aging out of the foster care system, or are victims of other unfortunate circumstances. A Grand Opening will be held on Monday, October 22, 2018, at 1316 SW Western. YCBA/YCBAT is an organization that provides two years of housing, life skills training and case management to young women aged 18-25 who are aging out of the foster care system. Young women in the community who lack family support and find themselves homeless, in domestic violent relationships, prostitution, drug addictions and/or incarceration are also serviced.

■ Please see BUILDING page 3

Kansas is near the top for registered sex offenders

A report last week has Kansas near the top of a list of 10 states with the most registered offenders per capita. In the report, released by asecure-life.com, Kansas ranks as the 9th highest number of sex offenders per capita. The study says Oregon has the most sex offenders per 100,000 residents, with 679 offenders. Arkansas falls close behind with 550 offenders per 100,000 residents. Kansas has 356 offenders per 100,000 residents, according to the report. The State has been dealing with how they determine and register offenders. The report comes after an analysis of information compiled by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Maryland is listed as the state with the lowest number with about 100 offenders per 100,000 residents. The states with the most and fewest offenders can be found listed below. States with the highest number of offenders per capita: Oregon Arkansas

■ Please see SEX OFFENDERS page 2



HELL

continued from page 1

“Bruce cites reports that Pope Francis denied the existence of hell,” WND reported.

The controversial alleged statement opened up his op-ed.

“In March 2018, Pope Francis allegedly denied the existence of Hell and the endless suffering of the damned in a private talk with his friend Eugenio Scalfari – a left-wing journalist – who published his account of their conversation in the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica*,” Bruce wrote. “The response to Scalfari’s article was immediate and explosive. How could the pope deny such a fundamental teaching of the Catholic Church?”

A question that deserves an answer

The son of the late iconic evangelist Billy Graham was quick to respond to Bruce’s column challenging the existence of Hell, a piece that leads readers to believe that the eternal place of punishment is merely a figment of man’s imagination spanning millennia.

“Hell is much more than a concept – it’s a reality,” Franklin Graham contended in a Facebook post, challenging Bruce’s take on the issue.

Turning straight to Scripture, the president of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association (BGEA) and Samaritan’s Purse relayed the description of Hell using some of God’s own words.

“[Hell is a] blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, [and it will] not change with the maturing of human culture – or anything else we might dream up,” Graham continued.

Devil’s advocate?

Embracing the Pope’s alleged notion of Hell as only existing in man’s mind, Bruce conceded that the New Testament clearly depicts Hell as a place of punishment for those who deny the deity of Jesus Christ ... before discounting it as a burdensome idea:

“God created Hell for Satan and the rebel angels, but there was plenty of room to torture with fire and brimstone everyone who had rejected Jesus Christ as the Son of God,” he explained in his column. “By any measure, Hell is a cruel and oppressive concept: a place where sinners suffer unspeakable torments for all eterni-

ty for sins committed during their mortal lives.”

Bruce goes on to claim that the place of eternal damnation referred to as Hell in the Bible actually predates Christianity by millennia, which he says Christians borrowed from at a later time.

“[Bruce] believes it predates Christianity by thousands of years,” WND’s Bob Unruh informed.

Bruce attempted to approach the subject as a historian relaying the facts, but he provided no true foundation for his argument.

“[Early Christians composed] harrowing stories of human souls escorted by angels to witness the torture of those imprisoned in the infernal depths,” he argued. “By the Middle Ages, Hell was a cornerstone of Christian doctrine.”

The Fordham scholar then presented Hell as merely a contraption used by clergy, Bible scholars and authors to frighten people into not sinning.

“Parish priests delivered sermons about the awful torments awaiting sinners; theologians such as Thomas Aquinas argued that the blessed in Heaven rejoiced in the suffering of the damned; and Dante Alighieri composed his towering poem ‘The Inferno,’ which depicts Hell as an efficient bureaucracy shaped like a descending funnel, with Satan trapped in ice at the very bottom,” Bruce continued.

It was then asserted that even though Hell has been effectively used to steer people toward Heaven, the belief in Darwinian evolution has turned the emphasis from damnation to salvation – saying that today, Hell is just used as a fanciful allegory.

“[The fear of Hell] helped lead souls to Heaven, [but Darwinism] eroded the authority of the Bible and the tides of sentiment turned against God’s wrath in favor of His mercy [in the 19th century,” Bruce insisted. “[Hell was a metaphor for] the most extreme suffering and squalor in this world.”

The scholar from Fordham than attempted to place more doubts in readers’ minds, implying that Hell is nothing more than a useful tool to keep people from behaving badly.

“Has Hell outlived its usefulness to modern society? Probably not,” Bruce posed before answering his own question. “The doctrine still serves Christianity as it

has for centuries – as a frightening deterrent to sinful behavior. We still hope that wicked people and corrupt leaders will get their just deserts in the world to come.”

As noted above, Bruce insisted that discarding the “concept” of Hell will evolve man into a superior and more independent state of being.

“In some distant, better future, the foreclosure of Hell will be an important step in the maturation of human communities that can mete out justice on their own – without supernatural aid,” he contended. “In the meantime, Hell is here to stay. Will Pope Francis evict the Devil and his minions and liberate the numberless, tortured souls clawing at the walls of their burning cells? Don’t count on it. There isn’t a hope in Hell.”

Denouncing a bad argument with Jesus’ words

When making his case for Hell as a real place – and not just an idea – Graham noted that Jesus Christ made it a point to assure His followers that the place of eternal damnation is a reality.

“Jesus spoke about it a great deal,” Graham impressed on Facebook. “Hell is a very real place that will be the eternal destination of souls who reject the forgiveness and salvation that a loving God offers us through His Son, Jesus Christ.”

And he assured that Heaven is just as real as Hell, reminding his Facebook audience that everyone on Earth will end up in eternity at one place or the other.

“Heaven is also a real place – prepared for those who put their faith and trust in Christ,” Graham reminded readers. “Now is the time when we must choose our eternal destiny – the Bible tells us ‘... now is the day of salvation’ (2 Corinthians 6:2).”

He concluded by seizing the opportunity to make people grasp the seriousness of their personal acceptance or rejection of Hell – and Heaven – as a reality.

“If you die today, are you sure of your destination?” Graham asked.

– OneNewsNow.com

SEX OFFENDERS

continued from page 1

Delaware
Michigan
Tennessee
Wisconsin
South Dakota
Wyoming
Kansas
Texas

States with the fewest sex offenders per capita:

Maryland
Indiana
Connecticut
Ohio
Massachusetts
Pennsylvania
Oklahoma
New Mexico
New Jersey
Iowa

To develop the ranking they report obtained data on the number of registered sex offenders in each state by surveying the individual sex offender registries for each state. The total number of offenders was compared with census data to determine the number of sex offenders per 100,000 total population in the state.

Life Lessons From a Little One

BEING READY

by Jessica S. Hosman

There we were, chatting happily as we drove down Topeka’s main street. The birds were chirping, the sun was shining, couples strolled hand-in-hand down the sidewalk while others sipped lattes on the café’s patio. Yes, all was well within our little world. Until, all of sudden, flames began bursting in the landscape nearby! The raging winds fanned the already roaring blaze until visions of an inferno overtaking the historical buildings of downtown and eventually the entire city began consuming our view. I was in shock but the confident herald of my son from the backseat jolted me alert as he jumped out of the moving car in attempt to rescue the city from the massive drama unfolding before our very eyes – a drama that no one had seemed to notice just moments before. With a rapid heartbeat, I followed his orders to call 9-1-1 as he held out his hands and boldly prayed for the rapidly growing firestorm to cease. At last, the sound of sirens rang closer as my son bravely stood in the street ushering the firefighters to the unfolding scene as passersby gasped with anticipation. Before we knew it, evaporating smolders were all that remained and every person and building was miraculously spared. The firefighters recognized it was because of the efforts led by one brave boy and presented my son with a badge of honor for his bravery in helping to save our city from fiery peril. And once again, all was well with our little world.

Okay, so maybe that’s not exactly how it happened. But there was a (small) fire, Zechariah did encourage me to call 9-1-1, and firefighters did show up and give him a (sticker) badge.

Later, while having fun embellishing the events a bit, Zechariah said it all reminded him of how the world would

one day end. He went on to describe how the Lord would one day send a great fire that would consume the world much like the flood in Noah’s day. But, similar to how he had just recently “saved Topeka from the fire,” Jesus would come to save those who loved Him and were ready for His return. Wow!

The next morning as I was in prayer, 2 Peter 3 popped into my mind. I had no idea what it said and was astonished to read that this was a verbatim account of what Zechariah had shared with me the day before. God had used his innocent imagination to paint a vivid picture of Christ’s return. What do we do with that?

The real version of our fire story was really no big deal, but it could have been. And we had tons of fun fantasizing about how this small scene could turn Zechariah into a super hero who saved an entire city. I wasn’t thinking about the tie into Jesus. But my little guy quickly saw how the stories paralleled. As in the days of Noah (Matthew 24), people will be going about their day to day, not aware of any real danger, much like the day we saw the fire in Topeka. But also, as in Noah’s day, a fire will replace the flood and consume those who don’t recognize the greatest Hero of all, Jesus. Yet He will come and rescue those who partner with Him.

If the fire were to come today, would you be ready? Or would you be consumed? Jesus offers a way of escape. He is our great Hero that can rescue from even the deadliest peril. But we must recognize and put our trust in Him. It’s never too late to call to Him for help. And it’s not too late for Him to come to our rescue. May we be encouraged by placing our hope in Him today.



Jessica Hosman

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Kansas college to honor Bob Dole with statue

Washburn University will dedicate a statue to former U.S. Sen. Bob Dole to celebrate his life of public service.

Dole, who is 95, plans to attend the dedication ceremony Friday in Topeka along with his wife, Elizabeth. Dole graduated from Washburn with bachelor's degree and law degrees by applying college credits he earned elsewhere while serving in the U.S. Army.

The ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. near Carnegie Hall on the Washburn campus.

Dole served in the Kansas House, as Russell County attorney and in the U.S. House before being elected to the U.S. Senate. He was President Gerald Ford's running mate in 1976 and won the GOP nomination for president in 1996.

He has received the Congressional Gold Medal and the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Motorcycle driver dies after colliding with school bus

Police are investigating a crash between a Kansas school bus and a motorcycle that killed the motorcycle driver.

None of the nine pre-K children and two adults on the bus was injured in the Tuesday morning accident.

Officer Zac Blair says the bus was turning left when the motorcycle collided with it.

The driver's identity has not been released.

The investigation is continuing.

Police say adult, not child shot man while playing with gun

Contrary to earlier police reports, authorities say it was a man, not a child, that shot another man in a Wichita home.

Wichita police initially said a child had fired the gun. But on Tuesday afternoon officer Charlie Davidson said a 24-year-old man accidentally fired a shot that hit another man in the leg.

The Wichita Eagle reports several people were eating together Monday night at

the home. Davidson said a 5-year-old boy was playing with guns when the 24-year-old started playing with him. Davidson said the man switched guns with the child and thought the gun he had was a toy. The man fired, hitting a 35-year-old man. The victim was taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

No one else was injured.

Ballpark worker charged for spitting on pizza

A 20-year-old food service worker at Comerica Park in Detroit has been charged after a video was posted online that appeared to show him spitting on a pizza intended for customers during a Major League Baseball game.

Jaylon Kerley was arraigned Tuesday on felony and misdemeanor food law violations. The felony charge is punishable by up to four years behind bars.

The video appeared on Instagram over the weekend. Officials determined the video was recorded Friday, when the Detroit Tigers were hosting the Kansas City Royals. Kerley was arrested Sunday and was fired.

His bond was set at 10 percent of \$100,000. He also must be tested for infectious diseases.

An Oct. 3 probable cause conference and Oct. 10 preliminary examination are scheduled.

Court records don't list a defense attorney.

Kansas teacher arrested on sex-related charge

A man who abruptly resigned from the Shawnee City Council after being placed on leave from his teaching job has been arrested and charged with having sexual relations with a student.

Thirty-three-year-old Justin Adrian was arrested on Tuesday, after he was charged on Friday with unlawful sexual relations with a student.

Adrian left his teaching position at Olathe East High School and resigned from the Shawnee City Council earlier this month.

Fox4KC reports court documents say the alleged incident occurred with an Olathe East student older than 16 at the school Sept. 7.

He was a social studies teacher at the high school.

Adrian's next court appearance is scheduled for Wednesday.

Life Chain times and locations set

The LIFE CHAIN is an annual, fun, peaceful, prayerful public witness of thousands of Americans standing in honor of 60 million lives lost to abortion, praying for our nation, for people in crisis situations and for an end to abortion.

If you normally don't take any other pro-life action throughout the entire year, this is the one activity in which you can easily participate!

Signs provided at each location proclaim "Abortion Kills Children," "Adoption the Loving Option," "Jesus Forgives & Heals," "Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation," "Abortion Hurts Women," "El Aborto Mata Niños," "Life - the first Inalienable Right," "Pray to End Abortion" and "Pregnant? Need Help? 1-800-712-HELP"

You can join other pro-lifers in holding these signs, while praying, singing, and waving at cars passing by. Many pregnant young women driving by see the signs and choose life for their babies.

In Topeka, Life Chain will take place Sunday October 7 from 2-3:30 p.m. at three locations: Washburn between 17th and 21st; 21st & Wanamaker; and 29th & California. For information on these locations call Bibi Zweig 785- 969-2706.

To see a list of Kansas towns hosting Life Chains and their respective intersections, visit www.lifechain.net. If your town doesn't have a Life Chain, please consider organizing it. We can help you! Call us at: 800-928-LIFE (5433).

Oct. 4 is Bring Your Bible to School Day

Bring Your Bible to School Day is an event sponsored by Focus on the Family for students all over the nation.

This year it's happening on Thursday, Oct 4. On that day, thousands of students will celebrate religious freedom—and share God's hope with their friends—by taking a simple action: bringing their Bible to school.

Last year, 500,000 students participated, and this year, at the fifth annual event, thousands more are expected to join the movement!

C5Alive Invites All Pastors to Appreciation Luncheon

The annual C5Alive "Pastors Appreciation Luncheon" will be held Oct. 11 at Great Overland Station, and the featured speaker will be Jimmy Dodd, CEO and founder of PatorServe. Members and guests are invited to invite or bring their pastors. All pastors in the area are invited and welcome and will be prayed over, as well as treated to lunch and a gift bag of items donated by C5 members.



Dodd

Luncheon will be held at Fairlawn Plaza, with Christmas music and games.

Lamar Hunt, Jr., will be the featured speaker at the January 10 luncheon.

For more details on these and other luncheons, stay tuned to the C5Alive facebook page and website: www.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, facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.



Hunt, Jr.



BUILDING

continued from page 1

"Our vision expanded in March of 2011 to help young women who had children and were emancipating from foster care," said Tina Carter, Executive Director.

"To date, over 20 women and 8 children."

The organization presently has nine openings and is seeking referrals. They are also seeking 300 individuals to contribute \$25.00 a month to help defray the cost of the programs. Additionally, a registry has been established at Walmart for

individuals who would like to purchase items for the apartments (click on Weddings: Type in "You Can Begin Again").

YCBA/YCBAT is a 501 (c)(3) organization, and all donations and contributions are tax deductible. Donations are accepted at You Can Begin Again, 2401 SE 11th Street, Topeka, KS 66607. Donations can also be made through Paypal, by accessing the website: www.youcanbeginagain.org or on the Givelify mobile application.

For more information and questions about partnering with You Can Begin Again, call 720-300-0029.

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Overcoming communication barriers with your spouse

Men and women communicate very differently. Most of us know that, but we often don't know how to overcome those barriers with our spouse. There is no one-size-fits-all approach to communication that will work for every couple, but there are some tips that can help you communicate better to move through conflict with your spouse, and sometimes even avoid it altogether.

The Weekend to Remember conference certainly helped me learn how to communicate better with my husband. After being married for four years, I've learned that my husband and I communicate very differently. We also have extremely different personalities to add to the mix.

For example, my husband grew up in a loud family—not just shout at the TV during football kind of loud, but loud in the way they expressed their opinions, loud in the way they fought, and loud in the way they loved. There's nothing quiet about his family. But my family was quite the opposite. In fact, I never saw my parents fight simply because they chose to ignore conflict instead of talk about it.

Once my husband and I got married, we realized that our childhoods, our current personalities, and our expectations for communication were entirely different. It spelled disaster, but we've learned to overcome these challenges and find a better way to communicate with one another. Here are a few tips we learned at the Weekend to Remember. Sometimes, doing these things can prevent a fight. Other times, it helps us move through that fight to the other side—reconciliation.

1. Listen well.

I think we spend a lot of time talking at people and not truly listening to what they have to say back. In the course of my marriage, I've found myself preparing to respond to my husband in an argument instead of truly listening to what he has to say. Other times I become more focused on the tone of his voice or the way he says something, instead of honestly hearing the content of his heart.



If you stop and listen without letting anger or other emotions overrule your thoughts, it's a whole lot easier to soften your heart and hear what your spouse has to say.

2. Don't accuse.

When we're mad, it's really easy to accuse someone of doing harm to us. But if we pause and explain to someone how a situation hurt us or how we perceived it, rather than accusing them of intentionally harming us, we might realize that many arguments are based on misunderstanding or overreactions.

Instead of starting with "you," try starting these kinds of conversations with "I" statements. For example, instead of telling your husband, "You never help out around the house," try saying, "I'm feeling overwhelmed and I could really use some help. Will you please take out the trash?" You'll find yourself communicating the root of the issue to your spouse instead of accusing him or her.

3. Forgive.

Most important, if you forget every other tool in your communication toolbox, always remember to forgive. As a Christian, it's important to first seek the Lord and ask Him for forgiveness. Next, it's important to seek forgiveness from your spouse.

In most situations, a fight or communication breakdown takes two, so you probably have something to ask forgiveness for. Always remember that true forgiveness, and granting of that forgiveness, is a biblical command, but it is also a cure for the heart. If you and your

spouse can frequently forgive one another (because believe me, you'll mess up more than once!), then you can have a marriage that will stand through thick and thin.

Once you begin to practice these communication tools in your own marriage, you'll begin to see that miscommunication happens far less. You will begin to understand one another. Instead of assuming that your spouse meant to hurt you or didn't care, you will begin to recognize his or her heart. Better communication will always bring you closer to your spouse and it will minimize conflict in your life.

Another important point that struck us at the Weekend to Remember conference was that conflict begins to minimize when we actively bless one another in marriage. If we can be kind, sympathetic, and humble to our spouse, and speak to them in loving words, we begin to resemble Jesus to our spouses. We begin to live as peacemakers, not troublemakers. We begin to recognize our spouse for the child of God they are, instead of someone who likes to fight with us.

Communication in marriage is not easy. But the fight to communicate well will always be worth the hard work. In the end, you will find a thriving marriage that is rooted in oneness, not division.

— Family Life (By A Weekend to Remember Guest)



U.S. Household Net Worth Climbs by \$2.19 Trillion

The net worth of Americans has risen to its highest number in decades thanks to Donald Trump's economic and tax policies, a report notes. According to Market Watch, household and nonprofit net worth rose by \$2.19 trillion in the second quarter this year.

That represents a seasonally adjusted annual rise of 2.1% to \$106.93 trillion, driven in part by gains in the stock market as well as in the value of real estate.

As the economic cycle grows older — and as the real estate sector bemoans a lack of available homes that has driven up house prices — household net worth continues to gain.

Going along with this news, the stock market hit another high this week.

As the Wall Street Journal reported:

The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 set new highs Thursday, kindling hopes among some investors that buoyant U.S. stocks are on track to exceed Wall Street's performance expectations for 2018.

The blue chips surged more than 250 points to cap a three-day run of gains, the latest leg of a nine-year rally that hurtled the index to its first record close since Jan. 26. The stock market's rise has coincided with a pause in the U.S. dollar's climb and a recent spike in government-bond yields, a signal that investors are viewing next week's expected increase in interest rates from

the Federal Reserve as a testament to the strength of the economy.

Thursday's rally pushed the Dow up 7.8% for the year, while the S&P 500, which also set a new record, has added 9.6%—putting it within striking distance of the 2018 price targets of banks such as Goldman Sachs and Bank of America Merrill Lynch.

This not only never happened under Barack Obama, but as Stephen Moore wrote this week, "This economy is definitely not Obama's recovery."

Barack Obama has been trying to take credit for the booming economy under President Trump. "When you hear how great the economy is doing right now," Obama said on the campaign trail for Democratic candidates a few days ago, "let's just remember when this recovery started."

But the contrast in economic performance between the two presidents is undeniable. Obama's multitrillion-dollar spend-and-borrow policies produced 2 percent growth. In his final year, Obama handed off to Trump an economy that was limping at 1.6 percent.

After only 18 months in office, Trump has elevated growth to 3 percent on an annual rate and the latest projections are that the growth rate for the second and third quarter (which ends Sept. 30) will be over 4 percent.

— Warner Todd Huston



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Yale Study: Twice as Many Undocumented Immigrants as Previously Thought

A new Yale study has concluded that the population of undocumented immigrants in the U.S. is close to double the generally accepted estimate.

The population of undocumented immigrants is widely thought to be around 11.3 million. But the study, which was conducted by three Yale-affiliated researchers, indicates that the total may be more than 22 million. Even the authors were surprised by their findings.

"Our original idea was just to do a sanity check on the existing number," said one of the study's authors, Edward Kaplan, a professor of operations research at the Yale School of Management. "Instead of a number which was smaller, we got a number that was 50 percent higher. That caused us to scratch our heads."

"There's a number that everybody quotes, but when you actually dig down and say, 'What is it based on?' You find it's based on one very specific survey and possibly an approach that has some difficul-



ties. So we went in and just took a very different approach," said another of the study's authors, Jonathan Feinstein, a professor of Economics and Management.

To arrive at their estimate, the authors used operational data such as deportations and visa overstays as well as demographic data such as death rates and immigration rates.

"We combined these data using a demographic model that follows a very simple logic," Kaplan said. "The population today is equal to the initial population

plus everyone who came in minus everyone who went out. It's that simple."

"The analysis we've done can be thought of as estimating the size of a hidden population," he added. "People who are undocumented immigrants are not walking around with labels on their foreheads. . . . There are very few numbers we can point to and say, 'This is carved in stone.'"

The researchers said their goal in crunching the numbers was not a political one.

"We wouldn't want people to walk away from this research thinking that suddenly there's a large influx happening now," Jonathan S. Feinstein, another of the study's authors, commented. "It's really something that happened in the past and maybe was not properly counted or documented."

— By MAIREAD MCARDLE | National Review

FINANCIAL PLANNING

The numbers don't lie

Dear Dave,

Why do you think all debt is bad? Aren't some kinds of debt, like a mortgage or student loans, good?

Nathan

Dear Nathan,

It sounds like you're letting me know you think some kinds of debt are okay, instead of really asking for my opinion. When you ask a question that's really a statement, it's called a passive aggressive question. That's okay. You and I will now argue as best we can in a newspaper column.

It's not necessarily a question of what I think. I'm really just the aggregator of information we've gathered while walking with people through their financial issues. I've worked with tens of thousands of folks over nearly 30 years, everyone from billionaires and millionaires to broke people, and those in between. In the process, we've collected a lot of data through formal research projects — I'm talking about a huge stockpile of statistics, facts, and figures. And all that data shows debt is the biggest roadblock between people and wealth. I'm also a Christian. Having read the Bible, and what it says about money, I can tell you there's not one place where it says debt is a good idea.

So, all that information leads me to one conclusion. Debt is not a positive thing. The only kind of debt I don't beat people up over is mortgage debt, as long as it's a 15-year, fixed rate loan. Houses are wildly expensive, and I understand that most people can't save up to buy a home with cash in a reasonable amount of time. Still, that doesn't make mortgage debt a good thing.

Any kind of debt is a burden, Nathan. It steals from your ability to save, build wealth, and be generous.

—Dave

Don't cash out retirement

Dear Dave,

I owe \$18,000 on my only car, and the payments are killing me. I'm also upside down on the vehicle by about \$4,000. I'm 31, and I've got exactly \$18,000 in my 401(k). Should I cash it in to pay off the car?

Monty

Dear Monty,

If you use your 401(k) they'll charge you a 10 percent penalty, plus your tax rate. That means you'll probably lose any-

where from 25 to 50 percent to the government. I don't know about you, but I think they already get too much of our money.

I love the fact that you want to get rid of your car payment, but I don't want you to cash out your retirement plan to make it happen. If you can pay off the car in 18 months or less, I'd advise living on a strict, written budget, and throwing as much money as possible toward the car debt until it's out of your life forever.

If it would take longer than 18 months to pay it off, I'd get rid of the car. To do this, you'd have to sell it for as much as you can get, then go to a local credit union for a small loan to cover the difference. If it's your only car, you'd need to ask for an extra \$2,000 to \$3,000 to buy a little beater to drive until you can save up and get into something better.

I hate all kinds of debt, Monty. But being \$5,000 to \$6,000 in the hole is a lot better than having \$18,000 in debt hanging over your head!

—Dave

Allow them to earn it

Dear Dave,

Our daughter just turned 10 years old. Is now the right time to start giving her an allowance, and start teaching her about money?

Danielle

Dear Danielle,

I'm glad you're going to teach your daughter about money. But in my mind, there's never a time for an allowance. I believe that kind of thinking, and using words like "allowance," are some of the best ways to instill an attitude of entitlement in a child. I don't think you want your daughter growing up with the idea she deserves money simply because she's alive.

My advice is to develop a method by which she can earn commissions. Write down a daily or weekly list of jobs around the house that are age-appropriate she will be responsible for doing. Then, at the end of the week, she gets paid for jobs she completed — and she doesn't get paid for the ones she didn't do. The idea is to teach her that work creates money, and teach a healthy work ethic at the same time.

Of course, there are some things a child should be expected to do without financial reward. Everyone needs to pitch in, and do certain things to help



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

davesays

when they're part of a family. And once you've taught her about the importance and rewards of work, make sure to also teach her about the three uses for money — saving, spending, and giving!

—Dave

Finding responsible renters

Dear Dave,

I'm a landlord, and I own a few houses and duplexes around town. Recently, I made the mistake of renting to some tenants who were not respectful of my property. Do you have any tips for selecting good renters?

Joe

Dear Joe,

In my experience, most landlords simply aren't thorough enough with the screening process when it comes to potential tenants. It's difficult to get to know someone — especially in this kind of situation — without spending some face-to-face time with them and digging into their backgrounds a little.

I have several rental properties, so here are a few tips that have served me well over the years. Always require a big deposit up front. In addition, pull a credit bureau report on prospective renters. I also drive by the place they're currently living to see how they take care of things. To me, this is a great indication of how responsible they are, and how they might treat my property. Finally, get proof they've regularly made past rental payments on time.

It's a leap of faith, to an extent, any time you sign an agreement with a new tenant. But there are things you can do to make a more informed decision as to whom you're doing business with!

—Dave

Don't allow them to break the rules

Dear Dave,

A debt collector has been calling members of my family for the last two weeks

to get information on me. He identified himself as collector, and I want to pay what I owe, but is it legal for him to do this?

Kerry

Dear Kerry,

No, it isn't legal. If he identified himself in any way as a debt collector, and spoke

with anyone but you about your debt, he broke the law. This is a violation of the Federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. You need to file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) against this collector and his company.

Record the conversation the next time they call. Tell them at the beginning you'll be taping any interaction you have with them from that point forward, and ask your relatives to do the same. That way, you'll have proof to hand over to the FTC or the attorney general.

There's nothing wrong with collecting a debt. If you're a collector or creditor, it's money that is legally owed to you. Still, you must do it within the confines of the law.

—Dave

Separate emergency fund?

Dear Dave,

I've going to be debt-free with a full emergency fund in pace by the end of the year. I'm going to get a dog after that, but I wanted to make sure I did it the right way and was in good financial shape before making that move. Is a separate emergency fund for pets a good

idea?

Scott

Dear Scott,

My wife and I love animals. We've had a least one dog the whole time we've been married. Still, I think a full emergency fund of three to six months of expenses will cover you and your pet.

You go through some expense as a pet owner, along with happy, wonderful times and heartbreaking things, too. We lost our golden retriever recently, and I can tell you that was really hard on everyone. You love them like they're family, but you still have to use common sense sometimes, and remember that they're animals and not human beings. Part of that includes spending reasonable amounts of money on them — and in some unfortunate cases — doing things with the animal's best interest, not our own desires, in mind.

What is a reasonable amount? That depends on how stable you are financially. It's really a ratio question of expense to means. But no, I wouldn't recommend a second emergency fund just for pets.

—Dave

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opinion

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Has the Kavanaugh Battle Vindicated Trump Voters?

Democrats' willingness to go low demonstrates why so many Republicans believed they needed someone who would fight dirty.

There were many points of contention that divided Donald Trump voters from other Republicans in 2016. But differences about trade and foreign policy were always secondary to those about what kind of person the GOP needed in order to win back the presidency. Most mainstream Republicans were looking for a qualified conservative. Trump voters wanted someone who would fight the Democrats without regard for fair play or the whole truth. They wanted someone who would be as ruthless and as unapologetic in slandering opponents as they conceived Democrats to have been during the Obama administration. And in Trump that was exactly what they got.

To his supporters, there was never much doubt that the same qualities that caused the political establishment to despise him were what made him the man to defeat Hillary Clinton. Nevertheless, many Republicans still considered Trump's underhanded, norm-busting tactics with distaste if not outright disgust.

But after the last two weeks, it's likely that the number of those in the latter camp has declined precipitously.

The willingness of the Democrats and their mainstream-media allies to use a solitary, unsubstantiated, 36-year-old allegation to turn Judge Brett Kavanaugh into a Me Too villain whose guilt of a heinous crime is to be assumed despite the lack of proof or a semblance of due



process has shocked his friends and supporters. But it has also vindicated the Trump approach to politics. After the public assassination of Kavanaugh's character over the last week, there can't be many left in the GOP who will still dispute former Breitbart CEO Steve Bannon's assertion that politics is warfare and Trump is thus justified in anything he does to combat his opponents.

The Kavanaugh confirmation fight isn't alone in its ugliness, or unprecedented in recent political history. Democrats can point with some reason to the refusal of Senate Republicans to grant Judge Merrick Garland a hearing, let alone a vote, for his nomination to the Supreme Court as evidence that the GOP didn't play by the rules when the shoe was on the other foot. Garland was spared the indignities of what would have been a nasty confirmation fight, but that doesn't change the fact that the GOP was prepared to break with tradition to keep Democrats from handing the court to a

liberal majority.

Democrats may think Garland's fate justifies any tactic they can employ now to delay or defeat Kavanaugh. But, as with their precedent-shattering personal assault on Judge Robert Bork in 1987, what is happening to Kavanaugh is taking American politics to a new low. They may believe they are simply fighting fire with fire, but as Republicans have learned, a belief in scorched-earth warfare has its costs as well as its benefits.

There is an irony here: Many Republicans spent the eight years of the Obama presidency castigating their leaders as ineffectual patsies who refused to fight. Democrats may have seen Majority Leader Mitch McConnell as a ruthlessly effective obstacle to President Obama's agenda, but tea partiers saw him and former House speaker John Boehner as appeasers of their liberal foes. Now, just as many Democratic activists treat Minority Leader Chuck Schumer with the same disdain. There's little doubt that the deci-

sion of Schumer and his Senate colleagues to treat the Kavanaugh confirmation as a political Armageddon in which anything goes is at least partly the result of pressure from a liberal base that would have reacted badly to a more civil effort to oppose the nomination.

But after efforts to brand Trump's nominee an extremist and to turn procedural arguments about the release of his records fell flat, Christine Blasey Ford's accusation that the judge attempted to rape her when they were both in high school has done more than hand Schumer an effective weapon to use against Kavanaugh. Though the case against Kavanaugh bears little resemblance to the credible Me Too charges that have taken down a host of other cultural, journalistic, and political figures, the decision of Democrats, with an assist from a helpful media, to treat Ford's charge as unquestioned truth has changed the nature of the debate.

Democrats' treatment of Kavanaugh has been shockingly shabby even given the high stakes. At this point, it's not clear that there is anything he could ever do to clear his name whether he is confirmed to the High Court or not. Even if his public testimony refuting the accusations is credible and if Ford can't provide hard evidence to back up her claim, it's likely that at least half of the country will still think he's guilty.

The manifest unfairness of this process will have unintended political consequences for both sides.

Kavanaugh's fate may be seen by some

continued on next page

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VOICE

MANAGING EDITOR



Lee
Hartman
LHartman3@cox.net

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Nick Hartman
Dwight Widaman

ADVERTISING CONSULTANTS

Lee Hartman
785-640-6399; Voice@cox.net

Darcy Childs 785-249-6203
childs.darcy@gmail.com

NEWS & FEATURES

Jessica Hosman, Carolyn Cogswell, John Potter, Rob Mooney, Phil Boatwright, Marie Asner, Kharissa Forte, Alan Goforth, Leilani Haywood, Dwight Widaman, Lee Hartman

LAYOUT & DESIGN

Joe Boothe, Lee Hartman, Dwight Widaman

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CONTACT INFO

Offices: 2611 SW 17th St.
Correspondence & Payments:
P.O. Box 5724, Topeka, KS 66605
Phone/Fax: 785-235-3340
Voice@cox.net
MetroVoiceNews.com
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HOW TO FIGHT THE CULTURE OF SEXUAL ABUSE



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As I prepared to write this column, there were continuing news stories related to the devastating report about the Catholic church's own report from 2004, which found more than, "4,000 US Roman Catholic priests had faced sexual abuse allegations in the last 50 years involving more than 10,000 children..." Wow! And that was in just the United States. There were also reports in Austria, Chile, and others.

What is happening that children do

not appear to be safe in a church with a clergy person? When I considered that, I slowly began to see how the Catholic church scandal is a devastating picture of a larger problem.

In protestant churches, pastors have resigned after admitting to adulterous affairs with someone in their own congregation. In the business world, executives have been fired for sexually preying on members of their staff. On school campuses, teachers have gone to jail for taking sexual advantage of their students. In politics, well-known elected officials have stepped down because of sexual harassment. In the home, family members have been arrested for sexually abusing their own children. In neighborhoods, young men and women have been picked up and sold into the global sex trafficking industry.

What is the common thread in all of this? Sexual immorality. God our Creator has given us instructions. We are to walk in purity and restrict our sexual activity within the bonds of marriage. Abusers and the immoral have total disregard for this. They engage in adultery, pornography, incest, rape, homosexuality, prostitution, molestation, pedophilia, fornication. All these and more are condemned by God and have devastating consequences for ourselves and others.



What can we do? Fight against these evils in our culture by committing to your own purity. It is written, "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body" (1 Corinthians 6:18). When you commit to purity you are helping to protect your home, church, workplace, school, neighborhood and your own life. It is not easy. Temptation is all around us. That is why it so wide spread and sometimes we fail. We cannot do it on our own. We need help. We need Jesus!

He died and rose again to defeat the power of sin, which is at the root of our immorality. He rose from the grave to make us holy and beautiful before Him. When we turn to Him He comes to

dwell within us by His Spirit. And that Spirit gives us the ability to be pure. No matter who you are or what you have done, Jesus can wash you clean and empower you to live a pure life.

A prayer for you to pray—"Lord God, I want to be clean. I admit I have done things with my body I should not have. I regret it and confess my impurity. Please, oh Lord, wash me. Remove my immorality. Forgive me and make me a new person today. In Jesus' name. Amen."

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

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Why reaching the campus with Christ is critical

If you could change the world, where would you start? Would you start by ridding the world of tyrants? Would you redo the education or legal system? No, you would go to the college campus—the most strategic place on the planet. Why?

1) The future leaders of society are on the college campuses.

Almost all of the world's presidents, prime ministers, senators, members of parliaments, bankers, engineers, lawyers, judges, teachers, doctors and business executives have passed through the college and university system. In every critical aspect of a nation's culture, the campus is where we find the future influencers.

2) The majority of those who become Christians do so as students

Many studies show that almost 90% of people surrender to Christ before their twenty-fifth birthday.

3) International students impact their nations.

International students typically represent the top 1% of their students in their home nations. Many of these students come from nations that restrict or ban the Gospel. When we reach international students on our campuses and send them home as disciples of Jesus Christ, we broaden the Gospel's reach. For example, on the campus at the University of Kansas, 111 countries are represented.

4) Major movements, good or bad, usually start on the campus

The campus is typically the birthplace of



change, whether spiritual revival or political revolution. Marxism, atheism, feminism and practically every other "ism" started as a tiny seed on the college campus.

5) The most "FAT" people are on our campuses

Faithful. Available. Trainable. FAT. Most students have fewer responsibilities thereby making them available to build their faith and serve Him boldly.

6) The values on campus become the values in society

The philosophy, morality and ethics taught by professors on college campuses works its way into public policy, media and education. Those ideas and values then become "the norms" for decades through legislation, education, music, movies and literature.

Bottom line—When we reach a student, we can reach a family. Dads, moms, brothers and sisters are often impacted by stories of a student's transformation. A student transformed by the Gospel can change the course of a family for generations. When Jesus commanded us to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,"...He meant it.

—By Samuel Rosenak. Since 2013 Samuel has been working as a campus minister with Called to Greatness Ministries at the University of Kansas Lawrence campus. Samuel was born in Overland Park and is happily married to Kayci. They recently had their first child and make their home in Lawrence. If you want more information, please go to www.calledtogreatness.com.

Church is hard work, not a private jet

We don't like inconvenience, do we? Let's face it—if you had a choice of an easy path or a rocky one, which would you take? Many would choose the path of least resistance. Steady climb to the top in your work.

Little if any conflicts along the way. It would be nice to arrange our lives in a way that our surroundings make our life more comfortable, not hard.

Likewise, wouldn't it be great if being a part of a church required little effort, like flying the friendly skies? Some people seem to think so. A recent headline told how one TV preacher was believing God for a Falcon 7X private jet that can travel 6,000 miles before needing to be refueled. The cost? \$54 million.

Makes sense, doesn't it? Fly further without as many inconvenient stops. And only travel with who you want.

We might like that with church too. Don't be asked for much. Drop in when it fits the schedule. Send in a few dollars and let God return the favor through increased convenience in life.

Imagine the Apostle Paul's reaction to this approach to ministry. Paul believed in spreading the gospel too, but for him it entailed hard work. In one word he would sum it up with "striving."

"We proclaim him, warning and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ. I labor for this, striving with his strength that works powerfully in me."

To do what Paul was called to do was hard. In Rome you can visit the Mamertime Prison where Paul and Peter may have been detained before their executions. It is dank, dark and described by the ancient historian Sallust as: "disgusting and vile by reason of the filth, the darkness and the stench."

There is an upper level and a lower level that was 6.5 feet high, 30 feet long and 22 feet wide. Prisoners were lowered through a hole in the floor of the top level to the lower one.

Prisoners would not be kept here for a long time but would see it as a last stop on the way to execution. Paul was later beheaded and a church now sits on the location where his beheading took place.

Paul went through this so that he could present the church as mature. Did you know that is the goal of the church's ministry? That you and I become mature in Christ?

The word "mature" is sometimes translated "complete" or "perfect." But what it means is that we are transformed into the likeness of Jesus.



How much thought have you given to this idea? Did you know that the main work God wants to do in your life and mine is to transform us more into the likeness of his Son?

Look back over the past five or 10 years you've been a part of a church. Can you see a change taking place in your own life?

If not, it could be that there has been little struggle.

Think about it. When have you learned the most in life? When have you had to grow—intellectually, physically, emotionally—or just grow up? Usually when asked, people will recall a time that was difficult. A time that was hard. A season when they struggled in some way.

The same is true in the spiritual life. Struggle and being stretched is the only way to grow more and more into a mature person in Christ. That is the aim. That is why Paul is struggling. It was not so that he would sell books or be on television or have a worldwide ministry and a jet. He is struggling to present everyone mature in Christ.

Church is hard work. And getting the gospel to others is hard work. Ninety-six percent of all growth in established churches and church plants in America comes from transfer growth. That's not hard work. That's just us swapping church members. That is just setting up something that "sounds reasonable" or offers a more "ecstatic or exciting worship" or another set of rules and regulations that make people feel as if they have found something that others have yet to get clued in on. That happened in Colossae and it happens today.

But getting the gospel to the four percent that few of us are getting to? That's hard work. And like Paul, it will take some suffering to get it there. Reprioritizing our lives so we can be taught. Getting outside of our comfort zones. Spending time with people who think differently than us and learning to listen deeply.

And giving up the idea that church is an easy ride in a Falcon 7X. When we do, we might grow up. And we might get the gospel to the people who need it most. Even if we have to make an extra stop or two along the way.

— By Rick Brown; rickbrown1Life2Love.com

Looking for a way to serve in your second season of life?

If you've come to the point in your life, where you are ready to do something in the "eternal" sense and have developed a sense of longing to please God, there's a wonderful opportunity to serve that you may not have considered.

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Curious? Hang out with the Gideons this Saturday morning for prayer, breakfast and fellowship. We start at 7 a.m. at Big Creek Cafe, 113 Wyoming Street, in historic downtown Pleasant Hill, Mo.

You'll meet and eat with a group of people who have the same thoughts on this subject. They have elected or rather, been selected, to serve their Father in the time they have left here on this earth.

The Gideons is an International Organization designed to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

We do this at school commencements, graduations, hospitals, hotels and motels, state, city and county fairs and other areas where citizens gather.

It all started several years ago, when a travelling salesman found himself alone, in an ordinary motel room, and in need of spiritual guidance.

Alas! There was none.



But this absence led to his thinking, and his thinking led to the a thought that "Hey! I bet this is not the first time this has happened!"

To make a long story short, this led to him purchasing and placing bibles in those locations beginning with that one lonely hotel room. That's how Gideon Bibles began being placed in hotels.

After answering questions of curious folks, he acquired "brothers" (and now sisters) who shared the same biblically based desires: to ensure that God's Word was available to all who would seek it, and even to those who might not.

As a result of this initial incentive, Gideons was born.

It has progressed to the point of thousands of members, hundreds of countries, and MILLIONS of Bibles being given away each and every year.

The Bible illuminates to us the fact that, prior to Jesus' return, all men will have been given the opportunity to share His Word. To realize that means you could play even the smallest role in the eternal salvation of someone's soul. Isn't this mind-boggling? It is a fact that thousands of people each year are touched and affected by the Gideons and their Christianity. The stories of salvation are numerous and speak to your very soul.

Women have also joined the organization and now have a central and important part in this mission. They are rudimentary to the success of the Gideons. Their dedication, industriousness, and love are an essential portion of all that is known as Gideon. We will be relating some of these wonderful testimonies in future editions.

For now, if the Lord is touching your soul as you read, please join us.

For information please call 816-738-5598 or 816-600-1469.

—By Dr. Joseph Yacaginsky

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

as a warning that anyone — even the most seemingly clean-cut, unimpeachable figure — can be caught up in unprovable Me Too charges that can't be effectively rebutted. But partisans may see it very differently.

Members of the Senate may take Feinstein's skullduggery as just revenge for Garland's treatment. But many ordinary Republicans will likely interpret the will-

ingness of their political and media foes to take apart the reputation of a respected establishment figure as an indication that any remaining restraints on political combat must now be ignored. If that happens, what the Democrats are doing to Kavanaugh could be a seminal moment in our political history in which Trump-style politics become the rule, rather than an exception.

As much as Democrats may take grim

satisfaction in the success of their assault on Kavanaugh, what they're doing could very well reinforce Trump's grip on his party and make it more likely that our politics are permanently remade in his image.

— JONATHAN S. TOBIN —
Jonathan S. Tobin is editor in chief of JNS.org and a contributor to *National Review*. @jonathans_tobin

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Adoptive father of 6 wows America's Got Talent judges

Adoptive father of 6 wows America's Got Talent judges

When Michael Ketterer walked on stage to audition for America's Got Talent, he had no idea what would happen next.

The pediatric nurse and part-time worship leader blew the audience away with a soulful rendition of "To Love Somebody" by Bee Gees.

Executive producer and judge Simon Cowell was so impressed by Letterer's performance and obvious talent, he gave him the coveted golden buzzer — which will send him straight to the live shows for a chance to win \$1 million.

"That was like — that's like the dream right?" Ketterer said in an interview. "Simon Cowell is just a great guy and so for him to tell me that I did a great job and hit the golden buzzer and to give me that hug, it meant the world."

But it wasn't the money Letterer was thinking about when he received a standing ovation on the talent show. He was thinking about his six young children, most of whom he and his wife Ivey adopted.

"I'd love to get a house for my family," he explained. "I want to get a house that's really handicap accessible for my son."

His son Rodrigo has cerebral palsy, a result of severe physical abuse as a child. He, like his other siblings, got a new



chance at life when the Ketterers took him in.

Ketterer and his wife decided to adopt after she nearly died while giving birth to their daughter.

"We weren't going to go through that again," he shared.

It wasn't long before their little girl began to have dreams of three young boys.

"After two years of those repetitive dreams we started to pay attention," Ketterer said.

Pay attention they did. The couple decided to adopt five children and their lives have never been the same since.

"Because we said 'yes' to adopting,

we've been able to be front row to so many miraculous things that have taken place," Ketterer said.

Those miracles include their son Rodrigo, whose cerebral palsy was supposed to leave him blind, mute, and unable to form relationships.

Today he can see, eat, love, and is even learning to walk.

"I want people to look at me and see my family and be inspired and become a healthy foster family, or in some way give a part of their lives to these kids," Ketterer said.

He also wants to raise awareness about pediatric mental health, his specialty as a nurse.

"There's still such a huge stigma around that," he explained. "Mental health is not always the same and a lot of time the parents are the ones who get blamed."

Ketterer hopes his story will inspire fathers everywhere to love their children, even if it means sacrificing some of their dreams. For him, it was sacrificing his dream of pursuing music full-time.

"When my children came into my life I had to learn what it looked like to lay that down...to lay my own dreams down," he shared.

Yet, Ketterer believes it's critical for children to watch their fathers work hard to achieve their dreams, even if that dream looks different than before.

"That will only inspire your own children...They'll say, 'If my dad is doing it then why can't I?'"

It's a message that rings true for Ketterer and his children today.

The soft-spoken singer has been practicing regularly for his big day on the live stage.

When he gets there, he plans on just being himself regardless of what they see as his talent.

"When you're real and honest... that's not a scary thing," Ketterer said.

—By Emily Jones

The Mission Field in OUR Own Neighborhoods

Too often we think that the mission field in some far off country. We forget about the need happening in our backyards. Children, through no fault of their own, continue to be caught in the crossfire of a broken world, left absent of any parents or relatives able to take care of them.

Across Kansas and Missouri, the need for loving, stable homes and families has never been greater or more critical.

As of September 2017, there were more than 6,500 kids on both sides of the state line in the KC metro area in Foster Care with thousands less available foster homes. Only a few lucky ones are able to find the family and community of support they need from individual foster parents, ministries like Show-Me, or other similar organizations. Here, they are fed, housed, educated and given loving environments in which to thrive—things that most of us take for

granted. That's why coming along side these organizations is crucial.

Without new foster parents or additional resources for organizations like Show-Me, many of these kids' childhoods will be spent bouncing from place to place trying to find the help they so desperately need. In their mission at Show-Me, the Whitefield kids learn one of

the most important lessons: as Christians, we are ALL called to missions — to reflect God's love to those around us. But, missions can simply be doing the ordinary things we do for ourselves — like cooking a meal, sharing our resources, planting flowers, or watching a child — to help others. God does not require a unique skill set, only a willing heart. Right now, there are hurting children in our neighborhoods who need someone they can trust to show them Christ's love through a family.

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

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Churches in Kansas

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FD-114 (Rev. 8/77)

Firefighter adopt baby he delivered on emergency call

By **Leonardo Blair**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hadden told doctors he would like to be baby Grace's father, and when he told



his wife about the newborn her response was: "Can we keep her?"

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

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

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

call Gracie.

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

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

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

"She knows the entire story, but we know we'll have to reinforce it as she becomes older and becomes more cognizant of everything around her," Hadden told CNN.

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

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

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



Our Adoption Story

My name is Stacey Cowan and my husband's name is Jerry. We have 12 kids all together, (his, mine and those we have adopted.)

Right now, we only have 7 of them that still live at home. Paul is 15 (Jerry's son), then Marshall 14, Alexis 10, Hailey 7, MaKayla 7, Chance 5 and Hayden 2 1/2 (who are all adopted.) Marshall, Alexis and Hailey are all half siblings. They are Jerry's sister's children. MayKayla, Chance and Hayden are also half siblings.

We adopted Chance first in Feb. of 2016. With Marshall, Alexis and Hailey being adopted in June of 2016. MaKayla and Hayden were just adopted this month.

It all started when we originally had Marshall and Alexis in 2010, back when they first were placed in foster care. We weren't foster parents at that time as they were just in family placement with us. Once they got reintegrated with their mom, we kicked around the idea of taking the MAPP classes and becoming foster parents.

We really liked the aspect of being able to help kids until they could return to their homes. We knew we could offer them love, structure and the stability they need. So we signed up with TFI, took the classes and became a licensed foster home December of 2011. We got our very first foster kids (a brother and sister) the same day we got our foster care license, which just happened to be two days before Christmas. S

o I called my two grown daughters, gave them some money, and sent them shopping for Christmas gifts!!! We never had planned on adopting when we started this journey, it just kind of happened. When you have a child placed in your home for months/years they become a part of your family and your heart. You love them like your own. When they don't

end up getting reintegrated back to their bio family, for us it was only natural to adopt them.

I believe adoption has made our family stronger and closer in ways. It takes the entire family, extended family as well to make it all work. We are lucky in that our ENTIRE family has embraced each and every one of the kids with open arms into our family.

I feel as if we have an even stronger family bond then we did before. We can definitely say adoption is very near and dear to us. We now have 6 beautiful kids that we love with all our heart that we wouldn't have, had we not adopted them. Through adoption kids that may not have had a family and home of their own, now do. We couldn't even imagine our life without them in it.

In the end, everyone is great! We had the kids in placement with us for such a long time that them being adopted isn't much different than what it was before, at least not for them. For us we know that they are now officially forever our children. When MaKayla found out we finally had a court date to finalize the adoptions she was so excited, jumping up and down with a huge smile on her face!

We have heard so many of our friends/family say they would love to adopt or do foster care, but say they not sure they would be good at it. ANYONE that has a love for children can foster or adopt. We aren't perfect parents.

We make mistakes and do the wrong thing at times. But that is no different than it is with any other family. It has been a blessing for us and I wouldn't change it for anything in the world. We love every single one of our 12 kids, bio, step or adopted makes no difference!

—AdoptKansasKids.org



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'Great Awakening' coming, say music artists

Bethel Music, the contemporary Christian music group based in Redding, Calif., is known for its spontaneous worship style and countless online worship videos streaming all over the world.

"I think God's going to use healing in America to lead so many people to Jesus," shared Lindy Conant, who recently started working with Bethel.

"It's seeing the demonstration of God that causes salvation, too, which is the greatest miracle. It is someone giving their soul to Jesus and surrendering their life to Jesus. That's what I love about Bethel — they create space for God to move in miracles."

Conant and two other worship leaders — Josh Baldwin and Bethany Wohrle — were recently interviewed ahead of their final night of their tour in New York City and on the heels of their second annual "Heaven Come Conference" in Dallas, that had close to 6,000 people in attendance and many described as "life-changing."

Third Great Awakening

The group had just left Boston, where they said 800 people flooded to the front to give their lives to Jesus at the end of the meeting.

"People were so hungry," Baldwin said. "It does feel like people are re-upping their commitment to the Lord. It's been powerful every night...we would stop [in worship] and they would lead."

It's something the worship leaders are used to experiencing when they travel to other nations, but they said they're starting to see that kind of hunger for God's presence in the United States.

"It felt like we were tapping into an old well," Conant passionately said. "We need another Great Awakening, and it came out of this region for the Second Great Awakening."

Baldwin, who sang his new single "Stand in Your Love," which comes out next month, backed her up.

"It does feel like we're on edge, like something's about to break and there's about to be another big awakening," Baldwin said. "I feel like the younger generation — millennials — sometimes can get a bad rap, but the thing I love about it is that they are all-in on whatever they're going for...and the ones



that are going after the Lord they're so passionate about it that I feel like that's what changes our nation — their passion and their hunger."

Conant said: "It's like Jesus needs to be re-introduced to a whole generation, like He's not mad at you. He's not up there waiting to strike you with a lightning bolt. He is a God of love. For God so loved the world that He sent His son, and now Jesus wants to send us with that same love to reach a generation...that's where I go we're all missionaries...Jesus said as the Father sent me so I am sending you...OK, well, that's pretty gangster if that's the truth."

An encounter with Bethel

And that's been one of Baldwin's favorite things about the tour. He sees it as a "reintroduction to the gospel and Jesus," where people can expect to experience "the presence of the Lord."

Wohrle added that people can expect "their lives to be changed" after an encounter with Bethel.

Bethel is known for having extended time for worship, where the singers and band members will break into spontaneous worship either at the beginning, end or middle of the song. For those unfamiliar with spontaneous worship, it may seem like it's choreographed or planned, but that's just a testament to how easy it is for Bethel.

Although he grew up in the church, Baldwin said the risk of spontaneous worship never really goes away, but he added he "feels more comfortable" in it now "knowing that the Lord's going to meet you there."

Wohrle added that Bethel's culture makes it a place where that's possible.

"I think coming from Bethel, and having the leadership that we have, gives us the authority to step into things that we would never do on our own, and so I feel like the way Brian and Jenn, and Bill Johnson, all of the worship leaders, and even going through ministry

school, too, they give you the freedom to take a risk and to step out in faith," Wohrle said. "If you fail, you fail, and you just start back over again and try again."

One of the things Bethel's founder, Bill Johnson, says is, "I'd rather have wildfire than no fire" in response to people who criticize Bethel or have been burned by the charismatic or supernatural movement.

Conant, who recently started working with Bethel, said she was drawn to the "unapologetic presence of God" and "the amount of people that get healed" in God's presence.

For her, spontaneous worship can only happen if you don't fear man more than you fear God. It's something Conant said is all throughout the Bible, but is often overlooked: "The whole purpose is to illuminate Jesus."

And all three leaders agreed that spontaneous worship is more of a team sport, including each one of the musicians, not to mention the reaction from the crowd, more so than just one person. They've seen spontaneous moments speak to people in ways that scripted sermons never could.

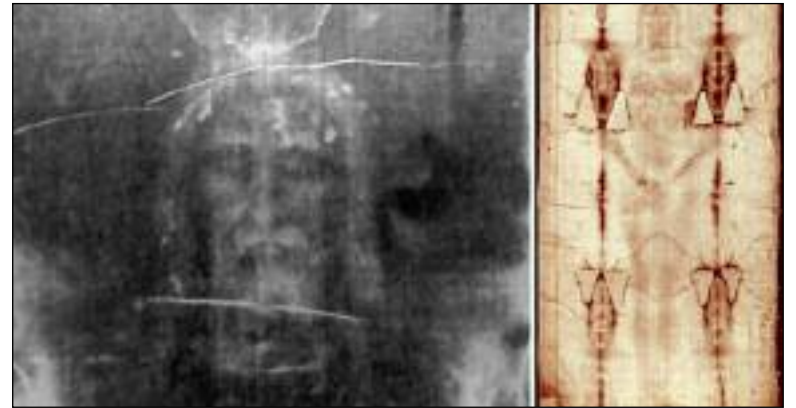
"I think God's going to use healing in America to lead so many people to Jesus," Conant added. "It's seeing the demonstration of God that causes salvation, too, which is the greatest miracle — is someone giving their soul to Jesus and surrendering their life to Jesus — that's what I love about Bethel is they create space for God to move in miracles..."

Next year, Bethel's third "Heaven Come Conference" is happening at two locations, Los Angeles in May and Dallas in August, with Pastors Jentezen Franklin and Steven Furtick.

"I'm excited to see what that's going to do in the United States," Wohrle said.

"We are ripe for a Great Awakening," Conant said. "There are so many stadium events now. It was not this way 10 years ago ... there really is something happening, and I think Jesus is leading it ... filling stadiums, I think it moves the heart of God and it causes people to go, 'What is happening?'"

—FaithNewsNow



Real or fake? Kickstarter campaign tackles Shroud

The Shroud of Turin, believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus discovered after his resurrection, is attracting new attention in Southern California from experts across the scientific, medical, and faith communities. To fast-track four new initiatives on what may be the most studied and controversial historical relic of all time, the Shroud Center of Southern California has just launched an innovative Kickstarter Campaign.

Is the Shroud of Turin fake or is it real? Over the last 15 years, significant technological advances have provided experts with new tools to test remarkable theories regarding the shroud's authenticity. Integrating science, art, history, faith, and medicine, the Shroud of Turin is believed by many to be the most studied relic in the world.

The Kickstarter Campaign for the Shroud Center will—for many—enhance the powerful intellectual exercise on the history and science of the shroud. For others, this in-depth review will ignite a deeply-moving spiritual experience. But after many years of scientific study on the origins of the tattered burial cloth, August Accetta, M.D., a Southern California physician, is convinced it's no hoax.

"It's absurd to think that God gave us this image of his Son on the shroud," said Dr. Accetta. "But I believe there's more evidence for the authenticity of the shroud than any other single relic in history."

The Shroud of Turin, a 14-foot piece of ancient cloth that appears to have been wrapped around the front and back of a male body, features a mysterious 3D image. Blood stains, water stains, and burn marks also appear on the shroud. So to enrich deeper under-

standing about these exciting scientific advances, the Kickstarter Campaign for the Shroud Center of Southern California will help fund four new initiatives this fall:

1. Mobile Exhibit. The Shroud Center is creating a full-size mobile scientific and artistic exhibit to bring this expansive story to schools, churches, and community organizations.

2. ShroudCenter.com — The Shroud Center is expanding the ShroudCenter.com website to become the No. 1 destination for learning about the Shroud. Each year, "Shroud of Turin," keywords are googled 5.9 million times!

3. Museum Exhibits. The Shroud Center will be creating new educational exhibits at the current museum home, located at the Santiago Retreat Center in Orange County, Calif. Every 12 months, over 10,000 students receive a hands-on, interactive shroud presentation.

4. Symposiums at Cathedral Cultural Center. The Shroud Center will also be hosting special events featuring international experts and their research on the Shroud of Turin. The first symposium will be Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018, at 9 a.m., with shroud expert and author, Ian Wilson.

To participate in the Kickstarter Campaign, visit: kickstarter.com/projects/shroud-center/california-shroud-of-turin-center

For more information on The Shroud Center of Southern California, visit: shroudcenter.com/

US consumer confidence rises to 18-year high in September

The Conference Board, a business research organization, said Tuesday that its consumer confidence index climbed to 138.4 in September from 134.7 in August. This month's reading was the highest since September 2000. The index measures consumers'

assessment of current economic conditions and their outlook for the next six months. Both improved in September. "These historically high confidence levels should continue to support healthy consumer spending, and

should be welcome news for retailers as they begin gearing up for the holiday season," said Lynn Franco, the Conference Board's director of economic indicators. The U.S. economy grew at an annual pace of 4.2 percent from April

through July, the fastest rate in nearly four years. And the unemployment is 3.9 percent, near a 50-year low. The strong job market impressed Americans responding to the Conference Board survey: 45.7 percent said jobs were "plentiful" — most

since January 2001. "Knowing that the job market is strong, knowing that one has a regular paycheck, does wonders for confidence," said Jennifer Lee, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

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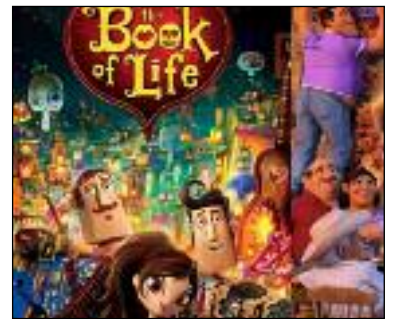
Movie Nights continue in NOTO

The movie "Book of Life" will be screened October 20 at 8pm on the 800 block of North Kansas Avenue as part of the series "Movie Nites in NOTO." Bring your chairs, blanket and beanbags for a free movie screening; Popcorn and some concessions will be available.

Don't forget First Friday, which has been bringing people to the area in

record numbers. Besides the Art Walk in NOTO, other North Topeka businesses have begun joining in and coordinating complementary events.

Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down the Avenue, as well as streetside vendors. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries and studios have also become favorite art walk destinations.



More North Topeka events:

NORTH TOPEKA FALL PARADE – Oct. 13, 11am, North Kansas Ave. from Garfield Park to NOTO. Car Show 9-11am at Garfield Park. Contact: NOTOMA at 785-350-6570 or by email at notoma.group@gmail.com

MARY JAMES - Oct. 3, 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene St. Award-winning Country Gospel Artist. FamilyOfGodChurch@hotmail.com (785) 234-1111. Free.

HOE-DOWN - Sept. 29, 4-6:30pm. Kansas Ave UMC, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Music and dance shows featuring the Heartstrings duo group, Washburn Dancing Blues, and more. Free hot dogs, chips, sodas, children's activities, games, and door prizes. Bring lawn chairs

TRUNKS & TREATS – Oct. 31m 5:30-7:30pm. Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place. For info: 785-286-0601

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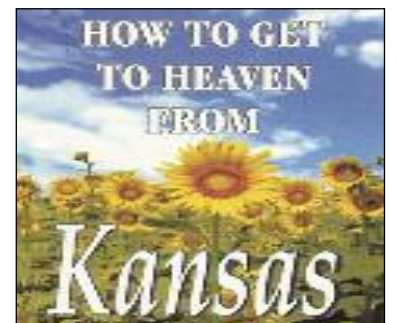
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, 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.

Chris Hobart

"I am an independent agent; this means I shop many companies to get you the best deal."

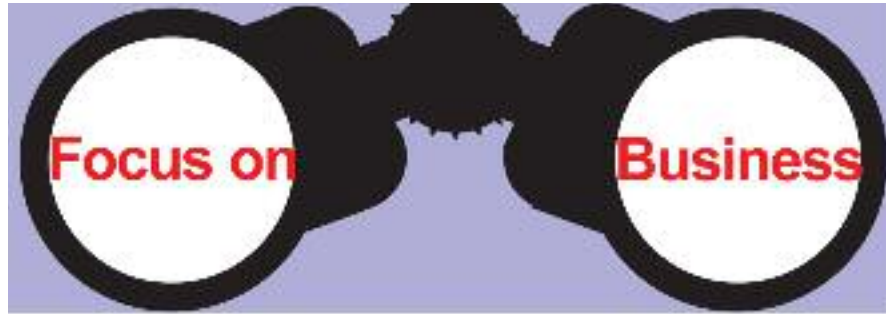


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are," Hobart said. "We also represent a company that provides insurance for specialty vehicles such as classic cars."

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For more information, contact Chris Hobart via email at chobart@mistopeka.com or on his cell phone at (785) 213-8132, and make an appointment to visit with him at his office at 842 N. Kansas Avenue in North Topeka.

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WHAT WE OFFER:

- Ninja classes for Boy & Girls
- Parkour Classes
- Open Workouts
- Birthday Parties
- Summer Camps
- Overnights

Ninja Zone is inspired from Obstacle Course Training, Gymnastics, Street Dance & Martial Arts. Classes are offered for boys & girls ages 3-11.

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

the events calendar

FREE LISTINGS! E-mail your events to: Voice@cox.net; mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; fax to 785-235-3340 or enter online at metrovoicenews.com
Get your event in **Highlighted in Blue** in print, our online calendar and promoted in social media for only \$29!

CONCERTS

TOPEKA ACOUSTIC MUSIC JAM - First Sat. of ea. month, 3-5pm, Potwin Presbyterian Church (enter south door), 400 S.W. Washburn: 286-0227 hagen1525@gmail.com.

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

GRAND O' OPRY - 2nd & 4th Saturday, 6:30PM-pre-show, 7PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa KS. Ph. 785-214-0013

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

SPECKS SUNDAY FUNDAY JAM - Every Sunday 7-11pm, Specks Bar and Grill, 21st and Mission. Musicians / Bands of all ages and genres welcome! Family Friendly and Dog Friendly when held outside. Food available.

PIANIST DANIEL HSU - Sept. 30, 3pm, Episcopal Cathedral, 701 SW 8th. \$10 general admission, \$5 students, 12 and under are free.

MARY JAMES - Oct. 3, 7pm, Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene St. Award-winning Country Gospel Artist. Free. FamilyOfGodChurch@hotmail.com (785) 234-1111

SING! NATION CITY TOUR KRISTYN GETTY & KEITH - Oct. 5, 7pm, Fellowship Bible Church, 6800 SW 10th St.

CELLISIMO CELLO DUO - Oct. 6, 7:30pm, White Concert Hall, Washburn University. \$28. For tickets or info: 785-408-1877 or facebook.com/topekacca

FAMILY CONCERT NIGHT - Oct. 7, 6-7:15pm. Topeka Baptist Church, 4500 SW Gage Blvd. Bluegrass style music by Wissman Family.

HILLSONG WORSHIP "THERE IS MORE" TOUR - Oct. 18, 7pm, Midland, 1228 Main St. \$32 general admission, \$49 premium seating, \$28 groups of ten or more. For info: 855-484-1991 or premierproductions.com

CLASSICAL CELLO AND PIANO RECITAL - Oct. 18, 7:50pm, Manhattan Arts Center, 1520 Poyntz Ave. Dr. Anne Clark, cello, and Alicia Willard, piano, will perform Sonatas by Francoeur, Franck, Rachmaninoff, and Paganini's "Variazioni di Bravura." It will be taped live. \$8 adult, \$3 children 12 and under. For info and tickets: manhattanarts.org 785-537-4420

DANNY GOKEY AND TAUREN WELLS - Oct. 27, 7pm, TPAC. The "Hope Encounter" concert tour with special guest Riley Clemmons. Tickets start at \$25. www.topekaperformingarts.org.

ORGANIST BRIAN MATHIAS - Oct. 28, 2:30pm. First Presbyterian Church, 817 SW Harrison.

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

6061 or office@rhctopeka.org

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.

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-up1.html

FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET - 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church, 6020 SE 44th

"WHY NOT WEDNESDAY" - every Wednesday 6:10 - 7:30pm from Sep 5 through December 5, Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 SW 29th St. For children three years through 6th grade (as of Sep 1). Explore the Bible, cooking, games, missions, art, science, storytelling/drama. Free program. Children can join at any time during the session. hot meal at 5:30. 478-3697 jaymie@swumc.org.

HOE-DOWN - Sept. 29, 4-6:30pm. Kansas Ave UMC, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Music and dance shows featuring the Heartstrings duo group, Washburn Dancing Blues, and more. Free hot dogs, chips, sodas, children's activities, games, and door prizes. Bring lawn chairs.

100th ANNIVERSARY SERVICES - Sept. 30, 8:30-11am. Elmont Methodist Church, 6635 NW Church Lane. Coffee and doughnuts will take place from 8:30 to 9:20 a.m., followed by a worship service at 9:30 a.m. and a potluck luncheon with the sharing of memories at 11 a.m. Those planning to attend the luncheon are asked to bring a dish to share. Dessert will be provided.

FALL SOUP SUPPER AND BAKE SALE - Oct. 6, 4-7pm. Berryton United Methodist Church, 7010 SE Berryton Rd. Freewill donations.

FALL SOUP SUPPER AND BAKE SALE - Oct. 6, 4-7pm, Berryton United Methodist Church, 7010 S.E. Berryton Rd. Homemade chili and vegetable soup; relish tray, crackers and cornbread; cookies; and a drink. Freewill donation, carry-outs available by 3:30 pm.

FALL BAZAAR - Oct. 6, 7:30am-12pm. Shawnee Heights United Methodist Church. For info: 785-383-7738

FALL FESTIVAL - Oct. 6, 11am - 2pm, Highland Heights Christian Church, 29th & Tecumseh. Bingo, Cake Walk, Face Painting, Bible Story-telling, Bounce House, Lunch and more! 785-379-5642. Free event.

FALL FEST - Oct. 6, 5-7pm, Grace Bible Church, 4021

SE 37th. For fall fun just blocks away from beautiful Lake Shawnee, join us for Shawnee County's best annual Fall Fest! Free admission, games, hot dogs, fall drinks, cotton candy, inflatable fun, sack races, ring toss, corn hole, bean bag toss, crafting, and cake walks. 785-267-0738 info@gbc-topeka.org <https://www.facebook.com/events/1022466951237315/>

GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL - Oct. 6, 11-3pm. Sts. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church, 2516 SW Huntoon. Dinners \$16, desserts and baklava \$1-4. For info and pre-orders: 785-221-1563

CITYWIDE FALL CAMPMEETING - Oct. 7-12, 7pm. City Wide Fall Campmeeting with Evangelist Chad MacDonald. Sunday, 10:30am & 6pm, Monday, 7pm @ Family of God Church, 1231 NW Eugene St., Tuesday & Wednesday, 7pm Topeka Harvest Foursquare, 522 SW Polk, Thursday & Friday, In God's House, 1616 NE Seward. For info: 785-234-1111 or miraclerewivalfire.com FamilyOfGodChurch@hotmail.com

C5Alive "PASTOR APPRECIATION" LUNCHEON - Oct. 11, 11:30-1, at Great Overland Station, featuring Jimmy Dodd of PastorServe. All area pastors are invited to attend free, to be prayed over and receive gift bags.

- 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: Nov. 8, 11:30-1, C5Alive POWER Luncheon

75TH ANNIVERSARY & OPEN HOUSE - Oct. 13, 6-8pm, Fairlawn Church of the Nazarene, 730 SW Fairlawn. Displays of the church history. At 8pm, a multigenerational choir practice will take place. An anniversary worship service will be held at 10am Sunday, Oct. 14, with former pastors scheduled to speak. A church picnic will follow at noon

70TH BIRTHDAY BANQUET - Oct. 13, 5pm, Faith Temple Church, 1162 SW Lincoln Ave. Commemorating Dr. Sandra K. West-Lassiter's "70th" birthday! Dr. West-Lassiter is founder of the International Academy Bright Stars. Tickets are \$70 for diamond level and \$35 for platinum level. Proceeds will benefit the Sandra K. Lassiter Bright Stars Scholarship

FALL FESTIVAL - Oct. 13, 3-6pm, Highland Park United Methodist Church, 2914 S.E. Michigan Ave.

DUNKERFEST FALL FESTIVAL - Oct. 13, 8am, Topeka Church of the Brethren, 3201 NW Rochester Road. Celebrating the church's 125th Anniversary. Meals served through the day. Food, games, flea market, special goods vendors, Country Store. Demonstrations: Forging, cider press, noodle and pie making, pumpkin

carving. 785-220-5967 dbrooks1995@yahoo.com

TRUNKS & TREATS - Oct. 31m 5:30-7:30pm. Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW Hiawatha Place. For info: 785-286-0601

TRUNK OR TREAT - Oct. 31, 5:30-7:30pm. Faith Lutheran Church, 716 SW Gage Blvd. Hotdogs, chips, roasted marshmallows will be served. Open to the community. For info: 785-272-4214

HOLIDAY CRAFT SALE - Nov. 2, 12-7pm; Nov. 3, 9am-3pm. Lowman UMC, 4101 SW 15th Street

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 nhorl@tsopl.org

AWAKEN THE DAWN - Sep. 27-29, Kansas Capitol building, Topeka. Holy Convocation at 5 pm, praying and worshipping for a shift in our nation. We want Jesus to be greatly known, undeniably revealed, vastly followed and lavishly honored in Kansas. We're asking each region of the state to bring a cup of seeds from their crops. www.cultureshield.com for more information

MEDICARE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR - Oct. 2, 9, 11, 18, 23 & 30; 2pm. Learn the basics of Medicare and all its options. Seminars are designed for those becoming eligible for Medicare and those considering making a change. Seminar will be held at the Heart Center at 929 SW Mulvane. For info or to sign up: centuryinsuranceagencyks.com or 270-4593 or info@centuryhealth.com. Snacks & beverages provided.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SHEPHERDS CENTER PICKLEBALL GROUP - plays Mon. & Wed. Mon. at Countryside UMC, 32nd & Burlingame, from 3-5. Park on the NORTH side & use the furthest WEST door. Follow the hallway to gym. On Wed. at First

Baptist, 30th & MacVicar, from 1-3. Park on the WEST side. Gym is right inside the doors.

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@safeststreets.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. Call 785-845-2357. (1st two lessons free)

CAPITOL MIDWEEK FARMERS MARKET - Wed. 7:30am-noon, May 16-Oct. 10, Jackson & 10th. No market on July 4th.

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 785-249-3258. .

SHEPHERDS CENTER HHHS WALKING GROUP - meets 2nd & 4th Thur, 9:30-11 at HHHS, 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

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

COMEDY CAFE

A NIGHT OF LAUGHTER

Featuring

The Comedy of

MICHAEL JOINER

Friday Evening November 9th

Fellowship Bible Church

6800 SW 10th Ave

Topeka, KS 66615

6:30 pm - 8:45 PM

Seating is limited & Reservations are required

To make your reservation or sponsor a table go to:

www.topekayfc.org/comedy_cafe/

or call the YFC office at 785-232-8296

The Comedy Cafe is underwritten by individual table sponsors: seating is limited

DANNY GOKEY

THE HOPE ENCOUNTER

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

TAUREN WELLS

+ RILEY CLEMMONS

TOPEKA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

10.27.18 _ 7:00PM

DANNYGOKEY.COM

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.

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

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

SQUARE DANCE LESSONS - Saturdays starting September 15th, 10:30am to 12:30pm. Fellowship Hall of Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st Street. Beginner, Intermediate, or Advanced Dancers come join in FREE dance lessons lead by a certified caller of 20+ years. Questions: 272-2620.

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

TOPEKA ACAPPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS – Any Monday 7pm, at Seaman Community Church, Fellowship Hall, 2036 NW Taylor. More female singers are needed to sing four part acapella harmonies. Come be our guest any Monday night. Topeka Acapella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for more information.

GRIEF SHARE - Thursdays, 6:30pm Aug 30 - Nov. 15 at Susanna Wesley United Methodist Church, 7433 S.W. 29th. A Christ-centered program for people who have lost a loved one. Sessions include a video, sharing of stories, and a free workbook. 785-478-3697 www.griefshare.org

KANSAS CITY RENAISSANCE FESTIVAL - Sep. 1 - Oct. 14, 10am-7pm; Weekends only plus Columbus Day and Labor Day. 628 N 126th St., Bonner Springs, KS. www.KCRenFest.com. 913-721-2110.

GARY'S PUMPKIN PATCH & FALL FESTIVAL – Sept. 21-Oct 29, Fri. - Sat. - Sun., 5991 17th St. Grantville, KS. 8 Acre Corn Maize, Pig Races, Corn Pit, 2 Jumping Pillows, Giant Slides, Animals, and more. Home Made Curly Fries, Hamburgers, Brats, Turkey Legs, Apple Cider Slushy and more. Admission \$12.95; Season Pass - \$27.95 at garysberries.com

KANSAS CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL – Sept. 29, 10am-3pm. Downtown Topeka. Free. For info: 785-234-9336

KANSAS CHOCOLATE FESTIVAL WINGED FOOT 5K/10K RUN & 4K WALK - Sept. 29, 8-9:30am. Combat Air Museum. \$28. For info: 785-862-3303

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S - Sept. 29, 8-11am. Lake

Shawnee Shelter House 1. Free. For info: 913-831-3888

RABC 27TH 5K RUN/WALK FUNDRAISER - Sept. 29, 7-11am. Topeka West HS, 2001 SW Fairlawn rd. \$20-35. For info and registration: rabc20peka@juno.com

THE GREAT TOPEKA BIKE FEST – Sep. 30, 9am, Kansas State Capitol. A celebration of the two-wheeled machine. Group Rides. NoWhere BMX stunt show. Children's Bike Races and Helmet give-aways. Food trucks. Topeka Metro Bikes and so much more! 785-730-8615 www.biketopeka.com info@topekametrobikes.org

OCT. CYCLING EVENTS – Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. For details: www.kansascyclist.com/

OCT. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – Various outdoor events and activities in Kansas. www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calendar

HAUNTED WOODS – Oct. every Fri. & Sat. night, 8-11pm, Forest Park, 3158 SE 10th St. We've partnered with the Boy Scouts of America and the Army to produce "Topeka Haunted Woods". This event includes a guided 1/2-mile hike through the old growth forest, 3 escape rooms designed by Keyndrum, a Zombie Laser Tag adventure, and food trucks. 234-8024 TopekaHauntedWoods.com

TAX PREP CLASSES – H&R Block offers classes Mon, Wed, Fri 6-9 pm (begins 10/3); Tues, Thur 6-9 pm; Sat 9:30 am – 12:30 pm. Classes held at 1947 SW Gage. Veterans, military & wives take the class for free. Call for details 785-272-5577 or email Robbie Arney at arneyb@gmail.com

TOPEKA SWING DANCE LESSONS - Oct. 4, 11 & 18, 7-8:30pm. Jayhawk Theatre. \$5. Wear shoes that will allow you to slide. No partner or prior dance experience is needed. For info: 785-233-4295

FAMILY MOVE NIGHT – Oct. 5, 7pm. Topeka Lutheran School, 701 SW Roosevelt St. Scavenger hunt and concessions before "Wreck It Ralph" movie begins at 7:45. Free. Bring your lawn chairs and/or blankets. For info: 785-357-0382 or etaylor@topek Lutheran.org

RIBS AND BIBS MUSIC FESTIVAL - Oct. 5-7. Heartland Motorsports Park, Big and Rich, John Michael Montgomery, and Craig Morgan with others. For info: heartlandpark.com (785) 861-7899

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR WALK/5K RUN – Oct. 6, Lake Shawnee. Shelter Houses 1 & 2, walk starts at 9:30am. Topeka High Drum Line will entertain before the walk! Register by September 10th to guarantee an event t-shirt. Registrations taken up to the start of the walk! \$30 per person. Fundraiser for Doorstep, Inc. www.DoorstepTopeka.org

CLOTHING EXCHANGE – Oct. 6 & 13, 9-12pm. Topeka Free Methodist Church, 3450 SE Indiana Ave.

14TH ANNUAL KAW VALLEY FARM TOUR – Oct. 6, 9am-6pm, and Oct. 7, 10am-6pm, Oz Highland Farm, 9839 SW 89th. The farm tour provides fun and interactive farm experiences, supports local farms and introduces individuals of all ages to the many faces of agriculture in the Kaw Valley. A \$10 ticket is good for a carload both days. Have breakfast on a farm, discover unique artisans, nurseries and greenhouses, pumpkin patches and wines produced at local vineyards. Pet a friendly alpaca, meet a horse that paints or chat with a chicken. The perfect event for friends and families, and a great way to make connections between the

farmers in the fields and the foods on our tables. 33 farms along the Kaw River Valley. www.kawvalleyfarm-tour.org lashuck@ksu.edu, 785/843-7058 ext 105

KANSAS ENERGY EFFICIENCY EXPO 2018 – Oct. 05, 9am-3pm, Kansas State Capitol

39TH ANNUAL APPLE FESTIVAL - Oct. 6-7, 10-5pm. Old Prairie Town at Ward-Meade Historic Site, 124 NW Fillmore. \$5-10. Arts and crafts, rail ride hand car rides, food, petting zoo, etc. For info: 785-251-6991

LIFE CHAIN – Oct. 7, 2 to 3:30 p.m. at 29th & California, 21st & Washburn, 21st & Wanamaker. For info call Bibi Zweig 785- 969-2706

FAMILY HISTORY CELEBRATION - Oct. 7, 1-4pm. Topeka Genealogical Society, 2717 SE Indiana Ave. Information on researching your family history, light refreshments and door prizes. For info: 785-233-5762 www.tgstopeka.org

HARBOR FAMILIES TRAINING – Oct. 9, 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Lifeline's Kansas Office, 2041 SW McAlister Ave. Live training opportunity to be equipped to provide short-term care to children and how to serve their parents experiencing a crisis. Register at lifelinechild.org/events

CRISIS RESPONSE TRAINING – Oct. 10, 11, & 12, 8am – 5pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 Topeka Blvd. K-LOVE Radio is offering a crisis training event including courses such as: Understanding Suicide, and Strategic Response to Crisis. Come learn how to help those effected by disaster!

COMMUNITY YARD SALES – Oct. 12-13, 8am, South Village mobile home park, just east of 45th & Topeka Blvd.

MOTHER EARTH NEWS FAIR – Oct. 13 & 14, 9am-5pm, Kansas Expocentre. \$15 and up. For info: 235-1986

SCIENCE IS A BLAST FOR BROWNIES – Oct. 13, 8:30-2:30pm. Forest Park, 3158 SE 10th St. \$15. The Midnight Science Club (www.midnightscienceclub.com) is coming to Topeka to work with Brownies on their Home Scientist Badge. For info: midnightscienceclub.com

NORTH TOPEKA FALL PARADE – Oct. 13, 11am, North Kansas Ave. from Garfield Park to NOTO. Car Show 9-11am at Garfield Park. Contact: NOTOMA at 785-350-6570 or by email at notoma.group@gmail.com

ROME SWEET HOME ITALIAN FESTIVAL - Oct. 13, 3 pm, Christ the King Church/School grounds, 25th & Wanamaker. 3:00 - Adoration with Wichita Adore Ministries. Outdoor Mass at 4:30pm. The family-oriented festival runs 5:45-7:30pm, featuring a sit-down Italian diner, children's games, inflatables, food trucks, wine & beer garden, and professional fireworks display at dusk. Festival is free. Raffle ticket sales/reservations for dinner available at ctktopeka.org (pre-sales only.) 273-0710

TOPEKA GEM AND MINERAL SHOW – Oct. 13-14, Ag Hall at Expocentre. Featuring dealers from around the world, demonstrations, kid's activities, jewelry, cut & polished stones and more.

SPOKEN – Oct. 14, 6pm. Sunflower Ballroom of Capitol Plaza Hotel, 1717 SW Topeka Blvd. Adoption event presented by Trash Mountain Project. For info and tickets: 785-246-6845

TWEED RIDE – Oct. 14, 6pm. Registration 1pm, ride starts 2pm at Great Overland Station, through downtown & NOTO, dressed in your best tweed or vintage attire. Topeka Youth Project 273-4141.

LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE – Oct. 16. You can check your registration or change it at www.ksvotes.org for the November 6 election

HARBOR FAMILIES INFO WEBINAR – Oct. 17, 5:00 pm to 6:00 pm. Learn about the opportunity to provide temporary, short-term care to children whose families are in the midst of a

crisis. We will outline the heart of this ministry at Lifeline and what it means to be a host family. Register at lifelinechild.org/events

FALL FESTIVAL – Oct. 20, 8am-6:30pm; and Oct. 21, 8am-12:30pm, Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church, 216 N.E. Branner. Vendors with Avon, jewelry, candles, essential oils, Thirty-One Bags, Scentsy, Tupperware, Watkins, purses, handmade crafts, quilts, religious items, Christmas decorations and home-made goodies. 785-409-4475. sher.hogan@cox.net.

GRAND OPENING – Oct. 22, 1316 SW Western. You Can Begin Again/You Can Begin Again Too of Topeka announces the opening of a 10-unit apartment building. YCBA/YCBAT is an organization that provides two years of housing, life skills training and case management to young women aged of 18-25 who are aging out of the foster care system, as well as young women who lack family support and are homeless, in domestic violent relationships, prostitution, drug addictions and/or incarceration. 720-300-0029 www.youcanbeginagain.org

ARTISTS WITH INSIGHT – Oct. 26, 6:30-8:30pm, Signs of Life Bookstore, 722 Mass St., Lawrence. Silent Art Auction benefiting Insight Women's Center.

BONE APPETIT – Oct. 27, 5-7pm. Prairie Band Casino. Hosted by Helping Hands Humane Society. Live, silent, and wine auctions, as well as the opportunity to meet adoptable pets. Lots of fun, including humorist Devin Henderson Auction Donations & Sponsorships needed: bottles of wine, silent and live auction donations; contact Justin Brokar at (785) 233-7325 or justinb@hhh-topeka.org. For tickets go to Eventbrite, or skip the online fees and purchase your will-call tickets over the phone by calling (785) 233-7325 or visit the Gift Shop inside HHS.

DODGE FOR A CAUSE – Oct. 27, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm, Western Hills Church 2900 SW Auburn Rd. Dodgeball tournament benefitting Harbor Families ministry! Get a team together and get ready to battle it out for the championship title! Register at lifelinechild.org/events

RUNNING DEAD 5K – Oct. 27, Main Gates of the Kansas City Renaissance Festival. Kansas's most zombie-rific event! Sign up as a human and race to the finish line and escape the Zombie Attack Zones as you fight for your survival. Or join the undead zombie hoard that will chase humans (or slowly stalk them, as zombies tend to do) through the course. Humans and zombies will battle it out across our wooded course on the beautiful grounds at the Kansas City Renaissance Festival. <http://www.runningdeadkc.com/>

TRUNK OR TREAT – Oct. 27, 6:30-8pm. CAGE Gymnastics, 2925 SW 37th St. Face painting, Halloween crafts and \$4 open gym time. Call 266-4151 to get a trunk or treat space

AD ASTRA TOY AND ARTS FAIR – Nov. 3, 11am-6pm. Liberty Hall, 644 Massachusetts. The Last Starfighter Movie at 8pm. Cosplay welcome. \$5.

COMEDY CAFE - Nov. 9, 6:30-8:45pm, Fellowship Bible Church, 10th & Urish. An evening of fun, food (delectable desserts) and fellowship while learning more about the Youth for Christ ministry outreach and its impact here in Topeka. Featuring the comedy of Michael Joiner. Make reservations or sponsor a table at www.topekayfc.org/comedycafe/ or call 785-232-8296.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Oct. 11, 11:30-1, PASTOR APPRECIATION Luncheon at Great Overland Station, featuring Jimmy Dodd of PastorServe. All area pastors are invited to attend free, to be prayed over and receive gift bags.

• 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: Nov. 8, 11:30-1, C5Alive POWER Luncheon

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.

HEAT UP TOPEKA - Free fitness classes; learn and build healthy social & eating habits. Held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 4746 SW 21st St. Florence Crittenton: 785-233-0516 www.flocritkansas.org

Sunday: 4-5pm Yoga
Monday: 12-12:45pm Kickbox Fusion
Monday: 5:30-6:15pm STRONG by Zumba
Monday: 6:15-7:00pm Pilates Fusion
Tuesday: 12-12:45pm Yoga
Tuesday: 5:30-6:15pm Zumba
Tuesday: 6:15-7:00pm Cardio Interval
Wednesday: 12-12:45pm Kickboxing
Thursday: 12-12:45pm Pilates
Thursday: 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Interval
Thursday: 6:15-7:00pm Zumba
Friday: 12-12:45pm Cardio Strength
Saturday: 9:00-9:45am Cardio Remix

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.

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. 478-0467.

BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPS - 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: "Ourladyofthefaithful."

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

MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES - Tuesdays 11am-12:30. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study

EVANGELIST CHAD MACDONALD

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2018

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TUES 7PM
WEDS 7PM

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OCT 11-12
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SPEAKERS

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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. For info call the YWCA at 233-1750 or Clara Gamache at 785-408-5433. (The Bible study is also taught on Sat mornings on 101.5 FM radio.)

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 fraternally 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: daddysgirlsincc@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 as we seek His face for answers and direction. 785-845-1948; holmie2@sbcglobal.net

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 tgstopeka.org.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS - for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 785-409-3072 or topekaalanon.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 Mitchell, 633-4294.

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.

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.org.

EMOTIONS ANONYMOUS: a 12-step program for those suffering with emotional instability such as depression, anxiety, grief, etc. Meets every Tues. at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Noon-1pm. For info: Sharon 785-633-7764

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

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

THE GREATER TOPEKA MULTIPLE MYELOMA - 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Faith Lutheran Church, 17th St. & Gage Blvd. Open to Multiple Myeloma patients, their family members & friends. Share support, information & friendship. For info: Donna, 903-918-9553.

"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL") - or Survivors of Suicide (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozez 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 faithfamilylifefeministries@gmail.com.

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

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

GRIEF SHARE - 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

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging provides an opportunity for caregivers to get together and share their ideas and feelings.

1st Wednesday of the month, 1pm, Baldwin Methodist Church, 708 Grove... Baldwin City.

2nd Monday of the month, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm.

3rd Thursday of the month, 2-3pm, Topeka Library, Perkins Room

3rd Friday of the month, 12 noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka Blvd.

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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2nd Monday of the month, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm.

3rd Thursday of the month, 2-3pm, Topeka Library,

Perkins Room
3rd Friday of the month, 12 noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka Blvd.



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

Oct., 11, 11:30-1 -- "Pastor Appreciation Luncheon" at Great Overland Station, w/ Jimmy Dodd of PastorServe

Open to Public! RSVP to info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

- Nov. 8, 11:30-1, **Power luncheon**; Details to follow
- Dec. 13, 11:30-1, **Christmas luncheon**. at Fairlawn Plaza; Christmas music and games
- Jan. 10, 11:30-1, featuring Lamar Hunt, Jr →
- Feb. 14, 11:30-1, **Speed Marketing at Fairlawn Plaza**

Save the Dates!

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



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**SATURDAY, NOV. 3,
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'God Bless the Broken Road' tackles faith and military

Fans of faith-based movies who also have a love for the U.S. military could be a bit busy in the next two months.

That's because three films with military themes are set to hit theaters, beginning with last weekend's *God Bless the Broken Road* (PG) and followed by *Unbroken: Path to Redemption* (PG-13, Sept. 14) and *Indivisible* (PG-13, Oct. 26).

But while those latter two films tell the story of military personnel recovering from post-traumatic stress disorder, *God Bless the Broken Road* spotlights a family trying to get their life back on track following someone's death.

The film follows a single mother named Amber Hill, who is struggling to find joy in life two years after her husband was killed in Afghanistan. Her waitress job at the diner doesn't pay enough to make ends meet, and her young daughter – Bree – is rebelling against her mom's down-and-out attitude about life.

It wasn't always like this. Amber once had a strong faith – playing the guitar and leading the church choir — but turned



from God when tragedy hit. Once a smiling Christian full of life, she rarely attends church nowadays.

"I tried putting my faith in God," she tells her friends. "Look where it got me."

Amber's fortune goes from bad to worse when the bank evicts her from her home. Of course, most films have a happy ending, and *God Bless the Broken Road* is no different. (Don't worry: I won't spoil it for you.) She meets a race car driver who is going through a tough time, too. She also

(finally) learns the details about her husband's death.

God Bless the Broken Road has plenty of good messages for the moviegoer. We are reminded that neighbors all around us – military and non-military people – need encouraged in their daily life. We learn that hardship and tragedy can be overcome with the support of others and with a strong faith. Finally, we are reminded that military personnel and families have unique struggles that sometimes go unnoticed. We should be there for them.

The film stars Lindsay Pulsipher (*Hatfields & McCoy's*) as Amber and also has appearances by singer Jordin Sparks and former NFL star LaDainian Tomlinson (both outspoken Christians).

The movie has its shining moments, but for the most part it's an average faith-based film.

Entertainment rating: 2.5 out of 5 stars.
Family-friendly rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars.

Rated PG for thematic elements and some combat action.

New music releases just in time for Autumn

September New Releases

Lauren Daigle – *Look Up Child* – Centricity Music – Capitol

Austin French – *Wide Open* – Fair Trade Services – Provident

The Collingsworth Family – *Mercy & Love* – StowTown Records

Blanca – *Shattered* – Word Records – New Day

Jonathan Nelson – *Declarations* – eOne/Word – New Day

Fit For A King – *Dark Skies* – Solid State Records – New Day

Manafest – *Stones Reloaded* – Independent – New Day

Elevation Worship – *Hallelujah Here Below* – Elevation Church

Gateway – *Greater Than* – Fair Trade Services – Provident

Bryan Andrew Wilson

"Soul singers sing out of their heartache," says Bryan Andrew Wilson. "However, they don't usually sing about a solution to the heartache which for me is God. I sing about some of the same topics R&B artists sing about but I'd like to think my music offers spiritual medicine for a sick soul."

Wilson, a twenty-year music veteran at the age of 30, provides a multitude of soulful observances of life on his Stellar Award nominated comeback CD *The One Percent* (EchoPark JDI Entertainment/Caroline Distribution) that has more in common with the melodious stylings of John Legend or Aloe Blacc than his gospel peers.

"It's not regular Sunday morning church music," says Wilson.

"A lot of people in my generation are tired of institutional church because of clergy scandals but we still have a spiritual hunger so these songs touch on feelings we all share about life, relationships,

work, God."

Music is in Wilson's blood. His late grandfather Tommy Davis was a Mississippi quartet singer who played with B.B. King in his pre-stardom days and Wilson's mother Sheila was a vocalist with the R&B group WQBC that scored R&B hits such as "I'll Be Loving You" in the 1980s.

Wilson's neighbor Carol Parker heard him singing to the grass when he was ten years old and sent a cassette of him singing to an acquaintance at Malaco Records – recording home of Bobby "Blue" Bland and Johnnie Taylor at the time.

They signed the kid up and he made a splash singing "His Eye on the Sparrow" with the Mississippi Children's Choir in 1994. The choir's *A New Creation* CD sold over 100,000 units and Wilson was lauded as a child prodigy because of the dramatic high notes and vocal runs he displayed on the performance. Gospel legends such as Kirk Franklin, John P. Kee and Walter Hawkins produced tracks on his solo debut *Bryan's Songs* in 1996. He followed-up with *Growing Up* in 1999 but was at a career crossroads.

"My voice changed and I couldn't hit the high notes anymore," Wilson recalls. "All the love people had for me left almost overnight. I was no longer the cute kid and I was no longer in demand and I became depressed and suicidal." Wilson's brand new release is titled "This Time."

His music can be found on all digital media outlets.

David & Nicole Binion

Integrity Music has released David & Nicole Binion's *Dwell: A Live Worship Experience*, a 14-track immersion in Spirit-sensitive, multi-cultural and multi-generational worship.

Recorded live at TBN's Dallas studios where the Binions serve as guest hosts for the network's "Praise!" program, *Dwell* invites worshipers to do just that: put aside distractions and dwell in the presence of

God. The project is, as the Binions' music and ministry have always been, a product of collaboration, creative excellence and decades of servant-leadership. And that is what listeners will hear woven through every track on *Dwell*, which features guest artists Tasha Cobbs Leonard, William McDowell, Travis Greene, BJ Putnam and the Binions' 17-year-old daughter and fellow Integrity artist, MDSN (Madison Grace Binion).

Produced by David Binion and Daniel Lopez, *Dwell* offers songs penned by the Binions along with MDSN, Mitch Wong, Michael Farren, Krissy Nordhoff, Aaron Lindsey, Jacob Sooter and Josh DuFrene among others.

The Binions are passionate about bringing together people from all walks of life for the creative process and to simply soak in and respond to the presence of God. That longing for God's presence and fellowship with one another permeates *Dwell*.

Songs such as "My Soul Follows," "Be Still and Know" and "Hunger" — the latter co-written by and featuring MDSN — speak to the almost visceral need for God in an age of disillusionment.

It is this longing in the hearts of Jesus-followers and this vision for making room for the Spirit to move that drives the Binions. Married for 24 years, the couple has been involved in ministry for over two decades, teaching and leading worship for churches and events around the world.

Most recently, they founded *Dwell Ministries* to mentor and train a new generation of worship leaders, and they are planting *Dwell Church* in the Dallas area.

"To dwell in God's presence is a state of the heart," says David Binion. "It's not about where you are physically... you can 'dwell' in the presence of God in church, at your desk, in your prayer closet, in your car. It's about a hunger for the things of God and for His presence... the need to soak, be transformed and empowered to change our world."



'Searching' is a thriller with an urgent message

On a normal Thursday night, David Kim received a call from his daughter, Margot, informing him that she would be studying all night with a group of friends. The next day she was nowhere to be found. Thus begins his urgent search.

David Kim (John Cho: *Star Trek*) never thought that his 15-year old would be considered a missing person. He had the perfect family. A beautiful wife, an adorable daughter, a nice house in the suburbs. But when his wife passed away, he couldn't span the space between him and Margot.

And now he must race against time to find his only child. But what if the Margot (Michella La: *Mom*, *Gilmore Girls*) he thought he knew isn't the real Margot at all?

As David digs deeper and deeper into his daughter's secret online life, it's a question that haunts him more and more.

David will go to any length to find and protect his daughter (even if that means inflicting pain on others at times, which I'll deal with below). Similarly, Detective Vick (the lead investigator in Margot's missing person case) tells David that she too would do anything to help her son and to protect him. That common ground—their passionate parental love—forms the foundation for their relationship in the film.

David watches videos of his wife and daughter, reminiscing about happier times. We see a video of Margot giving her dad a homemade Father's Day card, as well as other videos of David and his wife spending quality time with Margot. This all puts the family in a loving context.

But things can change when a family experiences a death.

As she grieves her mother's death, Margot (finds love, support and understanding through social media. That's a good thing to a point. But the film also cautions that this relational outlet leaves her vulnerable in ways she doesn't really understand.

Not for the little ones

This is not a movie for the entire family. It is a look at deep pain and difficult circumstances. Rated PG-13 for thematic elements and some language, it rises above all other PG-13. Think suspense and Hitchcock. It is portraying a painful reality of so many families whose children go missing and families who lose a parent and the collateral damage of both events. The guilt, the "what-ifs." It all

becomes real.

So, as he grieves his wife's death, David overlooks his daughter's pain and grief. Instead of communicating with Margot after her mother's passing, he ignores his grief in the hope that it will all work itself out. David emotionally disconnects from his friends and family which results in Margot's relational seclusion, as well as his own.

Margot has full access to technology without David's parental oversight. She posts videos and gives out personal information to complete strangers, and she goes where she wants without giving her father many details concerning her whereabouts.

As David searches for Margot, he realizes that he doesn't know very much about his teen girl (or her at times risky social media habits). His searching leads to a lot of frustration, worry, fear and anxiety as he gradually discovers that she has not been honest with him about many things.

The film also deals with the selfish nature of people involved in the search. Multiple people exploit Margot's disappearance for their own selfish reasons and gain.

Unique cinematography adds suspense

Aneesh Chaganty, director of *Searching*, brought this movie to life entirely through screens of various kinds. This cautionary thriller unspools via security cameras, iPhones, Macbooks, YouTube videos and social media messages. Texts and other messages that David sees in Margot's various accounts also help to advance the plot here.

These different screen-based modes of storytelling overlap to deliver a couple of urgent warnings:

First, *Searching* warns us of the dangers that exist when we aren't aware of what our children are doing online. It encourages intentional communication about technology for the sake of our kids and their safety.

Second, the film speaks to shadowy side of the "fame culture" that informs so much of contemporary life these days. We see how some of those who want to be famous and liked will do whatever it takes to make that happen (including making videos that recklessly exploit themselves).

Technology can be good or bad

■ Please see *SEARCHING* page 17



family-friendly spotlight

‘Indivisible’ movie tops October family-friendly spotlight

By Michael Foust

Darren Turner is a husband, father and seminary graduate who feels called by God to be a military chaplain.

His wife, Heather, senses a calling to military life, too, and so they settle at Fort Stewart, Ga., in 2007, assuming life will be easy for a few months or even years until he is deployed.

But life rarely goes as planned. Darren gets called to Iraq for a 15-month tour, leaving Heather to take care for three young children while Darren serves the spiritual needs of soldiers in harm's way. Young and perhaps naive, they are confident they can keep their marriage strong with video chats, letters and an occasional phone call.

Soon, though, a crack develops in their relationship, and it only worsens when Darren returns home as a changed man. Instead of playing with the children, he now sits alone outside, contemplating the horrors of war and the friends he lost. The patient and loving person Heather once knew has been replaced with someone who is uncaring, short-tempered and argumentative.

Finally, after one frightening episode in front of the kids, he is asked to move out ... perhaps for good. Can their marriage be salvaged?

The faith-based movie *Indivisible* (PG-13) opens in theaters Oct. 26, telling the true-life story of a military couple who had to fight to save their marriage due to the stresses of war. It stars Justin Bruening (*Grey's Anatomy*) as Darren and Sarah Drew (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Mom's Night Out*) as Heather, and also features Madeline Carroll (*I Can Only Imagine*) as a military wife.

Indivisible is No. 1 on this month's list of "5 Family-Friendly Things."

An embargo prevents me from disclosing too much more about the movie, but I can say this: *Indivisible* does a nice job portraying the stresses of military service on a family – and the determination and faith that is needed to keep it together. It's a film that has positive messages about forgiveness and reconciliation for military and non-military families.

The movie is rated PG-13 for some thematic material and war violence, and might not be appropriate for small children.

Also worth watching this month:

2. **Michael Jr.: More Than Funny**, I'm

a big fan of stand-up comedy and everything that makes it great – the interaction with the audience, the impromptu responses, and, most of all, the humor. Sadly, though, most modern stand-up comedy is coarse and vulgar. Not so with comedian Michael Jr., a Christian who regularly demonstrates that the best comedy is the cleanest comedy. On Oct. 18 (one night only), moviegoers can watch Michael Jr.: *More Than Funny*, a film that spotlights his comedy routine but also examines three real-life stories that will inspire.

3. **Baseball Shows on Amazon Prime.**

In many parts of the country, October means one thing: playoff baseball. To whet your appetite for the postseason – from the wild card to the World Series – type "baseball" or "MLB" into your Amazon Prime Video account. The results are impressive, from Ken Burns' *Baseball* series to his film on Jackie Robinson. There are tons of other highlight videos and documentaries, too.

4. **'The Chosen' Pilot** – This impressive

23-minute story about the birth of Christ is available free at VidAngel's website (VidAngel.com/thechosen) and could be changing how faith-based projects are funded. That's because director Dallas Jenkins and his team posted the pilot online and asked viewers to donate money if they wanted to see a full-fledged series like it. The result: more than \$4.5 million raised through crowdfunding. Jenkins says it will be the first television series about Christ. Filming begins in November.

5. **'God Friend Me'** – This Sunday

night CBS series is entertaining, although it comes with a major caveat. The story follows a New York City atheist who receives a friend request on social media from "God." At first, he ignores it but eventually accepts the request, and subsequently sees his beliefs about the world – and about the Almighty – changed. This isn't a squeaky-clean series, though. The pilot had mild language and an implied sexual encounter. (Not by the major character.) The core message, though, is inspiring. *God Friend Me* may be best for older family members.

Michael Foust is the husband of an amazing wife named Julie and the father of four small children. Follow his blog, MichaelFoust.com.

Former Punk Princess Avril Lavigne Releases First Song in Five Years – And It's a Worship Song

After a five-year break from her public career, singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne has released a powerful worship ballad titled "Head Above Water," which recounts her battle with Lyme disease.

In "Head Above Water," Lavigne details her relationship with God and how He saved her when she thought she was at the end of her life.

In the first verse of the song, Lavigne sings about the unbearable pain she experienced that made her feel like she was literally drowning. It sounds as if she is trying to convince herself that she has the strength to power through anything that happens to her.

I've gotta keep the calm before the storm / I don't want less / I don't want more / Must bar the windows and the doors / To keep me safe to keep me warm / Yeah my life is what I'm fighting for / Can't part the sea / Can't reach the shore / And my voice becomes the driving force / I won't let this pull me overboard

But then, Lavigne has a change of heart. She goes from singing about relying on her own strength and power to acknowledging her need for God to rescue her.

God keep my head above water / Don't let me drown / It gets harder / I'll meet you there at the altar / As I fall down to my knees / Don't let me drown / Don't let me drown

Lavigne goes from singing about her own willpower to falling on her knees in front of God and asking Him to save her.

In a way, she presents the beautiful message that is the Gospel: that God sent His son to die on the cross to carry the weight of sin, and in turn our burdens. So



that when trials, struggles and tragedy come our way, we can have it all over to Him, and have faith that He will keep us safe.

Throughout the rest of the song, Lavigne sings her praises to God, asking Him to save her.

So pull me up from down below / 'Cause I'm underneath the undertow / Come dry me off and hold me close / I need you now I need you most / God keep my head above water / Don't let me drown / It gets harder / I'll meet you there at the altar / As I fall down to my knees / Don't let me drown

Lavigne's battle with Lyme disease hasn't been a secret. In 2015, Lavigne announced that she had been fighting the debilitating disease for a year and that was why she had been hiding from the media. Her battle with Lyme was the reason she exited the music industry five years ago, and now the inspiration behind her latest

song.

In a powerful and vulnerable statement, Lavigne detailed the night that she started writing the song:

"I thought I was dying, and I had accepted that I was going to die. My mom laid with me in bed and held me. I felt like I was drowning. Under my breath, I prayed 'God, please help to keep my head above the water.' In that moment, the song writing of this album began. It was like I tapped into something. It was a very spiritual experience. Lyrics flooded through me from that point on."

Lavigne isn't the first pop artist to make the crossover from pop to Christian music. Just last week, singer Tori Kelly released her first Christian album, exposing millions of her fans to her relationship with God.

"Head Above Water" is now streaming on every major music platform.

SEARCHING

continued from page 16

Finally, *Searching* reminds us that technology is not always negative. In fact, we see how it can even be used to help solve mysteries like this one.

Searching is a provocative film. I've never seen a movie crafted entirely through screens like this one is. On a deeper level, the film also prompted me to think about my relationship with my own son, how I want to be present for him emotionally and know what's going on in his life as he gets older. I want to be aware of social media trends and knowledgeable when it comes to the sites and apps he'll use in the future. Most of all, I want to

protect him at all costs.

Which means that I wouldn't bring him—or any young viewer—to this movie. It's not for little ones. This film is aimed at an older audience, as it's filled with suspense and includes some profanity, violence, references to drug use and gripping stories about the dangers of the internet.

Searching is a story that will keep viewers guessing at every click. And it's also a movie that might stay with some viewers—especially parents of tweens and teens—in a way that goes deeper than just trying to provide a thrilling cinematic ride.

— Kristin Smith, *Focus on the Family* and *PluggedIn*

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AMAC Urges Seniors to Enter Into a 'Fitness Protection Program'

Americans are living longer than ever before. The average lifespan in the U.S. has doubled over the past 100 years. In 1918, you were lucky if you made it past 40 years of age. Today we're living into our 80s and the number of people living past 100 is at an all-time high. Senior fitness has become a major industry.

Fitness expert Jena Walther, Exercise Physiologist at the Scripps Center for Executive Health in La Jolla, CA, says more than half of us who are over 55 don't even meet the minimum recommended guidelines for exercise. They lack confidence, are afraid they'll hurt themselves or are just plain uninterested. And, it gets worse as they get older.

"In addition to making older folks feel better, the advantages of keeping fit include the ability to prevent some of the more serious diseases associated with aging, including Type 2 Diabetes, cardiovascular disease and even Alzheimer's," according to Dan Weber,

president of the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC].

Weber is encouraging AMAC's membership to enter into what he calls a "Fitness Protection Program." He says, "As we get older we tend to seek ways to avoid activities that involve exertion. To quote one anonymous wag: the only exercise some people get is jumping to conclusions, running down their friends, sidestepping responsibility, and pushing their luck. We need to overcome inertia and find ways of improving our heart rates and blood sugar levels by developing good exercise habits. Of course, it is important to check with your doctor before beginning any regimen that involves strenuous activities."

Exercise is particularly good at fending off Type 2 Diabetes and other chronic conditions. The World Health Organization says that a healthy diet, increased physical activity and avoiding tobacco use can prevent 80% of premature heart disease,

80% of type 2 diabetes cases and 40% of cancers. And, according to the Alzheimer's Association: "Exercise or regular physical activity might play a role in both protecting your brain from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, and also living better with the disease if you have it."

AMAC suggests that, ideally, your own Fitness Protection Program will include formal exercise routines – even if it is going for a walk around the block. But being active doesn't have to be limited to your workout times. There are plenty of ways to become more active as you go about your day. For example:

- When you are out and about, always choose stairs over the elevator, park at the far end of the parking lot when arriving at appointments and meetings, walk down every aisle of the grocery store while shopping, practice balancing skills while standing in line, do neck rolls while waiting at a stoplight.



- When you are at home, do a set of wall pushups while waiting for water to boil, vigorously vacuum, tend to the garden, sweep the sidewalk, rake leaves, lift weights while watching the news, try toe-raises while talking on the phone, do knee bends after sitting for a long period of time.

Says Weber, "you will feel better if you keep active. Guaranteed!"

The Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [https://www.amac.us] is a senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. The organization acts and speaks on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face.

4 Balance-Enhancing Exercises Seniors Can Do at Home

Seniors struggle with a variety of problems that can have a negative impact on their mobility. With advancing age, most people experience joint pain due to arthritis and an overall decrease in muscle mass. Age-related medical conditions, such as Alzheimer's disease, Parkinson's disease, osteoporosis, vision loss and heart disease, as well as the prescription medications used to treat them can also cause dizziness, weakness and changes in cognition. When even just a few of these factors combine, it significantly increases a senior's fall risk.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), one in four Americans aged 65 and older falls each year, resulting in three million emergency room visits, 800,000 hospitalizations and 28,000 deaths. Each fall doubles a senior's risk of falling again and increases the likelihood of an early death. When it comes to serious injuries, more than 95 percent of hip fractures are caused by falls.

Fortunately, practicing a few gentle at-home exercises on a regular basis can help seniors enhance their strength, balance and coordination and decrease their risk of falling. Best of all, caregivers and seniors can perform these moves together to safeguard their mobility and prevent accidents.

The following movements should be done next to another person serving as a spotter, a sturdy chair or a hand rail that can be used for balance in case you or your loved one becomes unsteady. Avoid engaging in any exercises that seem overly challenging for either of you, unless a doctor has given his or her approval.

Tightrope Walk: Just like a tightrope walker in a circus, this exercise involves holding your arms straight out from your sides, parallel to the floor. With your arms out, walk in a straight line, pausing for one or two seconds each time you lift your back leg off the ground. Take between 15 and 20 steps this way. While walking, keep your head straight and look at a fixed spot in front of you to help maintain balance.

Rock the Boat: For this exercise, begin by placing your feet hip-width apart. Make sure that each foot feels like it's pressing into the ground with the same amount of force. This will ensure that your weight is evenly dis-

tributed across both legs. With your shoulders back and head level, slowly transfer your weight to one side, lifting the opposite foot off the ground. Hold your leg off the ground for as long as you can, but no longer than 30 seconds. Then, slowly transfer your weight back onto both feet and repeat the process on the opposite side. Aim to repeat this process five times on each side initially and work up to more repetitions as your balance and strength improve.

Heel-Toe Walk: This exercise involves placing one foot directly in front of the other so that the heel of your front foot and the toes of your back foot are touching with each step. Depending on your level of flexibility, you may not be able to get your heel and toes to completely touch, but that's fine. Just try to get them as close as you can without any discomfort. Take between 15 and 20 steps this way. As with the tightrope walk, keeping your eyes fixed on a point in front of you will help you remain stable.

Fleming Stand: This one is pretty

simple. You basically just stand on one leg with the other leg extended out in front of you while holding on to the back of a chair for stability. Start off standing on one leg for ten seconds, and then repeat on the other leg. Aim to repeat this on each leg five to ten times. You and your loved one may find that it's less taxing to stand on one leg than the other, but this is normal. Just continue exercising both sides equally to help build strength and confidence on the weaker side. It's

important to maintain good posture (keep your shoulders back, your back straight and your head up) while doing this exercise.

Starting out with these simple exercises can provide an excellent foundation for other strength- and balance-building fitness routines like Tai Chi, gentle yoga, aquatic exercise and much more. Just be sure to clear any new physical activities with a physician and avoid overexerting yourself in the beginning.

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Dietary Supplements for the Elderly

Dietary supplements used to refer to vitamins and minerals, but today this industry makes and sells products containing vitamins, minerals, antioxidants, fiber, amino acids, herbs, probiotics or hormones in them. Supplements come in the form of pills, capsules, powders, gel tabs, extracts or liquids. You can find them added to drinks and snacks like energy bars to increase their nutritional value or to prevent health problems. A prescription from a doctor isn't even necessary to buy these products.

Many seniors and their caregivers think, "If these 'healthy' products are so widely available and have such incredible benefits, why not give them a try? It can't hurt, right?" The truth is that not everyone needs to supplement their diet and the benefits may not be as impressive as the industry would have you believe. Furthermore, in some cases dietary supplements can be detrimental to a person's health.

Do Seniors Need Dietary Supplements?

Ads for supplements usually promise to make you feel better, keep you from getting sick or help you live longer. Often there is little, if any, scientific support for these claims. In fact, some supplements can interact with other medications and cause adverse reactions. Others are a waste of money because they don't actually provide any health benefits.

Even medical researchers have a difficult time proving the benefits of dietary supplements. A recent study on highly touted omega-3 fish oil concluded that it wasn't effective in reducing a person's mortality risk or their risk of suffering a heart attack or stroke. These results were contrary to the popular notion that omega-3 fatty

acids may help prevent and manage heart disease.

So, what are consumers to do when faced with all this conflicting information? Your best bet is to consult an expert. A doctor or registered dietician should be the only sources for information and advice on dietary supplementation. A friend, neighbor, employee at a health food store or sponsor on a commercial shouldn't be trusted to provide sound guidance regarding these products.

Another rule of thumb is that no pill can replace a balanced diet. "My motto is always 'food first,'" says Rachel Berman, R.D., Director of Nutrition for Calorie Count. "Foods found in nature are always more nutritious because our bodies are used to processing vitamins and minerals that come from natural sources."

Unfortunately, older individuals may have a difficult time planning and adhering to a healthy diet. This is where supple-

ments may actually be necessary.

Berman does acknowledge that supplements may be beneficial for individuals who eat unvaried or restricted diets. This is especially common in seniors as there are a variety of issues that can affect their diet. Changes in the ability to taste and smell food can lead to a loss of appetite. Allergies and ailments such as Crohn's disease and celiac disease can cause discomfort and wreak havoc on an elder's ability to digest and absorb nutrients from what they eat. Painful dentures or a weakened swallowing reflex (dysphagia) can also severely limit the foods a senior can consume safely and comfortably.

If you're worried that a senior is not getting complete nutrition through food alone, take your concerns to their primary care physician. Do not give a loved one any kind of dietary supplement before consulting with their doctor. Ask about natural, food-based alternatives to supplementa-

tion first, and be sure that they are aware of all prescription and OTC medications your loved one is taking before agreeing to add any supplements to their regimen.

More Isn't Always Better

Vitamins and minerals are nutrients found naturally in food, and we all need them to stay healthy. The benefits and side effects of many vitamins and minerals have been carefully studied, but supplementation is not one-size-fits all. Our nutritional

needs change as we age, take medications and develop different medical conditions.

Some people think that if a little is good, then a lot must be better. That doesn't necessarily apply to vitamins and minerals. In a best-case scenario, taking too much of a certain supplement simply results in the body flushing out the extra compounds it doesn't need, but this still boils down to wasted money. And taking too much could be harmful.

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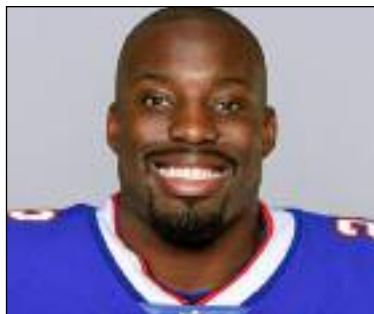
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sports

Bills' Vontae Davis after sudden half-time retirement: 'I choose to be grateful to God'



Vontae Davis became the butt of 10,000 jokes on Sunday when it was learned that at halftime of the Buffalo Bills' home-opening loss to the Los Angeles Chargers, Davis took off his uniform, put on his street clothes, and retired.

He released a statement on social media a couple of hours after the game ended, saying it wasn't "how I pictured retiring from the NFL" but that while he was on the field it "hit me hard and fast: I shouldn't be out there anymore."

On Wednesday, Davis spoke to retired fellow cornerback Domonique Foxworth and gave more of his side of things.

'I felt normal'

Davis, the 25th overall pick in 2009, drafted by the Miami Dolphins, was in his first season with Buffalo, having signed a one-year, \$5 million deal in February.

He said when he woke up at the team hotel on Sunday morning, "I felt normal" and followed the same routine he'd gotten used to: driving to the stadium he listened to music; at the stadium he hydrated and stretched and put on his headphones and recited Psalm 23 ("The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want") twice.

But when the game started, Davis said, "I didn't feel right. I didn't feel like myself."

Late in the second quarter, he had his moment of clarity. "I went to the bench after that series and it just hit me," Davis said. "I don't belong on that field anymore." He told John Butler, the Bills' defensive backs coach, "I'm done," and while Butler didn't reply verbally, Lafayette Pitts played the last couple of snaps before halftime in Davis' place.

'Football is not for me'

Davis explained that in that moment he realized, "Football is not for me" and that he had become an outsider in the game he'd long loved. Over the years, he'd done what almost all football players do: he played through injuries, he did what was best for the team.

The Bills' team chaplain and director of player development tried to talk to Davis.

"I didn't expect them to understand," he said. "That moment was shocking to me as well."

He had no intention of hurting teammates — linebacker Lorenzo Alexander called it "completely disrespectful" — but doesn't regret even the unheard of timing of his decision.

"In that moment, my intuition was telling me I don't belong on that field anymore," Davis said.

He texted his wife, Megan, "Babe I'm done. I'm retiring," and she calmly asked if he wanted her to meet him at their house. A while later, he talked to his brother, Vernon, a tight end with Washington.

"Vernon was emotional. And surprised,

but he's always supported every decision I've made and understood," Davis said.

Davis also indicated that his faith in God helped him accept an otherwise abrupt and difficult decision.

"I'm at peace with myself and my family," he continued. "I choose to be grateful to God for allowing me to play the game that I have loved as a boy until I turned 30 years old. I choose to be grateful to God for being a part of the NFL and making life-long friends over the last decade. There were roadblocks and pitfalls along the way, but I am grateful to God for all of it, because He doesn't promise any of us an easy journey."

'Leaving was therapeutic, bro'

He's 30 years old and beginning a life without football, and while others assumed there's something wrong with Davis mentally, he's looking forward to what's next.

"I feel great. I haven't felt like this in ... well, in my whole life," he said.

Shortly after their phone interview ended, Davis sent Foxworth a text:

"And on a final note, Fox, leaving was therapeutic, bro. I left everything the league wanted me to be, playing for my teammates while injured, the gladiator mentality, it all just popped. And when it popped, I just wanted to leave it all behind. So that's why I don't care what people say. That experience was personal and not meant for anyone else to understand. It was me cold turkey leaving behind an identity that I carried with me for so long."

Perhaps it's not a coincidence that Davis' Twitter bio says only, "Live with no regrets!!"

Unpacking it

At first glance, Davis can easily be considered a quitter, very selfish, and a guy that really let his team down. After all, we value perseverance and the "never give up mentality" in sports and life.

To see someone simply quit in the middle of a game doesn't seem justifiable because we understand the concept of finishing what we start, staying committed, and sacrificing for the team.

While that is true, isn't it Davis' call to make if his decision was based on a deep conviction that he couldn't go back out there?

It's fair to say he could have handled it a lot better, but we have to give him the benefit of the doubt that he determined this to be the right choice for him and his family.

This situation isn't exclusive to the NFL because each of us makes regular decisions to keep going or to quit. I'm passionate about not giving up, but I also believe we can be so determined to never quit that we continue to do something that deep down we know we should stop.

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

By Rob Mooney

I have to admit, I did not see this coming. They said that Patrick Mahomes was the real deal but I refused to believe it. Was it the fact that I thought Alex Smith was getting a raw deal? Was it the fact that I saw what Dak Prescott did in Dallas during his first year but has since spiraled into an abyss of mediocrity? Maybe all of the above. The truth is, I thought that the Kansas City Chiefs went with Mahomes because Smith was due 16 million dollars this year and that they were going with the cheaper option.



My explanation for trading away a guy who was one of the top quarterbacks in the league last year. Right? I guess not. Mahomes is the real deal. He's got a cannon of an arm and he has the heart of a winner. Most importantly though, he has the respect of his teammates and that's something that usually takes quite a while to acquire, especially for a second year quarterback.

There was a point during the San Francisco game when it appeared that a few 49ers were trying to take some cheap shots at Mahomes. Some of his teammates quickly intervened. That showed me that his teammates have his back and

Of course, we keep the faith and persevere during trials and live up to our commitments the best we can, but there are other times that we must be willing to let go, stop an activity, or leave a situation.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to live surrendered lives dependant on His leading and guiding, and oftentimes, this means making the tough choice.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (ESV) tells us to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."

As we trust Him, He will ask us to step out in faith, and that may mean others will question our decision or cause us to quit one thing in order to start something else.

Others may want us to keep going, but God may be protecting us by leading us away or calling us to do something different. Only He truly knows what's next.

In these moments we can have a similar prayer to the one found in Jeremiah 10:23-24 – NLT): "I know, Lord, that our lives are not our own. We are not able to plan our own course. So correct me, Lord, but please be gentle..."

that they realize that Mahomes is a special player.

Another play that stood out to me probably did to most people. Nine minutes left in the 2nd quarter, 3rd and goal from the 49ers 4 and the Chiefs up by 7. Mahomes is under pressure, he scrambles and finds Chris Conley in the end zone, where he fires a bullet to him catapulting the Chiefs to a 14 point lead and control of the game.

That play in itself has set the stage for an incredible Chiefs season. You see, Smith would have side stepped a couple defenders and thrown that ball out of bounds and the Chiefs would have settled for a field goal. But there's a new sheriff in KC and he has no fear. The Chiefs have a real shot at being a force in the playoffs and making a play for the Super Bowl. Sure, there will be some down days for Mahomes. I mean, a guy can't throw 4 touchdown passes every game can he?

A surrendered life to Jesus means quitting our old life in order to embrace the new life He has for us. It's an exciting adventure that requires a daily commitment to go where He wants us to go.

We must "Seek the Lord and His strength; seek His presence continually! (1 Chronicles 16:11 – ESV). When we do, we'll walk away from our own plans toward His wonderful and perfect will.

— Shalise Manza Young / Yahoo Sports and Bryce Johnson junpack-init.com

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Home Upgrades that Really Work

Ideas and inspiration to create more functional spaces

(Family Features) Bathroom and kitchen upgrades are among the most popular home renovations, but not just because the improvements are likely to increase the home's value. Renovations to these high-use areas can enhance the practical enjoyment of your home while adding aesthetic appeal and style.

A Better Bathroom

Bathroom makeovers can take many forms, from simple updates to total overhauls. Consider these common approaches, identified by the home experts at JCPenney Home Services, to determine the best match for your home and needs.

Tub-to-Shower Updates

According to the National Association of Realtors, more than 60 percent of homeowners prefer a stall shower without a tub. Whether you want to join the ranks of homeowners transforming their outdated tubs to modern showers, need a larger tub to soak away the day or simply want to update the look of your space, converting your tub or shower is a simple way to add functionality while transforming your bathroom.

Aging and Accessibility

More than 200,000 injuries occur in the bathroom each year, according to the National Safety Council. Especially for those with mobility challenges, water and slippery surfaces can be a dangerous combination. If you're taking on a bathroom upgrade with accessibility in mind, be sure to consider options like slip-resistant flooring, strong grab bars, shower seats and a practical walk-in tub or low-threshold shower base.

Complete Remodel

If you're looking for a substantial change, a complete remodel may be your best answer. This approach allows you to integrate a consistent look and style throughout the room and create a truly custom experience. However, a project of this scope often requires professional assistance. There are companies like Re-Bath, a partner of JCPenney Home Services, that offer an exclusive remodeling process to remove old materials and fixtures and replace them with beautiful, new products in a wide variety of colors and styles. Partnerships with leading brands provide ample choices in cabinets, countertops, fix-



tures, hardware and more for a one-stop solution to upgrading your bathroom from floor to ceiling.

Create a New Kitchen

It's the hub of the home, so it's no surprise that many homeowners start with the kitchen when they're planning functional upgrades. New appliances, countertops and tilework all add to the style and function of a kitchen, but don't overlook these highly functional features that can make your home more enjoyable.

Water Filtration

Features like the faucet and sink, and even refrigerators with ice-makers and water dispensers, can take a real beating through basic everyday use. One way to minimize the wear and tear, and take your kitchen upgrade to the next level, is a water filtration system. Cleaner, clearer water can benefit your home in a number of ways. It eliminates the need for expensive bottled water, produces cleaner, spot-free dishes, lets you save on soap and detergents, results in less build-up on fixtures and helps increase the life of appliances that use water.

Flooring

Updating the floor of your kitchen is another easy way to upgrade the space, even if it's the only enhancement you make. For example, JCPenney Home Services offers a broad line of hardwood, laminate and luxury vinyl, all of which are affordable and practical solutions for a high-use area like the kitchen.

Lighting

If there's one place in the home where task lighting really matters, it's the kitchen. Proper lighting can help ensure you can see well for safe food handling. It also helps set the mood for the room, whether it's a lively gathering with guests or a quiet candle-lit meal at your eat-in nook. You can create a focal point with exquisite fixture over a feature like an island then be sure to complement your standout fixtures with recessed lights on multiple switches with dimmers so you can customize the lighting as needed.

Find more ideas and inspiration for your kitchen or bathroom upgrade at jcpenny.myhomeprojectcenter.com.

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Annette's Tip:
There's still time to overseed your lawn if it's thin in areas. Crabgrass is beginning to die now, so it is easy to see where problem areas are showing up in your lawn. I can't stress enough how important it is to plant grass seed that has no weeds or other crop on the label. Our TriPower Fescue is 100% pure!
As this year's vegetable garden winds down, be sure to log or map the garden so that next year's crops may be rotated to different locations. This helps prevent disease buildup in the soil. Bring in a soil sample for a pH test to make sure your soil is within the proper range for maximum production next year.

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785.266.0100
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10:45 Worship Service
www.swtbc.org
- 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
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Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:30 & 11am
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka
286-1204
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www.northland.cc.
- 5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST**
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785-266-7788, www.Indianaavecofc.org
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Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.
Midweek Bible University – Wed. – 7pm

- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS
272-0443 www.fsbctopeka.org
Sunday Services:
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- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**
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- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**
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Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117
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- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**
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- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka
233-3537 www.CommunityChurchKS.com
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- Wed. 6:30pm - Children, Youth, Adult
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- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**
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Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,
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 - 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**
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 - 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**
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 - 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**
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 - 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH**
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 - 23. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH** 785-379-5642
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NEIGHBOR

continued from page 1

beholder.

We were talking, my neighbor and I, about gay rights. This was a topic both personal and political for me. I identified as a lesbian, and lived happily in a committed relationship with another woman. I loved my girlfriend the way it felt best to me. I cared about my queer community. I co-authored the first domestic partnership policy at my university. I was poised to become a “tenured radical” — a university professor with enough job security and chutzpah to take queer theory from the university to the street.

I was standing, so I believed, on the right side of history. But my neighbor, Ken Smith, then-pastor of the Syracuse Reformed Presbyterian Church, was also my friend. He, his wife, and I shared weekly meals — sometimes at my house, but mostly at theirs — where we talked about deep and weighty matters of life and faith and worldview. Where we listened and disagreed and came back again the next week to do this again: to break bread and talk.

Enter Intersectionality

Twenty-two years ago, it was not considered hate speech for Ken to tell me that he accepted me as a lesbian, but did not approve. I rejected Ken’s worldview, and he rejected mine. We were on even ground. We saw clearly our worldview differences, but those divisions, back then, did not come with the accusatory weight of personal attack. In today’s play-book, that wouldn’t fly.

Why? What is standing in our way of becoming friends with our neighbors who think differently than we do?

1. Unbiblical Anthropology — My conversations with Ken and Floy came before the idea of “intersectionality” had moved from the academy to the streets. Intersectionality was, in 1997, still just an academic idea. Its premise was this: Personhood and identity, who you really are, is best determined by how many social oppressions you have suffered.

Originally, intersectionality dealt with material, structural oppressions — highlighting how race and class and the glass ceiling of sexism weigh heavy in a society made up of sinners. But when feminism shifted allegiance from Marx to Freud, when it turned from numbers to feelings, sexual orientation and gender identity took on new forms.

When ideas like “dignitary harm” (the harm accrued to your dignity by someone’s refusal to approve of your sin) found its place in civil law, intersectionality unleashed a monster. And with that monster came a message: Homosexuality is not a sin; it is an aesthetic, an erotic orientation or way of looking at the world and everything in it. Today, the gospel is on a collision course with this message.

2. Compromised Churches — Intersectionality informs the divide between Christians and our neighbors who think differently, but God’s people should never be sucker punched by the current fad in worldview — even if some segments of the evangelical church are smitten by it. The real problem is not what the world thinks, but rather that parts of the evangelical church are allowing the world to preach to it about personhood and identity — about who people really and ontologically are, and what

they need to flourish.

Many tragedies occur when the world preaches to the church (and the church listens), and one is that false conversions multiply. We live in an evangelical world whose prophets may be convinced of gospel promises, but who are not necessarily converted under gospel truth.

And what is the sermon topic that they preach? They preach sermons of questions, relocating what God calls sin into the category of aesthetics — the observation of beauty amid the pain. They reject God’s truth as “bumper sticker” logic, and answer questions with more questions, with no answers, always favoring a sinner’s point of view over that of the crucified and risen Christ.

Once leaders in the evangelical church locate something that God calls sin into an aesthetic framework, the great gift that the Lord Jesus holds out to his people — the gift of ransom and repentance — is no longer considered necessary. The blame shifts from a person’s sin to the church’s perceived prejudice.

What to do? Make sure that you are a member of a biblically sound church whose practices embrace the marks of faithfulness: handling rightly the word, the sacraments, and the practice of church discipline. If your church fails to meet these standards, or you refuse membership because it ties you down, or you think that making peace with sin will allow you a place at the table to witness Christ to the world, think again.

Your church membership is part of your spiritual discipline for engaging with the world. If you hold membership with a church that practices or endorses sin, you have made yourself corporately guilty of this sin.

3. Social Media Infatuation — Social media infatuation has removed distinctions between private and public. Ken and Floy Smith and I had private dinner gatherings. Often other people joined us. But our heartfelt differences were not subjected to the harsh glare of Twitter, Facebook or blogs.

Instead of mocking or attempting to destroy each other on social media, we pondered our differences, and brought a hot dish to the next Thursday night meal. This response helped us to let some offenses slide and focus instead on the big picture. It encouraged us to regard each other as human beings — not blank slates filled by competing ideologies and power relations.

Open Doors

Ken and Floy and I became friends before this current cultural moment. We could see that our humanity was intimately connected to, but not completely absorbed by, our differing worldviews and the sets of ideas, vocabulary, books and values they represented. We could see each other as human beings even across our differences. And because of this perspective, we could come to the table, break bread, and talk.

So, Christian, how can you begin to constructively engage with your neighbors? Know your culture, take membership vows in a biblically faithful church, and return to a practice of privacy. Yes, intersectionality has found its foothold today, not only in the wider culture, but also in some segments of the evangelical church. It’s a worldview that comes with ultimatums (“love me, love my dog”). It’s a worldview that rests on unbiblical notions of ontology (who people are). It

A mom’s tips for raising a kind, compassionate man

As a mom of two (my daughter is 24 and my son 18), I have experienced the journey of raising both a boy and a girl in a chaotic world where digital media reigns supreme and kids, whose calendars are as busy as their parents’, are being pushed to reach a rising bar of success.

Meanwhile, depression, anxiety and stress are rising in our children, and more parents are seeking help in the form of medication and therapy. While our girls are more likely to get treatment earlier for mental health, boys attempt suicide twice as often as girls.

As his mother, you are the most important person in your son’s universe. Yes, during the tween and teenager years he’ll pull away to develop his own sense of self, but you still have a tremendous influence on him at this crucial time.

Your son will see himself as you see him. What you say to him and how you say it has the ability to build him up or tear him down. You model to your son how to love or how to close the doors to love. You are his first teacher, showing him that it is safe to love. From you, he will learn that his feelings are valuable assets to his empowerment. This internalized wisdom will stay with him throughout his life, enabling him to experience intimacy, connection and honesty.

A Boy’s Life

In a nutshell, boys want to be understood. Boys want direction and reasonable consequences. Boys want to be seen, heard and loved for who they are. Boys want to learn how to care for others, because sometimes they simply can’t remember how to do this. Boys need help putting their feelings into words and feeling safe enough to express them.

The following tips are the foundation for a strong relationship with your son as he moves through the many developmental stages on his way to manhood. These tools helped me create a deep and meaningful relationship with my son. It’s not always easy, believe me. But it’s worth it.

Spend quality one-on-one time with your son. Yes, we have careers and a lot to juggle. Find 20 minutes a day to be just

rejects that original sin is really sinful, preferring to regard this sin that registers in our hearts before we take our first breath as merely a form of aesthetic difference.

And the best way for God’s people to say “no” to unbiblical reflections of personhood and intersectionality is to say “yes” to biblical hospitality. When you gather around the table with your perceived cultural enemy — not once, but weekly — you show that culture is not king. Jesus is. Ask good questions and listen to people’s answers. Perhaps you could start with this one: Do you believe that what is true determines what is ethical, or do you believe that what is ethical determines what is true?

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield is a former tenured professor of English at Syracuse University. She has taught and ministered at Geneva College, is a full-time mother and pastor’s wife, and is author of “The Gospel Comes with a House Key: Practicing Radically Ordinary Hospitality in Our Post-Christian World.” This article originally appeared on the Desiring God website under the headline, “Gay Rights, Hate Speech, and Hospitality: Longings of a Former Lesbian.”



with him. No distractions, just quality time where you’re fully present. This will assure his growing self-image that you feel he is the most important person in the entire world. Give this to your son once a day and he will forever cherish the gift of true connection.

Listen to him. Without judgment. Sons, as they get older, stop talking to us. Ask simple questions to engage your son: “Heard any good jokes?” “I see you’re wearing red stripes today. How does that make you feel?” Keep it light. But be specific. Try to stay away from general questions. Then, with care, “I notice you’re scowling. How is your heart doing today?” A question like this will help your son stay in touch with the feelings he wants to escape from. Never try to fix his feelings. Simply acknowledge them by answering, “I hear you’re feeling (fill in the blank). I am so sorry.” Just acknowledging his feelings will provide immense relief to know he doesn’t have to shoulder his feelings alone. He won’t have to stuff his sadness and disappointment down to later become anger and rage.

If your son gets emotional and doesn’t want to talk, pull back. Let him know you’re there when he’s ready. Give him space as he needs it. When he’s ready, he’ll come to you because you’ve given him space. Then be fully present when he does express his feelings. This will show him that expressing feelings from his vulnerability is power. Ask him if he would like to hear some of your thoughts on the issue. (Try not to use the word “advice”; you’ll just get pushback.) If he doesn’t want your thoughts, say, “That’s OK.” Don’t take it personally. Don’t get emotional because he is keeping his privacy. Boys don’t innately know how to navigate emotions the way girls do. As a mom, part of your service to your son is to guide him through the emotional world. Your wise

support lets him know it’s safe and rewarding for him to feel.

Let your son know he’s enough. Boys are hard on themselves, competitive, and always watching to see how they measure up. Give your son lots of praise. Growing boys need it to build a healthy sense of self. Your son will feel empowered by your energy and enthusiasm. And no matter what he does, do not shame, tease, or put him down. This will only shut down his ability to learn to be compassionate. Remember, you want your son to grow up to be conscious and aware, so we have to be conscious and aware.

Teach your son what a healthy boundary is. “No” means no to unacceptable behavior. Model how you set boundaries for yourself. If he is mean, tell him how much this hurts your heart. Be honest. Refrain from overreacting. Inform him in a neutral tone that, as a powerful young man, when he says or does hurtful things to another, his words and actions have a powerful effect. Say, “I hear that you’re frustrated, angry, sad . . . and when you say hurtful words or act out, it makes me and others want to pull away from you. I don’t think that’s what you really want. I think you really want me to pay more attention to you, and you want to be liked and included by your friends.” Showing your honesty and vulnerability this way will allow your son to get in touch with his own vulnerability. Then he will feel safe again to be in touch with his heart.

Don’t be the warrior with your son. You are a warrior in life. You can let your son see this strong side of you. This will give him confidence. But if you become the warrior to your son to get him to do what you want, he will see you as an adversary to defeat. He will shut down and go to war with you. A power struggle will ensue.

All of these tips—to listen without judgment, engage, be present and love unconditionally—work with anyone. At our core, this is what we all want. As moms, we tend to worry that if we don’t fix the problem right now, it will turn into something bigger. The reality is, consistent conscious parenting will help you and your son grow together, stay connected through the hard times, and enjoy one another.

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