



**GREATER VISION**

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VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 7

**March 2023**

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## NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Family of God Church

*See inside back cover!*

## Lent is season for celebration, not just self-denial



Although Ash Wednesday marked the first day of Lent, many Protestants consider it to be primarily a Catholic season. Scott Gunn shared his insights into the observance in an op-ed piece.

“People give up chocolate or stop watching a favorite TV show or some other form of self-inflicted hardship,” he said. “But there’s more to Lent than meets the eye.”

The season of Lent began almost 2,000 years ago, primarily as a time to prepare for Easter. Those who were to

■ Please see LENT page 3



## Asbury Awakening

## Is God Calling Us to Revival?

A crowd of 20,000 people poured into Wilmore, Ky., over the weekend of Feb. 18 to experience the Asbury University revival, even as school officials prepared to shift the public portion of the event to another site.

The revival began on Feb. 8 during a regularly scheduled chapel

service at Asbury’s Hughes Auditorium and had been going non-stop ever since.

Greg Gordon, who followed the Asbury revival since its inception, had been speaking to pastors on the ground and drove cross-country to Wilmore from California. He is the founder of SermonIn-

dex.net and has been one of the go-to sources on social media for information about the revival.

God wants to revive the church, Gordon said.

“God is calling back his people to intimacy and first love with Him,” Gordon told Christian

■ Please see REVIVAL page 2

## Easter Parade & Fair is Apr. 8

Topeka EasterFest – the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair – is back for 2023, and bigger than ever at a new location! The annual event began in Gage Park in 2014, then moved to Garfield Park in North Topeka in 2017. For 2023, the 8th Annual EasterFest will be held Saturday, April 8 (the day before Easter), with a parade on North Kansas Avenue that runs from Garfield Park to the NOTO Arts District, followed by the Big Egg Hunt and Fun Fair at Great

Overland Station.

Over three thousand people have attended the event in the past to watch the parade, visit the Fun Fair, listen to live music, visit over 80 vendor & exhibit booths, attend the Health Fair and take part in the egg hunt or other activities.

Every year, dozens of churches, businesses and non-profit organizations take part in the parade, and set up vendor booths and kids’ games as part of

■ Please see EASTERFEST page 3

## New Gage Park mini-train arrives



The new electric version of the Gage Park mini-train has arrived! The first rides on the train will be March 13 during Spring Break. Following Spring Break the train and the old-fashioned carousel will be open weekends only until Memorial Day, when they open daily.

The electric train will replace “Iron Horse”, which was taken out of regular service last year, ending its 55-year term with the park.

You can be a part of history by purchasing a \$1 raffle ticket to be entered into a drawing to be on the historic first ride of the new train. Visit <https://bit.ly/HistoricFirstTrainRide> for information.

Plans are to keep the old mini-train on display at the park.





# 'It Is Incredible': Filmmaker Alex Kendrick Visits Lee University Revival

The Asbury University Awakening lit fires of revival are continuing to spread to multiple new locations around the U.S. Christian filmmaker Alex Kendrick visited one of those spots – Lee University, a private Christian college in Cleveland, Tennessee. In a video posted to social media, Kendrick, standing outside of the school's chapel, said: "There's no show here. There is no spectacle other than seeing hearts transformed."

"Revival is still going on. That chapel behind me is still filled," he said. "It's been almost two weeks now, and I think that is amazing. My family and I have come up here for a couple of days and just joined in on what God's doing. It is incredible!"



"And so I'm very, very grateful. So what's going on at Asbury, Lee University, Samford University, Cedarville in Ohio, there's a number of colleges that are now

seeking the Lord."

"And praise God for this generation that is seeking after God," Kendrick added. "Oh, it's just good! Man, it fills

my heart! So, praise the Lord, and let's pray that the Lord keeps moving as he wills."

As CBN News reported, Lee University Campus Pastor Rob Fultz noted on Twitter on Feb. 10, "What's happening at Asbury is not and will not remain confined. It will, and already is awakening the deep wells of revival on campuses across the nation. They have been churning, pressing against the seals that have kept them hidden, and they are about to burst with new life."

New reports are also surfacing of the revival fire spreading to additional locations like Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma.

And students at other locations are

asking God to send revival there too, like Baylor University, Southwestern Seminary and Texas Baptist University.

Byron Paulus, the founder of the ministry oneCry, tweeted, "Baylor campus last night. Growing intensity and urgency in prayer and worship will lead to accelerating movement of revival. A powerful 'How to Pray' document circulating on campus. Never in my 47 years of revival ministry have I seen this widespread of movement."

Matt Queen, a professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary, posted a photo to social media of students praying together and asked for prayers for students at the seminary at Texas Baptist College.

## REVIVAL

continued from page 1

Headlines. "I believe that this is the opportunity for people who are away from the Lord that they [could] be more intimate with Jesus, if they would just cry out [and] experience that personal revival, His presence."

Timothy Tennent, the president of the university's sister institution Asbury Theological Seminary, called it the "largest crowds yet in Wilmore."

Wilmore's population is 6,000.

The nationwide focus on the small community led to out-of-towners like Gordon driving to campus and standing in line for hours in order to enter Hughes. Asbury officials opened up at least five other locations on campus to accommodate the crowd. Individuals in those buildings were viewing the revival on a simulcast.

Gordon believes "two things" sparked the revival. First, he said, "America, Canada and the West" have "spurned God" and have not fought evil with "prayer and with the love of God."

"We've allowed these things to happen – and the world has infiltrated the church faster than the church is infiltrating the world," Gordon said. "He sent this love awakening – a gentle, sweet presence of God that heals, that calms, that gives people peace in anxiety. And I believe it could be a relief before what is coming. In history, you see it many times [that] revival came before calamity or revival came after calamity, World Wars, or major events. And I think this is a mercy time for us to press in and to experience as much of God, of this, as we can because it's for our strengthening. ... And it will

help the Christians to be strong in the Lord, to minister to other people in a time of calamity."

Second, Gordon said, God wants to revive His people.

"Prayer should be something you want to do – not that you have to," Gordon said. "Worship is something you get to do. It just changes everything when you have that first love with Jesus."

The revival, Gordon added, is "not about personalities, not about celebrities, famous bands or preachers, or a college."

"It's about Jesus," Gordon said.

Here is how one other person reported what he saw: "We witnessed two other chapels being opened, hundreds of people worshipping outside on the lawn... We witnessed people there from different states, countries, and denominations. We witnessed the overwhelming presence of God, young people with a radical posture of repentance, and an absolutely authentic atmosphere of the fear of the Lord. Most of all we witnessed a raw, authentic, unfiltered pursuit of Jesus. It's not hype. It's the Holy Spirit being poured out, drawing people to Jesus."

Rev. Andrew Kerhoulas was also present and had these observations:

**God is front and center:** The focus and emphasis were overwhelmingly vertical on the Triune God —Father, Son and Spirit. Prayer and praise were pervasive. Although that's not to say there weren't horizontal ramifications. There were ample times of self-reflection (ie. repentance of sin, inner-healing, and testimony of physical healing) and a renewed vigor for Christian ethics (ie. forgiveness, reconciliation, evangelism, justice, etc.), which were

both regularly interspersed between corporate worship times.

**Spiritual hunger is paramount:** A key word you hear and feel is "hunger." It wasn't merely viral videos that led people from all over to a chapel in a small town in Kentucky. The singing and prayers and testimonies were marked with genuine zeal and passion for God. People are tired of the spiritual status quo.

**Refreshingly ordinary:** It was a crowd full of ordinary people hungry for an extraordinary God; it wasn't cool or flashy in the slightest.

**Beautifully ecumenical:** I met folks from various denominations eager to experience God. It was primarily singing familiar contemporary songs with little musical accompaniment (no hymns were sung), simple prayer, and testimony well into the night that I think folks from most traditions could easily relate to.

**Far-reaching:** One person I met had driven 13 hours from Miami. Others had flown in from all over the US and even other countries. Even with these dynamics, much of the prayer and testimony was for or from 25 and under.

**God is always present:** Time in God's presence in Hughes auditorium seemed to pass much more quickly—hours seemed like minutes. It was the strangest thing. But amazingly, his presence is not limited to a chapel in Kentucky. The overwhelming impression is to seek the tangible presence of God wherever I am.

**Stay hungry:** Oh to ache for God like the students in that room! Someone there said that if you're physically hungry you can eat a meal and be satisfied, at least for a while. But in God's presence you are satisfied like nothing else in the world, but hunger for more and

more of him. I want to be hungry and to point others to that which satisfies emaciated souls.

## A transition

Finally, after two weeks, the college had decided to move all gatherings and services off-campus.

As part of Asbury's intention of encouraging and commissioning others to 'go out' and share what they have experienced, all services will be hosted at other locations and no longer held at Asbury University. We encourage guests to utilize these other designated facilities for worship and gathering. More information will be shared," the school posted on its website.

Asbury President Kevin J. Brown, Ph.D. also posted a video update on Twitter, calling these last few weeks at the Christian school, "unlike anything I've ever seen in my life."

"Whether you call this a revival, a renewal, an awakening or an outpouring, what we have experienced on our campus these last few weeks is unlike anything I've ever seen in my life," Brown said.

"We look to other schools, other churches or ministry communities as co-commissioners in this movement that's taking shape for us," Brown said. "Whatever happens from here, our deep desire is to see a life-transforming renewal of our younger generation to faithfully serve their communities, their schools, their churches, and their professions. To see them go into the difficult and dark places in the world and to be light."

"Finally, I've seen several headlines with titles suggesting that we are ending revival services or that we are scheduled to end revival," the university president said. "And while it is true

that Thursday evening will conclude our last service in Hughes Auditorium here on the campus of Asbury University, we know this is not a conclusion to hungry hearts being stirred, and responding by seeking Jesus Christ."

The revival first spread to Lee University, a school with Pentecostal roots in Tennessee. But students at Baptist schools like Cedarville and Samford Universities have also been experiencing the power of God. Samford is located in Homewood, Ala. Meanwhile, reports came in that students at Baylor University in Texas are also seeking God for revival.

Beck A. Taylor, president of Samford University, emailed students, thanking God for the revival.

"This is spontaneous, organic, student-led worship," Taylor wrote. "Having spent some time yesterday with those worshipping in Reid Chapel, I can testify that the Holy Spirit is at work in and among our student body. What's happening isn't contrived, programmed, or scripted. Nor is it performative or disingenuous. Students and others see it as an opportunity for the Samford campus to find unity in Christ, to encourage one another to faithfulness, and to extend the love and grace of Jesus to everyone."

"Students are sharing from their hearts," Taylor wrote in a Tweet. "The gospel is being proclaimed."

The widespread revivals are taking place some five decades after another major student-led revival spread across college campuses. That 1970-era revival eventually was dubbed the Jesus Movement and landed on the cover of Time Magazine. Ironically, a movie about that revival, Jesus Revolution, hit theaters on Feb. 24.



## 'God can speak in showers or waves': Tennessee middle school students lead in prayer, song and repentance

As a spiritual awakening moves among college students across the nation, one K-12 school in Tennessee says it's also seeing a revival atmosphere spreading on its campus.

Grace Christian Academy of Knoxville experienced an unplanned worship service where several middle school students held prayer, shared confessions and even made professions of faith.

A spokesperson for GCA said in an emailed statement that the gathering began with the school's annual tradition of Discipleship Days.



The Discipleship Days seeks to have GCA students "enriched by God's Word, grow in love for Jesus, and put their faith into action" by holding classroom discussions and activities, with the theme being "Know Him, Love Him, Love Them."

Last Friday, after GCA concluded the worship service for their middle school students, many "felt compelled to continue their time of worship," the spokesperson added. "Leadership pivoted any planned afternoon activities and allowed students to lead one another in song and prayer. This led to students repenting, confessing and seeking Christ."

"God can speak in showers or waves, and at last week's Discipleship Days, He decided to flood our campus with His presence," GCA Upper School Principal Angie Nordhorn said.

## EASTERFEST

continued from page 1

the family fun fair. There have been lots of floats with a variety of themes, and all shapes and sizes of other vehicles, as well as walking entries such as schools, military groups, marching bands and more. The event is coordinated by C5Alive (C5).

"We've had a great response and new entries each year at EasterFest," said Kevin Doel, one of the organizers. "I expect it to just keep growing every year."

Again this year the Easter Parade will be on North Kansas Avenue, from Garfield Park to NOTO Arts District, followed by the Big Egg Hunt and Fun Fair at the Great Overland Station. From 10am to 3pm, vendor booths, food trucks and kid's activities will be happening all over the grounds and inside the Station. This year, even more churches, non-profit organizations, schools and local businesses are expected to enter floats and marching bands, etc., in the parade, as well as set up activity booths at the fun fair.

The Family Fun Fair will consist of ac-

tivities geared toward children and families, as well as health & wellness vendor booths, vendor exhibits, and more. Live performers will be on hand all day, such as live music acts, dance troupes, street entertainers, health & fitness demonstrators and more.

Back are the ever-popular cupcake walks, along with face painting, petting zoo and food trucks.

There is still room for more EasterFest sponsors and participants for the Vendor Market, Entertainment Stage, Food Court and Health Fair. Volunteers are also needed to help with the entire event.



Major sponsors for EasterFest 2022 include Kaw valley Bank, Hutton Monuments, SERVPRO, Capital City Flooring, Patton & Patton, Davidson's Funeral Home, SoulFire Nutrition, Rasmussen University and more.

For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.TopekaEasterParade.com](http://www.TopekaEasterParade.com), email [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or call 785-640-6399. You can also find updates at Topeka EasterFest 2023 on Facebook.



EasterFest vendors will offer wares such as balloon animals, food items, crafts and gift items

heaven."

This season invites Christians to cast aside the things that keep them from following Jesus and to embrace those things that help them along their journey.

"So in Lent, I might give something up, not to make myself miserable but rather to take away a distraction from what is truly important," he said. "I might also give something up if this act helps me realize that I'm dependent on God alone and not on chocolate or coffee or TV. Misery for its own sake should not be the point."

Lent is also about taking things on, and of spiritual renewal.

"You might like to spend a little more time reading and studying the Bible," Gunn said. "Maybe you'll read one of the gospels or some other part of the Bible. Lent is also a great time to work on our habits of prayer. Scripture and prayer help us on our journey as followers of Jesus, so that's why we might take something on."

He would like to see Lent rebranded. "Maybe someone will come up with an ad campaign to help us all see that Lent is, actually, the opposite of miserable," Gunn said. "We can enjoy the gift of a whole season to focus on turning to Jesus, and nothing could be more joyful than that."

## C5Alive Power luncheon to be at Great Overland Station

The March C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held March 9, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at The Great Overland Station, and will feature information about marketing opportunities in the North Topeka area, including EasterFest.

The cost to attend a C5 luncheon is \$15 for C5 members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$17 at the door. Non-members and repeat guests pay \$20. C5 luncheons are open to the public. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org).

"POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month. The next one will be held on Apr. 13.

C5Alive is an organization dedicated to creating Christian culture in the Capital City, by developing and uniting Christian Leadership in the

community: businesses, non-profits and churches. C5 also hosts other periodic events, including **EASTERFEST**, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Family Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and at **Great Overland Station** on April 8, the day before Easter. Find details at Topeka Easter Parade on facebook.



The annual **Topeka Fall Fest** will be on October 7, 2023 at **The Vinewood**.

C5 members may also sponsor luncheons and other events as a way to promote their organizations. C5 is currently holding a membership drive with special incentives for new members.

For more information about C5, go to [www.facebook.com/C5Alive](http://www.facebook.com/C5Alive), [C5Alive.org](http://C5Alive.org), or call 785-640-6399.

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## LENT

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be baptized were prepared during this time. In the early centuries of the church, those who committed grievous sins were separated from the body of the faithful. During Lent, they could make amends and be restored to the church.

"The Bible teaches us again and again that there's always a second or third or hundredth chance to turn to God," Gunn said. "And each time we turn to God, there is rejoicing in heaven. So if Lent helps us find our way to God again, there is gladness in our hearts and in



## 24 for Life Diabetes Prevention Program offers online program

24 for Life Diabetes Prevention Program is now offering an online program called Halt that you can do at your own pace, virtually via your mobile phone or computer.

Halt is a private secure experience that includes: 26 video lessons via mobile phone or computer for initial 4 months followed by monthly lessons. There is unlimited Lifestyle Coach engagement for 12 months.

Participants can view weekly video lessons at their convenience. The online community is to share experience with individuals in your group, with a Lifestyle Coach to lead your program and give personal feedback throughout the 12-month program.

There is meal photo-journaling, activity tracking, and recording parameters with Lifestyle Coach customized feedback regarding your progress.

An automated email with login information for the virtual DPP classroom will be sent to all new cohort participants on the day the class begins.

Each week, 24 for Life class participants will have a new video module class and lesson plan available to watch in the virtual classroom. They will have all

week to watch the session and engage with the program and their coach. New sessions are available each week and they will have the opportunity to watch previous sessions as well.

Participants are expected to engage in numerous modalities each week to communicate with their coach. In addition to participants watching weekly video modules and reading the lesson plans, they will be expected to communicate with their coach through messaging, platform testing, photo-journaling meals for feedback, tracking hydration, physical activity and weight loss, online community engagement, direct coach messaging, etc.

Thanks to a grant with the American Diabetes Association, those who qualify as prediabetic can participate in this program at no cost.

There is a 4-minute online video to watch at <https://vimeo.com/469133883/d3e4dbab24>, and then you can email when you are available to enroll over the phone.

We are also starting new in-person and zoom classes. For more information contact Donna Doel, Assistant Coordinator and Lifestyle Coach, at [ddoel@midlandcc.org](mailto:ddoel@midlandcc.org).



## City of Topeka releases 2023 ‘Point in Time Homeless Count’ numbers

Topeka and Shawnee County’s homeless population is at a four-year high, according to numbers released Thursday from the City of Topeka’s annual Point in Time Homeless Count.

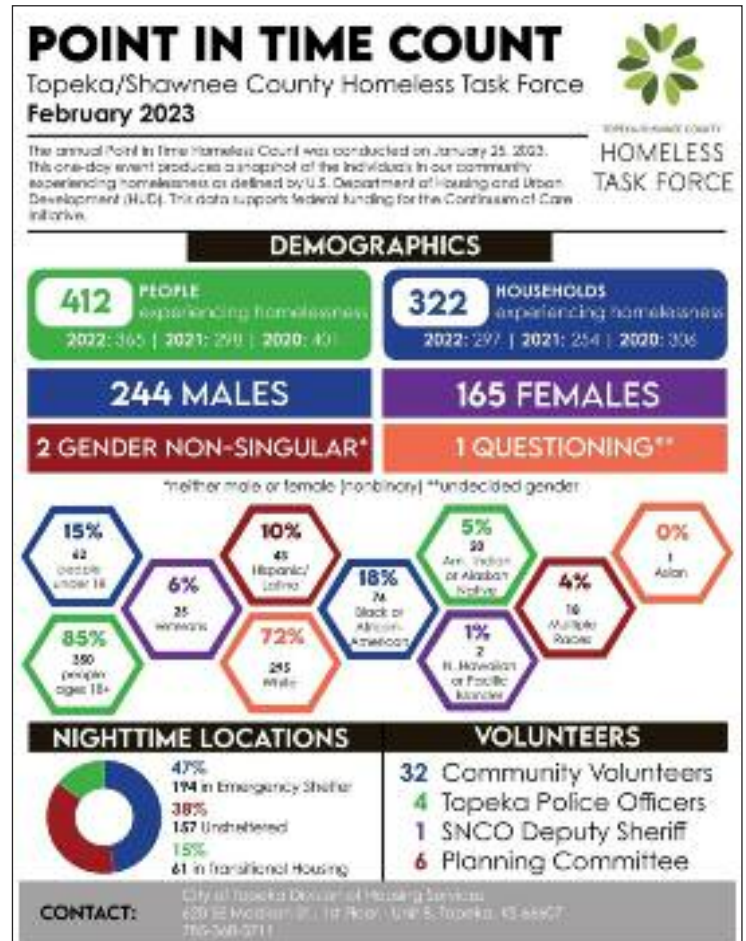
The count took place on January 25. The one-day event provides a snapshot of the individuals in the community who are experiencing homelessness, as defined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). More than 40 people helped with this year’s count.

According to the count, 412 people and 322 households are experiencing homelessness in Topeka and Shawnee County. 59% of those who are homeless are male, while 40% are female. 157 people are unsheltered, meaning they are not living in an emergency shelter or in transitional housing.

“The increase in the number of unsheltered homeless is no surprise to the Topeka/Shawnee County Homeless Task Force,” said Corrie Wright, Division Director of Housing Services for the City of Topeka. “It is imperative that the community works collaboratively to help address these growing numbers. Under City Manager Stephen Wade’s leadership, and with support from the Topeka Governing Body, we look forward to working collaboratively with the city’s consultant and community partners to reach long-term solutions.”

To receive funding for programs, HUD requires communities complete a count each year. The count ensures the city can obtain the appropriate level of funding to be able to provide needed services to those experiencing homelessness and those at risk for homelessness.

For a more detailed look at the 2023 numbers, visit <https://cot-wp-uploads.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-con->



[tent/uploads/sites/14/2023/02/16 Point-in-Time-Homeless-Count-2023.pdf](https://www.topeka-ks.gov/files/assets/public/2023/02/16/Point-in-Time-Homeless-Count-2023.pdf)  
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## City of Topeka announces “Fix Our Streets” 2023 projects

The City of Topeka is preparing to kick off the 2023 “Fix Our Streets” season, as part of the city’s continued efforts to improve our infrastructure.

Construction season typically starts in March or April, and runs through November, depending on weather. The city’s Public Works and Utilities departments work collaboratively on these projects, when applicable.

The following highlighted “Fix Our Streets” projects are slated for 2023:

NW Tyler St. – Paramore St. to Beverly St. – Reconstruction

SE Carnahan Ave. – I-70 to 21st St. – Reconstruction

SW Wenger Rd. north of 57th St. – Reconstruction

Alley between N Kansas Ave. and NE Quincy St., from St. John St. to Paramore St. – Reconstruction

SW 6th Ave. and Jackson St. intersection – Pavement repair

SW Topeka Blvd. – 17th St. to 18th St. – Pavement repair

SW 17th St. – Tyler St. to Topeka Blvd. – Pavement repair

SW 6th Ave. – Oakley Ave. to MacVicar Ave. – Pavement repair

SE California Ave. – I-70 to north end of bridge – Pavement repair

SE Golden Ave. – I-70 to SE 21st St. – Pavement repair

SW Gage Blvd. – Huntoon St. to 12th St. – Pavement repair

NW Goodyear Rd. at US-24 Interchange – Pavement repair

SW 10th Ave. – Urish Rd. to Wanamaker Rd. – Mill and overlay

SW Knollwood Dr. – MacVicar Ave. to Burlingame Rd. – Mill and overlay

SW 29th St. – Wanamaker Rd. to Arrowhead Rd. – Mill and overlay

Funding for the city’s “Fix Our Streets” projects are primarily supported through the citywide half-cent sales tax.



For more information about these projects, please visit <https://www.topeka.org/public-works/>.



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# FINANCIAL PLANNING



## DAVE RAMSEY

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

**davesays**

### HOW DO I GET CONTROL OF MY MONEY AND DEBTS?

Dear Dave,

I lost my job a couple of years ago. As a result, I ended up in about \$25,000 of debt through credit cards and a consolidation loan. Now I have a great job making more than I've ever made before, plus a car loan for about \$13,000. The older debts went to collections, but I'm not being hounded by collectors at this point. I want to get control of my money and do things the right way, so how should I handle things?

Mike

Dear Mike,

Well, morally, you owe the money. You took money under agreements that you'd pay it back, and that means you need to pay it.

I'd start by running two debt snowballs. Let's do one for the car and any other active debts you have first since the collectors aren't after you about the old, dead debt. Then, smallest to largest, start

knocking out the debt that's in collections. When it comes to these guys, reach out and get an agreement in writing detailing exactly how much you owe and the monthly payment amounts. Remember, do not give any of these folks direct access to your bank accounts.

There's no upside to not paying what you owe. It's an integrity issue, it's a legal issue, and it's a credit issue. If you don't take care of it, I guarantee it'll come back to haunt you somewhere down the road!

—Dave

**We want to sell our home. Should we be worried about a market crash?**

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are looking to move from Washington, D.C., to Greenville, South Carolina, in a couple of months, and then sell our current home in February or March after she gets things wrapped up with her job. We are a little worried, though, because we're hearing about the housing market crashing. Could you speak to this, please?

Nick

Dear Nick,

Your emotions and things you hear can creep up on you. I get that. But the fact is, there are still four buyers out there for every house that's up for sale. Now, are the buyers and the market as active and frenzied as they were several months ago? No. But you have to remember, the last couple of years have been crazy-strange times for the housing market.

I've been in the real estate business since 1978, and I've never seen anything like it. Usually, it takes about 90 days to sell a house. You'll get some offers, and none

of them will be at full price, but everyone will have time to think about things. That's normal, and it's probably a lot closer to how things will work themselves out for you now in Greenville.

But in any economy, my advice to you would be don't buy another house until yours has sold. If you end up with two house payments and your old house is

sitting empty while you're having to pay for the mortgage, taxes, utilities and all the upkeep to make sure it's ready to show, you're going to become what's known as a motivated seller. I don't want you to just give it away, but you'll need to be very careful to make sure the timing on this deal makes sense.

—Dave

## 6 Tax Pitfalls to Avoid

By Ryan Shumaker  
Smartvestor Pro at  
The Retirement Team



At The Retirement Team we are big fans of the saying, "Give to Caesar his due, but not a dollar more!"; which is why at our firm we focus on helping clients create tax efficient retirement plans and portfolios. With tax filing season upon us, we thought we'd share a few common issues we see when reviewing previous tax returns of new clients.

**1) Selling too soon-** Depending on when you sell an investment, you can pay anywhere from a 0% federal tax on your gains to a whopping 40.8%! Losing 40% of your gains to federal taxes when you could potentially lose nothing dramatically changes how much of your profit actually ends up in your pocket. Waiting to sell an investment after you've owned it for at least a year and/or when your income may be lower can significantly decrease your tax burden.

**2) Poor recordkeeping-** Prior to 2012, it was up to the taxpayer to keep a record of the purchase price of their investments. Thankfully, since then brokerage firms have been required by law to keep track of this information and relay it to any firm an account may subsequently be transferred to. Despite this change, we have seen situations where this information isn't transcribed properly or at all and investors pay tax on the entire sale price of an investment, rather than on just the gains. This happens even more frequently with investments bought prior to 2012, as firms won't always provide the original cost on tax forms in this scenario. If you're filing your own return, pay careful attention to tax documents when you receive them and don't blindly input numbers from these forms into tax software. If you're utilizing a professional to help you file your taxes and they don't catch this problem, you may want to consider a different preparer.

**3) Not using losses optimally-** With

financial markets experiencing a bumpy ride in 2022, you may have losses in some of your investments. While having losses isn't fun, don't add insult to injury by failing to use them in the most tax advantageous way possible. Losses from prior years can be carried forward to future tax years and can be used strategically. For instance, it makes far more sense to offset your gains with losses if you're faced with a 40.8% tax versus a 0% tax, like in pitfall #1. You can also use up to \$3,000 worth of losses per year to offset the tax on other income that may be taxed at a higher rate. When an investment is sold should not be based solely on performance. Having a strong return is nice, but keeping more after taxes is nicer. If you fail to account for tax implications, a large investment gain could result in less money making it back to your bank account versus a smaller gain with smart planning.

**4) Buying too soon-** Washing dirty hands before eating is a good idea, but rebuying an investment you recently lost money on usually isn't. Why? Well, if you sell an investment for a loss, but repurchase the same or a substantially identical one within 30 days you can't claim the loss on your taxes. If you're looking to maximize your after tax investment return, which investments you buy and when can sometimes be just as important as which investments you sell and when.

**5) Missing tax breaks-** According to the IRS, over 1/3 of all errors on tax returns involve either the child tax credit (16%), earned income tax credit (10%), or taking deductions (8%). These 3 are the most commonly caught by the IRS as they're usually something computer systems can catch automatically, but you shouldn't bank on the IRS finding missed tax credits or deductions for you. With the myriad of newly available tax breaks as part of the recently passed inflation reduction act for certain car purchases and home improvement projects (many of which have complicated requirements), you may want to seek out a second opinion as to whether you're receiving every tax

break you're entitled to.

**6) Using the default tax plan-** Taxes are complicated. There are over 6,800 pages of tax code and 70,000 pages of interpretations and guidelines related to that code. When confronted with something this overwhelming, it is easy to throw up your hands and say, 'whatever I owe, I owe.' The issue with taking this route is that you're accepting the 'default tax plan.' Given that the default plan was created by the government, who do you think it benefits most?

Being able to select great investments is only one small part of creating the highest investment return that you can keep and spend in retirement. It doesn't necessarily matter how much you make with your investments, it matters how much you keep after taxes since what you keep is what you can spend. Unsuccessful investors react to what has already happened, while successful ones continuously act on a plan, so get a tax plan you're continually acting on. Don't get stuck reacting to the default tax plan as that can be quite costly

**Other great articles about retirement, investing, and tax reduction can be seen at [RetireTopeka.com/blog](http://RetireTopeka.com/blog).**

Ryan can be contacted at 785-228-0222 or [RetireTopeka.com](http://RetireTopeka.com).

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## Enhancing Your Retirement Plan: SECURE ACT

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

The newly-enacted SECURE 2.0 Act contains significant changes that may affect how you plan for retirement. The bill, passed by Congress and signed into law by President Biden in late 2022, could help you bolster your retirement savings and income strategy.

Here are some of the key provisions included in the new law, which are being phased in over the next several years:

### New rules now in effect

#### Required minimum distributions (RMDs) start after age 73

Until recently, RMDs from traditional IRAs and workplace retirement savings plans, such as 401(k) or 403(b) accounts, had to begin after reaching age 72. Now individuals can wait until reaching age 73, extending the benefit of tax-deferred growth of earnings. Distributions must commence by April 1 of the year after turning 73.

### New rules in effect in 2024

#### Matching contributions for those paying student loans

Employers will have the ability to offer contributions to workplace retirement savings plans that match the amount of student loan debt repaid by an individual employee in a given year.

#### Rollovers of 529 education savings plan balances to Roth IRAs

Beneficiaries of 529 plans that have been in place for 15 years or more can transfer assets from the 529 plan to a Roth IRA. The transfer is subject to the beneficiary's annual contribution limit and up to a lifetime maximum of \$35,000.

This provision may alleviate a parent's potential concern that they are over-funding a 529 plan. For example, if a child qualifies for scholarships, or school expenses are less than anticipated, leftover 529 amounts could be transferred to the beneficiary's Roth IRA.

#### Requires catch-up contributions to be made as Roth contributions using after-tax dollars

Catch-up contributions for participants aged 50 or older must be made on a Roth basis under 401(k), 403(b), and governmental 457(b) plans. However, the requirement applies only if the employee's prior-year wages from the employer sponsoring

the plan exceed \$145,000 in the previous taxable year. The option to make pre-tax catch-up contributions will continue in 2023. When deciding whether to make pre-tax or Roth contributions for 2023, consider that your future catch-up contributions will have to be Roth contributions if you earn more than \$145,000.

### No RMDs for Roth workplace plans

Under current law, those with Roth 401(k)s or Roth 403(b) plans are subject to the same required distribution rules as standard workplace plans. However, the new law will eliminate RMDs for workplace-based Roth savings plans, comparable to current rules for Roth IRAs.

### Emergency savings

New emergency savings accounts, associated with an employer's retirement plan, can be established for many employees. It will allow them to accumulate up to \$2,500 in the account, with penalty-free access to the funds allowed once a month, to meet current needs.

### Other key changes beyond 2024

Other provisions of the SECURE 2.0 Act that will take effect in 2025 include:

- The ability of workers ages 60 to 63 to make catch-up contributions of \$10,000 per year above the standard limit for workplace retirement plans.

- A requirement that employers with 401(k) or 403(b) plans automatically enroll eligible employees in a workplace savings plan, starting at a contribution rate of at least 3% (workers can choose to opt out of the plan).

The ability of part-time workers to participate in a workplace retirement plan once they've worked at least 500 hours for two consecutive years, rather than the current three-year threshold.

### What does it mean for you?

How can these changes enhance your own retirement savings plan? It may be beneficial to talk to your financial advisor to determine how you might be able to leverage the new rules listed here and others to help secure your retirement savings plan.

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, is a Private Wealth Advisor and Certified

## You can choose direct deposit for refunds

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

People electronically filing their Form 1040-X, Amended Tax Return, are now able to select direct deposit for any resulting refund.



Previously, taxpayers who filed Form 1040-X with the IRS had to wait for a paper check for any refund.

This is the latest step the IRS is taking to improve service this tax filing season. As part of funding for the Inflation Reduction Act, the IRS has hired more than 5,000 new telephone assistants and is adding staff to IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers (TACs). The IRS also plans special service hours at dozens of TACS across the country on four Saturdays between February and May.

No matter how a taxpayer files the amended return, they can still use the Where's My Amended Return? online tool to check the status.

Taxpayers still have the option to submit a paper version of the Form 1040-X and receive a paper check. They should follow the instructions for preparing and submitting the paper form. Direct deposit is not available on amended returns submitted on paper.

Current processing time is more than 20 weeks for both paper and electronically filed amended returns, as processing an amended return remains a manual process even if it's filed electronically. However, filing electronically cuts out the mail time, and including direct deposit information on an electronically submitted form provides a convenient and secure way to receive refunds faster.



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# The New KCI Airport is a state-of-the-art facility

On February 28, Kansas City will unveil its brand new airport terminal, a 1.1 million square-foot, state-of-the-art facility that promises to provide a better experience for residents of Topeka and NE Kansas as well as the 2.1 million residents of the Kansas City Metro.

Metro Voice had the opportunity to explore the vast structure on before it officially opens.

Our impression? It puts Kansas City prominently at the front of the nation's best airports and promises to bring more airlines and expanded routes to the benefit of travelers.

The new terminal replaces a beloved three-ring design that was ahead of its time when it opened in the early 1970s. The old airport was known for car-to-gate convenience which allowed travelers to exit vehicles and be at their gate within 50 feet. After the attacks on 9/11, such convenience became a liability and untenable in the current security landscape.

Local leaders and officials have been closely involved in the development of the new terminal, and eagerly anticipate its opening. Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas praised the new airport's design and amenities, saying, "The new terminal is a game-changer for our city. It's a beautiful, modern facility that will make travel more enjoyable for everyone who visits our city."

Travelers will be shocked at the scale of the terminal, especially upon entering the Check-in Hall lined on the far side by each airline's ticket agent stands. In the middle of the hall, which features smooth Missouri quarried limestone, is a centralized TSA area with 14 lines to quickly allow travelers entrance to the concourses and their gate.

Exiting security, travelers are imme-



diately in the middle of the A concourse. The area is filled with restaurants and last-minute services for travelers.

The terminal uses over 900 windows and glass boarding bridges to bring the outside in. The entire space is flooded with light, a sharp contrast to the dark interior of the old terminal.

But the gargantuan size, conveniences and amenities of the new facility don't detract from what will still be a very convenient and easily maneuverable airport experience.

The new terminal is designed to be more efficient and user-friendly than the old airport, with a single, centralized terminal that will replace the three separate terminals of the old facility. It will also offer enhanced security screening, faster baggage handling, and a variety of new dining and shopping options for travelers.

Airport officials say that the distance from entering the airport to the farthest of its 40 gates is just 11 minutes. That's done by using two separate "people movers," or moving walkways. If you

choose to walk while it moves, it takes you across the bridge linking the two concourses quickly and makes short work of the long distance. In the middle, between the two moving walkways, is a mini-display on either side highlighting local history and the history of aviation across the metro. Above is an artwork installation that utilizes a painted surface covered with hundreds of white straps below. As you walk or use the moving walkway, the images change above.

Speaking of art, the city used its art budget to fill the Check-in Hall, concourses and each gate. In fact, every gate has original, locally produced artwork that ranges from electronic to paintings and sculptures. The entrance to the terminal boasts over 1,000 hanging mobiles that move with the current of the ventilation system. In the center of Concourse A, just past the security exit, is a fountain of light, mimicking Kansas City's famous outdoor fountains of water.

One drawback from Kansas City's selection of the 50 local restaurants in the terminal is the lack of an affordably priced and familiar choice for families with children. While \$14 hamburgers and \$16 BBQ entrees prevail across the concourses, you'll not find an inexpensive McDonalds or Culvers alternative. For families on a budget this oversight contradicts Kansas City and the Airport Authority's claim of "equity." Not every family wants to, or can afford to spend, \$100 on a meal during a layover or departure from the new KCI.

But other features do offer convenience and value for passengers. Charging stations have been installed everywhere, from underneath seats at the gates to long bars sporting high stools and other seating areas. In addition, the gate seating areas boast much more room than the previous terminal. All the gate seats have great views of the tarmac and arriving and departing planes.

One of the complaints of the old terminal was the seemingly antiquated luggage handling process. While departing passengers use the upper level of the terminal, arrivals will get their luggage on the lower level with a new baggage system handles over 3,000 pieces per hour. This allows travelers to quickly and easily identify and retrieve their bags to a faster exit of the airport.

Need to use the restroom? Gone is the single restroom in each gate at the old terminal. Restrooms are now conveniently located across both concourses. Plus, there's no need to enter the restroom to see if a stall is open. A digital

enjoyable for everyone."

The terminal features solar panels, rainwater harvesting for its vast landscaping design, and energy-efficient lighting. "We wanted to make sure that the new terminal was not only functional but also environmentally friendly," said Klein. "We're proud to say that it's one of the most sustainable airports in the country."

Local business leaders are also optimistic about the impact of the new terminal on the city's economy. "The airport is a critical gateway to our city," said Joe Reardon, President and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of



sign displays how many stalls are available in real time.

Exiting the terminal is easy with electronic signs directing you to the correct bus to long-term and economy parking as well as the new 6,000 space parking

Commerce. "The new terminal will help us attract more visitors, businesses, and investment to the region, which will help drive economic growth and create jobs."

Overall, the new Kansas City airport terminal is a major development for the



garage across the driveway from the terminal.

"The new terminal will be a huge improvement over the old one," said Kansas City Aviation Director Pat Klein. "It's designed to be more efficient, with state-of-the-art technology and amenities that will make travel easier and more

city, and one that local leaders are excited to see come to fruition. "This is a proud moment for our city," said Mayor Lucas. "We can't wait to welcome travelers to our beautiful new airport and show them what Kansas City has to offer."

—Dwight Widaman / Metro Voice

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# Mini-seminar on faith, science for college students is March 4



Can science and faith coexist? The question resonates with Christian students heading off to college. To address their question a special 1-hour seminar will be held on Saturday, March 4 at the Midwest Christian College Fair being held in Kansas City. The seminar is from 9 to 10am and repeats at 12:30 pm. The free college fair runs from 10 to noon and is held at Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd. in Kansas City, just blocks from Leawood, Kansas.

Mr. Dave Napier, a speaker with the Institute for Creation Research teaches audiences about worldviews. He'll lead the seminar "Navigating Faith and Science in College." Napier will address a popular misconception that faith and science are incompatible. The presentation, which is sponsored by Bott Radio Network and Metrovoicenews.com, will present students with the information they need while giving them the confidence to be successful participants in scientific academics and careers.

Col. Jeff Williams is a retired NASA astronaut who traveled to space four times. He agrees there is no conflict between the two. He would know. He's a Christian with several science degrees, and masters' degrees in Aeronautical Engineering and national security. He's also won numerous Naval and NASA awards.

"Science does not contradict Christianity," he says. "There is no contradiction. The contradiction comes into your philosophy going into your science. And your philosophy acknowledges a God that has either revealed himself specifically in the scriptures of the Bible, or your philosophy dis-

counts or doesn't allow a God. Then you have to explain the existence of everything by chance over time."

Williams, who is a board member with the Institute for Creation Research (ICR), believes there is a God who has revealed himself in creation as well as in his word.

He recently visited a new exhibit at the Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C., that explores the relationship between the Bible and science. He served on the committee that brought in the exhibit.

"The exhibit reaffirms all of the elements that I believe in, in terms of my faith and also applying the faith to the question of science and scripture," he says. "Many of the scientists in the age of science -- whom we all read about in our textbooks about the laws of physics and chemistry -- were believers first. They were theologians first. People like Kepler and Newton and Faraday and Maxwell and many others. They were driven by their faith and their understanding of their calling before God to fulfill that calling."

That's a view that many high school students and young adults are unfa-

miliar with. In fact, polling of college students reveal they struggle with connecting their faith in scientific academic studies at the college level.

ICR, in addition to its vast research resources, works to remedy that disconnect. The organization will feature a mini-seminar at the Midwest Christian College Expo in Kansas City on March 4. It begins at 9 a.m. just prior to the doors opening to the Expo where up to 60 colleges will have booths to connect with students and parents.

It's a topic that Lawrence Principe, a member of an advisory board that helped bring the exhibit to the museum, thinks is vital to students.

Principe says we need to bring together two pillars of human culture and proclaim they're not in opposition. "That is scripture, religious belief and scientific investigation, and to look at the interactions between the two over time. I'm hoping people will see that science and faith have a complicated history of relationship with one another. Sometimes working in the same direction and sometimes in debate with one another. But many of the questions both are trying to address are similar about life, human beings' place in the universe, the structure of the cosmos and so forth."

The mini-seminar "Navigating Faith and Science in College" begins at 9 am on March 4 and runs until 10 with time for questions afterwards. Doors open to the Midwest Christian College Expo at 10 a.m. and it runs until noon. Both events are taking place at Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, Mo.

To learn more about the College Expo, visit metrovoicenews.com

—By Dwight Widaman



## SNCO announces summer camps, swim lessons, hiring

Online registration opens March 1 for Shawnee County Parks + Recreation swim lessons and March 7 for Shawnee County Parks + Recreation summer camps. Links will be posted on the website at parks.snco.us that will go live on March 1 and March 7. Camp and swim lesson information will also be posted on the website.

Shawnee County Parks + Recreation is hiring! They need camp counselors, lifeguards, horticulture staff, park and golf course maintenance staff, concessions staff, sports site staff and more. There are hun-

dreds of positions. Visit [www.snco.us/oasys](http://www.snco.us/oasys) to apply.

Pay ranges from \$10-\$15 per hour depending on experience.

The positions are particularly good for high school and college students, retirees, teachers and others with schedules tied to an academic year.

Lifeguard applicants may apply at age 15. All applicants must be 16-years-old before they can be hired. Camp counselors and applicants for park or golf course maintenance positions must be at least 18 years old.

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## From the Land of Kansas Celebrates 45th Anniversary

From the Land of Kansas, the state's agricultural trademark program, is celebrating its 45th anniversary in 2023. The program will kick off its celebration at the Kansas State Capitol on Monday, March 6, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Members of the From the Land of Kansas program will be offering samples of their products and showcasing their businesses.

The From the Land of Kansas program began in 1978 within the state's agriculture agency, now the Kansas Department of Agriculture, and was designed to promote and celebrate agriculture experiences and products grown, raised or produced in Kansas. The program has grown to include 375 members and farmers' markets. These businesses span the breadth of the agriculture industry, from restaurants, agriculture equipment manufacturers, retailers, farmers and ranchers, to food processors, agritourism, wineries, breweries and distilleries.

Basic membership of the state's trademark program is free and additional benefits are tailored to support all types of businesses, new or established, and assist them with taking their business to the next level. The program's website, [FromtheLandofKansas.com](http://FromtheLandofKansas.com), also provides a map to help consumers find Kansas businesses and farmers' markets across the state.

"It's been the best thing for our business," said member Christina Blincoe

with Sweet Streams Lavender Farm in Bucyrus, Kansas. "We have seen growth from the program every year consistently. We love having the logo on our website because it's an automatic accreditation of our farm. We love the online store to share our products on the website."

From the Land of Kansas also hosts an e-commerce website, [shop.fromthelandofkansas.com](http://shop.fromthelandofkansas.com), where members can sell their products online, reaching more customers across the state of Kansas and the U.S. In honor of the 45th anniversary, the program is offering a limited-edition classic shirt representing products grown, raised and produced in Kansas which can also be found at [shop.fromthelandofkansas.com](http://shop.fromthelandofkansas.com).

"I'm very passionate about helping farmers and Kansas businesses succeed and thrive in the agriculture industry," said Sammy Gleason, marketing manager for From the Land of Kansas. "My dad is a fourth-generation Kansas farmer, which makes the From the Land of Kansas program something I hold close to my heart. I love serving our members, no matter the size of their business; they give me a purpose."

For more information about the program and its members, visit [FromtheLandofKansas.com](http://FromtheLandofKansas.com) or engage with the program through social media by following From the Land of Kansas on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

## Lake Shawnee receives trout stocking

Lake Shawnee was stocked with 7,000 pounds of rainbow trout in late February. The lake will be closed until 6 a.m. March 4 to allow the fish time to disperse and acclimate to their new surroundings.



The stocking is done in partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks as part of the Communities Fisheries Assistance Program. Trout season runs through April 15, 2023. During this time, anglers must have a \$14.50 trout permit. Trout permits may be purchased at most locations where fishing licenses are sold or online. More information on trout fishing in Kansas can be found at <https://ksoutdoors.com/Fishing/Special-Fishing-Programs-for-You/Trout-Fishing-Program>. CFAP funds offset the cost of fishing pro-

grams at Lake Shawnee including the stocking of the lake with trout in the spring and fall of each year.

The trout stocking program

began in 1979 when KDWP Secretary, Mike Hayden approached Parks and Recreation Director Ted Ensley about stocking the lake.

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# Rise of the ‘nons’ is shaking the American religious landscape

“The two biggest stories in American religion are the nons and the nons,” premier numbers guy Ryan Burge told Christianity Today.

Nones, so prominent in the media this past decade, are those increasing Americans who tell pollsters they have no religious identity or affiliation.

## Who are the Nons?

But nons? They’re nondenominational Protestants whose local congregations are wholly self-governing and independent of traditional denominations. A blockbuster in the November U.S. Religion Census report said that taken together, they number 21 million and are unquestionably the largest U.S. Protestant group, exceeding by millions the largest denomination, the Southern Baptist Convention, and second only to Catholics.

This is a story that is everywhere. There are 44,319 “nons” congregations, an increase of 8,823 since 2010, and this crowd now claims more than 13% of the nation’s churchgoers.

At the end of a hectic 2022, we could proclaim the now-documented rise of the nons the Story of the Year, one that local and national media need to be pursuing. This development was quickly highlighted by Daniel Silliman of Christianity



Today and Tracy Simmons for Religion Unplugged. Summarized CT, “Little noticed, they have been quietly reworking the religious landscape.”

Most such congregations are evangelical (or charismatic-Pentecostal) and they are young. Although many are modest in size, they’re prominent on the Outreach100 list of the largest U.S. Protestant congregations.

Thus, this is a story that is local, regional and national. Think Highlands in Birmingham, Lakewood in Houston, Crossroads in Cincinnati, Christ Fellowship in Palm Beach or North Point outside Atlanta. One celebrated example, Willow Creek in suburban Chicago, now ranks 69th among the megachurches.

As GetReligion’s Terry Mattingly

observes, these independents often lack “even minimal legal, financial, ethical or theological oversight” from authorities outside their bubbles, and often the founding preacher wields “complete control, with a hand-picked board as the only balance on his power.” Scandals can result.

Rising alongside the nons, the much-celebrated nons constituted a mere 5.1% of Americans in 1972 but zoomed to 23.7% as of 2018 in General Social Survey data. Other sources post higher percentages than that. This largely reflects the unprecedented slide of those identifying with predominantly White and religiously flexible mainline Protestant denominations that GSS put at 27.9% of Americans in 1972 and a disastrous 9.9% by 2018 — with the decline speeding up during the coronavirus

pandemic.

Political scientist and American Baptist pastor Burge wrote the book — literally — on the nons, and a second edition of his perceptive 2021 work is due next May. Journalists also need to focus on what Burge therein identifies as “the fastest-growing religious group in the United States today.” That would be “nothing in particular” folks, a flock this Memo will label “NIPs.”

## Big difference on Nons et al

To explain, polls often lump together all religiously unaffiliated respondents as “nones,” but Burge stresses the differences among three groups that are often separated out in, for instance, Pew Research surveys. Atheists are convinced God does not exist. Agnostics either do not themselves know or think nobody can know. Both are small and stable populations.

The rising NIPs, by far the biggest niche among nons, simply claim no specific identity or affiliation — so “nothing in particular.”

Burge stresses that NIPs are substantially different from the other two “none” categories, less educated, less affluent, more politically conservative, uninvolved not only with churches but all community activities, and less hostile toward religion. He sees the socially disengaged NIPs as the prime target for Christians’

21st century outreach.

Let’s not neglect yet another group identified in the title of this brand-new book: “Nonverts: The Making of Ex-Christian America.” Author Stephen Bullivant, a British sociologist who is Catholic, defines nonverts as Americans who were raised religious and convert to “none” status, as opposed to those continuing their nonreligious backgrounds.

Why did this upheaval occur recently and not during the anti-establishment 1960s? Bullivant identifies such factors as a backlash against “religious right” politicking, the end of shared Cold War enemies, the internet’s linking of isolated skeptics and that more nons exist simply because there are more nons(!). More here.

The U.S. Religion Census has been conducted once per decade since 1990 by the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies. Its data gain importance with the demise of the standard annual yearbook compilation of church groups’ own numbers, issued for 96 years until the financially strapped National Council of Churches ceased publication in 2012.

—Richard Ostling is a former religion reporter for *The Associated Press* and former correspondent for *TIME Magazine*. This piece first appeared at *Get Religion*. Used with permission.

## Kansas KidWind Challenge sees record participants

As the amount of wind energy produced in Kansas grows, the Kansas Corporation Commission says so too does the number of students who participate in the Kansas KidWind Challenge. The annual event has grown from one regional challenge in 2016 to six in 2022.

In 2023, the Kansas KidWind Challenge will welcome a record-breaking number of participants to put their self-made wind turbines to the test, with 96 teams from 55 schools competing. In 2022, only 56 teams from 26 schools competed.

The challenge began in February and will continue with regional competitions before the top two teams in each age group advance to the state finals scheduled for March 25 in Topeka. State winners will then proceed to the national competition to be held May 14-17 in Boulder, Colo.



The Commission noted that three Kansas teams earned national titles in 2022.

To participate in the challenge, the KCC said student teams work together to design, build and test a wind turbine with materials of their choice. Each tur-

bine is put to the test in a wind tunnel and scores are based on that performance, a knowledge quiz, a presentation to judges and an instant challenge. Students in 4th through 12th grade are eligible.

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# Christian music festivals can help rebuild family bonds, says Skillet's John Cooper

John Cooper of the Christian band Skillet believes music festivals can help restore the family dynamic in the nation. He specifically mentioned Rock the Universe which took place over the weekend at Universal Studios in Orlando.

"Even in culture right now, even if you were to take the religious aspect out of something like this, you've really only got two events that bring Americans together, which is sports and music," Cooper says. "We can't agree on anything. But you go to a concert or a sporting match, and everybody sort of like, 'OK, we can at least agree on this. We're here to have fun.'"

In years past, he said, it's been an event that non-Christians have attended with their children because they enjoy music, and it's a family friendly, festive occasion.

"Not that everybody there is a Christian or even religious, but a



large percentage of people are, and they're joining together, because you all agree on something," Cooper said. "What we agree on, usually for lots of people, is that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life, and we want to

celebrate that."

For those who are not Christian, Cooper said he often has heard that some families choose to attend the annual event because it's a safe place to go to and enjoy music. "I've met people

who said, 'I gave my life to Christ at a Christian music event like Rock the Universe, and now I'm here and I'm bringing my kids at the very place that I gave my life to Christ,' he said.

Skillet has been around for

nearly 30 years and is part of Pandora's 'Billionaires' club, launched in 2018 to designate bands and artists that have surpassed more than one billion streams. With each passing decade, Cooper said he's seen changes among their audience.

"As the world gets crazier, what I'm seeing in my concerts anyway, is that a lot of people are coming, bringing their families," Cooper said. "Skillet is becoming a family event, even for people who are not into the Jesus part. They're like, 'I'm not into the Jesus stuff, but I can bring my kids here, and I'm running out of places to bring them.' Because even sports are getting inundated with woke culture that even as non-Christians, they're uncomfortable with.

"So I still think the church is the answer. God's way always works, and it's going to work in 2023 if we will listen."

## Health Department Seeking Nominations for 2023 Public Health Champion Awards



The Shawnee County Health Department (SCHD) is issuing a Call for Nominations regarding its Annual Public Health Champion Awards. The 2023 Public Health Champion Awards will recognize one individual and one organization that have made outstanding contributions to our community by championing and leading equitable opportunities for health across the Topeka/Shawnee County community.

The concept of this award is to

encourage individuals and organizations to take action by supporting opportunities for health for everyone. Actions include for example: getting involved in local health policy initiatives, volunteering time, donating to worthy causes, or even creating sustainable environmental changes.

"With so much outstanding work happening in the realm of public health, we think it is important to recognize those individuals and organizations that are acting as public

health leaders improving the places that we live, work and play in Topeka and Shawnee County," said SCHD Director Teresa Fisher.

The nomination survey can be completed at the following link and can also be found on the SCHD Webpage: <https://www.snco.us/HD/>

You can find the 2023 Public Health Champion Nomination Form at: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7169763/2023-Shawnee-County-Public-Health-Champion-Award>

Nominations will be evaluated by the Leadership Team of the SCHD. The award recipients will be selected based on demonstrated achievements toward improving the underlying social and economic conditions which support health. Award recipients will be honored at an awards ceremony as part of the Annual Community Conversation on the County Health Rankings in May 2023

Paper forms of the nomination forms are available by request. For more information regarding the

2023 Public Health Champion Award, please contact Craig Barnes, Division Manager of

Community Health Outreach and Planning at 785.251.5612 or [craig.barnes@snco.us](mailto:craig.barnes@snco.us).

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# Pro-life centers provide better services at lower cost than abortion clinics

Pro-life pregnancy centers offer better and less-expensive services than abortion facilities, according to recent study in the journal "Contraception".

In particular, it found that pregnancy centers had shorter appointment wait times than abortion facilities and were considerably more likely to offer same-day appointments. Even more importantly, it found that abortion facilities frequently charge for pregnancy tests and ultrasounds while pregnancy help centers almost never charge for these services.

That's not news to the hundreds of pro-life centers serving women from Kansas City to Miami and Los Angeles to Boston.

The authors paired 445 abortion



facilities with a nearby pregnancy help center. Data from all 50 states were collected and analyzed. The authors found that more than 68 percent of pregnancy help centers

offered same-day pregnancy visits compared with only about 32 percent of abortion facilities. Furthermore, only a small percentage of the pro-life pregnancy centers included

in the study charged for either pregnancy tests or ultrasounds. Conversely, at abortion facilities, the median price for a pregnancy test was \$24, and the median price for an ultrasound was just over \$162.

The authors also analyzed abortion facilities in 25 states with policy environments they deemed supportive of pregnancy help centers. Specifically, these 25 states provided either direct or indirect funding to pregnancy help centers or had legislation in place that required referrals to pregnancy help centers. In these states, abortion facilities had shorter wait times for pregnancy tests. They also, on average, charged less for both pregnancy tests and ultrasounds. Overall, it appears that competition from preg-

nancy help centers has an impact on abortion facilities.

"Contraception" is not a conservative academic journal. Many of the studies it publishes have a bias in favor of legal abortion and contraception use. Furthermore, the authors of the study are academics affiliated with the University of Pittsburgh, and none has a connection with a pro-life group.

"A liberal academic journal published an analytically rigorous study showing that pregnancy centers offer better and less costly services to women," the story said. "Overall, this is a great testament to the nearly 3,000 pregnancy help centers in the United States that tirelessly provide life-affirming alternatives to pregnant women every day."

## "Soul Surfer" takes stand against men competing in women's sports

The story of Bethany Hamilton, the Christian surfer who survived a shark attack, was told in the 2011 movie "Soul Surfer." Last weekend, she found support online from fellow athletes after she spoke out against the World Surf League's rules that will allow biological men to compete as women in surfing events.

Hamilton said in a video posted to her Instagram that she would not be participating in WSL events if the rule remains. The WSL said transgender female athletes need to maintain a testosterone level of 5 nmol/L for at least a year to participate in the women's division. Hamilton said in her video she would rather see WSL create a new division.

"I personally think that the best solution would be to create a different division so that all can have a fair opportunity to showcase their passion and talent — and I think it's really hard to imagine what the future of women's surfing will be like in 15 to 20 years down the road if we move forward allowing this major change," she said.

Olympic gold medalist skier Julia Mancuso and NCAA All-American swimmer Riley Gaines expressed support for Hamilton in the Instagram comments section of her video.



"I support you. Bethany," Mancuso wrote. "Thanks for speaking up for all women and girls out there. Those are all interesting questions to navigate this difficult topic, and let's hope we can keep fighting for the future of women's sports."

Gaines added: "THANK YOU for using your platform to share this. I can't express how inspiring this is."

Former competitive surfing champion Shane Dorian also added his name to those who supported Hamilton.

"Speak your truth! Thank you for being brave enough to stand up for what you believe," he wrote.

"Don't listen to people who hurl the word transphobic at anyone who's beliefs don't align perfectly with theirs. These are complicated problems with no clear solution. Regardless, there many people who love and support the trans community who agree with you on these issues."

Hamilton went on to clarify her points in the comments.

"I was messaging with a friend who is a part of the (LGBTQ) community, and I really don't think at this point there is a solution that will please everyone," she wrote. "There are different world views and that is part of life. I may not have the perfect answer. But I do

feel the way I do and will continue to stand firm in what I shared here."

She is currently being attacked

by trans activists and those on the left for her defense of women's sports.



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Metro Voice is published monthly and serves the communities of Topeka, Lawrence, and other communities in NE Kansas. It is available primarily by bulk and subscription distribution to over 400 locations, including grocery stores, churches, schools, restaurants, bookstores, libraries, businesses and other retail outlets. Written materials submitted become property of Metro Voice. The content of this publication, including all stories, advertising or other graphic symbols, may not be reproduced in any way, for commercial purposes or added to any web site without the express permission of Metro Voice. Advertising in MV is open to anyone wishing to reach the Christian community or the family market with family-friendly advertising. MV reserves the right to refuse any advertising. Metro Voice is a member of the Christian Newspaper Association and the Evangelical Press Association.



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## What God Wants You to Know

God wants you to know that, before Moses' encounter with God and the Burning Bush, God had already planned to use Moses as the leader to lead his chosen people out of slavery in the land of Egypt. God told Moses to tell Pharaoh, that He (God), had raised him (Pharaoh) up, so that God would show His power to him and to the world.

By this time in human history, some 900 years after the Great Flood, Noah's descendants in Egypt had many idol gods, and they even included the human Pharaoh as a god.

Moses also told Pharaoh that God wanted Pharaoh to know that "the earth is the LORD's" and that He wanted His name declared throughout the world. And Jehovah God still wants his named declared throughout the World today.

Not because the Creator needs fame, but because He sees the human souls/spirits he loves going to Hell every day, because of the prevailing unbelief in the world. God wants to prevent people from suffering in Hell, and later in the Lake of Fire forever, and ever.

Pharaoh failed to obey God each time God told him to "let my people go", so God, used his awesome power which caused much suffering, devastation, and death. God wants you to know that under God's orders all the rivers and waters in Egypt were turned into blood when Moses' rod touched the water at the river edge (Ex 7). Turning water into blood was the first plague, the other nine are listed in Exodus 8 thru 11.

The Second plague God used against the Egyptians was frogs, and the frogs covered the whole ground of Egypt, and everything inside their homes. This was fol-

lowed by the plague of lice and the plague of flies which further tormented the Egyptians. The next plague killed all the cattle owned by the Egyptians. Next God caused boils upon Pharaoh's magicians, and upon all the Egyptians. Other plagues included thunder and hail with fire running along on the ground, the plague of locusts, the plague of "a thick Darkness," which lasted three whole days, and the death of "every first born" Egyptian.

Through all the plagues, God protected his people so that they were not affected.

God wants you to know that every one of the ten plagues shows that nothing is impossible to God the Creator of Heaven and Earth. Even parting the Red Sea, and immediately drying the Red Sea floor, for his people to cross on dry ground. And then drowning the Egyptian Army who were in hot pursuit!

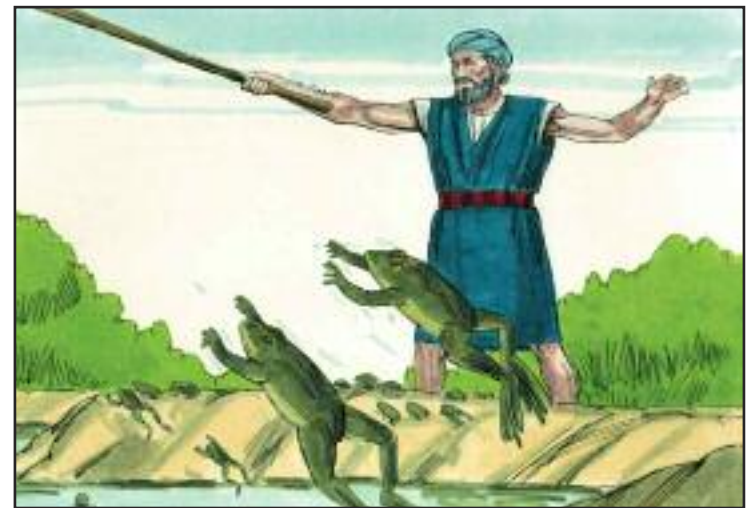
God wants you to believe in Him, and not in Man! GOD IS NO MYTH!

God used ten plagues to demonstrate His awesome power. Also, to show that He alone is God, the Creator, and the owner of everything ever made or created.

It was just the beginning of what God wanted that Human generation, and future generations, to know about Him.

To do that, God used Moses, the "meekest" man on Earth at that time (in God's own word), and He also used Moses to write the first five books of the Holy Bible.

God made Moses his prophet so that Moses would pass God's Holy Word to humanity. Then, after Moses, God selected other prophets to communicate his Word to Mankind, and they told of God's Word, and wrote books



which are found in the Holy Bible.

Those prophets knew that they were to tell just what God told them to say, or they would suffer the consequences. They feared God, and therefore they spoke and wrote the truth!

Obviously, one of the first things God did that you should know, was, to tell Moses who He was. He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And "Moses hid his face: for he was afraid to look upon God."

Unfortunately, that fear of God has disappeared from America and the World nowadays. Now people are told the Great Flood is a myth, ignoring the fact that God destroyed all humans except for Noah's family.

So God had Moses tell us some of what God wants you to know by telling us in the Book of Genesis, about God's creation. The Book of Genesis does not tell the exact date that God Created Heaven and Earth, only that "In the Beginning" He created them. But it Does tell us that sometime after that, in six days, God made some important changes to the formless earth and void Heaven, and added all kinds of herbs, trees, sea, air, and land creatures, and of course Adam and Eve.

It is from His human creation and his creation of time that God wants us to know that all animals and humans have only existed several thousand years and not millions or billions of years. Aw, the foolishness of Man!

-Manuel Ybarra, Jr.

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# Asbury and the History of American Revivals

Two weeks ago, what started as a routine (and according to the preacher, “lackluster”) chapel service at Asbury University became something remarkable. Instead of heading off to classes, students stayed to pray and worship. Services have continued ever since, with people traveling from near and far to join in prayer, repentance, and song. What is being called a “revival” by some and an “awakening” by others has now spread to other Christian colleges.

The past few days echo the revivals that were experienced in the recent past on other Christian college campuses, including one at Wheaton College in 1995, and those at Asbury in 1970 and 1950. In each case, there were seemingly spontaneous expressions from students of prayer, confession, and praise. The revivals of the past are an indelible part of Asbury’s historical memory, and many who experienced the 1970 revival have prayed ever since for it to happen again.

Revivals have been, in fact, a consistent, distinct feature of American religious life since before our nation’s founding. The First Great Awakening,

in the early 1700s, was part of a larger, trans-Atlantic spiritual renewal centered on personal conversion, an emphasis that had a transformative effect on the emerging American consciousness. The idea that a genuinely converted, common ploughboy was spiritually ahead of an unconverted bishop contributed to a growing anti-hierarchical attitude in the colonies. This, in time, contributed to a growing anti-monarchical mood, setting the stage for revolution.

The Second Great Awakening, which swept the nation decades later, coupled a similar focus on conversion with post-millennial eschatology. Among the results was a drive for social reform. Abolitionism, temperance, and efforts against prostitution became calling cards of what came to be known as evangelicism.

Other revivals followed, and most included an added focus on foreign missions. The Prayer Meeting, or



Businessman’s Revival, of the 1850s was followed by revivals in the camps of both armies during the Civil War, the urban efforts and revival preaching of D.L. Moody of the 1870s and 80s, and the theatrics of Billy Sunday’s revivals of the turn of the century. Soon after came the Azusa Street Revival in California, which led to a massive growth of Pentecostalism and the charismatic movement worldwide, and then eventually led to the Jesus People of the 1970s.

And those are only the “big” ones. Simply put, revivalism, with a focus on a personal faith with public implications, dramatically shaped American life and culture and is a major reason that Amer-

ica remained more religious than Europe for so long. At the same time, revivals and revivalism have always faced a good deal of criticism, including charges of excess, hyper-emotionalism, manufactured techniques, and anti-intellectualism.

Jonathan Edwards, a major figure of the First Great Awakening, understood the dangers inherent to revivalist fervor, but he also believed in these unusual times when the Holy Spirit moved among a people. Perhaps America’s greatest intellectual, Edwards prayed and worked towards revival, and he offered criteria for evaluating it. According to Edwards, a true work of the Holy Spirit elevates Christ, opposes sin and Satan, prizes the Bible, distinguishes truth from error, and manifests love. He also understood that in the midst of such a movement, there would be things to oppose as well.

All of this is helpful as we try to grasp what has happened at Asbury, and now beyond, over these last two weeks. We’d do well to remember Jesus’ warning that there will be tares among the wheat, and

that the remarkable times in which the power of God and goodness of Christ are made manifest are ways in which God graciously prepares us for life off of the mountaintops. Though, like Peter and John, we may want to remain in such times and places, He will eventually have work for us to do elsewhere. Critics would do well to recall the history of God working through awakenings and revival, both in this nation and elsewhere, as well as the faithful who sincerely believe that God has answered their years of praying for revival to return to Asbury.

What we can all be sure of (and thankful for!) is that God is constantly at work in His world, sometimes in extraordinary but most often in “ordinary” ways. God is constantly speaking through His world, through His Word, and ultimately, in His Son. May we have the ears to hear Him. And may He grant us the hearts to pray that an awareness of sin and a passion for God and His people would grow in the hearts of these students, long after the mountaintop high of the revival has faded in their memory.

—John Stonestreet and Glenn Sunshine | BreakPoint.org

## Revival and Reform: What is it?



**CLINT DECKER**

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

### Speaking Truth

Reform. It is often a word associated with politics like immigration reform, police reform and economic reform. However, there is also a spiritual side to the term. When God moves upon an individual, a city or even a church, He calls people to reform. And what happens if people respond to God? Revival!

Through Jeremiah, God spoke to the people of Israel saying, “I have sent to you all my servants the prophets, sending them persistently, saying, “Turn now every one of you from his evil way, and amend your deeds...” (Jeremiah 35:15) God was calling the nation to moral and spiritual reform, which reflects repentance, meaning a

change of mind and life, that turns toward God and His Word by faith.

If Israel would have humbled themselves and responded positively, revival would have come, but instead, they stubbornly refused and their nation fell.

On the other hand, the Apostle Peter preached to the Jews in Jerusalem two months after Jesus’ death and resurrection. He declared to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 2:37) And how did they respond? Thousands of Jews in Israel turned to Jesus by faith, changed their ways, then revival came. It swept across Israel, the Roman Empire and to the ends of the earth.

We want revival, but not the reform. We want the spiritual experience without the change. Why? Because that is the hard part. For over 40 years, Jeremiah preached reform with no revival. And prior to Peter’s message, John the Baptist and Jesus labored at reform for three and half years. John’s preaching got him exe-

cuted through decapitation and Jesus’ preaching got him crucified. And even in the midst of the revival under Peter and the Apostles, believers were brutally killed for their message. But despite that, among the multitudes who did respond, the flames of revival continued burning brightly.

Why is revival so rare? In part, because calling and responding to moral and spiritual reform is resisted. Preachers rarely call for it because it is naturally offensive to their congregations, and people do not heed the message because they want to continue in their ways. They come to realize it is not about giving up drinking, smoking and cussing. It is about a complete reordering of one’s life under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. It means a new set of beliefs, habits and life direction.

And this reordering starts with the individual, but the kind of reform that brings real and lasting revival also affects institutions. There comes a change in the family, in how daily life is handled in the home. There also comes change in the operation of a business, change in the programming



of a church, and change in the policies of a government.

God is calling you to amend your ways. He is inviting you to turn in a new direction. He is leading you into doing the hard thing. Why? He wants to save you from His judgement and the consequences of ungodly decisions for yourself and future generations. He also wants to pour out His Spirit within you, bring you into His family and give you an eternal inheritance in a blessed and glorious heavenly kingdom.

A prayer for you. “Lord God, we acknowledge we have resisted your

call to reform. We want the experience without the pain of changing our ways. Come Lord, this day, we yield ourselves to you and accept your call to reform. Change us, O God, by your wise and loving hand. Then change our families, businesses, churches and cities. In Jesus’ name. Amen.”

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings and Speaking Truth is a nationally syndicated column. Please share your comment with Clint at [cdecker@greatawakenings.org](mailto:cdecker@greatawakenings.org) and follow his blog at [clintdecker.blogspot.com](http://clintdecker.blogspot.com).





## Spring activities coming to NOTO

Activities continue in NOTO as we enter the spring months.

**First Friday Art Walk & Market** is the first Friday of every month. The North Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down N. Kansas Avenue, as well as streetside vendors. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art gal-



leries antiques and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

Art Walk Hours are 10 am to 9 pm.

Star Sister Revival will play at 6pm at Redbud park on March 3.

The **SEASONS** Annual Fiber Juried Show is March 3-April 29 at

NOTO Arts Center in the Morris Art Gallery. Hours are Wed 11-5, Thur & Fri 11-7 (First Fridays until 8pm), Sat 10-4

**Redbud Festival** kicks off April 1 and goes through April 29. On April 1, 11-3 you can experience Youth Art Exhibition, Redbud Park Pavilion, and Otto's Scavenger Hunt. From 12-3 there is music in the park from Kyler Carpenter & Josh Hoover. From 1-3 is the Redbud Sprig Giveaway & Planting Tips.

**EasterFest** comes up on April 8 with an Easter Parade on N. Kansas Avenue and a Fun Fair at Great Overland Station. A Big Egg Hunt, Food Trucks, Craft Fair, inflatables and kids games, a Health Fair and more will be on hand. For details see Topeka Easter Parade on facebook.

**NOTO in Bloom** is April 22 and is a benefit for the NOTO Arts and Entertainment District endowment. This unique event celebrates the best of NOTO—the art, the food, the experience – and its impact on the community

For more information visit <https://exploreNOTO.org>

**The Story of NOTO in Art** is a project that is in the works for the Kansas Avenue bridge and the grassy area east of Veteran's Park. These areas will tell the NOTO Story with bridge murals and sculptures. You can help support this project with a donation to the Heidi Trejo Memorial Fund:

<https://explorenoto.org/support/heidi-lynn-norris-trejo-art-fund/>

**Other North Topeka events:**

**SENIORS PITCH CLUB** - Every Tuesday 1 pm at Garfield Community Center. First visit free then a dollar per visit for coffee and replacement cards

For more information visit <https://exploreNOTO.org>.

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

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## CONCERTS

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

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

**GRAND OTTAWA OPRY** – 2nd & 4th Saturday,

5:30PM-pre-show, 6PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa. Tickets are \$15 and only at the door. Ph. 785-241-6762, email [grandotopr@gmail.com](mailto:grandotopr@gmail.com). [GrandOttawaOpry.com](http://GrandOttawaOpry.com)

**STARSISTER REVIVAL** – Mar. 3, 6pm, Redbud Park in NOTO. Part of First Friday events.

**BIG DADDY WEAVE** – Mar 15, 7pm, Fellowship Bible Church. [transparentproductions.com](http://transparentproductions.com)

**GREATER VISION CONCERT** – Mar. 31, 7pm, Wana-maker Woods Nazarene Church, 3501 SW Wana-maker. Freewill offering. Doors open at 6pm. (785) 273-2248. [wwoodsnaz@wnnaz.org](http://wwoodsnaz@wnnaz.org)

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

**SENIOR FIT & FUN PROGRAM** – every Mon., Wed., & Fri., 1:30pm, Rolling Hills Christian Church, 4530 NW

Hiawatha Place (US Hwy 75 & NW 46th St.) 785-286-0601 or [office@rhctoepka.org](mailto:office@rhctoepka.org)

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

**HOPE HOUSE FREE COMMUNITY CLOTHING BANK** – Wed. 6-8pm and Sat. 12-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 939 NE Oakland

**HARVESTER FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION** – 2nd Saturday each month, 1:30-3pm, Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 939 NE Oakland

**FREE WEEKLY COMMUNITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST** – Sundays 8:10 to 10:30am, at Oakland Church of the Nazarene: 939 NE Oakland, followed by church services at 10:45am with Pastor Jeanette Cook.

**FIRST SATURDAY BREAKFAST BUFFET** – 7:30 AM - 10:00 AM, Shawnee Heights UMC, 6020 SE 44th

**INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH** – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Location: 2020 SE 21st. For info: 785-380-7031 or [io@insideoutinc.net](mailto:io@insideoutinc.net) or [www.insideoutinc.net](http://www.insideoutinc.net)

**KIDS FOR JESUS!** – Wednesday's 6:30 – 8pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, enemies! For info: 785-266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: [Lakenaz@aol.com](mailto:Lakenaz@aol.com)

**"THE CHOSEN"** – Feb. 5 and following, 9:30am, Kansas Avenue United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. Episodes from Season 3 will be shown

**FRIDAY FISH FRY** – Fridays thru March 31, 4-7pm, SacredHeart Catholic Church Hall, 312 NE Freeman Ave. Adults, \$10; 12 & under, \$5. Fish or Shrimp. Take-out available, (785) 234-6727. 5:30pm Stations. [SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org](http://SacredHeartStJosephCatholic.org)

**DELIVERANCE TRAINING & TEACHING** – Mar. 11, 9am-4pm, Harvest Family Fellowship, 522 SW Polk St. Preparing the Body of Christ to deliver this generation. Pastors Rey & Alice Rodriguez present Speakers: Wyatt & Lori Bartlow. Special Guest: Pastor Lorenzo Jackson.

**'KEEPER OF THE KINGDOM' VBS** – June 12 to Family Fun Night, June 16, 6 - 8pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, & enemies! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: [Lakenaz@aol.com](mailto:Lakenaz@aol.com)

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

**SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH** – Weekdays, except holidays, at noon at Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N. Washington Street. Minimal cost per person. Reserva-



**GREATER VISION**

Concert at **March 31<sup>st</sup>** • Doors open at 6pm  
**The Woods** **7:00pm** • Freewill Offering  
 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. • 785-273-2248 • [wwoodsnaz@wnnaz.org](mailto:wwoodsnaz@wnnaz.org)

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

• Business • Non-profits • Churches

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

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

**Mar. 9, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon**  
**Featuring: Marketing opportunities**  
**at Great Overland Station**

Open to the public.  
 RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org)



Save the Dates!

- Apr. 8: **EASTERFEST** at Great Overland Station!
- Apr. 13: **POWER Luncheon**, 11:30-1
- May 11: **POWER Luncheon**, 11:30-1

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

**BLEEDING KANSAS**  
 PROGRAM SERIES 2023  
 CONSTITUTION HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE | HISTORIC LECOMPTON  
 2 p.m. Sundays • Suggested donation \$3 adults

A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent territorial and civil war of Kansas and the nation, 1854-1865

**JANUARY 29** "Kansas Day" "If I Went West, I Think I Would Go to Kansas": Abraham Lincoln, the Sunflower State, and the Election of 1860"  
 by Jonathan Earle, Ph.D., Dean, Roger Hadfield Ogden Honors College Louisiana State University; Baton Rouge, Louisiana.  
*Special introduction by Suzanne Walker, District Attorney, Douglas County, Kansas.*


**FEBRUARY 5** "The U.S. Army's Response to the Unrest in Kansas - 1855-1861"  
 by Robert J. Smith, Ph.D., Director, Fort Riley Museum, Ft. Riley, Kansas.

**FEBRUARY 12** "John Brown, a lit match in a tinderbox"  
 by Cindy Awward, Site Administrator, John Brown Museum and State Historic Site, Osawatomie, Kansas.

**FEBRUARY 19** "John H. Mathew and 'The Lecompton Swindle'"  
 by T. Kevin Griffin, Major (Retired) & MA

**FEBRUARY 26** "Steamboats on the Kansas River"  
 by Kendall G. Gott, Major (Retired) author, retired senior professor, Combat Studies Institute, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. (Books signing following talk)

**MARCH 5** "An 1869 Conversation with General Robert E. Lee"  
 by Lane Smith, costumed historical interpreter.  
*Special introduction by Dr. Harold E. Stans, costumed Civil War Union officer historical interpreter.*



**LECOMPTON**  
 Civil War With Place Where Slavery Began to Die  
 Kansas & You! History Landmarks

Constitution Hall State Historic Site  
 319 Elmore St. | Lecompton, KS 66050  
 785-887-6520 • [www.lecomptonkansassite.com](http://www.lecomptonkansassite.com)



tions/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.

**MEDICARE MONDAYS** – First Mon. ea. month, 1-3pm. Topeka/Sh. Co. Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging offers Senior health insurance counseling. For info: 580-4545 or rnhnl@tsopl.org

**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.

**TOPEKA SWING DANCE LESSONS** - Tuesdays, 7-8:45pm, no partner required, Jayhawk Theatre, 720 SW Jackson. <http://jayhawktheatre.org/events>

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

**FIRST FRIDAY ART MARKET** – Downtown and NOTO arts district. Arts, antiques, fine crafts, flea market items, snacks, beverages, entertainment and more.

**TOPEKA ACAPPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS** –Topeka Acappella Unlimited is looking for female singers who would like to sing four-part acappella harmonies. Topeka Acappella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for info

**SQUARE DANCING** - Shawnee Swingers has monthly dances and sponsors lessons in the Fall. Call or text 785-845-2357; wesquaredance.com shawneeswingers@gmail.com. On Facebook: Shawnee Swingers Square Dance Club.

**HARVESTERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY**, 1st & 3rd Sat, 2-3pm, Shawnee Heights UMC parking lot.

**FREE MOBILE FOOD DISTRIBUTION** – 4th Tue. through Nov., 9am, 1231 NW Eugene St. Randel Ministries, Inc., in partnership with Harvesters and Family of God Church will have its monthly food distribution. No ID or proof of income required, first

come first served. Distributing fresh produce and other items to families in need. 785-234-1111 [www.RandelMinistries.com](http://www.RandelMinistries.com)

**TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAY BUS** – 9:30am-

noon, Lakeview Nazarene Church, 2835 Croco. Every Tuesday, enjoy story time, play opportunities, books for check-out & take & make art. 785-266-3247.

**OPEN INDOOR COURT PICKLEBALL** – Sundays at

4pm, Berryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE Berryton Rd. All ages and abilities welcome.

**SENIORS PITCH CLUB** - Every Tuesday 1 pm at Garfield Community Center. First visit free then a

**Kansas, let's be  
pro-life for every life!**

Defend the unborn and heal the broken.

Christians For Life invites you to join us for a special event  
**Saturday, March 25th, 2-4pm**



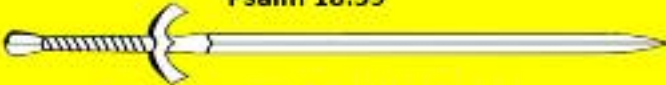

First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd.  
Learn more & RSVP by March 15 at  
[healinghearts.org/topeka23](http://healinghearts.org/topeka23) or contact Shelly at  
[shelly.b@healinghearts.org](mailto:shelly.b@healinghearts.org) or 785-806-1871

**Deliverance Training & Teaching**

Harvest Family Fellowship  
622 SW Park St  
Topeka, KS 66605  
Pastors:  
Ray & Alice Rodriguez  
785-220-6439

Saturday  
March 11, 2023  
9 am – 4 pm  
Lunch break 12-1 pm

**God's Assassins**  
Psalm 18:39



**Preparing the Body of Christ  
To Deliver this Generation**

Speakers:  
Wyatt & Lori Bartlow  
785-207-7006, 785-633-6412

Special Guest:  
Pastor Lorenzo Jackson

## 61ST ANNUAL KANSAS PRAYER BREAKFAST

with Leaders in Government, Business, Education, and Industry in Kansas

**March 7, 2023 - 7:00 AM CST**  
**Doors Open At 6:30 AM For Breakfast**

### Guest Speaker: Herbie Newell

Herbie Newell is the President/Executive Director of Lifeline Children's Services and its ministry arms including (un)adopted, Crossings, Families Count and Lifeline Village. Herbie holds a Master's degree in Business/Accounting from Samford University.

He joined the Lifeline team in 2003 as Executive Director. Under Herbie's leadership, Lifeline has increased the international outreach to 25 countries, grown into 17 states, attained membership with ECFA (Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability), begun an extensive foster care ministry, achieved accreditation Internationally under The Hague Treaty, and started its (un)adopted strategic orphan care ministries in over 10 countries.

Herbie speaks nationally at conferences and events, and regularly preaches throughout the world on Gospel-driven justice.

Herbie is the author of the book "Image Bearers." He and his wife, Ashley, live in Birmingham, Alabama and are parents to a son, Caleb, and daughters Adelynn and Emily.



**Tuesday, March 7**  
**Fellowship Bible Church**  
**6800 SW 10th Avenue**

Doors open 6:30 a.m. for Breakfast  
Program begins at 7:00 a.m.

Register for \$20 in-person  
or  
Virtual attendance at no cost  
at

[www.kansasprayerbreakfast.org](http://www.kansasprayerbreakfast.org)

Sponsored by Topeka Fellowship, Inc.



dollar per visit for coffee and replacement cards .  
**MAR. CYCLING EVENTS** — Various cycle rides are offered by Kansas Cyclist. [www.kansascyclist.com/](http://www.kansascyclist.com/)  
**MAR. OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES** — Outdoor events and activities. [www.getoutdoorskansans.org/calendar](http://www.getoutdoorskansans.org/calendar)  
**BREAD BASKET FARMERS MARKET** - Saturday's, 7:30am-1pm, Apr. 1 through Nov. 18, south end of West Ridge Mall.

**BLEEDING KANSAS** - Sundays from Jan. 29-Mar. 5, 2pm, Constitution Hall Historic Site, 319 Elmore, Lecompton. A series of talks and dramatic interpretations on the violent territorial and civil war history of Kansas 1854-1865. Actors will portray Kansans from this turbulent era. Adm: \$3 adults.

**LAST SUNDAY FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET** — Feb. 26, 8am — 12pm, Philip Billard Post 1650, 3110 SW Huntoon. Free pancakes & sausage, eggs, coffee, juice, and sometimes biscuits & gravy. Donations accepted and go to helping vets in the Topeka area.

**ARAB SHRINE CIRCUS** — Feb. 24-26, Stormont Vail Events Center.

**COMIC CONVENTION** — Feb. 25-26, Great Overland Station. Special guests, cosplay, geek boutiques, video games, board games, comics, books, tv, film.

**CAPITAL CITY CARNAGE DEMOLITION DERBY** — Mar. 3-4, Stormont Vail Events Ctr. [stormontvaileventscenter.com](http://stormontvaileventscenter.com) or 785-251-5552

**MENTAL HEALTH SEMINAR** — Mar. 4, 8:30 am-4 pm, SENT Topeka, 455 SE Golf Park Blvd. Understanding and Helping Youth with Problematic Sexual Behaviors. : <https://senttopeka.com/.../mental-health-seminar.../> (785) 783-2535

**25 ANNUAL MIDWEST CHRISTIAN COLLEGE EXPO** — Mar. 4. 10am — 12pm, Colonial Presbyterian Church, 9500 Wornall, Kansas City, MO. 60 colleges from 17 states; free seminars. Special mini-seminar at 9am: "Navigating Through Faith and Science in College." Organized and sponsored by Metro Voice, Precision Print KC, area radio stations and more. 816-524-4522. [MetroVoiceNews.com](http://MetroVoiceNews.com)

**RUN FOR EMPOWERMENT 5K** — Mar. 5, 2pm, 1670 Naismith Dr., Lawrence. A run on KU's campus to help women facing an unplanned pregnancy. Swag bag for those who participate which includes a \$10 coupon to Ad Astra, a t shirt, and other goodies. The first place male and female runners will receive a \$75 cash prize. <https://runsignup.com/Race/KS/Lawrence/Running-forEmpowerment>

**FROM THE LAND OF KANSAS 45TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** — Mar. 6, 10am-2pm, Kansas State Capitol. Members of the From the Land of Kansas program will be offering samples of their products and showcasing their businesses.

**61ST ANNUAL KANSAS PRAYER BREAKFAST** — Mar. 7, 6:30-8am, Fellowship Bible Church, 6800 SW 10th. Doors open at 6:30 for breakfast, program at 7. Featured Speaker: Herbie Newell, Ex. Dir. of Life-line Childrens Services. \$20/ticket. Sponsorships available. [www.kansasprayerbreakfast.org](http://www.kansasprayerbreakfast.org)

**C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON** — Mar. 9, 11:30-1 at Great Overland Station. Presenting business opportunities and event venue options in N. Topeka and NOTO Arts District. Also EasterFest preview! Cost: \$15 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$17 at the door. • \$20 for non-members & repeat guests. • Please RSVP to [info@C5Alive.org](mailto: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: C5 POWER Luncheon, Apr. 13, 11:30-1.

**TOPEKA WOMEN'S CONNECTION LUNCHEON** — Mar. 9, 12-1:30, Aldersgate Village 7220 SW Asbury Drive. The speaker will be Gail Coleman, Salina. "Written on my Heart". Gail, a dynamic speaker and self-published author, shares her heart from tragedy to transformation! Gail is a former home school mom who coached volleyball and basketball. MUSIC: Acapella Unlimited will share their beautiful music with us. Talented local artist, Natalie Becker, will talk about many forms of art including portraits she has created, as well as her work as a nail professional at Dillard's.. Prepaid luncheon reservat-

tions are \$16 and are due by Mar. 3, by calling (785) 224-5268. No charge to attend the program only.

**BLARNEY BREAKFAST** — Mar. 18, 7 — 10am, Blind Tiger. All-you-can-eat breakfast buffet, drinks, entertainment, raffles, and more. Celebrity servers! All proceeds help your friends with disabilities served at Capper Foundation build their abilities. Info: Lacey Kinder, Communication Specialist, 795-272-4060 x 1165. Get discounted advance tickets online at <https://onecau.se/blarneybreakfast> or 8a-5p weekdays at Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave

**TOPEKA IRISHFEST** — Mar. 18, 10am-5pm, Every Plaza. IrishFest 5k Fun Run, followed by a day of Irish music, food, dancing and a lot of laughter. Parade starts at noon.

**MEET & GREET SPECIAL EVENT** — Mar. 25, 2-4pm, First Southern Baptist Church 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Christians For Life presents Guest Speaker Sue Liljenberg, founder & director of Healing Hearts Ministries International, who was born & raised in Topeka. Hear how God used her fateful abortion to draw her to salvation, to healing, and to a life mission to reach post-abortive women & men with hope and healing only found in the Gospel. Discover how you can do the same in your churches and communities. Learn more & RSVP by March 15 at [healinghearts.org/topeka23](http://healinghearts.org/topeka23) or contact Shelly Brush at [shelly.b@healinghearts.org](mailto:shelly.b@healinghearts.org) or 785-806-1871

**"24 HOUR PLAYS: ARTS, Inc."** — Mar. 25, 7pm, Hussey Black Box Theatre at TPAC. A whirlwind of art, education, and community is coming to Topeka, giving writers, actors, directors, and stage managers a chance to create from scratch six new short plays and perform them for an audience — all within 24 hours. Applications are now online for area theatermakers to apply for a role in creating six original plays, up to 10 minutes each, to be performed March 25.

**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** - Mar 26, 3pm, Stormont Vail Event Center. [www.stormontvaileventscenter.com](http://www.stormontvaileventscenter.com)

**TULIPS AT TWILIGHT** - Every evening April 7-23, 7-10pm. Family fun! A luminary walk & electric light show. Experience the Ward-Meade botanical garden and Old Prairie Town's historic buildings at night with hand-crafted electric light displays. Enjoy the evening with live music on Friday and Saturday nights, ice cream and a corn hole game. Admission for adults is \$5.00 with children 5 and under free. No pets allowed. Located at Old Prairie Town & Ward-Meade Park, 1st & Clay St., Topeka, KS.

**8th ANNUAL EASTERFEST: TOPEKA EASTER PARADE & FUN FAIR** — Apr. 8, 10am-3pm, at Great Overland Station and on North Kansas Avenue. Topeka's annual Easter Parade will begin at 10am at Garfield Park and proceed south on Kansas Avenue to the tracks in NOTO. Egg Hunt begins right after the parade at the Great Overland Station. Food Trucks will be on hand and the Family Fun Fair, Vendor Market, and Health Fair will be 10-3, inside and outside Great Overland Station, including vendor booths, children's games, food, facepainting, pony rides, cake walk and more. Live music, gymnastics, ballet and other entertainment will be on hand. For info: Topeka Easter Parade on facebook, [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) or 640-6399

**NOTO IN BLOOM** — Apr. 22, 6-9:30pm. Celebrating the best of NOTO — the art, the food, the experience — and its impact on the community.

**FOCUS ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING** — May 2, 9:30-10:30am, Sunflower Foundation on the former Menninger Campus, 5820 SW 6th. Prevention and Resiliency Services (PARS) and Safe Streets present a community education event, designed to spark engagement, increase awareness and understanding, and empower the community to be informed and vocal on challenges faced in Topeka. RSVP - <https://tinyurl.com/2p4yse37>

## MEETINGS & CLASSES

**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](mailto:ks.cwfa.org).

**DEAF WORSHIP SERVICE** — 3rd Sun., 3pm, Faith

Lutheran Church, 17th & Gage. Also, every Sun. 9:30am service is interpreted.

**TOPEKA LIONS CLUB** — 1st Mondays at Noon at Wings, Etc. Come at 11:30 to order from the menu. Guests welcome.

**BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPE** — Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register: [cornerstonetopeka.com](http://cornerstonetopeka.com). 478-2929.

**TOPEKA NEEDLEWORK GUILD** - Every Mon. (except holidays) 9a-11a in the Menninger Room of the Topeka Public Library. Bring a project to work on as we share our needleworking skills and ideas. All are welcome to drop in.

**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.

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

**NARVE (Nat'l Assn of Railroad Veteran Employee)** - 2nd Tuesday each month at Grace Episcopal Church, 701 SW 8th Ave - 9:30AM. Enter on NW corner.

**MENNINGER BIBLE CLASSES** - Tuesdays 11am-12:30. Amerus Room, YWCA, 225 West 12th. A new study group for Year One of Flo Menninger's course on Four Years through the Bible. Read and discuss Genesis through First Kings. Nominal charge for materials. 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.** 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](http://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](http://www.faithfamilylife.com)

**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.

**VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS** — Every Wed., 10:45 Bible Study and meal at Noon, Topeka Church of the Brethren, 3201 NW Rochester Rd. (1 mile north of Dillon's North). FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free will donations accepted. For info: 785-224-8803 or [vip@topekanorthoutreach.org](mailto:vip@topekanorthoutreach.org).

**SAFE STREETS MEETING** — 1st Wed., 11:45am, Great Overland Station 266-4606. (no meeting in July)

**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.

**TOPEKA TWILIGHT LIONS BRANCH CLUB** - 3rd Thursdays at 7pm at Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco. Social gathering, guests welcome. [Topekaliions.org](http://Topekaliions.org)

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

**OPERATION BACKPACK** — 1st Thurs., 6pm, Indian Creek Elementary School, 4303 NE Indian Creek Rd. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. No assem-

bly in August. 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](http://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. [kingdomadvisors.org](http://kingdomadvisors.org) or [Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com](mailto:Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com) or 357-6278 x19.**

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

**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. Info: Anne, 785-272-9249 or [kittens812@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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 [biblequizzer.org](http://biblequizzer.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 GREAT LIGHT AGLOW** — For meeting info contact Vickie Lynch at [greatlighttopeka@gmail.com](mailto:greatlighttopeka@gmail.com).

## SUPPORT GROUPS

**HOPE AND HEALING ACADEMY** harnesses the power of horses to transform the human spirit. They are expanding services to address the needs and experiences of first responders and members of the armed forces. For info, call 785-224-4232 or go to [www.hopeandhealingacademy.com](http://www.hopeandhealingacademy.com).

**OVERCOMER'S OUTREACH ANONYMOUS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP** — Mondays 6:30-7:30pm, at Be Filled Of South Topeka, 200 Airport Rd, Bldg. 818 Suite 1. Led by Pastor Bill Ritchey. 785-817-2802

**BINDING UP THE BROKEN HEARTED** — Sessions offered for women who suffer from the after-effects of abortion. All the women who lead these sessions have had an abortion and have received healing from God's Word. For info, contact local Healing Hearts representative Shelly Brush, First Southern Baptist Church at [shelly.b@healinghearts.org](mailto:shelly.b@healinghearts.org). All communication is confidential and secure.

**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. Info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUPS** - Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging provides an opportunity for caregivers to get together and share their ideas and feelings. 2nd Monday of the month, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm. 3rd Friday of the month, 12 noon, Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, 2910 SW Topeka

**ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT** — Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. Kay Lyn at [KLCarlson20@cox.net](mailto:KLCarlson20@cox.net).

**AL-ANON** is a support group for families and friends of alcoholics. For information on meetings in the Topeka area email [ais-topeka@kansas-al-anon.org](mailto:ais-topeka@kansas-al-anon.org) or call 785-215-1045. All correspondence is confidential

**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. All of our programs have moved from in-person to virtual.

Caregiver support group via Skype 9:30am every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at [hdyoung@alz.org](mailto:hdyoung@alz.org) or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

Caregiver Support Group via Google Hangouts, 4:30pm every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at [hdyoung@alz.org](mailto:hdyoung@alz.org) or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

**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** — 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 785-272-4895

**CAREGIVERS GROUP** - Caring Hearts of Hope meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm at Highland Heights Christian Church. This group will root its encouragement in God's word and prayer as well as conversation and sharing and is open to all those who care for others with illnesses such as Alzheimers, dementia, cancer or other debilitating illnesses or injuries. For dates and info, go to "Weekly Class List" at [www.highlandheightsscc.com](http://www.highlandheightsscc.com) or call 785-379-5642.

**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

**FIBROMYALGIA & CHRONIC FATIGUE SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP** — 2nd Tue., 7-9pm. First Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. For info: Randy at 785-969-4038 or [TopekaCFS@outlook.com](mailto:TopekaCFS@outlook.com).

**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.

**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 at (785)230-6730.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Lunch After Loss, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., . For reservations or info: 785-271-6500.

**"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE" ("HEAL")** — or Survivors of Suicide" (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, 300 meeting 1st Tue, and in-person meetings 3rd Tue. at First Congregational Church, 1701 SW Collins. No cost to attend. Informal meetings. Contact: [Topeka.heals@gmail.com](mailto:Topeka.heals@gmail.com) or Sandy at 785-249-3792

**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 [faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com](mailto:faithfamilylifeministries@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.

**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](http://crtopekaks.org).

**Send your calendar events to [voice@cox.net](mailto:voice@cox.net) See complete calendar at [metrovoicenews.com](http://metrovoicenews.com)**



# Model Victoria Vesce says 'faith in God' helped her overcome ministroke: 'I would be nothing'

After surviving a brain tumor, Victoria Vesce was faced with another major health scare.

It was in late 2022 when the model, like many others, was in Miami for Art Basel. The 29-year-old was at a late-night event when she realized something was not right.

"I just didn't feel good," Vesce recalled to Fox News Digital. "I remember telling my friends, and they were like, 'Victoria, you need to call a doctor and get checked.' But I was so busy being out and about. I was so caught up in the swirl of all the parties and everything that was going on."

"I was having so much fun during this weekend of art and parties," she shared. "But then I went in shock when my left side was starting to go completely numb. That's when I thought, 'I gotta go to the hospital now.' It was a really scary situation. I hadn't felt that since my brain tumor diagnosis. It was a wake-up call."

In 2017, the former finalist for Sports Illustrated's Swim Search was diagnosed with multiple paraganglioma, a brain-skull tumor and a carotid body tumor that required surgery and pinpoint radiation treatment. Following her recovery, Vesce was told she had a ministroke.

Doctors previously had to leave remnants of Vesce's tumor alone because it wraps around her brain stem. Vesce said if touched, she could be "instantly paralyzed or have a stroke." She is fully deaf in her right ear and suffers from tinnitus.

"With my tumor, there are complications that I can experience with it," Vesce explained. "Thankfully, the ministroke was kind of on the low end. But it was a wake-up call like, 'Hey, let's stay in tune with your health and keep those stress levels low.' When I had some numbness on the left side of my face, I didn't realize what was going on. I was just so busy, on the go. But I've been more in tune with my health."

"There were periods where I kind of went back to my old ways before my tumor and just kind of dilly-dally along," admitted the former NBA dancer for the Charlotte Hornets. "Sometimes you just have to have another little wake-up call to be like, 'Hey, at the end of the day, you've gotta put your health first. You've got to get all your checkups and talk to your doctors periodically.' It doesn't matter if you



can do all the things you can do – having good health needs to always come first if you want to continue doing the things you love."

Vesce said she had a close-knit circle of friends and family who were on hand during her recovery. She also relied on her faith in God, especially on days she felt blue.

"Sometimes I have to backtrack because I'll lose that sight," she explained. "I'll sit there and go, 'Why me? How am I still going? Why am I still here?' But honestly, it's my faith in God that gives me hope. Without that, I would be nothing. And with it, I'm everything. My faith is what gets me through every day. It's what got me through my whole journey. There have been some dark periods where I've just thought that maybe it's better if I'm not here. My faith always brings me back. It brings me back to life. My faith is my hope, and my hope is my faith."

"There are days when I go through something that brings me down," Vesce continued. "But at the end of the day, as long as I have God and I have a heartbeat, and I'm still here, then I still have a purpose. And there are still so many things I want to accomplish. You're going to hear a lot of nos. You're going to get a lot of rejection. But that hasn't stopped me. It used to affect me badly, but my faith is what pushes me forward. My faith is the fuel to my fire."

The star said that getting a diagnosis

of a ministroke "made my heart drop." However, she was determined to come out of it stronger. There are new goals that need to be fulfilled, like traveling to 80 countries. Vesce wants to honor her late mother, whose passion was traveling.

"I knew it's something that can happen with my brain tumor," said Vesce about her ministroke. "I always knew in the back of my mind that there's a possibility there could be complications and these things could happen. I just didn't think it would happen now. It was not at the forefront of my mind. But thankfully, I just really rested. I took probably two weeks to just stay in a very low-stress environment. I feel like I was really in a high-stress situation when that happened, and I just wasn't taking care of myself as I should have. I was doing way too much and not putting my health first."

Vesce said the left side of her face is still numb. Smiling can be a struggle. As part of her regimen to prioritize her health, she has been exercising more, cutting back on alcohol and getting adequate sleep daily. Vesce said she is taking a smarter approach to staying busy.

"I just got back from traveling abroad," she said. "I have taken rest periods, but I also had the opportunity to go to Egypt, Morocco and New York City for Fashion Week. I continue to exercise and get proper rest, which everybody needs. I'm always go-go-go,

so it's not always easy, but I feel everybody needs that rest period. I don't push myself. And I'm on top of all my tests to make sure my vitals are good, and I can get back into the swing of things with ease... I'm going to get those stamps on my passport, but I want to also make sure I am at the top of my game health-wise."

One dream that Vesce has fulfilled is appearing in last year's SI Swimsuit issue. She was chosen among thousands of submissions to be photographed by acclaimed SI photographer Yu Tsai.

"It opened so many doors for me," she gushed. "But it also gave me the ability to share my story with so many people. It came during a dark time in my life when I just really needed that spark of joy again... It pushed me to do more things and have a vision for myself that's larger than life. It inspired me that I could make my dreams a reality. I'm extremely grateful for what SI did for me."

"I was able to achieve something so wonderful during a horrible period in my life," she shared. "When I look at those photos today, it shows me that I am resilient. I am powerful. I can conquer my dreams even in the darkest hour... I went through so much, and I was able to break through and cross out something that's been on my

bucket list for so long. It doesn't matter what situation you're in or what's going on in your life. You still can achieve those dreams as long as you keep trying. Those photos are so much more than just beautiful photos. They tell my story."

Since her appearance in SI, Vesce has crossed more things off her list. She launched a podcast titled "Valid By Victoria," she is immersing herself in travel blogging and is planning a book. Most recently, she launched a business called Victoria Vesce Agency, which helps influencers shine on social media.

Sometimes, Vesce is faced with the occasional troll online who mocks her photos. However, like with everything else, that has not stopped her. "When you share something so publicly, you're bound to deal with haters," she chuckled. "We're still in a society that thinks scars aren't beautiful, or you need to have the so-called perfect body to be accepted. My scars are what make me unique. It shows how powerful I am from this tumor, something I continue to battle day after day. Sometimes the trolls get to me because I'm only human. But at the same time, it empowers me to be myself more because others might be feeling alone in their journeys. So I continue to show who I am and be my powerful self."



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# TV adventure star Bear Grylls challenges church to be authentic

Bear Grylls, the host of several popular survival shows on television, is concerned about the direction of the church in the global west.

“We neglect our spirituality at our own peril,” he says. “I think Jesus would really struggle with 99 percent of churches nowadays. Our job in life is to stay close to Christ and drop the religious, drop the fluff, drop the church if you need to, because that means so many different things to different people anyway.

“Keep the bit of church which is about community and friends and honesty and faith and love. All the masks, performances, music and worship bands and all of that sort of stuff — I don’t think Christ would recognize a lot of that.”



The church, he said, should be a “place to have doubts and questions” but too often is a place where people “can’t be honest, can’t express doubt and can’t fail. Look at the early church. It was a roomful of people

eating and drinking and doubting and struggling and arguing.”

The church should openly welcome such people, Grylls, who also recently met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

“Probably most of the people in the congregation have substance abuse, and probably most of their congregations struggle with porn and all that sort of stuff,” he said. “What a relief it is when a pastor can stand up and go, ‘Welcome to the hospital, folks. Here we go. I’m just standing alongside you on the road, failing our way through, but reaching out of desperation for life and love and redemption. Let’s look outwards and love other people, and we’re in it together.’”

This kind of honest approach to life has made Grylls a worldwide sensation and one of the most recognized faces of survival and outdoor adventure. A former British Special Forces soldier and Everest mountaineer, he starred in Discovery’s “Man vs. Wild” and hosted “Running Wild with Bear Grylls” on the National Geographic Channel Series.

He’s embarked on countless dangerous expeditions, eaten snakes and spiders and even survived a free-fall parachuting accident in Africa. His books, which range from survival skills handbooks to fiction, have also sold over 15 million copies worldwide.

# Marriage, children reduce risk of dementia, Norwegian study finds

Researchers have found another benefit of marriage — a reduced risk of dementia.

Researchers, predominantly from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, looked at the marital status of adults aged 44 through 68 and whether those adults developed dementia after the age of 70. The study used data from 150,000 Norwegians who granted consent for their health information to be used for research. Results indicated adults who remained married during those years of life saw the lowest occurrence of dementia.

Consistent with those results, the data also showed adults who were unmarried and divorced saw the highest rate of dementia. Vegard Skirbekk, an author of the study, said, “Being married can have an influence on risk factors for dementia.”

The causes of dementia are still unknown, and researchers have found a number of factors that can influence a person’s risk of developing the disease. Such factors were necessarily accounted for in this study.

At the study’s conclusion, authors “estimate that, had all participants been continuously married (and shared the same underlying somatic and mental health plus social characteristics of those who marry), 6 percent of the dementia cases in our study would not have occurred. This is a considerable reduction and is equivalent to the proportion of dementia cases accounted for by smoking and obesity combined, as reported



by the Lancet dementia commission in 2020.”

It was found that having children also lowers the risk of developing dementia. Of the unmarried people analyzed, those who had children saw a 60 percent decreased risk of dementia.

“Some people have theorized that if you have children, you stay more cognitively engaged,” said Asta Håberg, a doctor at St. Olav’s Hospital. “For example, you have to deal with people and participate in activ-

ities that you wouldn’t otherwise have to. This stimulates your brain so that it possibly works better. That way you build up a kind of cognitive reserve.”

The study on marriage does not address the biology behind dementia. However, “it shows that being married can have an influence on risk factors,” Skirbekk said. “You become more cognitively active, you cope better with adversity and are less subject to stress. The partner represents a security that provides a buffer.”

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# Here are 4 troubling signs in the current economy

Officially, the U.S. is not in recession with critics saying the government altered the definition in 2021. But signs in the economy continue to tell a different story.

## Home Sales

Existing home sales across the U.S. are at their lowest level in more than 12 years, according to a report from the National Association of Realtors.

While the data shows that prices have stabilized somewhat, mortgage rates have resumed their upward trend.

According to Reuters who looked at the data, existing home sales fell to their lowest level since October 2010, when the nation was grappling with the foreclosure crisis. That marked the 12th straight monthly decline in sales, the longest such stretch since 1999.

Home resales, which account for the biggest share of U.S. housing sales, plunged 36.9 percent on a year-on-year basis in January.

## Walmart and Lower Earnings

Walmart Inc. is warning



warned that lower spending by consumers will pressure profit margins and prevent the company from meeting earnings goals.

The company's stocks remain on a roller coaster as it deals with price-hikes from many of its product suppliers from what remains historically high-inflation.

Higher U.S. consumer prices, higher costs for housing, cars, and food, are raising fears the

U.S. Federal Reserve could raise interest rates causing the economy to further dive into a deeper recession after July.

Home Depot on Tuesday said it is also expecting weaker profits.

## Big Box Stores Closing

At least 800 big-box stores have plans to shutter stores in 2023.

Walmart joins Bed Bath & Beyond, Gap, and Party City that are each downsizing and closing locations with Bath & Beyond being left with 480 stores, down from 1,500.

Other well-known brands closing stores include Macy's, Big Lots, Amazon Fresh, and JCPenny. Tuesday Morning, which is also going through bankruptcy, is closing 265 stores, according to CNBC.

Missing from the major head-

lines are other retailers stealthily closing locations. They include CVS, Rite-Aid, Kroger, Nordstrom, and Best Buy.

## Layoffs

Everyone from Big Tech to manufacturing is cutting staff.

"Over the past three months there has been a notable increase in announcements of layoffs and hiring freezes," said David Peterson, co-founder of Bankdash.com.

"Not only is a rise in the unemployment rate a key characteristic of a recession but also, companies tend to have a great sense of where the economy is headed and so their actions are a great indicator for the broader economy.

The widespread nature of the layoffs and hiring freezes is a clear sign that companies are concerned about an imminent economic slowdown. Companies announcing layoffs include Tesla, Netflix, Ford, Shopify, Carvana,

Oracle and Coinbase. Companies announcing hiring freezes include JPMorgan Chase, Google, Intel and Facebook."

## "24 Hour Plays: ARTS, Inc." Brings Fast Theatre Festival to TPAC

A whirlwind of art, education, and community is coming to Topeka, giving writers, actors, directors, and stage managers a chance to create from scratch six new short plays and perform them for an audience – all within 24 hours.

Applications are now online for area theatermakers to apply for a role in creating six original plays, up to 10 minutes each, to be performed in the Hussey Black Box Theatre at Topeka Performing Arts Center on Saturday, March 25.

From among the applications received, 24 Hour Plays: ARTS, Inc. organizers will accept six playwrights, six directors, six stage managers, and 24 actors who will create and rehearse the shows for live performance on Satur-

day night. These ensembles will convene for the first time on Friday night, March 24 to begin their creative process of writing and producing original short plays for public performance on Saturday, March 25 at 7:00 p.m.

The 24 Hour Plays phenomenon has swept the nation and the world, with productions even on Broadway. Creative communities come together to produce plays written, rehearsed, and performed in 24 hours. A radically-present approach to theatre, participants make work that responds immediately to the world around us, builds communities, and generates new artistic partnerships. There is no charge for applications.

Ticket prices are \$11/advance (plus taxes and fees). They will be \$15 (plus

taxes and fees) at the door if tickets are available. "24 Hour Plays: ARTS, Inc." is a co-promotion of American Regional Theatre Society, Inc. (ARTS, Inc.) and Topeka Performing Arts Center.

This co-promotion revives the well-loved 24-Hour Play Festival previously produced by Topeka's Ad Astra Theatre which closed in recent years. Visit the ARTS, Inc. or TPAC websites for more information:

**ARTS, Inc.:**

[www.americanregionaltheatresociety.org](http://www.americanregionaltheatresociety.org)

**Topeka Performing Arts Center**

[www.topekaperformingarts.org](http://www.topekaperformingarts.org)

American Regional Theatre Society, Inc. (ARTS, Inc.) is a 501-(c)-(3) charitable nonprofit organization dedicated to a three-fold purpose of preserving

theatrical history, educating audiences about the vitality of historical works, and presenting live theatrical works that instill a sense of pride in our rich cultural history. Its founder is noted Topeka-area actress, director, producer, and writer Karen Hastings.

The Topeka Performing Arts Center fosters the performing arts through excellence in programming by providing for the advancement, promotion, presentation, and development of the arts to meet the diverse cultural and educational needs of our community.

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## Trending Colors and Textures Inspire 2023 Design

Over the past year, architectural design saw a surge in nature-inspired, earth tones, such as calming shades of blue and green. Homeowners can expect this trend to continue into the coming months, but with warmer, richer colors.

This ongoing interest in warm neutrals with earthy undertones and pink and blush shades is likely to be increasingly popular in 2023 as homeowners become more adventurous with their color choices as a form of creative expression.

### Trending Colors

Selecting the right colors for your home project is often influenced by both your personal preferences and the latest design trends. Some contemporary options to consider include:

- **Earth Tones:** Warmer, natural-looking earth tones are versatile, working seamlessly with just about any design or architectural style of home. Some trending hues include muted terracotta, green, yellow and plum.

- **Warm Neutrals:** Although they're not typically used as statement colors, warm neutrals bring a sense of comfort while also offering an inviting, blank canvas to let individuality flow freely. On-trend options include

shades of dark brown, caramel, tan or off-white.

- **Rich, Dark Colors:** These deep, saturated hues can make a house stand out and look more modern while still offering a nod to warmer hues. Chocolate brown, brick red or dark jade are popular choices for those who prefer rich hues.

- **Pink and Blush Shades:** Various shades of pink, rose and blush will be increasingly popular choices for homeowners exuding a greater sense of self-expression. In home design, look for these colors to appear in coral, pink, red-orange, raspberry or blush tones.

- **Sweet Pastels:** There are signs homeowners are ready to bring colors back into their homes. Expect to see sweet pastel shades like soft pink, mint green and light purple in furniture, decor and accessories.



### Materials with Texture

With warm neutrals and earth tones dominating the color palette, both interior and exterior design will depend heavily on texture to add definition. More design choices will move away from faux finishes and instead focus on natural and authentic looks, many of which can be achieved through brick and stone.

Brick and stone give designers options for adding depth and dimension, integrating a play on light and shadows with a variety of textural elements.

Brick carries a sense of tradition, character and timelessness while also serving as a popular choice for homeowners due to its design flexibility. Qualities such as low-maintenance, resilience, durability, sustainability and beauty make brick an option that allows homeowners to balance function with appearance.

Homeowners can find more than 600 brick and stone products with Glen-Gery's extensive product line that offers endless design possibilities and timeless beauty. From handmade to glazed bricks and everything in between, these building products come in a diverse array of colors, textures and sizes, making it easy to personalize living spaces with the latest design and color trends.

Try a virtual design tool like Picture Perfect, which can help you visualize projects, or find other style inspiration at glengery.com.

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# entertainment

## 4 Things You Should Know about Jesus Revolution

By Michael Foust

Chuck Smith is a middle-aged California pastor struggling to understand the youth of 1968 America.

As he sees it, they listen to bad music, they dress funny, and they're dirty.

"What they need is a bath," the straight-laced Smith mumbles.

These so-called "hippies" dominate the cultural landscape with their mantra of "sex, drugs and rock and roll."

These youngsters are, Smith believes, the primary source of cultural decay.

But then Smith meets a hippie who claims to be Christian. His name is Lonnie Frisbee, and he rejects the sex-and-drugs message that so many people in his generation have bought. It's true that Frisbee dresses funny, but he also loves Jesus — and he believes Smith can be the catalyst for a hippie-led revival.

Will Smith and his church go along with the plan?

The new movie *Jesus Revolution* (PG-13) follows the story of Smith and Frisbee, who team up to spark a movement that spreads across the country. The film stars Jonathan Roumie (*The Chosen*) as Frisbee, Kelsey Grammer (*Cheers*, *Frasier*) as Smith, Joel Courtney as Greg Laurie, Kimberly Williams-Paisley (*Father of the Bride*) as Laurie's mother and Anna Grace Barlow as Laurie's girlfriend and future wife Cathe.

Here are four things you should know:

### 1. It's Based on a Remarkable True Story

The film tells the true-life story of the so-called Jesus Movement, which sprang on the West Coast in the late 1960s from the hippie movement and spread nationwide. Just a few years earlier, *Time* Magazine had published a controversial cover story asking the question: "Is God Dead?" (We see that magazine cover early in the film.) But five years later, in 1971, the Jesus Movement revival was so widespread that *Time* Magazine put a depiction of Christ on the cover under the banner "The Jesus Revolution." That momentum continued in 1972, when 80,000 college and high school students filled the Cotton Bowl in Dallas as part of *Explo '72* to hear messages from Billy Graham and Bill Bright and to enjoy music from Love Song, Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Andre Crouch and the Disciples. The movement birthed the ministries of people like Chuck Smith (Calvary Chapel)



and Greg Laurie (Harvest Ministries). It also birthed a popular phrase: "Jesus freaks" (later the name of a DC Talk song).

*Jesus Revolution* follows the California angle of this movement, focusing specifically on Smith's embrace of Jesus-loving hippies who had no home. They didn't fit into the Woodstock-era sex-and-drugs culture, and they were too countercultural for most congregations. (In *Jesus Revolution*, Frisbee and his friends often go barefooted. One church member complains to Smith: "The girls are wearing halter tops. And half of them aren't wearing shoes.")

"Chuck and Lonnie were polar opposites, but God just used them as nitroglycerin to kind of ignite this movement," producer Andy Erwin told *Crosswalk*. "Chuck was one of the first people to let the hippies in the church."

### 2. It Was Made for Such a Time As This

*Jesus Revolution* was filmed in the early months of 2022, nearly a full year before a student-led revival broke out at Asbury University in Wilmore, Ky. To say the film's timing couldn't be better is ... well ... an understatement. It seems God-ordained.

"It gave me chills," Erwin said. "It's a God moment."

The 2023 Asbury revival caught the attention of mainstream media, spanned more than 300 consecutive hours and spread to other campuses.

Five decades ago, in 1970, during the Jesus Movement, another revival began at Asbury. The 1970 one lasted 144 hours.

"The climate is right" for another revival in America, Erwin said.

Although the script carries the film, the cast makes it believable. Grammer, who portrays Smith, said his wife called the film the "best thing" he's ever done. Although Roumie is best known for his role

in *The Chosen*, it doesn't take long to put that in the back of your mind and imagine him as Frisbee. Roumie is phenomenal.

The film was made by the same filmmakers who also produced *I Can Only Imagine*, *I Still Believe*, *American Underdog* and *Woodlawn*. Like *Jesus Revolution*, all four of those films were based on true stories.

True stories, Erwin said, are better able to convey a gospel-centric message to a general audience. The viewer's "defenses go down [because] they don't know how to criticize somebody's real-life experience," he said.

### 3. It's Convicting, Inspiring ... and Surprising

The gospel requires that we embrace the uncomfortable and love those who look different. That's what the first-century Christians did. It's also what Chuck Smith did. As the film opens, Smith and his small congregation are navigating an ever-changing world yet pushing back against the 1960s trends. Smith has no desire to change his methods but faces a dilemma when his teenage daughter picks up a Jesus-loving hippie hitchhiker and brings him home. The hitchhiker is Lonnie Frisbee, a long-haired hippie who contrasts greatly with the straight-laced Smith.

They are as different as night and day, yet they share a passion for the gospel. Soon, Smith's home is filled with tie-dye-wearing hippies who are attracted to the love of Christ.

"If I bring them into my church, I'm gonna lose my job," Smith tells Frisbee.

Nevertheless, Smith does welcome the hippies into his congregation. (During one powerful scene, he washes their bare feet before they enter.) Some members leave. Most, though, remain.

## Roma Downey on Her Faith, New Book, and Touched by an Angel



When the world's population was sitting at home during the 2020 COVID-19 lockdowns, some of them forgot how to treat their neighbor, actress and author Roma Downey says.

Some of them, she says, forgot how to follow the example of Jesus.

"We were in our houses more and on our phones more," Downey told *Christian Headlines*. "... I was really noticing on the Twitter app how much people were being unkind to each other. It was just out of control."

Too many people, she says, forgot how to "agree to disagree."

*Jesus Revolution* reminds us that the gospel requires humility and selflessness. Sometimes, it also requires changing methods, even though the message remains the same.

It's a message that is both inspiring and convicting. For those not familiar with the story, the film also offers a few surprises. The Smith-Frisbee partnership eventually crumbles. Frisbee wants a church service full of spontaneity. (We see him laying hands on a woman who falls backward.) Smith, though, wants organization. They agree to go their separate ways, similar to the biblical story of Paul and Barnabus.

"God went on to use both men in their own individual ways," Erwin said.

### 4. It's Evangelistic

*Jesus Revolution* spotlights a truth found in Ecclesiastes 3:11, which says God has "planted eternity in the human heart." Translation: The material things of this world can never bring true joy. Only Christ can do that.

Young people are taking drugs, Frisbee says, because they are involved in a quest for purpose.

"There is an entire generation now searching for God," Frisbee tells Smith.

"It got me thinking just about the landscape of the world that we're living in," she said, "and the sort of divisions in our country, in our world."

Downey began meditating on the themes of kindness and tenderness. Eventually, she wrote a 52-week devotional — titled *Be an Angel* — that she hopes will inspire readers and spark them to embark on acts of kindness. Each chapter ends with a "Be an Angel" challenge, encouraging the reader to put the words of Scripture into action. The devotional released on Feb. 21.

"We thought acid was going to save the world. That was a lie."

The Woodstock generation, he says, is looking for meaning "in all the wrong places." Of course, that's true of every generation, including the modern day.

"I think this [film], more specifically than anything we have done, is an opportunity for evangelism," Erwin told *Crosswalk*.

For parents who want to bring their children, the film has only minor thematic concerns. We see young people with joints and hallucinating. (One young woman froths at the mouth but survives).

We also see a woman drunk at a bar. (Later, we learn she died in a car wreck.) The film contains no coarse language or sexuality.

*Jesus Revolution* transports us to an era of culture-changing fashion and groundbreaking music while delivering a timeless message: Jesus saves. (Frisbee and his friends often point heavenward while saying in unison, "One way.") The film's score is perfect.

*Jesus Revolution* is one of the most uplifting films you'll ever see.

Rated PG-13 for strong drug content involving teens and some themes.





## Big George Foreman Film to Tell 'Miraculous' Faith-Centric Story of Pastor-Boxer

The trailer for the upcoming faith-centric movie *Big George Foreman* launched in February, showcasing the boxer's transformation from heavyweight champion to preacher and then heavyweight champion again.

Foreman famously won two heavyweight titles two decades apart – in 1973 and then in 1994. His “Rumble in the Jungle” bout with Muhammad Ali in 1974 – Foreman came into the match undefeated but lost – remains one of the most famous boxing events in sports history.

A 1968 Olympic Gold medalist, he

became a Christian minister in the late 1970s.

*Big George Foreman* stars Khrist Davis (Judas and the Black Messiah) as Foreman and Oscar-winner Forest Whitaker as Foreman's trainer and mentor, Doc Broadus. George Tillman Jr. (*This Is Us*, *The Hate U Give*) directed it. The Sony Pictures/Affirm Films movie will be released in theaters on April 28.

The trailer shows Foreman as a youngster, gathered with his family at the dinner table as a woman prays. Moments later, it shows him being bullied at school because of his family's lack of money. The trailer then depicts the iconic 1974 Rumble in the Jungle fight between Foreman and Ali before it switches to a 1977 bout between Foreman and Jimmy Young.

It was after that 77 fight that Foreman nearly died in the dressing room and experienced a spiritual awakening. He quit boxing and devoted his life to “spread the Word of God,” as he says in the trailer. But when Foreman faced financial difficulties, he went back to boxing in order to raise money for his ministry. Foreman won the heavyweight title in 1994 at age 45.

The film's full title is *Big George Foreman: The Miraculous Story of the Once and Future Heavyweight Champion of the World*.

At age 45, Foreman was the oldest heavyweight boxing champion ever – a record that stands today. He retired with a career record of 76-5 (68 by knockout).

## 3 Things You Should Know about 'Left Behind: Rise of the Antichrist'

Buck Williams is an experienced television journalist who is searching for the truth in a world full of fear and lies.

Six months ago, millions of people – representatives of every country on the planet – disappeared, instantly, without a trace.

It was, Williams tells viewers, the “single most catastrophic event in all of human history.” Unfortunately, though, there are “still more questions than answers.”

Some people believe aliens caused it. Others posit that the government is behind the disappearances. Still, others believe that a new technology is to blame.

A few people even theorize that the vanishings were predicted thousands of years ago in an ancient book, the Bible.

Who is right? And will Williams ever uncover the truth?

The new film *Left Behind: Rise of the Antichrist* follows the story of Williams and others as they try to survive in a world that is quickly unraveling.

Here are three things you should know about the movie:

### 1. It's a Sequel to the 2014 Film

*Rise of the Antichrist* is a sequel to the 2014 film *Left Behind*, both of which are based on the bestselling novels by Tim LaHaye and Jerry B. Jenkins and which imagine what the world will be like in the days surrounding the return of Jesus and the Rapture. The novels and films are based on what theologians call a pretribulation, premillennial interpretation of the Bible's passages about the Last Days. (Other categories of interpretation include amillennialism and postmillennialism, both of which differ dramatically from the *Left Behind* plot.)

As *Rise of the Antichrist* opens, Earth's residents are in a state of confusion following the sudden disappearance of millions of individuals. (Media companies have dubbed it “The Vanishing.”) Rayford Steele, an airplane pilot, lost his wife. Bruce Barnes, a pastor, also lost friends and family – although he himself was left behind.

The first half of the film follows a skeptical Buck Williams as he investigates various theories about The Vanishing – some say the people who disappeared were “different” – and in-



terviews so-called experts on his network. Williams' view on the End Times changes as he watches a powerful businessman, Jonathan Stonogal, promote a one-world currency and a powerful politician, Romania's Nicolae Carpathia, promote a one-world government. (One of those characters becomes the Antichrist.) Those events align with what Barnes has said will happen.

Williams and Barnes then join forces with Steele.

### 2. It Features Well-Known Talent

You'll likely recognize some of the faces in *Rise of the Antichrist*. Kevin Sorbo (*God's Not Dead*), the film's director, portrays Steele, while Neal McDonough (*Captain America*, *Band of Brothers*) plays Stonogal. The film also stars Emmy-nominee Corbin Bernsen (*Major League* series), Sam Sorbo (*Let There Be Light*), Greg Perrow (*Actor for Hire*) and Charles Andrew Payne (*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*).

Faith-based films often receive criticism for their poor acting, yet the cast in *Rise of the Antichrist* is solid and believable. Perrow, who has the appearance of a TV host, is a perfect fit for the role.

*Rise of the Antichrist* features a different set of actors and actresses than that of 2014's *Left Behind*, which had Nicholas Cage portraying Steele and Chad Michael Murray playing Williams. (If you're curious, the new films are a sort of “reboot” of the 2000-era *Left Behind* films starring Kirk Cameron.)

### 3. It's Part-Detective, Part-Apologetics, Part-Sermon

You don't have to be a fan of the *Left Behind* series to enjoy *Rise of the An-*

tichrist. That's because much of the film is similar to a science fiction detective film as it follows a television reporter on his quest for the truth.

It's one-third a thriller film, one-third an apologetics lesson, and one-third a sermon. It includes the “come to the altar” moments that some moviegoers hate, but it also includes a few lessons in pretribulation, premillennial apologetics, seemingly aimed at critics within the Christian community who say there's little biblical support for this view of the End Times. (Asked by Chloe Steele to reveal biblical evidence for the Rapture, Barnes turns to 1 Thessalonians 4 and then reads it. Barnes also shows Steele and others his “End Times” charts.)

Meanwhile, the film includes a few solid messages. It reminds us that humans will always deny the miraculous and instead favor natural explanations. (No theory was “too crazy for a world determined not to see the truth,” we are told.) It also encourages us to embrace a sense of urgency with our evangelism, as happens when Steele sees the truth.

*Rise of the Antichrist* is the best *Left Behind* movie yet, even if it does include one or two moments of “cheese” that briefly distract from the plot.

Fans of the *Left Behind* story will enjoy it the most. But for those who never read the books – like me – it includes enough gripping drama to make it interesting.

*Rise of the Antichrist* is unrated but likely would be PG-13 due to violence (we see people shot and killed at point-blank range) and thematic elements of fright and peril. It also includes brief coarse language (h-ll, 2). Entertainment rating: 3 out of 5 stars. Family-friendly rating: 3.5 out of 5 stars.

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# 50+ Lifestyles

## A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

### 6 Ways to Build Lasting Healthy Habits

Starting on a path toward healthy habits is often easier than maintaining them long term. This year, you can avoid a major pitfall of healthy resolutions and build healthy habits that stick by working small, positive steps into your daily life.

In fact, healthy habits are the first suggested treatment strategy for people whose blood pressure and cholesterol levels are creeping higher than normal, according to an American Heart Association scientific statement.

“The current guidelines for managing high blood pressure and cholesterol recognize that otherwise healthy individuals with mildly or moderately elevated levels of these cardiovascular risk factors should actively attempt to reduce these risks, and increasing physical activity is a great place to start,” said Bethany Barone Gibbs, Ph.D., chair of the statement writing group and chair of the department of epidemiology and biostatistics at West Virginia University School of Public Health.

These six ideas from the American Heart Association’s Healthy for Good Habit Coach can help.

#### Bust Common Habit-Building Myths

You may be surprised to learn the truth about creating and stick-

ing to healthy habits. One myth is getting healthy means doing things you don’t like. Research shows positive emotions make habits stick, so set your intentions on something you enjoy. Another misconception is big results require big changes, which may lead to overly ambitious habits. However, the simpler the routine is, the more likely it is to become habit.

#### Work with Your “Brain Loops”

Your brain creates “loops” for habits made up of three things: a cue, a routine and a reward. Each time the loop is repeated, it becomes more routine and may become automatic. Knowing this, you can design cues for developing new, healthy habits, such as setting walking shoes by the bed to start a walking habit. The routine is putting on the shoes and walking around the block, and the reward is the pleasant sensations and brighter mood from a morning stroll.

#### Create Cues That Work for You

Most successful health habits begin with a cue. The cue can be external in your environment or internal in terms of your mindset. The more consistent the cue, the more likely it is to trigger the habit. Hacking your brain’s reminder system can help you remember your

cue. Some examples of visual cues are placing a sticky note where you’ll see it often, keeping a water bottle on your desk or refrigerating fresh veggies at eye level.

#### Build a Routine That Supports Your Goals

Positive and consistent habits are important to achieve your personal goals. Small habits done consistently can add up to big results. To create a new healthy habit, think through the steps that could lead to your desired outcome. Ask yourself whether you want to do it, if it’s easy and if it’s high impact. It’s important to choose habits that make a difference and move you closer to your goals.

For example, if one of your goals is improving your heart health, a meaningful habit might be to move more. Increasing physical activity can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol along with many other health benefits, Gibbs said.

“Every little bit of activity is better than none,” she said. “Even small initial increases of 5-10 minutes a day can yield health benefits.”

#### Use Rewards to Make Habits Stick

Start by choosing a habit you enjoy that’s rewarding by itself. If you’re more of a dancer than runner, increase your physical activity with an upbeat dance class. You might also look for a more enjoyable version of a new habit, such as getting more fruits and veggies by sipping on a delicious smoothie.

#### Understand Resets are Part of the Process

New habits are experiments. If they don’t stick, you haven’t failed. Instead, you’ve learned what doesn’t work, which is useful. Get curious and ask yourself which



part of the habit didn’t work for you. Maybe the cue was ineffective. Maybe the steps of the routine were too ambitious and you need to split them into smaller, easier steps. If you realize you don’t enjoy the

habit, stop doing it and try something else.

Find more inspiration and ideas to jumpstart healthy habits this year at [heart.org/habits](https://heart.org/habits).

– Family Features



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# Travel Tips: 7 recommendations for venturing out alone



Whether you're a lone wolf at heart or looking to broaden your sense of independence, traveling solo can be a richly empowering and satisfying experience.

Setting out on your own has many practical advantages. You're not worrying about accommodating another's schedule, interest or needs, and you're free to decide what you want to do and when. Solo travel also elicits some mental and emotional benefits, as you experience a unique sense of freedom, liberation and self-sufficiency.

If you're considering a solo journey, consider these tips from the book "101+ Tips for Solo Women Travelers," which is offered by Overseas Adventure Travel in free digital and print editions.

## Make Sure Your Passport is Updated

Many countries now require your passport to be valid for six months after your return to the United States. If you don't have a passport, or need to renew one, apply for one as soon as possible. Ideally you should have your application in six months before you depart.

## Look for Trips with No Single Supplement

Often, quoted rates are "per person, based on double occupancy." This is because travel hosts know they can make more from a couple traveling than an individual. You can avoid paying a single supplement premium by being willing to match with a room-

mate or traveling with a tour company or cruise line with free or low-cost single supplement fees.

## Use the ATM

As an affordable and convenient way to get cash, you can avoid wasting time in line at a bank or currency exchange bureau by visiting an ATM.

While you'll likely incur a fee for using an ATM that's not part of your bank, it is often less than the commission you'd pay at an exchange bureau. Plus, you can avoid additional fees by calculating how much you'll need for the trip and making one withdrawal as opposed to multiple smaller withdrawals.

## Download Entertainment Before You Leave

When traveling, Wi-Fi can be expensive, slow or just not available. Before you leave, download music, e-books, podcasts, favorite tv shows or movies to enjoy while you're en route or during down time.

## Join Group Tours

Once you reach your destination, you may enjoy joining small groups for excursions or to explore local cuisine. Or you can make your entire journey a group experience. A small group adventure with Overseas Adventure Travel has many benefits, and built-in dining companions is just one

of them.

## Take Precautions in Your Hotel Room

When you check in, ask the receptionist to write your room number down instead of announcing it so everyone can hear. Make sure your room's locks work on both the door into the hallway and the balcony. Never let any repair person or staff member into your room without confirming with the front desk first. Bring a rubber doorstop, which makes a hotel room door nearly impossible to open. Finally, have an exit plan: Know

where the nearest exit is located and the route from your room.

## Make New Friends

For some, making friends seems to happen naturally while traveling alone by chatting with strangers at a neighboring restaurant table or striking up a conversation while waiting in line at a store. If those situations don't occur naturally, there are useful apps that can connect you with local people as well as fellow travelers.

Find more tips to prepare for your journey at [oattravel.com](http://oattravel.com).

—Family Features

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*But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream. - Amos 5:24*



# sports

## Vikings quarterback Kirk Cousins honored as role model



Although Kirk Cousins, the quarterback of the Minnesota Vikings, did not play in this year's Super Bowl, he is a champion off the field.

He received the 2023 Bart Starr Award at this year's Super Bowl breakfast. The award honors Starr's lifelong commitment to serving as a positive role model to his family, teammates and community. The award is given annually to an NFL player who best exemplifies character, integrity and leadership on and off the field.

Cousins, 34, has been an outspoken Christian throughout his NFL career. He has five words posted on his website: Faith, Family, Football, Generosity, Leadership.

Cousins says God has given him much.

"I learned he's decisive and the Holy Spirit is never confused," he told CBN News recently. "So if there's disagreement, the problem is probably on our end, not on his. He's always spoken to me through his peace. We have the benefit of other experiences where we've trusted him. So here we are again, making that decision to come here and believing God is in it."

Cousins and his wife launched the Julie & Kirk Cousins Foundation to build on their faith through targeted philanthropy.

On the site he also quotes Luke 12:48, "From everyone who has been given much, much will be required; and from the one who has been en-

trusted with much, even more will be expected."

He goes on to explain that he and his wife are "grateful for the privilege to play in the NFL, but also believe we have a responsibility to manage well what we have been given, and to be generous with it."

The foundation has provided support to numerous outlets, including Bethany Christian Services, Boys & Girls Clubs of America, Compassionate Heart Ministries, Discovery Church, Holland Christian Schools and International Justice Mission.

He also has promoted reading the Bible to his fans. In 2020, he announced that he concluded reading through the entire Bible, urging others to complete the same challenge. "It took me over two years, but just finished reading through the entire Bible for the first time," he tweeted. "Definitely recommend it!"

Cousins credits his parents for laying a solid foundation.

"I was fortunate to have a dad who was very involved, very present, very wise," he said. "Just about every experience we had through the years, my dad would bring back to our faith walk and our faith journey. So it was pretty hard to go a day or a week and not go through something without scripture being accompanied to it, so it would be a great thing if I parented close to the way my mom and dad raised me.

## 'Child of God' Harrison Butker hits Super Bowl-winning kick for Chiefs; Mahomes & Bolton talk faith & game

ing and scoring in the Super Bowl two nights ago," Bolton said in his postgame press conference. "For it to happen is surreal. I just thank God, my family, teammates and coaches, and my community and Chiefs Kingdom. They all played a part in this win for sure."

The victory goes down as the Chiefs' third Super Bowl in history. Three years ago, Mahomes led his team back from a 10-point, fourth-quarter deficit to beat San Francisco, and the franchise's first Super Bowl came 50 years prior to that one.

Earlier this week, Sports Spectrum spoke with Butker, Mahomes and Bolton — and numerous other Chiefs and Eagles players — about their faith



and if He wants to take anything away from me, He can. And if He wants to add anything, He can. It's all up to Him."

Chiefs team chaplain Marcellus Casey says Mahomes is a regular attendee at the team's chapel services, and the 27-year-old says he's recently enjoyed spiritual growth.

"I feel like I've grown in my faith these last few years and I think that's given me more sense of who I am and why I play the game," he said, adding, "It just kind of relieves the pressure of playing a football game because I know that I'm on that football field to glorify Him before everything. So it's not about winning or losing, it's about going out there and being the best that I can in His name."

Bolton talked about seeing his football career as a blessing from God, and reflected on the role his faith has played in his journey.

"Just a lot of gratitude... how much I've grown as a person, as an individual, a football player, a teammate, a follower



in God.

"[God] is the most important thing," Butker told Sports Spectrum. "If I didn't have faith in God, I don't think I'd be the father I am, the husband I am, the kicker I am. That kind of sets the tone for everything else and everything falls under that, but that gives me the strength to go do everything I need to do."

"I may have fears about it — I might have pressure — but I know I'm a child of God and He's gonna protect me. And maybe that protection comes with some suffering, but that's what's best for me and I gotta accept that suffering and grow as best I can with that."

Butker said he realized more than ever this season that his true worth is found in Christ alone.

"You miss some kicks and you realize, 'OK, my identity can't be all as a football player.' So I grew a lot in my prayer life knowing that I'm nothing without Him and I gotta lean on Him,

Mahomes said he asks God for direction in his life and that he aims to glorify Him.

"My Christian faith plays a role in everything that I do," he said. "I always



ask God to lead me in the right direction and let me be who I am for His name. So it has a role in everything that I do. Obviously we'll be on that huge stage in the Super Bowl that He's given me, and I want to make sure I'm glorifying Him while I do it."

of Christ," he said.

"You gotta have strong faith," Bolton said on Twitter. "Family and faith with @Chiefs linebacker @\_nickbolton2"

Bolton also received the Chiefs's Mack Lee Hill Award for Rookie of the Year last year.



# A drunk Patrick Mahomes at Chiefs parade angers fans

The Kansas City Chiefs celebrated their Super Bowl victory with a downtown parade and rally on the Wednesday after the Super Bowl. Fans have continued to voice their opinion that the players celebrated too much.

The controversy had not died down a week after an estimated one million fans, twice the population of Kansas City, Mo., attended the parade.

Patrick Mahomes was seen chugging so many beers, fans watching on television lost count. He then accidentally or absent-mindedly gave the Vince Lombardi Trophy to a fan and walked away. Speculation has swirled that the Super Bowl MVP was drunk. Fortunately, the trophy actually turned out to be a replica.

Fans most upset may be those who wish Mahomes would live out his self-described Christian faith. Mahomes has been public about his faith. After the AFC Championship on Jan. 29, Mahomes had given God the credit for helping him lead his team to the Super Bowl.

"First off, I wanna thank God, man," Mahomes said. "He healed my body this week to battle through that. He gave me the strength to be out here. I was with this team, man. We played together. I said it from the beginning, when we were in the locker room, I said we gotta be together, and this team stepped up."

"I know that I am here for a reason, to glorify Him," Mahomes said during one of his press conferences before the Super Bowl. "It means everything, not only about my football career but all the decisions that I've made. I have a faith backing, and I know why I am here. It's not about winning football games. It's about glorifying Him. I think it gives me that I have no pressure when I step out on that football field; I know why I am here."

Chiefs cornerback Jaylen Watson was also drunk, say witnesses, with videos of him leaving the celebration in a wheelchair going viral.

While Mahomes' move won praise from Tom Brady, who became drunk off the avocado tequila during the Tampa Bay Buccaneers' Super Bowl celebration in 2021, the video of Mahomes, who describes himself as a Christian and role model, has not gone over well.

Social media posts and other news outlets are filled with disappointed fans: "it's still a family-time event, act accordingly, like you been there before have some class."

"I was surprised and dismayed to see that Patrick Mahomes and other players



were drinking alcohol again. I felt that way three years ago, and I thought there would have been enough negative feedback from the parents of children and teenagers voicing their concerns to the

Chiefs' administration that it wouldn't be repeated," wrote Skip Stogsdill of Overland Park under the heading "Not in Public." Stogsdill said if they want to get drunk next time to do it out of the

drinking celebration. One person wrote that Coach Andy Reid should not have allowed it to happen.

"The main reason is that a drinking Chief is not a good role model for young

public eye. "Impressionable young people deserve better role models than what you've displayed twice."

Stogsdill may not be exaggerating. Mahomes was so drunk, video captured him almost toppling over the edge of the bus as he downed another beer.

A series of letters to the editor was published in the Kansas City Star on Sunday, and fans who wrote in expressed their dismay to the beer-

fans who are there to see their heroes," the letter said. "Second, even the adult fans don't want to see drunken players at this important celebration. Third, tragic things happen when drinking is involved. Some Chiefs even bragged through social media about how drunk they were afterward. I am ashamed that players I cheered for could barely walk after they got off the bus. No doubt this spectacle made the news in other cities."

Another person had an issue with the message it may be sending to young fans.

"Next time there's a victory parade, please imbibe your alcohol privately and discreetly. Impressionable young people deserve better role models than what you've displayed twice," the fan wrote.

While it may be nice to see so many of today's young athletes publicly share their Christian faith, it's also obvious that many of them have a ways to go to mature in that faith.

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- 1. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM  
2930 SE Tecumseh Road  
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542  
www.highlandheightscc.com  
Jars of Clay Children's Ctr 785-379-9098
- 2. CHRISTIAN CAVALRY MINISTRIES INT.**  
Pastor Beau Bryant  
Call about new meeting location for current services.  
785-224-5419 • www.church4bikers.org  
Sun. School 9:30 am  
Sun. Service 10:45 am  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm
- 3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH**  
1101 SW Mulvane St., Topeka  
785-234-5545  
Worship: 9:00 & 10:30 am  
Livestream at 9:00 am  
Sunday School & Bible Studies:  
9:00 & 10:30 am  
www.discovertbc.com
- 4. NORTHLAND CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
3102 NW Topeka Blvd., Topeka  
286-1204  
Worship Sun. 9:00 & 10:45 AM  
www.northland.cc
- 5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
"Grace has dispensed, because Grace has redeemed"  
3510 SE Indiana Ave., Topeka, Ks. 66605  
785-266-7788, www.Indianaavecofc.org  
Bible University – Sunday - 9:30 a.m.  
Classes for all ages.  
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:  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Bible study—all ages  
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"  
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:45am, 6pm  
~ Sunday School for all ages ~  
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka  
785-862-0988  
www.topekabaptist.org
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"  
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka  
(785) 272-9323 www.wrbctopeka.com  
Traditional Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm  
Sunday School 9:30am • Wed. Prayer 7pm

- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)  
Overbrook, KS; 785-670-6456  
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor  
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am  
www.gccinoverbrook.com  
office@gccinoverbrook.com
- 11. COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
1819 SW 21st St., Topeka  
233-3537 www.CommunityTopeka.com  
info@CommunityTopeka.com  
Sun. 8:30am - Sunday School for all ages  
Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word  
Sun. 10:00am Youth Service  
~ Nursery care for all services ~
- 12. LAKEVIEW CHURCH of the NAZARENE**  
2835 SE Croco Road (785)266-3247  
Rob Self, Senior Pastor  
Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene  
Sun. 9:30am: SS all ages & Discipleship Class  
Sunday 10:45am: Nursery, Children's Church,  
& Worship  
Wednesday: Awana - 6:30pm - 8pm  
Life Group/Bible Study - 7-8pm

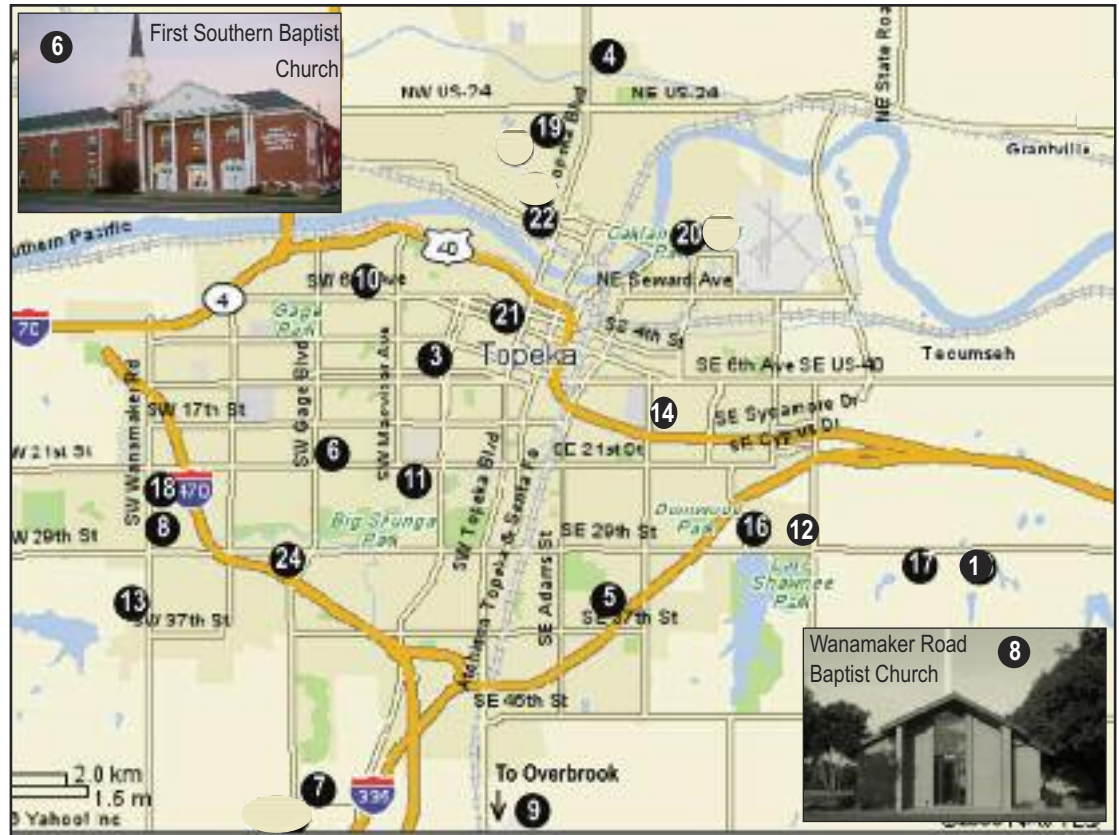
- 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**  
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd • 273-2248  
www.wwnaz.org  
Sun. Worship: 9am (Hymns) & 11 am  
Children's Worship 9 & 11 am  
Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
Sun. Evening Various Children's Programs  
6 pm Life Groups; 6:30 pm Teen Service  
Wed. 6:30 pm Adult & Teen Life Groups  
Wed. 6:30 pm Kids University  
~ Nursery care at all services ~
- 14. OPEN ARMS OUTREACH MINISTRIES COGIC**  
1 (785) 232-3463/+1 (785) 217-5560  
Sunday School 9:30, Worship 11:00  
In person or conference call:  
(712) 770-4749 / 583229  
Bible Study Tue & Wed conference call  
2401 SE 11th St., Topeka KS 66607  
Supt. S. C. Mitchell, Pastor
- 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**  
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Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm  
785-266-LOVE (5683)  
J. Michael Borjon, Pastor



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- 17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.  
Sunday Worship 10:00am & 6:00pm  
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.  
See our website for info on our  
Student Ministries & Kid City  
www.esbcks.org

- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
1937 NE Madison St,  
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594  
Pastor Dale Stockburger  
Sunday Worship: 11 am and 6pm  
Sunday School: Sun 10am  
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm

- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
Meets at 522 SW Polk  
785-220-5418  
Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
Sun. Worship 10:30 am  
www.harvestfamilyfellowshiptopeka.org

- 22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH**  
1231 NW Eugene St.  
Topeka, KS 66608  
Pastor Roger Randel  
Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm  
Wednesday Bible Study 7pm  
785-234-1111  
FOGchurch.com

- 24. TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST**  
Holding to the authorized King James Version and the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith  
Sunday 10 a.m. Wednesday 6 p.m.  
Pastor Bob Spagnuolo 785-273-3506  
meeting in our home:  
4307 SW 30th Ter., Topeka  
www.TrinityReformedBaptist.org



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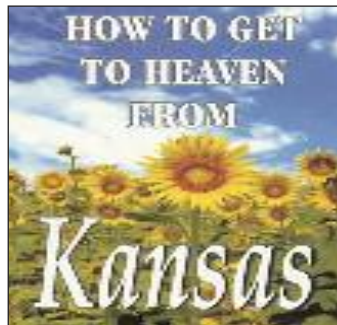
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EOE www.slitopeka.org

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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.

**Alpha Christian Children's Home & School**  
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3. Help the kids get caught up in school

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It all takes place at Great Overland Station and on N. Kansas Avenue!

Fun Fair open 10 am - 3 pm at Great Overland Station, with Live Music 10:45 am - 3 pm!  
 Parade starts at 10 am at Garfield Park and goes to the tracks in NOTO. Big Egg Hunt follows parade at 11am at Great Overland Station! Food Trucks open 9 am - 3pm at Great Overland Station.  
 Vendor Market and Health Fair open 10 am - 3 pm at Great Overland Station, with craft stations, face painting, Easter Bunny photos, Petting Zoo, Inflatables, Carnival Games, Cup Cake Walks, Health exams, products & demonstrations: Dance, Gymnastics, Ballet, Vision Screening and more!

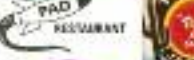
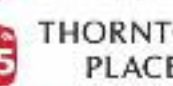
**Volunteers needed! Contact:**

info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

**For booth, sponsor & parade entry information:**

info@C5Alive.org or 785-640-6399

Funds raised will be shared with a local non-profit serving local families



**SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023 • 10 AM - 3 PM**

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