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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Topeka Bible Church

See inside back cover!

Salvation Army needs Bell ringers for the Holiday Season



The Topeka Salvation Army is now accepting applications for volunteers for the 2023 Red Kettle Bell Ringing Campaign.

Starting now through Dec. 12, every day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., you can apply to "ring the red kettle" at the Topeka Salvation Army. ID is required, as well as your social security card. If you do not have either of those, a passport will suffice for identification.

You can register online at www.registertoring.com. There is a kickoff concert at Washbutn Nov. 18. For information, call (785) 233-9648.



"Create a revolution for life" Actor Kevin Sorbo Challenges

Never underestimate the ability of a few determined people to change the course of history. Twelve disciples turned the world upside down after the resurrection, and a handful of men set events in motion that would end slavery in the United States.

"In 1854 in Ripon, Wis., 17 Christian men gathered and resolved that slavery did not honor God," actor Kevin Sorbo said.

"These stalwart men formed the Republican Party, and six years later, Abraham Lincoln was elected president. Their strategy was very simple – they said, 'let's just stop the spread of slavery.' That small step formed a question in people's minds. They came to see the truth, that slavery dishonors God. Slavery was wrong, and this wrong needed to be made right."

The same commitment can

turn the tide on abortion and build a culture of life.

"Christ came to set the captives free, but it took civilization a long time to figure it out, and it cost 650,000 lives," he said. "Slavery deprived men, women and children of freedom. Abortion deprives them of the most basic freedom, and that is life."

Sorbo starred in the film "God's

■ Please see SORBO page 2

'Share the Warmth' program begins



The 37th annual coat giveaway between Scotch Fabric Care and the Topeka Salvation Army provides coats for those in need through the "Share the Warmth" program.

Coat Collection and cleaning continues through November 18. Scotch Fabric Care locations are at 134 SE Quincy St., 2801 SE California Ave., 2007 NW Topeka Blvd., 1020 SW Wanamaker Rd., and 2848 SW Wanamaker Rd.

Distribution of the cleaned coats will be Saturday, December 2, 9am to 2pm at Topeka Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th Street.

OCC Drop-Off Sites to Open

More than 4,500 locations will open to collect Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts for the Samaritan's Purse project. Volunteers are preparing to collect shoebox gifts during National Collection Week, Nov. 13 – 20.

Operation Christmas Child has been collecting and delivering shoebox gifts—filled with school supplies, hygiene items and fun toys—to children worldwide since 1993. Anyone can pack a shoebox! In 2023, Operation

Christmas Child hopes to collect enough shoeboxes to reach another 11 million children.

Individuals, families, and groups still have time to transform empty shoeboxes into fun gifts. The project partners with local churches across the globe to deliver these tangible expressions of God's love to children in need. Find a step-by-step guide on the How to Pack a Shoebox webpage.

■ Please see OCC page 3



Grounds for debate: Social media post stirs discussion over coffee in church

Cups of coffee have become as common as digital Bibles in the modern church. Minnesota Pastor John Piper recently stirred up a debate about the beverage on X, formerly known as Twitter.

“Can we reassess whether Sunday coffee-sipping in the sanctuary fits?” he asked. Piper, a Baptist, is a theologian, pastor and chancellor of Bethlehem College & Seminary in Minneapolis.

Piper’s post has garnered more than 1,000 responses, with some users appearing shocked at the very idea of bringing coffee into solemn church services, while others didn’t seem fazed in the least. “I think we have bigger fish to fry, John. Personally, I’m in awe God

puts up with me at all, Sunday through Saturday,” wrote Twitter user @Kellys_ex.

“There is a valid principle to consider here, whether or not you agree w/this particular application,” noted another user, @NathanielJolly. “Those w/ a heart & concern for reverential worship & holiness should take some time to consider the principle.”

In Roman Catholic, Orthodox, Coptic and certain Protestant denominations, adherents are required to fast from food and beverages before receiving the Eucharist. Each tradition has its own rules regarding how long adherents should fast, as their various websites noted. The Rev. Hans Fiene,

pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Crestwood, Mo., is not in favor of church attendees drinking coffee during religious services.

“While the vast majority of Lutherans I know are coffee lovers,” he said, “I’ve known very few who would ever think of bringing a cup of it into the sanctuary during the divine service. Holy worship is far more than a theological lecture. It’s gathering to receive Christ’s forgiveness, life and salvation. When God pours out these gifts upon us through his word and sacraments, that makes our sanctuary the holiest place on earth. Let’s not turn our father’s house into a house of fair trade dark roast.”



However, Father Chris Steele of St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church said that “coffee seems to be the 8th sacrament.”

The debate over coffee in church

is a complete non-starter for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, also known as the Mormons. Coffee is strictly forbidden at all times.

SORBO

continued from page 1

Not Dead” and perhaps is best known for the title role in the TV series “Hercules: The Legendary Journeys.” He was the featured speaker at the Vitae Foundation’s Kansas City pro-life dinner on September 25 at Arrowhead Stadium. Vitae, based in Jefferson City, describes its mission as facilitating lifesaving research and applying the findings to create messaging strategies to share with others to build a future where abortion is unthinkable.

“The team at Vitae does amazing work to save the lives of innocent babies, but they also focus on the emotional needs of the women who come in to meet with them,” Sorbo said. “These are women who are scared, nervous and don’t know what to do. The Vitae Foundation wants to educate and empower them.”

Although Sorbo enjoyed a successful Hollywood career as an actor, writer and producer, a series of strokes caused him to re-think the purpose of his life. “You picked a broken man to be here,” he said. “I once was broken, but I have been revived, I have been redeemed and I most certainly have been reborn.”

Sorbo speaks boldly about the evils of abortion and the sanctity of life, despite hostility from the Hollywood cancel culture.

“There is a lot of violence in

our world,” he said. “One of the greatest attacks on America was not a terrorist attack by Islamic terrorists or Antifa marching down the street attacking businesses, but it was an attack perpetrated by our very own Supreme Court — the legalization of abortion. Since then, 60 million babies have been taken from the wombs of their mothers. That’s more than the entire population of Canada and Australia combined.”

Last year’s Dobbs decision that overturned Roe v. Wade shifted the fight from the federal government to the states. Kansas voters enshrined abortion right in the state constitution, and Missourians may have an opportunity to do the same next year.

“I realize the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade — 50 years too late — but the battle is still going,” Sorbo said. “We just changed battlefields. They will try to keep abortion going at any price. Child sacrifice is big business. Through six decades of brainwashing by the media, movies and television, the taking of life has become commonplace and is passively accepted as no big deal.”

Groups such as Vitae provide pro-lifers the tools they need to counter this culture of death.

“Battles are winnable, but they must be fought,” he said. “The courts of the United States have given mothers the responsibility of determining the value of the life inside her. But any Christian will tell you that only God has that authority. I believe it became a political issue so the government can shut down pastors and churches, to scare them into not discussing the sanctity of life. I like to tell rabbis, pastors and priests that if you work for God, you do not work for the government.”

Sorbo finds inspiration from those men who bravely took a stand against slavery.

“Seventeen men said it was worth the fight — and it was a heck of a fight,” he said. “It must have seemed like a losing battle to them. Those 17 men were morally compelled to take a stand for freedom, whatever the cost.”

“How many will it take to create a revolution for life? The sheep are going to be the sheep, and we need to wake up the lions. We cannot be afraid. Jesus was an amazing example of somebody who was not afraid to tell the truth. We all need to follow him.”

Sorbo encouraged attendees to support Vitae’s important work. “The Vitae Foundation is there



Kevin and Sam Sorbo

offering support at these struggling, stressful times,” he said. “They offer hope. Abortion is the absence of hope. Adoption gives hope to the unborn child.”

Although the task may seem daunting, future generations may look back at these times as they do to Wisconsin in 1854.

“I am grateful to serve in this battle for freedom,” Sorbo said. “If we do nothing, it certainly will break and destroy our country. Miracles happen. We saw it in 1776, and we saw it again in 1865. We live in a country that

has a miraculous history. When you support the Vitae Foundation, you support the transformation of a desperate country. Let’s reverse the culture of death and replace it with the culture of life on which this nation was founded.”

To support the Vitae Foundation or learn more about its work, visit www.vitae.foundation.org. Find out more about Kevin Sorbo’s upcoming movie “Miracle in East Texas” or new children’s book, “The Test of Lionhood,” at www.sorbostudios.com.

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Small, unexpected things can bring happiness



Happiness seems to be in short supply with all of the turmoil in the world today. The good news is that small, unexpected things can bring a smile when it's needed most, a new poll found.

For example, more than one-third of people relish being allowed to jump ahead in line at the grocery store or hearing a favorite song on the radio. More winners include being able to drive through a string of green lights, catching a familiar smell from childhood and finding a treasured lost item.

"The nicest things are those that are totally unexpected," a spokesperson for the British company that conducted the poll told Fox News. "And they don't have to be big things — sometimes little moments lead to big smiles. I'd imagine the joy is doubled if you get a run of green lights while your favorite track plays on the radio."

The study found that unexpected

ly delightful things happen to people an average of twice a week, with 78 percent saying that when they do occur, it automatically puts them in a good mood, SWNS. Three-fourths also said that making others happy improves their mood.

These are the top 30 things that bring happiness, according to the poll.

Finding money in a coat or jeans pocket

Getting a surprise refund

Receiving a compliment from a stranger

Having someone let you jump in line at the supermarket

Hearing your favorite song on the radio

Receiving a bonus at work

Getting constant green lights on the road

Hearing your baby's first word

Receiving unexpected affection from your partner

Being understood by someone else

when you're talking

Encountering a familiar smell from your childhood

Hearing from a loved one randomly that they're proud of you

Finding a treasured lost item

Waking up before your alarm goes off and getting to sleep longer

Getting upgraded, such as on a flight or at a hotel

Thinking it's Thursday when it's actually Friday

Having a child start a conversation with you

Receiving a postcard in the mail

Hitting the exact number when getting gas

Arriving home from work to find that a loved one has already cooked dinner

Having a work meeting get canceled at the last minute because the boss isn't in

Seeing a car's funny license plate

Being asked for ID

Receiving breakfast in bed from a partner or loved one

Saying the same thing as your friend at the same moment — and having it happen again

Hearing from your teenager that he or she wants to spend quality time with you

Receiving a gift of baked goods from a neighbor

Bumping into an old school teacher — who recognizes you

Catching the eye of a favorite musician during the person's live performance

Witnessing a marriage proposal in public

C5Alive Power Luncheons continue

The November C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held on the 9th. Details were not confirmed at press time.

In December, the annual C5 Christmas Luncheon will be held at Fairlawn Plaza Mall on the 14th.

The cost is \$15 for C5 members and first-time guests who RSVP, and \$17 at the door. Repeat guests pay \$20. RSVPs and inquiries can be sent to info@C5Alive.org.

"POWER" luncheons are held on the second Thursday of each month and are open to the public. C5Alive is dedicated to creating Christian culture in the Capital City, by developing and uniting Christian Leadership in community businesses, non-profits and churches.

C5 also hosts other periodic events, including **EASTERFEST**, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and at

Great Overland Station on the day before Easter.

The 3rd Annual C5Alive **TOPEKA FALL FEST** was held on September 16, 2023 at **Great Overland Station**.

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, C5Alive.org, or call 785-640-6399.

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OCC

continued from page 1

"Now more than ever, children around the world need to know that God loves them and there is hope," said Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse. "A simple shoebox gift opens the door to share about the true hope that can only be found in Jesus Christ."

Participants can find the nearest drop-off location and hours of operation as they make plans to drop off their shoebox gifts. The online lookup tool is searchable by City or ZIP code. Signs at each location will identify the drop-off.

Those interested in more information on how Operation Christmas Child is making adjustments during its National

Collection Week can visit the organization's webpage for the latest information and answers to Frequently Asked Questions: www.samaritanspurse.org/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child

Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's Purse, seeks to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world and, together with the local church worldwide, to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has collected and delivered more than 188 million gift-filled shoeboxes to children in more than 160 countries and territories.

Here are some locations in Topeka. For more locations go to <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/drop-off-locations/>.

First Southern Baptist Church, 1930 SW Gage Blvd.

Mon, Nov. 13: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Tue, Nov. 14: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Wed, Nov. 15: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Thu, Nov. 16: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Fri, Nov. 17: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Sat, Nov. 18: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sun, Nov. 19: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Mon, Nov. 20: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd.

Mon, Nov. 13: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Tue, Nov. 14: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Wed, Nov. 15: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Thu, Nov. 16: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Fri, Nov. 17: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sat, Nov. 18: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sun, Nov. 19: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Mon, Nov. 20: 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Letters from 'Daisy' - No. 5

Below is another article from someone I have been working with, who is going by the name, "Daisy". As I saw how writing was so healing for Daisy, I believe God has prompted me to help facilitate her being able to share her journey with you. I believe it will not only be healing for her, but also for many of those who read what she has to say. If you would want to write to Daisy, you can send your email to, shane@shanemjones.com, and I will forward it to her.

Shane M. Jones, LSCSW

Shane M. Jones & Associates, P.A.

#5... My story continues.

I think I've mentioned that I didn't exactly have the most supportive childhood. Growing up I did not get what every child has. Every child should be given a safe home, food to eat and a sense of love and support. My mother was absent most of the time. Then my sexually abusive father was home with me, a two year old toddler cute as a button. With mom gone and dad abusing me I didn't get the love and nurturing that I should have. My abuse was daily so I really had no reprieve from the constant abuse and neglect. I was sexually molested daily and was lacking when it came to love and support.

As a toddler, from the ages of 2 to 5 years old I was at the mercy of my father. He would abuse me and left it up to me to do damage control. My mother was oblivious to what was really going on at home. Everyday, even at that young of an age, I

failed to get the proper care that every child needs. I needed that comfort and nurturing like a simple hug or kind word to make sense of my short life. Any and every child needs to know they're loved, safe, and wanted. All which are components of a healthy childhood.

As a child of abuse within the home, we miss out on that love and comfort every child should have. At least, speaking for myself, that was not only missing as a toddler but also as I continued to grow. My abuse lessened as soon as I started school however it never stopped totally. But I never did receive the kind of soothing and comfort any child needs to be loved and healthy. So when I didn't get this from my family I knew I needed to get it somehow.

How does a growing child figure out what they need in order to get the love and support they need? What I did is definitely not recommended. I turned to self harm. As a first grader I began self harming. Where I picked this habit up from is still a mystery but I would stab myself with pencils, cut myself with scissors and bite myself.

As I grew, my self harm took over. I used my self harm as a way to what?.....comfort and nurture myself. I cut myself for approximately 20 years. I know it sounds crazy but I would cut myself and then take care of me as someone else would step in

and do. I'd make sure I had everything I would need. Razors, kleenex and a variety of bandaids. I'd stop the bleeding. Make sure it doesn't need stitches and bandage it up as a parent should do for their child. I was both the parent and child. This made me sad yet also angered me. I was doing my parents' job. Why should I have to do their job? They shouldn't have had children if they weren't ready to do all it took to have safe and healthy kids.

I have been self harming for a long time, some 35 years total. Starting as a toddler and I only stopped less than a year ago. For years and years this is the only way I knew to self soothe. If no one was going to do so, I had to come up with ways that worked for me. Unfortunately those I found were quite self destructive.

As a person we all need nurturing. According to www.dictionary.com to nurture means "to care for and encourage the growth or development of" a child. This is something we all need, even into adulthood. Everyone needs to be cared for no matter what your age.

If you're like me, after years and years of self harm I need to come up with different ways to self nurture and self soothe that are healthy and positive. This, my friend, is easier said than done. After decades of therapy I still have a hard time doing this. To this day my therapist and I still have to visit this quite often.

The past years have really taken their toll on me. My body is covered in scars, have nerve damage in my legs and the constant reminders of what I did to myself. I urge you if you find yourself in a similar situation, there are ways to learn how to not hurt yourself. At the moment I am seeing my therapist three times a week, writing down any uncomfortable thoughts and relying on positive ways to learn how to self soothe and give self comfort.

You know what I do? I pray. God can do a lot of things and He's kept me going when I felt I couldn't. Just believe. You'll be surprised what He can do!

More to come...

-Daisy



Has the boyhood home of Jesus been confirmed?



The Biblical Archaeology Society is updating information released in 2020. Scholars and archaeologists have known about the excavation site under the Sisters of Nazareth Convent in Nazareth since 1887. It wasn't until excavation was properly done 2006 that its full and extraordinary meaning was understood. The society says there's strong evidence this is the home where Jesus grew up.

We are excited about the news because it is just 1,200 feet from the site of ancient Nazareth's wine press. That site is under the protection of Nazareth Village, a living-history museum where we take tour groups to learn about life in the time of Jesus.



And it all makes sense. The wine press would have been just on the edge of Nazareth, and farmers would have brought in their harvest for the annual wine or olive oil production. While not farmers, Jesus and his family would have lived nearby in the village.

A big surprise

Discovered by Prof. Ken Dark of the University of Reading in Eng-

land, he previously published details about the discovery in his book *The Sisters of Nazareth Convent: A Roman-period, Byzantine, and Crusader site in central Nazareth*.

"I didn't go to Nazareth to find the house of Jesus, I was actually doing a study of the city's history as a Byzantine Christian pilgrimage center," he told the BBC. "Nobody could have been more surprised than me."

So what about the house of Jesus? The excavations found a typical Jewish "courtyard house" from the first century that was built partly from natural rock and partly with walls made of stone. Amazingly, many of the original parts of the house are still there, like the doors and win-

dows, a cistern! Also there are and the remains of an early Byzantine church that were built over the house to protect it.

Other clues to authenticity

There are other archaeological and physical clues from the nearby Church of the Annunciation and Mary's Well that all point to this place as the home of Jesus, states the society.

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Nutcracker Takes Center Stage for 47th Year

BALLET MIDWEST HOSTS ANNUAL PRODUCTION



Symbolizing good luck and their ability to frighten away malevolent spirits, nutcrackers have long symbolized another thing for many people... the Christmas season. Based loosely on E.T.A. Hoffman's fantasy story "The Nutcracker and the Mouse King," the plot of the annual holiday ballet program depicts a girl whose new beloved Christmas gift of a wooden nutcracker that comes to life on Christmas Eve to battle against the evil Mouse King.

Make the Nutcracker ballet a part of your holiday must-dos and watch this unique story transform on the stage during the 46th annual Ballet Midwest Nutcracker, December 8-10, 2023 at the Topeka Performing Arts Center.

At the start of the show, the stage is set as a Victorian Christmas party with boys and girls running around

with holiday glee. The merry crew are led into mischief by Fritz, who makes it his mission to torture his older sister, Clara, and the special gift from her mysterious godfather: a Nutcracker.

Falling asleep that very evening, Clara dreams of her darling Nutcracker, her very own night, battling evil against the wicked Mouse King. Victorious, Clara and her Nutcracker (now a handsome prince) travel through snow-covered fields, to cascades of flowers and through the sugar plum-filled Kingdom of Sweets, where dancers take to the stage representing different countries (and their corresponding treats!) throughout the second part of the show.

Ballet Midwest Company and Junior Company dancers are primary players on stage, but the cast includes

both adults and children from the local community. Ages 3 to ageless make up the full cast of almost 200 dancers.

Ballet Midwest's Nutcracker Ballet is a holiday staple and will be performed live at TPAC, Friday, December 8th at 7:30 pm, Saturday, December 9th at 1:30 pm and 7:30 pm and Sunday, December 10th at 1:30 pm.

Ticket prices are \$25 for adults, \$22 for seniors 55 and older, and \$16 for students 18 and younger. A family pack of two adult and two student tickets is \$60. Tickets can be purchased in person at the TPAC box office, from cast members, and at Barbara's Conservatory of Dance.

For more information visit www.balletmidwest.net.

Fun Facts:

- All local talent! All the dancers



involved are trained right here in Northeast Kansas. Many grow up performing in the Nutcracker every year with dreams of the day they perform the lead roles in the production.

- It's the longest running Nutcracker in Northeast Kansas.
- Terrific lighting and theatrical ef-

fects to behold – smoking cannons, lighting flashes, growing sets, falling snow and more.

- Costumes are stunning! The level of detail with Victorian lace and sequins makes the dancers shine on stage.

- Christmas tree grows over 20 feet in front of your eyes.

- Acting plays a major role in the production – Shannon Reilly (Topeka Civic Theatre's Artistic Director) consistently creates magic on stage as Clara's godfather. Each cast member similarly strives to bring out the best in their role, whether scary or stunning, magical or mysterious.

- Incredible pas de deux (dance of two) to view: enjoy watching strong men lift ladies overhead, allowing them to gracefully hover in the air, spin with precision and glide through space.



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FINANCIAL PLANNING



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WHAT TERM INSURANCE?

Dear Dave,

My wife and I are both 36 years old, and we have two children. Our son is six, and our daughter will be four next month. We've been walking through the Baby Steps, and we should have our home paid off sometime next summer. We realized the other day the one thing missing from our financial picture is life insurance. We both work outside the home. She makes \$60,000 a year, while I make \$80,000 a year. At our age, and in our current situation, do you think we should we get 20-year or 30-year level term life insurance policies?

-Clay

Dear Clay,

You guys are doing a great job of getting control of your finances and planning for the future. Speaking of the future, do you plan on having more kids? If you do, you might want

to go with 30-year policies. If you've decided two are enough, then based on your present situation I think 20-year policies would work out fine.

I recommend folks have 10 to 12 times their annual income in life insurance coverage. That means you'd need between \$800,000 and \$960,000 in coverage, while your wife needs a policy in the \$600,000 to \$720,000 range. But let's take a deeper dive into all this.

Your kids will be in their mid-twenties in 20 years. Ideally, they both should have finished college by that time, or at the very least, be working and living on their own. If you continue to follow my plan, you and your wife will have paid off your home in a few months and be completely debt-free. And, you'll have been saving 15% of your income for retirement over those 20 years. On average, that alone should give you more than a half-million dollars for retirement.

Do you see where I'm going with this, Clay? Eventually, you two will become self-insured by getting out of debt, staying out of debt and piling up cash. So, if you've got \$500,000 or more in a retirement fund, no debt and your children are grown and out of the house, even if you or your wife were to die unexpectedly at that point, the other would still be taken care of and in great shape financially.

Keep up the good work!

— Dave

Why You Shouldn't Listen to Those on Wall Street

By Ryan Shumaker
Smartvestor Pro at
The Retirement Team



Gas prices, grocery store bills, and interest rates have all been rising at a fairly high rate recently. It seems to be what everyone is talking about. The question is, where are they headed next?

To be blunt and to the point, no one knows and listening to those that claim they do is about as foolish as the predictions being made. Just look at this chart that shows where every single analyst on Wall Street had said they believed interest rates would be 6 and 12 months later at the start of each year (the blue dots) and where interest rates actually went (black line). You can see that for 3 out of the last 4 years interest rates were either lower than the lowest prediction from Wall Street or higher than the highest prediction. Not exactly a great track record. The numbers are even worse when you look to the stock market. 11 out of the last 13 years the SP 500 has either finished higher than the highest prediction or lower than the lowest prediction and 2023 is on track to end higher than the highest prediction and make that 12 out of 14.

Trying to ascertain what financial markets may do in the short run is like trying to guess which raindrop might make it to the bottom of a window first. It is simply impossible to do with any sort of accuracy, even for those whose primary job it is to

do so. Despite this, many financial TV shows, newspapers, websites, and even portfolio managers are constantly trying to forecast the next short-term move. Everyone likes certainty and to know what's next, which is why this practice of wildly inaccurate guessing continues and why people keep listening. If you want to be successful financially, though, you need to ignore the noise. Basing your financial future on what someone said is going to happen in the short run is a surefire way to find yourself facing negative results.

A wiser course of action is to create a plan where short-term financial market movements and all the uncertainty surrounding them can be ignored. If you're sure you're going to have ever increasing income in retirement to overcome ever increasing prices regardless of what any financial market (be it stocks, bonds, real estate, precious metals, commodities, etc.) might do over the next month or year then it is much easier to ignore those that are more often wrong than they are right. The fact is that it is not a question of if but when, and how many times, major financial markets will temporarily decrease in value when you're retired. Failing to have a plan for this inevitable scenario usually means you're planning to fail as you'll likely fall victim to emotional decision-making and start listening to and acting on rarely right predictions.

The next time you hear someone say where they believe the stock market, interest rates, oil prices, etc. are

going in the near future, remember this article and chart. Then remember to ignore them. If any short-term movement of any asset is going to make or break your retirement you either have no plan or a poor one. If you're feeling the urge to act on a prediction you've recently seen or heard, you should instead consider speaking with a financial advisor that can help create a comprehensive strategy that covers tax reduction, Social Security timing, pension decisions, and inflation fighting income streams.

Other great articles about retirement, investing, and tax reduction can be seen at RetireTopeka.com/blog.

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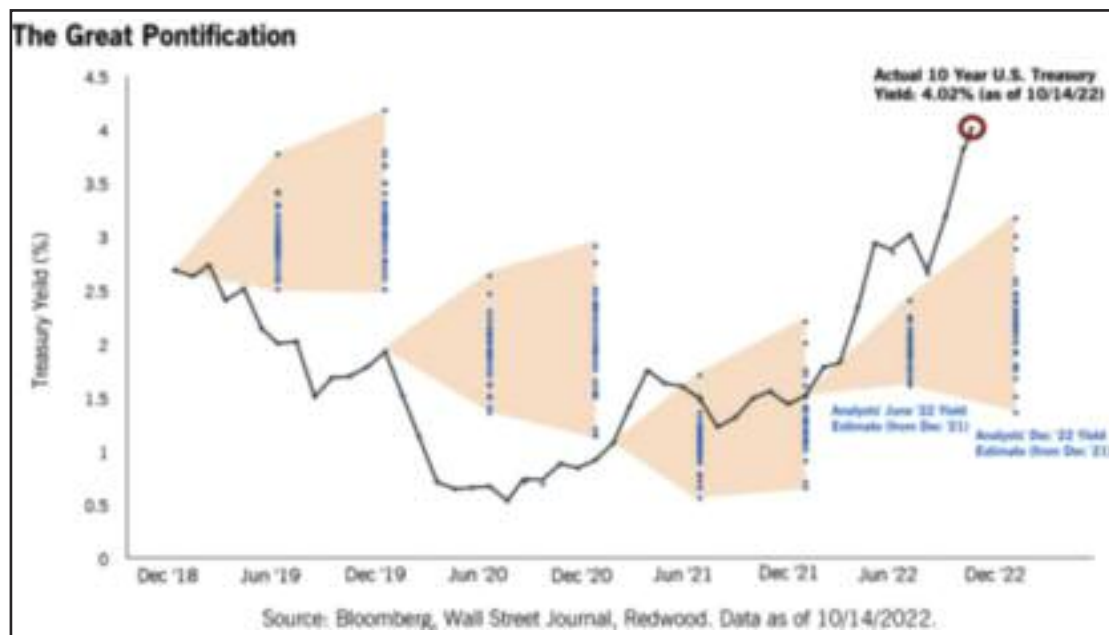


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Don't Let Emotional Investing Cloud Your Judgement

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

When it comes to money, it's easy to let your emotions get the best of you – particularly during periods of personal stress or market volatility. Even seasoned investors should guard against making financial decisions based on feelings instead of facts.

Here are four common investment biases that can cloud your judgment. Keeping these tendencies in mind can help you avoid making regrettable decisions regarding your hard-earned money.

Overconfidence: Overconfidence implies that investors tend to overestimate their ability to generate a return and underestimate the risk associated with a particular investment. For example, imagine you are an investor who has recently had success picking winning shares. You may conclude that the success is due solely to your investment skill. That may be the case, but it's also possible the results were due to market forces outside of your control. The problem is that in either case, recent success may encourage you to take greater risks. While this could lead to greater profits, it's just as likely to result in greater losses.

Herding mentality, which is the tendency for investors to follow and copy what other investors are doing, also tends to distort near-term risks in up markets. Thus, investors can mistakenly discount the volatility and chance for loss as they seek to chase higher returns. Investors are best served by following objective information and building in an expectation that stocks do not move in a straight line.

Aversion to loss: Aversion to loss is innate. It is said that one feels the pain of a loss twice as strongly as the joy of a gain. In an attempt to minimize the pain associated with an investment loss, investors may be more prone to take action that can lead to the derailment of their long-term investment success. In market draw-downs, investors can be quick to react, selling stocks, and over-allocating to bonds or cash to avoid further losses and protect their nest eggs.

Many investors sold down their stock funds in favor of bond funds and cash during the 2008/2009 financial crisis. Unfortunately, by doing so, they missed out on the subsequent rallies that eventually took place and helped propel

stocks to new highs.

While it is tempting to move to the sidelines during times of market stress, investors may want to avoid over-allocating to cash and avoid locking in investment losses that they would not otherwise incorporate into their regular portfolio management activity. Importantly, if you maintain a well-diversified investment mix and own high-quality stocks and bonds, you should be better able to stomach near-term investment losses and ride out the eventual market cycles that come and go with time.

Anchoring: Anchoring implies that investors tend to rely too heavily on specific information or lean on recent circumstances to make decisions. Our minds can "anchor" to information and use it as a reference point moving forward, regardless of its relevance. For example, investors may hang on to poor investments by waiting for them to break even at the price at which it was purchased. If you're trying to decide whether to sell or hold a stock, are you basing your decision on what you know about the company and the state of the market? Or are you basing your target price on the purchase price or other measures that may be less relevant to the stock's future course?

To help combat such biases, it's important that investors accept that market circumstances routinely change and sometimes suddenly. Therefore, your outlook may need to change accordingly. Investors can adjust to new market developments by seeking objective information, leaning on a financial advisor for sound advice, and setting realistic assumptions for potential returns.

Pattern-seeking behavior: Pattern-seeking behavior describes our brain's desire to seek out ways to compartmentalize the flow of information and find patterns that help us make sense of the world quickly. Since our brain is hardwired to do this, investors can mistakenly believe they see patterns in market trends that prove false. Since the future can be unpredictable at times, and patterns are not always present, investors may want to incorporate the following:

Beware of fake charities

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



With the tragic crises and natural disasters happening around the globe, many are responding to the call to give what they can to help. The IRS warns taxpayers to be wary of criminals soliciting donations and falsely posing as legitimate charities.

Those who wish to make donations should use the Tax-Exempt Organization Search (TEOS) tool on IRS.gov to help find or verify qualified, legitimate charities.

With the TEOS, people can:

- Verify the legitimacy of a charity
- Check its eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions
- Search for information about an organization's tax-exempt status and filings

In addition, the IRS urges anyone encountering a fake or suspicious charity to report it to the FBI.

- Establish realistic expectations for your portfolio, both from a return and risk perspective.

- Expect markets to move in unpredictable ways, particularly during periods of market stress.

- While the near-term is unpredictable, generally, stocks move up and to the right over the long-term.

- Society is aging, and growth is slower. That means the patterns of the past may be harder to apply to the future, or possibly, not relevant.

Truly understanding your risk tolerance and your threshold for loss can go a long way in helping you maintain a level head during times of market stress.

If you suspect your personal investing bias and emotions are interfering with your investment decisions, defer to the experts. Ask a financial professional to conduct an objective review of your portfolio, with an eye to performance and your financial goals. Together you can look for opportunities to grow your investments through disciplined investing strategies.



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Celebrate the Holidays in Downtown Topeka!

As we enter the Holiday season, Downtown is looking better than ever! People are getting in the Christmas Spirit!

Christmas shopping in Down-town Topeka can be fun, with all the unique shops and a bit of nostalgia in the air. It might remind you of a time when shopping was more exciting and more personal.

Following are some tidbits from some of your friendly downtown merchants.

A Full-Service Florist & Gift Shop

Absolute Design by Brenda, 629 S. Kansas Avenue, offers hand-selected flowers and exquisite designs with de-



livery throughout the Topeka area. They have an expansive line of gifts, jewelry and home decor for all your holiday and year-round needs.

This locally-owned florist delivers courteous, professional service and the highest quality floral and gift items around. Their experienced designers can create floral designs that will complement any occasion and meet your budget & style expectations as well. Daily delivery service is available to all local funeral homes, hospitals and nursing homes. You can even save \$5.00 by using the coupon on this page!

You can also order or wire flowers 24 hours a day at the website: www.absolute-design-by-brenda.com.

Taking chocolate to a new level

Owners Nick & Terry Xidis at Hazel Hill Chocolate, 724 S. Kansas Avenue, have been a Downtown staple for years.

Hazel Hill, Terry's grandmother, is a symbol of their dedication to a family tradition of "the best in everything they do." Nick is the third generation chocolatier, and they use only the finest ingredients, chocolate, fresh cream and butter, to produce hand-made treats that explode with flavor.



Lately, Nick has been making hand-crafted chocolate from cacao (coco beans) that import from around the globe. Much like fine wine, each cacao origin produces a unique flavor profile in the finished chocolate.

"There are only a couple of hundred companies in the US that hand craft chocolate," Nick said.

It's not just Topekans that delight in Hazel Hill chocolates.

"In 2019, three of our handcrafted chocolate bars won bronze in the International Chocolate Awards Americas

competition," Nick said. "In 2020 our sea salt caramel won the gold medal in the Chocolate Alliance competition."

Whatever your preference – hand-made chocolate truffles, home-style fudge, crispy-creamy caramel apples or something else – at Hazel Hill they fashion delightful treats for every palate. Need a gift basket, gift box, or just a few delicious chocolates to go? They'll take care of all the packing and shipping, too!

When you need a break

For your coffee emergency, go Downtown to Juli's Coffee and Bistro – a locally owned, woman owned, Veteran owned and operated coffee shop offering legit house coffee and all manner of espresso drinks.

Juli's features "Made in the USA" coffee grown and roasted in Hawaii, with aloha flavors like toasted coconut, chocolate and vanilla macadamia nut. Buy a bag to take home!

Having relocated from 8th Street last year, the new space has easier access – no more stairs. Local favorites are still available, like the Turkey Lurkey and house made Cranberry Almond Chicken Salad for lunch. Fresh salads, wraps and tasty paninis make it perfect



for casual dining. Daily house made specials keep it fresh and exciting.

Check out the menus online at www.juliscoffeeandbistro.com and order online, pay online and then pick up, or use Eatstreet delivery.

New menu items include made from scratch pies! Using recipes handed down for 5 generations, locally sourced small batch and uniquely tasty. Come in for a slice, or order ahead for the holidays: Apple, cherry, pumpkin, pecan, oatmeal, coconut cream, and more!

A little bit of Heaven

Working side-by-side at Cashmere Popcorn, Bill and Angie Anderson's goal is to create a high-quality product in every hand-crafted batch of popcorn, and provide it to you with unmatched customer service.



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behind this amazing company. In fact, their family motto has always been, and will always be, "Thanks Be To God!"

They produce, package and market all the popcorn. With about twenty flavors to choose from, you'll find a little bit of heaven in every bag. Hours are Tuesday-Friday 10-6 and Saturday 10-4.

Cashmere Popcorn would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas Season, and thanks for supporting local.

Diamonds are Forever

With the Christmas season in full swing, you'll find many specials and gift ideas at David's Jewelers, 623 S. Kansas -



a family business that has served Topeka for four generations, with over 50 years in business.

Diamond rings, pendants and earrings usually top the list but they also offer vivid colored gemstones in unique settings, watches, clocks, statues and fine crystal.

"Gifts can start at \$20.00 and go from there," said Mitzi from behind the counter at David's. "We will be glad to help you find that special gift for that special someone."

Leather and more

Doug Mingus, owner and designer at Mingus Leather Studio, believes the world needs more beauty and joy: More gifts given and used; More smiles, kindness, and real service; More people doing what they love and sharing it.

His business was born to pursue all these when life presented an unexpected change. He created a place where beautiful handcrafted items, that are designed for life, are celebrated and shared. Immediately when walking into this shop you will be greeted with the intoxicating smell of leather and a warm kind welcome from Doug.

It all starts with full grain leather items made in his studio, or from other artisans he has partnered with. Belts, bags,

journal covers, catch-all and game trays, wallets, keychains, pouches, purses, and more.

Mingus didn't stop at leather. He partners with George's Pen Creations and has jewelry from Kamama Designs, candle makers like Beauty from Ashes, and other artists. Mingus Leather Studio is a place to find



unique, useful and beautiful items that bring a smile, and build businesses and families. There is something for everyone on your gift list here and you may even need to splurge on something for yourself.

Doug also does repairs on all kinds of leather items.

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Holiday Memories & Events

Check Out These Upcoming Holiday Events & Activities

While you're making your way around the downtown area, check out all of the new things to look at on both sides of the street. There are lots of new features! And watch for these downtown events and opportunities during the holiday season:

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

NASHVILLE NIGHTS – Nov. 9, 7pm, TPAC. 3 top songwriters – Lee Thomas Miller, Wendell Mobley and Barry Dean have multiple Grammy, CMA and ACM nominations and a combined 19 #1 hit singles.

VETERANS DAY PARADE – SUNFLOWER SALUTE – Nov. 11, 11am, State Capitol Building. The main stage will be at 10th and Kansas. Parade reg-



GINGERBREAD HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS - Nov 17, 9am-5pm; Nov

18, 10am-5pm; Nov. 19, 11am-4pm. TPAC, 214 SE 8th Ave. View and bid on elaborate gingerbread houses. Families, students, youth groups and scout troops, etc. can build their own. Holiday Boutique - crafts, gifts and more; Sweet Tooth Lane. Meet Santa. Adm. \$6. TopekaPerformingArts.org 785-234-2787.

CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER – Nov. 25, 2pm & 7pm, TPAC. An urban

administration will enter at 12th and Harrison. Registration begins at 9am

TOPEKA JAZZ: BRIAN BAGGETT TRIO - Nov 26, 3pm, TPAC. Tickets: TopekaJazz.com



NUTCRACKER BALLET – Dec. 8, 7:30pm; Dec. 9, 1:30pm & 7:30pm; Dec. 10, 1:30pm at TPAC. Ballet Midwest's holiday staple. Tickets at TPAC box office, and Barbara's Conservatory of Dance.

www.balletmidwest.net

THE KREADY HOLIDAY SPECTACULAR – Dec. 23, 1:30 & 7pm, TPAC. Bringing back the Topeka native.

twist on the classic ballet, showcasing a variety of ethnic dances, including hip hop, jazz, African contemporary, lyrical, praise dance and ballet, staged by It Takes a Village Inc.

LINDSEY STIRLING Snow Waltz Tour – Dec. 1, 7pm, TPAC.

MIRACLE ON KANSAS AVENUE PARADE – Dec. 2, 6-8pm, Downtown Lighted parade at 5th & Kansas. topekapartnership.com/gtp-events

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Three Tips For How to Have a Successful Open Adoption

Open adoptions are one of the three main types of adoption that are available for you to select as a birth mother. Each has their own pros and cons; yet, more and more birth mothers are preferring open adoption above the other two types. As an agency, we strongly advocate for open adoptions as well. We believe that they truly keep everyone's best interests at heart and are among the most successful adoption stories.

That said, if you are trying to determine which type of adoption is best for you and your baby, here are some tips on how to have a successful open adoption.

Take the First Step

With an open adoption, you have the opportunity to see your baby after your adoption process has been completed. Depending on the agreement you and the adoptive parents made, visitations



can greatly vary. Be sure to consult with your adoption caseworker about how all of this works, as every adoption experience is different.

As you begin your adoption journey, write down any questions or concerns you have. What level of openness do you want with your child and the adoptive parents? What kind of adoptive parents would you like to see raise your child? Do you have any specific wishes or requirements for your time in the

hospital? Be sure to bring this list with you when you meet your assigned birth parent counselor. They will provide you with all the resources and information you need to have a positive and empowering adoption experience.

Communicate

Communication is key! There are many ways to keep in touch with your prospective adoptive family — social media, FaceTime, ZOOM or, perhaps, in person.

If, at first, you feel nervous or awkward meeting the prospective adoptive parent(s), that's natural. Start by introducing yourself and go from there. Share your interests. Ask what the adoptive family is looking for in an open adoption. This will help you all establish a strong and healthy relationship moving forward. Speak with prospective adoptive families as much as possible. Involve them in your pregnancy. Invite them to your doctor's appointments if you are comfortable with this. All of this and more will not only deepen your bond with the adoptive parents, but also show your child as they grow older that everything you do is out of love for them.

Set Clear Boundaries

A third secret for how to have a successful open adoption is through setting clear boundaries between yourself and the adoptive parents. Your adoption caseworker can help with this. Be sure that you lay out your expectations for the open adoption and then listen to what the adoptive parents want as well. If there are any disagreements, do your best to find a compromise. Once the adoption is finalized, it's important that you are all on the same page and have mutual respect for one another.

A common boundary with open adoptions is the frequency of visits and contact. Communicate how often

you'd like to see your child and see where the adoptive parents are most comfortable. For instance, would you like to be a part of their birthday each year? Another option is to have a pre-arranged number of visits per year, and then let the child decide his or her desired amount of interaction as they grow older. Again, this will greatly vary as every adoption journey is unique. But, it's important to make sure that

you have clear boundaries in place so that no one takes advantage once the adoption is finalized.

Following these three tips above will help you have a healthy and successful open adoption journey. Open adoptions do work and are extremely beneficial to you, your child and the adoptive parents. Don't hesitate to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have.

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Tips for those considering adoption

Whether you are a birth mother, an adoptive family, an adoptee, or just have an interest in the field of adoption, you will need information and resources to ensure you are well informed, and able to make the best decisions for you and your family.

1. Research and learn. Read books and magazines. Visit Websites. Talk to other parents – adoptive parents or birth parents. Meet with adoptive parents and their children and birth parents. Join adoptive parent and birth parent support

groups. Don't be afraid to talk about adoption with others nor hide adoption.

2. Find professionals – agencies, attorneys and other adoption experts – in your area. Attend informational meetings held by public and private agencies. Ask for brochures and handouts. Talk with social workers, attorneys, facilitators, agency rep-

resentatives. Screen any agency or attorney you think you might use. Check references.

3. Do some soul searching. Decide whether you want an infant



or older child, boy or girl, domestic or foreign-born child. Usually, more specific requests will take longer. Consider whether you open or closed adoption, younger or older children, or whether you can handle a special needs child. Think about whether you want an open relationship with the birth parents. Decide whether you want an independent non-agency adoption, a

public agency adoption or a private agency adoption.

4. Finance. Determine the cost of the type of adoption you seek. Draw upon savings, grants, and loans from church groups, friends and family. Check out a list of grants and loans.

5. Research the law. If adopting domestically, research state laws. If adopting internationally, investigate the eligibility requirements of target countries and U.S. State Department regulations.

6. Complete a home study. Gather multiple notarized copies of birth certificates, marriage licenses, medical exams, financial statements (including the last three years' tax returns, photographs of you and your home, a written autobiography, employment records, criminal clearance documents, fingerprints, three letters of reference, a report on your home with deed, and (possibly) a psychological evaluation, and, in international adoptions, INS documents, passports, and copies of State Department laws in English and in the language of the country you have chosen to adopt from. Prepare for an interview by a social worker or agency.

7. Carefully consider any child you might adopt. Explore the child's medical history and social and emotional background. Ask a pediatrician's advice about what to expect.

8. Use post-adoption services. Once the adoption is complete, join an adoptive families support group. If the adoption is international or interracial, seek support groups for help with birth culture. If the child has special needs, seek supplemental medical or counseling services.

–Adoption Choices of Kansas and Missouri



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Never again? No, again.

By Dwight Widaman

For 78 years the Jewish community, joined by many around the world, has chanted, “Never again!” We would take action to avert another Jewish Holocaust. Six million dead at the hands of Nazis was unfathomable, the entire world agreed. Never, ever again.

Few words have ever rung so hollow.

Yes, in the twenty-first century – again.

My heart is broken over the weekend’s slaughter of Jews. Saturday saw the greatest single-day loss of Jewish civilian life since the furnaces burnt nonstop in the final days of the Holocaust.

The videos are gruesome. Jewish women and young girls were kidnapped, beaten, and raped, their blood dripping from their mouths and between their legs as they were paraded around Gaza’s streets to the catcalls of its Palestinian residents. A five-year-old Jewish boy now a hostage, is taunted and prodded with sticks by Palestinian children and his terrorist captors. He cries in Hebrew for his mother, “Ima! Ima! Ima!”

Another Gaza video shows a HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR! Yes, an elderly wheelchair-bound Holocaust survivor, paraded along a Gaza street like a trophy.

Do these images seem familiar?

Israel is a rather small country. There are just 7.1 million Jews. In terms of numbers, the loss of life this weekend is equivalent to 30,000 Americans dying in one day and 125,000 being injured. And the bodies are still being discovered.

These people were not soldiers. In truth, only a few soldiers are among the dead. These were families and teens, college students and nursing home residents peacefully enjoying a Saturday morning—their sabbath day of rest. Some were discovered on their neighborhood streets, beheaded in the style of ISIS. At a music festival celebrating peace and love, young people were machine-gunned as they fled. More than 260 died there.

Terrorists set fire to the house and burned a family alive when they were unable to break into the safe room to reach them. Babies were snatched from their mothers’ arms and shot in the head. Entire families were killed in their vehicles while fleeing. The elderly were killed where they sat in their wheelchairs.

Are these images too horrifying to contemplate? Does it make you feel uneasy? We’ve seen them before.

We vowed as a world, never again.

Protests against Israel have already begun, even before the majority of the murder victims have been buried. Palestinians are waving swastikas at rallies in New York and Miami today. Hypocritical demands for Israel to show “restraint” echo on social media while Jewish mothers still search for their children.

What you’re seeing now in Israel is an entire nation filled with righteous anger. Israel simply wishes to exist.

Israel will not hold back its retaliation. It is a response that neither you nor I nor any world leader or political commentator, have the right to judge.



The Soviet army documented Nazi atrocities against Jews. This 1942 photo of the Kerch atrocities carried this caption: “Kerch resident P.I. Ivanova found her husband, who was tortured by the fascist executioners.” Photo courtesy of Michael Mattis.

This level of premeditated massacre of Jews has not been seen since the Nazi regime. Do you understand that?

I will not pass judgment on Israel’s response in Gaza.

Hamas uses its own civilians as human shields. Israel utilizes targeted strikes against military targets, even warning civilians to evacuate though some may be inadvertently killed. Unprovoked, Hamas purposefully killed and injured thousands of Israeli civilians.

As one of the few Americans who has visited the Gaza border (and my wife Anita has been INSIDE a Hamas tunnel during an investigative trip as recently as last December), I can tell you that Gaza is a terrorist state run by animals who would just as easily break into a Jewish home and murder a child in a crib as they would slit the throat of an animal for butcher.

This is what Israel is dealing with.

Images will be difficult to watch in the

next days and weeks. The media will attack Israel and its response. Some may incorrectly equate Israel’s response with Hamas’s carnage. Some will repeat Hamas propaganda about the death toll in Gaza. But, of course, the figures come from Hamas, a terrorist organization that is attempting to sway global opinion after miscalculating the world’s outrage over their acts this weekend.

Israel has a right to respond.

Those who seek peace may be forced to endure war as the Allies did during World War II.

Never again?

No, again. But this time the Jewish people will respond on their own behalf. – Dwight Widaman is an award-winning journalist and editor of metrovoiceneews.com. With his wife Anita, they founded VisionIsrael.org which works to eliminate antisemitism on American college campuses and introduce individuals to the land of Israel.

Truth

By Kerby Anderson

George Barna has been doing an extensive inventory of the worldviews of Americans through the Cultural Research Center at Arizona Christian University. He was on my radio program recently to talk about two of his most recent surveys dealing with truth and morality.

Past generations of Americans viewed God as the basis for truth. Not only has that changed for the general population, it has also changed significantly within the church. He found that there were certain groups that rejected the idea of absolute truth. That would be members of the



LGBTQ community, political liberals, spiritual skeptics, Democrats, and young people under the age of 50.

By contrast, those most likely to see God as the basis of truth are the group called SAGECons. That stands for Spiritually Active Governance Engaged Conservative Christians. Nearly nine out of ten (87%) point to God as the source of truth and more than six in ten (62%) recognize the existence of absolute moral standards.

In his next report, he decided to see how we apply moral principles in real-life situations. The questions ranged from telling a “white lie” to failing to pay back a loan to speeding to abortion. It was troubling to see what percentage of Americans felt that some of these behaviors were not even a moral issue. In some cases, a significant percentage might have believed it was a moral issue but that it was morally acceptable in today’s society.

Another troubling finding was what Barna calls a “seismic shift” in Christian views about morality. For example, born-again Christians in the survey were three times as likely to say they rely on the Bible for primary moral guidance. But less than half (48%) actually do so.

The latest Barna surveys are a reminder to pastors and other Christian teachers that we need to make the case for moral absolutes based on God’s Word.

Why is it so hard for elite universities to condemn Hamas terrorism?

America's leading universities have an antisemitism problem—and it starts at the top. This past week, university presidents and deans across the country wrote to their students and faculties to express concern in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Israel by Hamas. What they said, and what they did not say, provides a window into the culture of intellectual and moral rot and cowardice that reigns at these once-great elite institutions.

Those who attack Jews or Israel are all too often exempt from their exhortation. Hamas terrorists massacred some 1,300 Israelis, took approximately 200 hostages, most of them civilians, and left an additional 3,200 injured, but you would not know it from some university leaders' missives this week.

By: Marc Zvi Brettler & Michael B. Poliakoff | RealClear Education

At Harvard University, President Claudine Gay has issued three muddled statements, under pressure, on the horrific events. Her first statement was a tepid confession of "heartbreak" that implied an equivalence between the Hamas attacks and Israel neutralizing the terror-

ists. This embarrassment was signed by all the university's senior deans. Only after a barrage of online criticism—and threats by donors—did she muster the strength to condemn the child killers. Not content to leave it alone, she has issued another statement, but still without criticizing the 30-odd student groups who professed to "hold the Israeli regime entirely responsible" for the murder, rape, kidnapping, and torture of Jews, referring instead to the principle of freedom of speech. Let us be clear that these students have freedom of speech, but so does Claudine Gay. She has the right to condemn their words. In 2022, Harvard denounced in no uncertain terms "the capricious and senseless invasion of Ukraine." Harvard knows how to speak clearly about Ukrainian victims but not, apparently, about Jewish victims.

Columbia University President Minouche Shafik offered a masterfully slippery statement: "I was devastated by the horrific attack on Israel this weekend and the ensuing violence that is affecting so many people." While all lives matter, the mention of "ensuing violence" is a reference to Israeli targeting of terrorists—putting it on a par with raping and

pillaging by Hamas. She implied moral equivalence.

The moral lassitude and obscurantism of Shafik's statement trickled down. Columbia College Dean Josef Sorett emitted the following: "The events in Israel and Gaza over the past several days have shocked the world and impacted many of our students." Dean Sorett's "events in Gaza" are, of course, Israeli military operations undertaken in self-defense and in an effort to kill murderers, which he places on par with the door-to-door murder of civilians in Israel.

The dean of Columbia Law School did not outclass her colleague. Gillian Lester wrote to her students and faculty, "The violence that erupted in Israel and Gaza this past weekend is nothing short of tragic," again implying a moral equivalence between the enemies of the Jewish people and their victims.

At Middlebury College, the senior leadership wrote to "acknowledge the untold pain, suffering, and loss of life unfolding from the violence happening now in Israel and Palestine." President Laurie Patton seems unclear about who is making the violence "happen." She



goes on to warn against "hate, racism, ethnic discrimination, antisemitism, or Islamophobia." The equivalence is complete, and we can move on to meet the real threat: Islamophobia. Compare this muddle to the perfect clarity of Middlebury's official response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine: It "wreaked untold havoc in the lives of innocent civilians. Russia's aggression against its democratic neighbor is a violation of international law, made only more egregious by its escalation in the face of international condemnation. I join that condemnation in solidarity with our Middlebury community." How easy it would have been to revise that statement ever so slightly to say

that Hamas "wreaked untold havoc in the lives of innocent civilians. Hamas's aggression against its democratic neighbor is a violation of international law, made only more egregious by its escalation in the face of international condemnation. I join that condemnation in solidarity with our Middlebury community."

The University of California–Berkeley, which spends \$36 million annually on its Division of Equity & Inclusion, may be the most openly antisemitic campus in the country. Its law school is under federal investigation for discriminating against Jews. Student organiza-

■ Please see **TERRORISM** on next page

Unthinkable Acts of Evil



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

Have you ever witnessed such an unthinkable act of evil, where it caused you to wonder, "What kind of person would do an utterly detestable thing like that?" or "What would cause someone to even consider doing something so horrendous?" If that crosses your mind when unconscionable events happen, that is a good thing. It means you actually have some sense of a moral conscience, versus those who excuse or praise the perpetrators of extreme lawlessness.

A long time ago in the ancient land of Israel, while a man and his wife were traveling, they turned off to spend the night in an unfamiliar

town. A man who lived there took them in. While they were having dinner word spread across town of the visitors.

The Bible recounts, "the men of the city, worthless fellows, surrounded the house [and began] beating on the door..." (Judges 19:22) The mob of men were demanding the visiting man be given to them, for they wanted to have relations with him. As the mob became louder and more threatening, the owner of the house tried negotiating to no avail. Finally, as tensions grew the visitor grabbed his wife, pulled her toward the door, then opened it and pushed her out.

All night long, the mob violated the visitor's wife. It was a vicious gang rape, where the woman had no one to defend her. And during all this, her heartless husband was able to sleep. When he rose in the morning to continue their travels home, he found his wife's lifeless body lying in front of the door.

When news of this event spread across the nation of Israel, how did the people respond? They said, "Such a thing has never happened or been

seen from the day that the people of Israel came up out of the land of Egypt until this day..." (Judges 19:30)

What they were saying in plain language is, "We have never seen such evil."

In the story we see a husband not only failing to protect his wife, but pushing her into a mob of sexually charged men, knowing they were going to violently abuse, and possibly kill her.

The men who perpetrated the horrific act against this defenseless woman, were pure evil. In the end, there was no conscience with her callous husband, and no conscience with the animal-like men.

Where does such evil come from?

It all goes back to the origin of mankind. In the beginning, the God of heaven and earth created man and woman, and the world was perfect. There was no violence or lawlessness, but only peace and perfect love with God and one another. But then in a tragic turn of events, mankind rejected his Creator. This rejection threw wide open the door of the human heart and society, to invite ab-



ject evil into our world.

Yet, although humankind turned its back on God, He pursued man to restore him to what he once was. This is why God sent His only Son to die and rise again on a cross, that those who trust in Him would be redeemed. And what is observed throughout human history, is that whenever man has restored the broken covenant relationship with God, there is peace and perfect love, but when God is rejected violence and evil increase.

For never do those who love God and love others engage in horrific acts of evil. Never! But those who forcefully try and stomp out anything of Almighty God, His glorious Son, and refuse to obey His voice, they are prone to the unthinkable.

A prayer for you – Lord God, I pray for those who have engaged in detestable acts. May they, and those who support them, not excuse their evil. May their eyes be opened before you to the things they have done. Then Lord, have mercy on them. Bring them to cry out to you with a humble spirit, that they might be transformed into a new person by your holy power. 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 and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com.

Julie Chen Moonves talks about her faith journey

Longtime “Big Brother” host Julie Chen Moonves is known for her successful TV career, but she’s also making headlines this month for another reason: her Christian faith.

Moonves released “But First, God: An Audio Memoir of Spiritual Discovery” earlier this month, a project rooted in her personal faith discovery.

“When I finally found Jesus in 2018, I had never owned a Bible,” she told CBN Digital. “And I was gifted one from a friend who was one of my favorite cameramen working in TV news.”

That cameraman, who later became a pastor, helped Moonves on her journey to faith as she dove into the Bible

and began to discover truth for the very first time.

“I found it very daunting and intimidating, and very big, and I thought, ‘Oh, I’m going to listen to an audio version of the Bible,’” she recalled. “And the only one I could find was a King James Version that sounded like I was ... listening to Shakespeare.”

Moonves, who had previously written a children’s book, called Simon & Schuster, and offered to read the New International Version of the Bible for free. She thought the project would help her navigate the Bible while providing an easier-to-understand version.

To her surprise, the publisher instead offered her a chance to talk about her



faith journey through an audio memoir. And that’s how “But First, God” was born.

“A man is a man and a woman is a woman,” British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak says

The British prime minister is taking a much different approach to transgender issues than U.S. leaders do. Rishi Sunak slammed radical gender ideology during a speech on Wednesday, saying men cannot become women and a woman cannot become a man.

“Patients should know when hospitals are talking about men or women,” Sunak, a member of the Conservative Party, said. “And we shouldn’t get bullied into believing that people can be any sex they want to be. They can’t. A man is a man and a woman is a woman — that’s just common sense.”



During the same speech, Sunak said that parents should know what their children are being taught in

relationships,” he said.

Some of Sunak’s fellow Conservative Party members have made moves to push back on gender ideology in recent weeks, with Health Secretary Steve Barclay announcing that men who identified as women would not be allowed as patients in female-only NHS wards.

The United Kingdom prime minister has faced criticism from leftist activists in the past for similar comments on biology after he was asked about Labor leader Sir Keir Starmer’s comment that some women could have penises. When asked in an interview if 100 percent of women do

not have penises, Sunak responded, “Yes, of course.”

“We should always have compassion and understanding and tolerance for those who are thinking about changing their gender,” he said. “Of course we should. But when it comes to these issues of protecting women’s rights, women’s spaces, I think the issue of biological sex is fundamentally important when we think about those questions.”

“As a general operating principle for me, biological sex is vitally, fundamentally important in these questions. We can’t forget that.”

TERRORISM

continued from page 2

tions there expressed their “unwavering support” for the Hamas pogrom. The president refused to condemn this statement. Instead, he expressed his heartbreak at “the violence and suffering in Israel and Gaza,” pointedly comparing Israel’s self-defense to the terrorist attacks themselves, gesturing, like too many others, to the “complex history” of the situation.

In reality though, no complexity is so great as to obscure the distinction between the intentional slaughter of innocents and targeted strikes against terrorists. Some schools eventually issued careful statements—but their initial reaction—or lack of reaction—is most telling, especially when contrasted with quick and decisive past declarations of outrage.

At Stanford University, the administration has covered itself in special disgrace by adding dishonesty to cowardice, despite finally acknowledging the horror. Criticized for its silence about the weekend’s slaughter, Stanford claimed in an unsigned statement that it “does not take positions on geopolitical issues and news

events.” But when Russia invaded Ukraine, Stanford’s president released this statement: “The unprovoked, full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and the attack it represents on democracy, is beyond shocking.” He continued, “It has been remarkable to witness the courage and resilience of the Ukrainian people.” Stanford also commented when a child’s skipping rope was found in a tree in 2021, where it had been tangled for some years, officially denouncing it as a “a potent symbol of anti-Black racism and violence that is completely unacceptable under any circumstances.” Stanford discovered the principle of institutional neutrality, it seems, just in time for the Sabbath assault on Israeli civilians.

Under the principle of institutional neutrality, colleges and universities should indeed refrain from speaking corporately on contemporary social or political issues, unless they transcend the institution’s values as a whole (such as the wanton taking of innocent life by terrorists). Higher education’s mission is to encourage diversity of thought. But condemning brutality and savagery, whether the murder of George Floyd under the knee of a policeman, or the civilian carnage Hamas wrought, is not a political statement. No one has asked presidents

to endorse Zionism or the two-state solution or anything vaguely geopolitical. They needed only to affirm human decency without which the university is a place of moral chaos.

However serpentine the ongoing contortions of these administrators, what is revealed in these official reactions by colleges is a cancerous moral rot and intellectual confusion. Bothsidesism is a symptom; the root cause is worse. They were perfectly able to rush to condemn the murder of George Floyd, the seedy depravities uncovered by the #MeToo movement, and the brutal invasion of Ukraine—as they should. They pronounce vocally and volubly on the events of January 6, 2021, and on horrible killings at houses of worship. They take flamboyant public positions on everything from affirmative action to climate policy to marriage equality. So why is it so hard to condemn the slaughter of Jewish babies? Why is it so hard to offer proper support and empathy to their grieving Jewish students?

The University of Pennsylvania’s president had no word of censure for Penn’s Palestine Writes festival, which ran between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur and featured Pink Floyd’s Roger Waters, notorious for exhibitionist antisemitism.

Then came the anemic initial response of Penn’s president to the Hamas atrocities. Jon Huntsman, a Penn graduate and donor and a former governor of Utah, pinpointed the cause of his alma mater’s failure: “Moral relativism has fueled the university’s race to the bottom.” If only Penn’s administration possessed such moral (and pedagogical) clarity.

To be fair, some universities have offered proper statements that unambiguously condemn the pogrom of Hamas. But these are few and far between. The United States used to lead in higher education, but now we need to look for leadership abroad, for example in the exemplary statement of the German Rectors’ Conference that noted quickly, clearly, and unambiguously:

We are deeply shocked and appalled by the terrorist attack of Hamas on Israel, the terrible massacres, and the kidnappings.

On behalf of all German universities, I would like to express our sincerest condolences and heartfelt sympathy. We are deeply saddened by the senseless loss of life. Our thoughts are with those killed and injured, those still in danger, and their families and friends.

As the German Rectors’ Conference, the voice of German universities, we

stand in solidarity with the Israeli universities and academic colleges and all their members. We would be grateful if you could share this message of sympathy and solidarity with your member institutions.

Educational institutions have a responsibility to educate and lead—not only in subject matters but in basic issues of morality. Those who fail to condemn the slaughter of children and fail to show empathy to their students who identify with this slaughter, are failing their mission at the most basic level.

Marc Zvi Brettler is the Bernice and Morton Lerner Distinguished Professor in Judaic Studies at Duke University. Michael B. Poliakoff is the president of the American Council of Trustees and Alumni.

This article appeared on ReaclearEducation on October 20, 2023.

-ACTA is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to academic freedom, academic excellence, and accountability in higher education. We receive no government funding and are supported through the generosity of individuals and foundations.



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Celebrate the joy of the season and everything Bold & Bright this year inside the NOTO Arts Center's Morris Gallery. With over 25 works of art on display, you're sure to find something to brighten your holidays: Wed-11-5, Thu 11-7, Fri 11-7, Sat 10-4. Art in the Vestibule exhibit features a collection of NOTO Artists. Gallery hours on First Friday Art Walks are 11am to 8pm.

SHAKESPEARE SHORTS and BALLET – Nov. 3, 6pm, Redbud Park NOTO. Lady Shakes Theatre Company

performs a selection of scenes and monologues indoors in the barn at Redbud Park in NOTO. Following, Ballet Midwest will take the stage for some previews of the Nutcracker Ballet. Free event.

NOTO Celebration of Lights will kick off on Saturday Nov. 18 from 11am-8pm. Featuring FREE horse-drawn wagon rides through the District, grand opening and lighting ceremony of the NOTO Celebration Tree at 6pm, live music and holiday



shopping. Shop local by visiting all our NOTO District stores and the NOTO Holiday Market from 11 to 5 each Saturday, 11/25, 12/2, 12/9, and 12/16. The NOTO Winter Celebrations season is proudly presented by Donaldson's Jewelers.

NOTO Businesses & Historic North Topeka East NIA presents **Trunk or Treat** in the NOTO Arts and Entertainment District on Oct. 28 from 3-5pm. Once again the Arts District will be full of fun for all ages. Bring your best costumes and Trunk or Treat with the NOTO businesses and more! Costumes encouraged but not required.

HARVEST DINNER, BAZAAR, & BAKE SALE - Oct. 27, 4 - 6:30pm, Kansas Avenue United Methodist Church, 1029 N. Kansas Ave. Featuring chicken-fried steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Corn or Green Beans, Roll, Salad, Pie & Drink. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children under 8.

HAM & BEAN DINNER WITH CRAFT BAZAAR – Oct. 28, 4:30 to 7:00pm, Elmont United Methodist Church, 6635 NW Church Ln. Free will donation for meals.

HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA – Nov. 4, 9-3, The Woodshed, 1901 N. Kansas Ave.. An eclectic collection of unique vendors & food trucks, for a festive day of merry fun while supporting local businesses this season!

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW – Dec. 2, 9-3, Great Overland Station. Shop homemade, local good. Children will love the free Exploration Station where they can create their own crafts, play and watch holiday movies with staff while parents shop. Hot coca and cookies! Free adm.

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Dec. 9, 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.
The Pennant, Downtown Topeka

GINGERBREAD HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAYS - Nov 17, 9am-5pm; Nov 18, 10am-5pm; Nov 19, 11am-4pm. TPAC, 214 SE 8th Ave. View and bid on elaborate gingerbread houses. Families, students, youth groups and scout troops, etc. can build their own. Holiday Boutique - crafts, gifts and more; Sweet Tooth Lane - delicious fresh baked goods and homemade candy. Meet Santa. Adm. \$6. 785-234-2787. TopekaPerformingArts.org

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SYMPOSIUM - Nov. 18, 3-5pm, WU Student Union Conference room A & B. Explore how the rights guaranteed under the religious freedom clauses of the First Amendment ensure protection and fairness for all. Advancing the causes of religious freedom and also nondiscrimination. Free adm.

CASA HOMES FOR THE HOLIDAY'S TOUR - Nov. 18 - 19, 10-4. Tickets at the door or in advance at www.casaofshawneecounty.com.

RED KETTLE KICKOFF CONCERT - Nov. 18, 5pm, White Concert Hall. WU Wind ensemble, WU Jazz ensemble, Faculty Brass Quintet, guest artist Allen Vizutti. 785-408-9100. Benefits Topeka Salvation Army, 1320 SE 6th St.

NOTO HOLIDAY MARKETS - Nov. 18, 25 & Dec. 2, 8, 16, 11am-5pm, NOTO Arts Center. Shop local and support local artists, artisans and makers.

NOTO CELEBRATION OF LIGHTS KICK OFF - Nov. 18, 11am-8pm, NOTO Arts District. Enjoy carriage rides, musical performances, holiday cookie workshops, shopping and a tree-lighting ceremony at 6pm.

FESTIVAL OF TREES - Nov. 21- Dec. 2, 10am-6pm, Fairlawn Plaza Mall. Wonderfully decorated trees and a silent auction.

TARC'S WINTER WONDERLAND - Nov. 22-Dec. 31, 6-9pm Mon-Wed; 6-10pm Thu-Sun. Lake Shawnee, 3435 SE East Edge Rd. View dazzling holiday light displays, featuring one million lights, while winding through a 2-mile scenic drive. Advanced tickets are available: TARC, 2701 SW Randolph. 785.506-8720. Winterwonderlandtopeka.com

CHOCOLATE NUTCRACKER - Nov. 25, 2pm & 7pm, TPAC. An urban twist on the classic ballet, showcasing a variety of ethnic dances, including hip hop, jazz, African contemporary, lyrical, praise dance and ballet, staged by It Takes a Village Inc.

GARY'S BERRIES - SANTA'S ACRES - Nov. 24 through December, at 5991 17th Street, Grantville, KS 66429, off of Highway 24. Christmas characters such as Santa and the Grinch, nearly one million lights, plenty of food items (like fudge, donuts, kettle corn and more), shopping and more. Meet Santa. garysfarmfest.com or call (785) 246-0800

FESTIVAL OF TREES SOIREE - Dec. 1, 6-9pm, Fairlawn Plaza Mall. Join SLJ for a fun evening celebrating the holidays! You will be able to enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, drinks, DJ, games, and activities throughout the mall, live auction, silent auction, and the wonderfully decorated trees all in one evening.

HOLIDAY CRAFT SHOW - Dec. 2, 9-3, Great Overland Station. Shop homemade, local good. Children will love the free Exploration Station where they can create their own crafts, play and watch holiday movies with staff while parents shop. Hot coca and cookies! Free adm.

LAWRENCE OLD-FASHIONED CHRISTMAS PARADE - Dec. 2, 11am, Downtown Lawrence. Authentic horse-drawn carriages parading down Massachusetts Street is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Cozy up with hot cocoa and blankets. Feel the true holiday spirit while watching dozens of beautiful

horses and wagons adorned in garland and bells.

MIRACLE ON KANSAS AVENUE PARADE - Dec. 2, 6-8pm, Downtown Topeka. Lighted parade at 5th & Kansas.

www.topekapartnership.com/gtp-events

NUTCRACKER BALLET - Dec. 8, 7:30pm; Dec. 9, 1:30pm & 7:30pm; Dec. 10, 1:30pm at TPAC. Ballet Midwest's holiday staple. Tickets at TPAC box office, and Barbara's Conservatory of Dance. www.balletmidwest.net

RED STOCKING BREAKFAST - Dec. 9, 7:30-10:30am, The Pennant, 915 S. Kansas Ave. Get tickets in advance at www.kcls.org or at the door. Children 10 & under eat free. Benefits KCSL's child abuse prevention programs and services.

MEETINGS & CLASSES

CRAFTY, SKILLED OR CREATIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to develop outdoor lighted displays at Ward Meade Park events. Contact Elsie, 785-256-2920, leave a message.

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

THE HEAT - FREE fitness classes for the community. Located at Florence Crittenon Services Center for Integrative Health, 5423 SW 7th St. www.flccritkansas.org Sun. 4-5 pm Yoga; Mon. 12-12:45pm Cardio Remix; Mon. 5:30-6:15pm STRONG™; Tue. 12:15-1:15pm Restorative Yoga; Tue. 5:30-6:15pm Zumba®; Wed. 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Sculpt; Thu. 12:15-1:00pm Pilates + CIRCL Mobility™; Thu. 5:30-6:15pm Zumba®; Fri. 12-12:45pm POUND

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

TAI CHI FOR HEALTH - Mon. 10-11 at Lowman United Methodist Church and Thu. 9:30-10:30 at Topeka Zoo. No training needed, just watch & follow. Contact Madon Daily at 505-424-8989 or madondaily@gmail.com. To Join from Home via Zoom, contact Madon for the Zoom link.

PICKLEBALL - Mon. & Wed, 1-3pm, First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Park on West Side, where the gym is located. Contact Dave Matthias, davematthias@sbccglobal.net, or Betsy Thompson, betsythompson@gmail.com.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOOK CLUB - 1st & 3rd Mon. 2-4pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell Ave. Contact Pat Kirkman at pattyk696@yahoo.com.

SMS - STRENGTH, MOBILITY, STABILITY EXERCISE GROUP (SMS) Mon. 9-9:30am, Arbor Court, 4200 SW Drury Lane. Tue. & Thu, 9-9:30am, Rosehill Place, 3600 SW Gage Blvd # 97. Tue & Thu, 10-10:45, Grace UMC, 2627 SW Western Ave. Call Anne Crawford at 785-273- 4527 or email anne.crawford@cox.net.

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 rhcttopeka.org

TOPEKA LIONS CLUB - 2nd Mondays at Noon at Wings, Etc. Come at 11:30 to order from the menu. Guests welcome.

BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPOUS - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, ages 5-18. Register: 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.

CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CO-OP - Monday's, 1-4pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

SENIOR ADULT EXERCISE CLASS - Tuesday's 10am, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. All exercises will be done from a chair, will help you get up out of a chair, & climb stairs safely! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

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: 1st & 3rd Tue. 7pm; Auxiliary: 1st & 4th Tue. 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 785-266-7307

DUPLICATE BRIDGE - Tuesdays and Thursdays at 12:30PM at The Woman's Club of Topeka, 5221 SW West Dr. Bill Gates and Warren Buffett play duplicate bridge! It is great for your brain health. For additional information email janescola@hotmail.com.

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

HAND AND FOOT CANASTA - 2nd & 4th Tue, 2-4pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 3916 SW 17th St. Must arrive before 2pm and stay for entire game. Email Caroline at libopper1@gmail.com or call 228-2447.

MEXICAN TRAIN DOMINOES - 1st & 3rd Tue., 2-4pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 3916 SW 17th St. Do not come before 1:45pm. Email Ottie Reed, reed7111@gmail.com, or Mary Adkins, marycatkeeper@gmail.com

MAP GROUP (MEMOIRS, ANCESTRY, PHOTOS) - VIA ZOOM - 4th Wed. 10-11:30am. Contact Rich Reynolds at rjm4017@gmail.com. A Zoom link will be sent to you.

FAMILY HISTORY WRITING GROUP - 2nd Wed. 10-11:30am, Lowman United Methodist Church, room 12. Do you have great family stories to tell and want to pass them down to the next generation but don't know where to start? shepherdstoepka@yahoo.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 Dilon's North). FREE luncheon with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free will donations accepted. For info: 785-224-8803 or vip@topekanorthoutreach.org.

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

TOPEKA COSMOPOLITAN CLUB: The Club that fights Diabetes - Meetings: first three Thursdays of every month, 12 noon, at the Topeka Country Club.

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 assembly in August. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

LINE DANCING - 2nd & 4th Thu. 1:30-3:30 at First

Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Contact Karen Botkin at 785-945-6785 or Jim Baer at 785-256-2432 or jimbaer73@gmail.com to register.

BRIDGE GROUP - 1st & 3rd Thu. 1- 3:30pm, at Our Savior Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. To play, arrangements must be made by Mon. 5pm with Joan Arterburn at 408-5174.

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

KINGDOM ADVISORS TOPEKA AREA STUDY GROUP - 3rd Thu., 11:30am-1pm via Zoom. Christian financial professionals: financial planners, accountants, attorney's & insurance agents invited. For info: kingdomadvisors.org or Jim Hanna, james.c.hanna@ampf.com or 785.357.6278 x19.

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TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB – Every Fri., noon. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. For info: 272-1099 or 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 bittens812@sbcglobal.net

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

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

TOPEKA GREAT LIGHT AGLOW – For meeting info contact Vickie Lynch at 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.

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. 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, 3:30pm, Topeka public library, Anton Rm. 3rd Friday, 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.

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 or 785-215-1045. All correspondence 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 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 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.highlandheightsccc.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.

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 LOSS TO SUICIDE (HeALS) Topeka support group meets the 1st Tuesday of each month via Zoom. The 3rd Tuesday meeting is in-person at 1st Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. Both meetings are 6:30-8. Topeka.heals@gmail.com. 785-380-9309

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.

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

MOMS-IN-TOUCH PRAYER GROUP – Every Wed., 2:30-3:30pm, Library at Cair Paravel-Latin School.

Experience God's power through prayer as we lift our students, teachers, staff, administrators & board up to the Lord. For info: 357-0369.

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

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

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

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

PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP – First Thurs-

day, 3pm, St Francis Hospital, Room 300 on 2nd floor. For info: Jim 785 806 3266

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.

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

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

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

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Fall trout stocking set for Nov. 22 at Lake Shawnee



The annual fall trout stocking at Lake Shawnee is set for Nov. 22 as 7,000 pounds of rainbow trout are released into the lake. The public may watch the trout being released at 10 a.m. at the main boat ramp on Beach Drive off of SE 29th Street.

Lake Shawnee will be closed to fishing until 6 a.m. Nov. 1 to give the trout time to acclimate to the lake. A \$14.50 trout permit is required during trout season which runs from Dec. 1 through March 31. Anglers age 15 and under need

a \$7 permit.

The tradition of stocking trout in the lake began in 1979 under then parks director Ted Ensley. The lake is stocked each October and February to give fishermen a different experience as trout are not native to the lake.

The trout come from Crystal Lakes Fisheries in Ava, Mo. The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks reimburses Shawnee County Parks + Recreation for the trout under the Community Fisheries Assistance Program

Lecompton has Midwest's largest Christmas trees and ornaments display

Experience the holiday magic of Christmas when visiting Historic Lecompton. Visitors can see an indoor display of over 170 trees decorated in antique, Victorian, vintage and theme decor - including turn of the century and WW II era decorations. Among the many trees is a barb-wire tree, a feather tree, a Victorian Costume tree and many more unique decorations.

At the same time, visitors can also tour Constitution Hall, a National Landmark. Lecompton is known as the "Birthplace of the Civil War, Where Slavery Began to Die." Lecompton was



recently named one of the "Best Small Towns in Kansas" by Kansas Magazine readers.

The Christmas display will be offered from November 1 to January 1. The display and museum is open 10 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday and 1 to 5 pm Sunday.

Many interesting historical sites in the area can be seen on a walking tour, starting from the Territorial Capital. There are also unique shops and eateries in this quaint little town.

For more information on the display and the museum, go to lecomptonkansas.com.

Kansas police chief suspended over raid on newspaper

The police chief of Marion, Kan., who gained notoriety for raiding a newspaper office and the home of its publisher, has been suspended from his job. During the August raid, police officials seized a computer that held details about the "Marion County Record" investigation into Police Chief Gideon Cody, editor Eric Meyer said.

The raid set off a storm of questions from news organizations and their advocates, who viewed it as a major threat to press freedom. Tensions only grew as the newspaper and other news organizations continued to report on the conflict, which had been brewing for months.

Police raid the newspaper offices of a Kansas newspaper that was investigating the police chief.

Marion Mayor David Mayfield late last week suspended Cody even though the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's inquiry into the raid is ongoing, a spokesperson for the agency said. Ruth Herbel, a member of the Marion City Council whose home also was raided, told said Cody's suspension was "the best thing that can happen to Marion right now."

"We can't duck our heads until it goes away," she said, "because it's not going to go away until we do something about it."

The raid followed allegations that a local restaurant owner, Kari Newell, made



ultimately decided not to publish it.

A judge issued warrants to search the paper's office and the homes of Meyer, Herbel — whom the paper said had independently received the information about Newell — and another person who allegedly had shared the information. Cody led the raid, which involved the town's five-person police force.

During the search of Meyer's home, his mother, Joan, yelled at officers to leave as they inspected the house, video showed. Joan Meyer died of a heart attack one day later. The raid had created stress and shock, according to the paper. Her death intensified an already fraught clash between the paper and law enforcement.

about the newspaper. Newell, who was seeking a liquor license, alleged during an August town meeting that the newspaper illegally obtained information about a previous drunken driving conviction, which would jeopardize her application under Kansas law. In an early August article about Newell's claims, the newspaper said someone had sent the information through social media, and the newsroom

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Former Hezbollah terrorist now stands with Israel after finding Jesus

A strange thing happened to Hezbollah fighter Afshin Javid when he was on his way to the United States to attempt to convert Christians to Islam. Jesus appeared to him.

“I had 30 illegal passports at that time,” he says. “I was arrested and put in jail in Malaysia. I was a dedicated Muslim who not only prayed the prayers, but I read the Koran once every 10 days, cover to cover. So I was very dedicated in my time in jail.”

Those prayers brought an unexpected response.

“One day, as I’m praying, a man appears in front of me – normal size, but his being shines like light. This light is not a normal light. This light carried identity in it. And you knew that he is holy and instantaneously, I knew I am not,” he shares.

Javid cried out for forgiveness.

“I ran to the corner of the room, literally held my head in my arms, and just cried out, shouting, ‘Forgive me, forgive me, forgive me,’” he said. “And I didn’t think he would forgive me, because he is just. Still, I felt a touch on my left arm, and he said, ‘I forgive you.’ And I felt the weight just lifted off me. And I knew I’m forgiven, but I don’t know how. And I was confused. Still, I say, ‘OK, I don’t understand. Only God can forgive, but You just forgave me. You are God, but you are a different God than the one I have studied about. This is not Allah. So who are



You that forgives me?":

The answer was, “I am the way, the truth and the life.”

“So I said, ‘I don’t understand; what is your name?’” Javid told CBN News. “And he said, ‘Jesus Christ.’ And it was as if someone grabbed all my bones out of my body. I just fell like a piece of meat to the ground. And I just began to weep.”

Like Paul, he understood that he once was blind but now could see.

“It’s like being colorblind, and then suddenly you see colors and you realize the world is so much more beautiful than you ever thought,” Javid said. “And if you ask me what made the world so colorless? It’s the hatred, the anger that is in the heart of every Muslim.”

Now, instead of hating Jews, he is expressing support for Israel after the brutal attack by Hamas.

“We are standing with all the Jewish people, with the people of Israel,” he said. “And we are mourning their sorrow of their family members that have been lost, but also for the right of Israel to exist,” he said.

Hezbollah is currently launching attacks on Israel from Lebanon. The Iranian-backed organization, which wages significant control in the country, has an estimated 150,000 missiles that could be used to blanket Israel in a full-scale war.

Experience with Jesus not unusual

As Israel Today reports, these encounters between Muslims and Jesus are not

unusual. From Lebanon to Syria to Iran and beyond, devout followers of Islam are having similar experiences.

“Under the radar, at the grassroots level, often without any connection to Christians, Issa (“Yeshua” in Arabic) is being miraculously, sovereignly revealed in dreams and visions, to men and women living in lands covered by the shadow of death, crying out under the cruel masters of Islam (Is. 9:2&19:4). Pastor Tom Doyle and his wife Joann spent years serving in several of these nations. They compiled amazing documentary stories of a representative “sample” of 20 Muslims whose lives have been disrupted by repeated visitations of this nature. Often these Muslims have recurring dreams like this, night after night or week after week, for months. The dreams set the “dreamer” on a journey, a path toward discovering peace and faith in the Messiah from Nazareth.”

The organization goes on to ask how the dreams are supernatural, and not just a daydream.

Pastor Tom Doyle and his wife Joann have collected stories and evidence after serving in these nations for decades. They compiled the stories in a documentary of 20 Muslims whose lives have been changed forever by repeated visitations of this nature.

“In many Muslim families and communities, it is inconceivably shameful and blasphemous that anyone who grew

up Muslim should become a believer in Yeshua as THE prophet and the Messiah Son of God. Their response to this “heresy,” if it becomes known, can include ostracism, threats and even death. Therefore, the fact that these new believers are so soon willing to risk death for their new faith, indicates that these are not regular dreams.”

Doyle tells about a young woman named Fatima in Buraydah, Saudi Arabia who came to faith in Yeshua partially as a result of dreams. She wrote a poem the day she was martyred, when she understood she was about to pay the ultimate price for her newfound faith and peace:

“We left Muhammad, and we are no longer on his path. We follow Jesus the Messiah, the clear truth. And truly we love our homeland, and we are not traitors. We take pride that we are Saudi citizens... Enough – your swords do not concern me, nor evil, nor disgrace. Your threats do not trouble me, and we are not afraid... As to my last words, I pray the Lord of the worlds... spread Love among you, Oh Muslims.” (pg. 61)

Israel Today says these dreams fortell hope for the future. “Already these dream-fueled faith movements have touched millions of Muslims. As of yet, they have not yet reached the tipping point of transforming an entire nation’s power structures. But perhaps they will soon.”

Kansas author is a finalist for the prestigious award

A Kansas author has recently been announced as a finalist for the prestigious Christy Award. Sara Brunsvold of Johnson County, is one of three authors to be chosen as finalists in the First Author category for her debut novel, *The Extraordinary Deaths of Mrs. Kip*.

The contemporary Christian novel by Brunsvold is about a young disenchanted reporter who is given a throwaway assignment to interview a 79-year-old hospice patient and finds an unimaginable adventure instead. It’s a story of friendship breaking through boundaries, and living life with vigorous love, even against enormous odds.

“This is what Christian fiction should be...” wrote Goodreads reviewer Victoria Lynn. “It doesn’t just satisfy the desire for a good story, it fills your soul with so much truth, and joy and poignancy and peace and compassion

and sorrow that you spill over, probably with tears.”

The Christy Award, named for Catherine Marshall’s enduring best-selling novel, *Christy*, is a program of the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association (ECPA) and is the foremost award honoring and promoting excellence in Christian fiction since 1999. Previous winners of the Christy Award have included Becky Wade, Stephen James, Chris Fabry, Davis Bunn, Lynn Austin, and others.

“It’s still surreal to think that this character who brought me so much hope is resonating at this level with readers,” says Brunsvold. “Praise God for what he is doing through this story. I am amazed and humbled to be a finalist!”

Brunsvold was first encouraged to pursue creative writing in seventh grade and instantly fell in love with fiction.

“Being a novelist is all I’ve ever truly wanted to be, but it took me most of my life to get serious about pursuing writing fiction as a career,” Brunsvold explained. “I started seriously pursuing writing in 2012.”

She honed in on the idea when she learned about a program in Independence, Mo., which featured volunteers interviewing hospice patients and compiling their stories, memories, and advice into a keepsake book for patients’ families. As Sara began to write, the novel profoundly impacted her own life.

“I was going through a very difficult season,” she recalls. “Like most authors, I write to process, so I began infusing into Mrs. Kip—her reactions, her words, her thoughts—the principles of biblical womanhood that I was learning at the time. In this way, Mrs. Kip ministered to me first. The story has forever

shifted my view of hardship and God’s hand at work in our lives.”

Brunsvold also hopes the words God gives her change other lives, “My overarching prayer for every story I am given the opportunity to write is that God would use it to come alongside what he is already doing in the reader’s life. With this book, hopefully, readers come away with an awakened joy for surrendering to God’s will and, for women specifically, inspiration to invest in their younger sisters’ faith development, as Titus 2:3–5 encourages.”

Revell Publishers will release Brunsvold’s second novel, *The Divine Proverb of Streusel*, the story of a young woman navigating a family crisis by cooking her way through her great-grandmother’s German recipes, in January 2024. She is also signed to write two more novels with Revell.

Brunsvold has also won this year’s Carol Award, presented by American Christian Fiction Writers (ACFW), for the Debut Author category, as well as several other awards. She will be participating in the Author Fair at the Woodneath Branch of the Mid-Continent Public Library on November 18, 2023.

The Winners of the Christy Award will be livestreamed on Thursday, November 16 on the ChristyAwards.com website.

—*Jeanette Gardner Littleton is a seasoned author and editor and is director of Heart of America Christian Writers Network (HACWN), where she first met Sara Brunsvold at a HACWN writers conference. To learn more about HACWN events, including their November 2–4 conference, visit HACWN.org.*

U.S. issues advisory to all citizens traveling overseas

Area residents planning overseas travel this fall are advised to stay alert. The U.S. State Department has issued a worldwide travel advisory, urging Americans abroad to exercise increased caution because of heightened tensions across various global locations.

In recent days, travelers who had registered their plans with the State Department also received a text message warning them to be alert.

The advisory cites concerns about potential terrorist attacks, demonstrations or violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests. The department emphasizes its commitment to the safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas, providing clear and timely information for informed travel decisions.

Pro-Hamas protests have turned violent in Berlin, London and Paris and dozens of other international travel locations.

In light of the attacks on Israel by the Palestinian enclave of Gaza and the resulting Israel-Hamas



conflict, the advisory specifically raises concerns about the unpredictable security situation in certain areas. Lebanon, in particular, has been assigned a Level 4 advisory, warning Americans not to travel to the country because of security risks related to exchanges among Israel, Hizballah and other armed factions.

Additionally, advisories caution against travel to Gaza, recommend

reconsidering visits to Israel and the West Bank, and highlight the evolving security landscape. In response to these warnings, many Americans have already left the region. Notably, a Royal Caribbean International cruise ship facilitated the evacuation of U.S. nationals from Haifa to Limassol, Cyprus.

After pro-Hamas demonstrations around the world in the last two weeks, some are questioning

the lack of response by their governments after violent language and imagery was used. In Australia, a Palestinian demonstration that drew thousands of Muslims chanted "Gas the Jews."

The demonstrations typically happen in cities popular with tourists.

In London, police arrested pro-Israel protesters while, say observers, ignoring Hamas sympathizers. One man was caught on camera being arrested for peacefully carrying the Union Jack flag down Downing Street.

The State Department encourages U.S. citizens traveling abroad to stay alert, especially in tourist-frequented locations. It recommends enrolling in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program to receive relevant information and alerts, facilitating emergency assistance. Amid the travel advisory, the United States has taken steps to support Israelis, including lifting

the visa requirement for their citizens. Initially set to start on November 30, the visa waiver program has been accelerated, allowing Israelis to visit the United States for 90 days or less without a visa.

However, the Department of Homeland Security acknowledges increased reports of threats against Jewish institutions in the United States because of the Israel-Hamas conflict. The department urges vigilance from the public and prompt reporting of suspicious activity to local law enforcement, highlighting the potential threat from lone offenders motivated by various violent ideologies.

The travel advisory and its accompanying developments underscore the multifaceted challenges faced by the U.S. government and citizens in navigating global tensions and conflicts, emphasizing the need for caution, preparedness, and international cooperation.

More information is available at Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (state.gov).

Commentator Ben Shapiro shares several practical ways to assist Israel

Ben Shapiro, a commentator, author and Orthodox Jew, returned home from Israel the day before the horrific attacks on Israel.

"Jew hatred exists because evil exists," he said on his radio program. "Because there are people who have, for literally all of human history, hated the Jews and sought to strike at them while they are weak, who have blamed the Jews for their own problems, who have crafted complex conspiracy theories about the supposed power of the Jews, who have sought to destroy, to murder, to mutilate, to rape the Jews, from Pharaoh to Haman and from Hitler to Hamas."

For many, the atrocities have been difficult to comprehend.

The Israeli government this week, which is still attempting to identify hundreds of victims, says 80% of them were tortured by Hamas before their deaths. Children were forced to watch their parents being shot or butchered before they themselves were killed. Women and girls were raped in



front of their families. Children were shot in front of their siblings. Babies were burned alive in their cribs. It was the largest one-day massacre of Jews since the waning days of World War II.

The attacks, which left at least 1,400 Israelis dead, have united Israel, which just a few weeks ago was racked by huge protests over political reforms.

The violent attacks by Hamas on civilians Oct. 7 have left many Christians asking how they can help Israel. Shapiro recommended five practical ways.

He explained that people need Kevlar and helmets in Israel and are short of basic supplies. Shapiro pointed to Friends of the IDF, a group that supports the Israel Defense Forces, as a resource for those

needs at www.fidf.org.

Next, Shapiro mentioned the Magen David Adom, which is the equivalent of the Red Cross in Israel. Contributions can be made at www.afmda.org/.

"They need armored ambulances, because the Hamas terrorists, Islamic Jihad — all these

terrorist groups — they shoot in ambulances because this is what they do," he said. "Again, the world's most evil people. You should check out israelrescue.org, which is United Hatzalah. Again, they are an emergency medical response service and help dedicate emergency medical response vehicles that can get places very, very quickly. They've got good emergency re-

sponse time, and they need your help."

Shapiro also mentioned the International Fellowship of Christians and Jews, whom he said "are doing good work as well." Their website is www.ifcj.org.

Finally, Shapiro directed listeners to the Ari Fuld Project. "Ari Fuld was a Jew who was murdered for the crime of being a Jew," he said. "He was defending other people, and he stopped a terrorist but died in the attempt. The website www.arifuld.org/donate/is providing all sorts of resources to soldiers who are about to go in into battle."

Editor's note: While the Biden administration is committed to additional funding for Israel to help confront Hamas, the public has also been generous. The Jewish Federation alone says they have raised more than \$388 million. Christians can show their support by also donating.

You can donate at jfeds.org/SupportIsrael, or find your local Federation here.

Researchers turn to artificial intelligence to read fragile ancient scrolls

Artificial intelligence is helping researchers unlock the secrets of ancient scrolls. University of Kentucky computer scientists used AI technology to read an ancient script that was burned when Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 AD.

The scrolls were so fragile that scientists could not even attempt to unroll them or they would be destroyed. Instead, as part of a competition called the Vesuvius Challenge, scientists released thousands of 3D X-ray images of the scrolls and papyrus. The scrolls were part of a large discovery in 1752 of about 800 carbonized scrolls found buried under pumice and ash.

“This word is our first dive into an unopened ancient book, evocative of royalty, wealth and even mockery,” said

Brent Seale, a University of Kentucky computer scientist. “Pliny the Elder explores ‘purple’ in his ‘natural history’ as a production process for Tyrian purple from shellfish. The gospel of Mark describes how Jesus was mocked as he was clothed in purple robes before crucifixion. What this particular scroll discusses is still unknown, but I believe it will soon be revealed. An old, new story that starts for us with ‘purple’ is an incredible place to be.”

The scrolls are believed to have been part of the library of Philodemus, an Epicurean philosopher.

“Recovering such a library would transform our knowledge of the ancient world in ways we can hardly imagine,” one papyrus expert told “The New York Times.” “The impact could



be as great as the rediscovery of manuscripts during the Renaissance.”

The race is now on to read the remaining text. Dr. Federica Nicolardi, a papyrologist at the University of Naples, said three lines of the scroll, containing up to 10 letters, are now

readable, with more expected to be revealed. The scrolls are part of a collection from the Institut de France in Paris.

“For me, reading words from within the Herculaneum scrolls is like stepping onto the moon,” Seales said.

“Honestly, I knew the text was there, waiting for us to arrive, but arrival only happens at the last step. And with such a talented team working together, reading the words is that step into new territory, and we’ve taken it. Now it is time to explore.”

Success allows researchers to examine Dead Sea Scrolls previously thought to be too brittle to investigate.

The Dead Sea Scrolls consist of ancient Hebrew manuscripts of leather and papyrus and copper. Found in 1947, only a fraction of the 15,000 fragments have been translated. Many were too badly damaged to read. What has been translated continues to give Biblical scholars confidence in the accuracy of Bible translations.

Likelihood of recession still uncertain, SE Missouri State economist says

The jury is still out on whether Missouri and the nation will experience a recession in the coming year, said David Yaskewich, an economist at Southeast Missouri State University.

“Right now, it doesn’t look like we’re going to see a recession, definitely not in the year 2023,” he told “Missourinet.” “I think the risk of recession in 2024 looks lower than it did at the beginning of this year. But again, there still are these uncertainties. We’re not out of the woods yet, because we have not seen inflation go back to its historical norm, and interest rates do remain high.”

Timing is critical, he said. “The harder it is to bring inflation back to the 2 percent goal that the Federal Reserve has set, the longer that takes, I think, the risk of a recession would increase,” Yaskewich said.

His comments come as the consumer price index shows inflation is about 50% higher than the Federal Reserve’s target.

How does federal spending af-



fect inflation?

“If the United States continues to accumulate more debt, that could be problematic, but it’d be more problematic if the ability to

sell treasury bonds would be questioned,” he said. “So if our credit rating were to be tarnished or if foreign investors became less interested in our debt, that would be very problematic for the United States and could have inflationary impacts. Right now, that would have a minimal impact on the inflation we’ve seen in the last year.”

U.S. federal debt currently stands at a historic \$33 trillion.

Parts of the economy are fairly

strong, particularly the labor market, but Yaskewich is uncertain how long it will last.

“When we were at the worst of the labor shortage, it would have been around April of 2022, and a common number that would be reported that for every unemployed person, there were two job vacancies,” he said. “Today, that number is more like for every one unemployed person, there’s like one-and-a-half job vacancies. It doesn’t sound like a big change when phrased like that, but it actually is a big difference if you look at the actual numbers on an aggregate basis.”

Amy Grant says she “struggles” with several biblical teachings

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Christian singer Amy Grant was criticized for allowing her lesbian niece marry another woman on the farm that she and husband Vince Gill own in Tennessee. She said she struggles with parts of the Bible in a recent interview on the “No Small Endeavor” podcast.

“I’ll be honest,” she said, “it’s hard to read a lot of the other stuff in the Bible for me, I have a love-hate relationship with a lot of the history in the Old Testament. It’s hard for me to trust anything that involves peo-

ple. Because I know that I’m a mess.”

Some of Jesus’ words are tough, too, she said. She discussed the subject of divorce; she and Gill are in their second marriage.

“Mostly, what I want to hear about is Jesus, and then he says stuff that scares the ever-living daylights out of me,” Grand said. “What I read today was about if a woman’s divorced — and I’m like, ‘Jesus, even you said it. You didn’t talk about very many things. But why did you talk



about divorce? People are so ugly to each other. Why did you say divorce?”

In the late 1990s, Grant sang at a

Billy Graham Crusade in Minneapolis when her first marriage was dissolving. She felt the need to tell the famous evangelist about her broken relationship.

“I was married, I had three children, I had fallen in love with a married man,” she said. “And I already had a difficult marriage. And I felt myself just saying, ‘I don’t know where

I’m going to wind up. But I think I’m incapable of doing what I have been doing anymore.’ And I couldn’t walk on that stage with the man who held

the trust of the whole world.

I just said to him, ‘I know I’ve been a public person of faith. And I still believe in God, and I’m headed for a divorce. I need you to know that.’ And he sat down, and he said, ‘I’ve got a bunch of children.’ And he said, ‘There are a couple of them that are taking the long way home.’ And he said, ‘We’ll all get there. It’s OK.’”

When she looks at the divided culture in America, she says she focuses on John 3:16:

“For God so loved all of us... part of my mind every day goes to that.”



6 Ways to Weatherize Your Home

This checklist from the door experts at Masonite can help you keep the outdoors out.

Have Heating Systems Inspected

Turn to the professionals to have your furnace and air conditioning inspected before temperatures change. They can make sure the system is working properly so you can have heat or cool air when you need it while conducting safety checks to keep your family safe from carbon monoxide leaks and other hazards. Plus, having your system inspected before any extreme weather means necessary repairs can be completed before you're relying on it for comfort.

Trim Trees

Your trees and shrubs might provide a beautiful aesthetic in spring and summer, but winter weather can turn them into hazards for your home. Heavy winds and snow and ice buildup can cause branches to break off and damage roofs, windows and more. Some experts recommend waiting until leaves fall to prune; be sure to research the types of trees on your property and understand the best maintenance methods to keep them healthy without putting your home at risk.

Replace Your Front Door

Living in a comfortable, energy-efficient home starts with keeping out rain, wind, cold and heat. For a protected and weather-proof home, consider replacing your front door with a premium alternative like the Masonite Performance Door System, designed to keep the outside out and the inside in. Available with a variety of exterior fiberglass doors in a multitude of styles, colors and finishes, including multiple glass options, the system's industry-leading 4-Point Performance Seal provides superior energy efficiency, performance and comfort. Plus, the system is backed by a 10-year limited full replacement warranty and available at home improvement retailers nationwide. Additional benefits include:

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- A self-adjusting sill maintains its seal, adapting to imperfect or changing conditions.
- Adaptive weatherstripping made of high-end, low-wick memory foam snaps back into shape when bent or twisted, stopping air and water in its tracks.
- Enhanced corner pads stop upward water pressure and form a tight



seal between sill, door panel and frame.

Clear Gutters

While it's a bit of a dirty job, clearing gutters of debris and buildup like leaves and twigs keeps the system running as it should. Gutters can't properly drain when they're blocked, which means water isn't being diverted properly. This leads to water spilling over and can cause problems ranging from mold or mildew to larger issues like foundation damage.

Secure Outdoor Furniture

It may cause a bit of sadness putting patio furniture away for the season, but it's an important step in protecting both the furniture itself and your home from high winds that can pick up during colder months or increased moisture during the rainy season. Some pieces may need stored away while others can simply be covered, but make sure to clean and carefully dry to avoid mold and mildew growth beforehand. Take advantage of the opportunity to thoroughly clean grease and grime off grill grates, repair damaged furniture items and clear the entire area of dirt and debris so everything's ready to be dusted off and enjoyed in the spring.

Hire a Roof Inspector

The roof is a critical component in keeping your home structurally sound. A professional can examine your roof for damage and assess anything that may need fixed or replaced ahead of winter weather or rain. This examination includes shingles, soffit, fascia, chimneys, gutters and more along with a check for signs of interior damage like water stains, mold, holes or wood rot.

Find more ways to weatherize your home and keep the outdoors out by visiting [Masonite.com/Masonite-Performance-Door-System](https://www.Masonite.com/Masonite-Performance-Door-System).

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entertainment

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR was shot over the course of the three shows Swift performed at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles at the close of her “Eras Tour.” The tour presents her most famous songs in her highly prolific 17-year career as a pop and country music artist. The movie is an attempt to make the spectacle affordable for all audiences. The 45-song set list wends its way through Swift’s ten-album career, with the movie divided into segments featuring four or five songs at a time from each album.

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR is a visually spectacular, highly entertaining experience. The lighting and sets are dazzling. People at the theater MOVIEGUIDE® attended were dancing in the aisles in a joy-filled party atmosphere. Swift also performs several songs solo on acoustic guitar or piano, showing she definitely has musical chops. However, the Taylor Swift movie is sadly marred by romantic notions of love, strong foul language, one song espousing the false concept of karma, one politically correct song about homosexual friends, and songs about anger or revenge at former romantic partners.

TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR is a concert movie designed to present Miss Swift’s most famous songs from each album in her highly prolific 17-year career as a pop and country music artist, in an affordable venue. TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR is a visually spectacular, highly entertaining experience, but most of the songs speak about romantic love and bad breakups and are sadly marred by some strong language, one song espousing the false-religion concept of karma, one politically correct song about her homosexual friends, and a few songs about anger or revenge at former romantic partners.

The movie was shot over the course of the three tour-closing shows Swift performed at SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles at the close of her North American “Eras Tour.” While tour tickets sold out, the live performance tickets ranged from \$49 to \$449. So, the decision was made to release this concert movie in movie theaters for around \$20 a ticket (\$24 for IMAX screenings exclusively in AMC chain theaters) is an attempt to make the spectacle affordable for all audiences, which is particularly cost-saving for parents with girls wanting to see the show.



The massive SoFi stadium crowd provides an impressive backdrop for Swift’s non-stop parade of songs. Director Sam Wrench and an army of cameras put viewers right on stage with the pop superstar. The 45-song set list wends its way through her ten-album career, with the movie divided into segments that feature four or five songs at a time from each album.

The ERAS stage show lighting and sets are non-stop dazzling for the faster songs, and many theaters including the one I saw it in have attendees dancing in the aisles throughout in a definite joy-filled party atmosphere. Yet Swift also performs several excellent songs solo on acoustic guitar or piano, showing she definitely has musical chops.

Miss Swift’s self-penned songs are largely about romantic love but are rarely if ever sexual or sensual in nature. For about half the songs in ERAS, Swift wears classy dresses, including a few formal ball gowns, but the other half feature her in short skirts or a one-piece swimsuit with leggings. The swimsuit is not intended to be sexy, but rather to be a practical outfit to slip her dresses and skirts on and off over it. However, a four-song stretch from her album “Reputation,” which was a tougher and emotionally darker album than the other nine records in her repertoire, has her and her dancers acting more sensually. Also, the closing number has skimpy outfits and sensual burlesque-style dancing using chairs as props.

There are a few problematic elements that parents should consider in deciding whether to bring their pre-teen and teenage daughters, who make up a large part of Swift’s audience. For example, two songs feature two “f” words each, although they’re buried in the mix of loud

music and fast-paced singing rather than focused upon by Taylor Swift. There are also about 20 other lighter obscenities and two strong profanities.

Since Swift is inspired in her writing by her real-life romantic relationships (she had many different dalliances in her 20s before she had a six-year relationship that ended earlier this year). Her fans enjoy trying to decipher which song is about which celebrity she broke up with in the past. Most of the lyrics are innocuous, and one song has light references to God, but three or four of the songs espouse anger and revenge.

In addition, the closing song, called “Karma,” has a false religion attitude, where Swift sings in the chorus that “karma is a god” and sings that an ex-beau will have negative karma hit him. Another song has politically correct lyrics praising her homosexual friends and attacking Christians who disapprove of their behavior. Finally, a third song has images that may remind some of a witches’ coven, where robed dancers carry glowing orbs while Taylor sings.

Despite its moral flaws, ERAS and its star, Taylor Swift, are still vastly more appealing and often refreshing to see in a music world where most young pop singers and rappers rely on filthy lyrics, dirty dancing and outrageous sexual outfits to make their mark. So, considered as a whole, TAYLOR SWIFT: THE ERAS TOUR is an amazingly entertaining experience for discerning adults and older teenagers, with extreme caution. Parents of preteens and young teenagers should think a little harder about whether they feel this concert movie’s appropriate for their young ones.

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Dominant Worldview and Other Worldview Content/Elements:

Strong Romantic worldview in Taylor Swift pop concert movie with no one overall story, songs mostly clean and wholesome, with one song containing light references to God, and Swift expresses gratitude to her fans, but most songs are about romantic love and breakups, three or four out of 45 songs have some foul language, no songs are sexually or sensually graphic, but a few of them extol revenge or were inspired by

Kevin Sorbo brings comedy to big screen in “Miracle in East Texas”



Family-friendly entertainment is returning to theaters in late October. “Miracle in East Texas,” a comedy directed by Kevin Sorbo, is based on a true story from the early 1930s.

Sorbo (“Hercules,” “God’s Not Dead”) also stars in the film as conman Doc Boyd, alongside his fellow swindler Dad Everett (John Ratzenberger of “Cheers” and “Toy Story”), pretending to be oil wildcatters. Filling out the cast are Louis Gossett Jr. (“Officer and a Gentleman”) who narrates part of the tale; Tyler Mane (“X-Men”) as landowner Thurman Dialand; and Sam Sorbo (“Chicago Hope”), Kevin’s real-world wife, who plays Flora May Simms, one of many widows Boyd seeks to cajole into investing in his sham business.

The movie has a similar feel to the classics “Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid” and “The Sting,” both starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman. Dan Gordon, the screenwriter of “Miracle in East Texas,” had written it for Redford and Newman 30 years ago, but the two Hollywood icons never were able to get together to make it happen. Sorbo, a friend of Gordon, read the “Miracle in East Texas” script and loved it.

“It’s a wonderful true story about two

conmen in Oklahoma and Texas who would woo widows out of their money and then build fake oil wells,” he told “The Western Journal.” “These are total flimflam artists. You know, what makes it worse with what they did, it was right in the heart of the Depression.”

Eventually, the con catches up with Boyd and Everett when they accidentally strike oil in East Texas. Their wells tapped into part of the largest oilfield in the contiguous United States. The miracle isn’t really finding the oil, Sorbo said, but rather “what happens in these gentlemen” afterward as they grapple with the web of lies they’ve woven and come to find redemption.

“Miracle in East Texas” is a PG-rated movie and will be in theaters on October 29 and 30. However, if the film performs well, the theatrical run will be extended.

“Theater owners don’t care what they show,” Sorbo said. “They want to sell popcorn and soda, or whatever is making money for them, that’s what they’ll put out there and keep putting out there. So I’m hoping that people jump on board and help make this thing a hit.”

Theater and ticket information are available at www.sorbostudios.com

Taylor Swift’s ever-shifting past dating life in her 20s, her closing song is called “Karma” and says “karma is a god” repeatedly while singing that bad karma will impact an ex-flame so it has false religion in it, one song may remind some viewers of a witches’ coven (robed dancers carry glowing orbs while Taylor sings), and one song has politically correct lyrics praising her homosexual friends and attacking Christians who disapprove of their behavior

Foul Language: Four or five “f” words in lyrics, 11 “s” words (including one song title with an “s” word in it), five other obscenities, two GD profanities, and two

“godforsaken” expletives

Violence: Two or three songs are revenge or anger-themed, but nothing graphic

Sex: Most of the choreography in the concert is modest and wholesome, but a four-song stretch tied to her one dark album “Reputation” has some sensual gyrating, and the final song features very skimpy outfits and sensual dancing using chairs

Nudity: No explicit nudity, but Taylor Swift wears short skirts and dresses in about half the songs and in a few others wears a one-piece bathing suit with leggings covering her legs,



Artist portrays the Jewishness of Jesus

For many, the Jewishness of Jesus has been lost as Christianity recast his image to fit a gentile faith. This artist to portrays a more authentic identity through stirring images.

As an artist and as a person of faith, Clara Maria Goldstein is difficult to pigeonhole.

Raised as a Roman Catholic in her native Nicaragua, she moved to the United States with a 1-year-old daughter, Alejandra, in the 1980s at age 21.

She learned to speak English, then eventually made her way to the University of Wisconsin Law School, where she met and married a fellow law student, Jason Goldstein.

That's when she converted to Ju-

daism — “for the marriage thing.” She had two sons, Isaac and Julian, and in 2005 left practicing law to pursue art. She'd started painting in 1988.

“Being a lawyer is really not my thing,” she said.

As an artist, she now explores her dual religious roots by portraying the Jesus of her Christian childhood as the Jew he undoubtedly was. She lives and paints in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Goldstein emailed me a few weeks ago after happening upon a column I once wrote about Christianity's Jewish roots, which she had liked. After we corresponded briefly, I took a look at her website and was much impressed. I don't know of another artist who is ex-



“Jesus Having Fun Swinging.” (Painting by Clara Maria Goldstein)

Entire season four of “The Chosen” to be released in theaters

Fans of “The Chosen” will be happy to learn that season four will be released exclusively in theaters in February. Last season, both the premiere and final episodes were screened in theaters.

“Every time we've dipped our toes in the theatrical waters, viewers have overwhelmingly told us they want more,” said Dallas Jenkins, the show's creator and director. Once again, the producers are partnering with Fathom Events.

“We are thrilled to collaborate again with ‘The Chosen’ team to bring fans the entire fourth season to cinemas before it is available elsewhere,” said Ray Nutt, the company's CEO. “It is a testament to the big screen's power to unite people and have them share in this communal experience.”

The rollout of season four in U.S. and Canadian theaters will begin with a two-week run of episodes one through three on Feb. 1, 2024, followed by episodes four through six in theaters beginning February 15 and episodes seven and beginning February 29. “The Chosen” will announce its debut across streaming platforms including The Chosen TV and mobile apps, broadcast and cable TV.



A teaser trailer for the upcoming season shows clips of Jesus and his followers as they face increasing resistance and suspicion from others. “Clashing kingdoms. Rival rulers. The enemies of Jesus are closing in while his followers are struggling to keep up, leaving him to carry the burden alone,” a social media post said.

“The Chosen” has become a cultural phenomenon with impressive performance across streaming platforms such as Amazon Prime, Peacock and Netflix, and top ratings weekly domestically on The CW. What began as a pioneering crowd-funded project has now evolved into a

global sensation with more than 10 million social media followers. Through the efforts of the Come and See Foundation, “The Chosen” is on pace to be the most translated series in history/ The first three seasons soon will be available in 50 languages, with plans to subtitle it in more than 600.

Not everyone is happy with the decision. Some fans took to social media to question why the casual viewers, those who may not be Christians but watch the show, will now have to pay to see the finale where Christ is resurrected—the heart of the Good News.

ploring this theme. I thought you might enjoy her art, too.

In her works we see a young Jesus celebrating Hanukkah or just fishing in the sunshine. We see an adult Jesus dressed as a rabbi.

Her work sometimes blurs the lines between past and present. The overall effect can be enchanting and illuminating. For instance, the Jesus depicted as fishing in the sunshine wears a Jewish kippah, or skullcap, something Jesus might not have worn as a first century child, and what appears to be present-day clothes.

Her own beliefs about the Almighty haven't changed much.

“Same as a Christian and same as a Jew,” she said. “I pray to the same God.”

Her conversion process to Judaism did alter her spiritual vision in another way, though.

When she was a child, her Catholic priest would read aloud from the New Testament during church services.

Though it wasn't his intention or her church's, she said, “I got prejudiced against the Jews.”

To her, the New Testament cast Jews as bad people. She didn't fully understand that the heroic characters such as Jesus, Mary and the apostles were all Jewish themselves.

It wasn't until her conversion that she

began to reconsider her own assumptions. She connected the dots between her first faith tradition and her new one.

“When I was learning Judaism,” she said, “I'm learning about Jesus, things I had no clue of before.”

For instance, “I didn't know Jesus celebrated Hanukkah.”

She'd basically thought Jesus was a Christian who spoke Latin. Instead, she realized he spoke Aramaic and would have known Hebrew, too, in order to read the Jewish Bible, which Christians call the Old Testament and which takes up about two-thirds of the Christian Scriptures.

She felt that mistakes of perception such as hers have historically had dire consequences. Misinformation can “grow from there to horrible acts of violence,” Goldstein said.

Art is important partly because it helps shape our understanding of people and events. Being an artist, Goldstein assumed that when people think of Jesus they recall paintings they've seen. (Typically, I'd guess, that would be Christian Eurocentric portrayals of Jesus as a blond, blue-eyed White man). But few paintings have portrayed Jesus as specifically Jewish.

She decided “people” needed to do something about that.

Then the idea occurred to her:

“Who's people? People is me.”

She found her calling. As said, it's not specifically a religious thing.

Early on in her new vocation, in 2006, she got pushback against her paintings. A La Crosse hospital where her works were exhibited found them controversial and told her to take them down. This led to a minor tempest in the media.

But to Goldstein, even the controversy turned out to be a good thing, because it helped more people remember that Jesus was Jewish.

Since then, things have gone comparatively smoothly.

If you'd like to see Goldstein's work for yourself, or perhaps even order a print, visit <https://claramariagoldstein.com/>.

—Paul Prather has been a rural Pentecostal pastor in Kentucky for more than 40 years. Also a journalist, he was *The Lexington Herald-Leader's* staff religion writer in the 1990s, before leaving to devote his full time to the ministry. He now writes a regular column about faith and religion for the *Herald-Leader*, where this column first appeared. Prather's written four books. You can email him at pratpd@yahoo.com.

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

Manage Your Family's Year-Round Health

Now is a good time to check in and make sure your entire family is protected from infectious diseases.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), vaccines help create protective antibodies that fight off infections. Timely routine vaccinations, such as MMR (measles, mumps and rubeola) and Tdap (tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis), are known to prevent around 4 million deaths annually, yet only 1 in 5 adults are up to date on their vaccines.

Convenience, accessibility and lack of trust all play fundamental parts in why vaccination numbers are low across some demographic groups and geographic regions. Community pharmacies and clinics, such as the Kroger Family of Companies' Pharmacies and The Little Clinic, have emerged as

accessible and convenient options for people seeking needed healthcare services outside of traditional settings. These facilities offer a range of high-quality services, including medication counseling, health screenings and immunizations.

Routine preventive care, including vaccine administration, can take place at various points throughout the year.

Certain populations, such as people who are 60 years of age and older, those with chronic diseases and some minority populations, are more at risk for contracting certain infections and are encouraged to maintain updated vaccinations and boosters throughout the year. (For children younger than 5 years of age, check with your local

pharmacist or clinician for vaccine guidelines.)

The CDC recommends everyone 6 months old and older get an annual flu vaccine. Influenza, more commonly known as the flu, is a highly contagious respiratory virus that infects the nose, throat and lungs, and could lead to serious illness, hospitalization or death. Dominant flu strains



are constantly shifting and protection from a single flu vaccine declines over time.

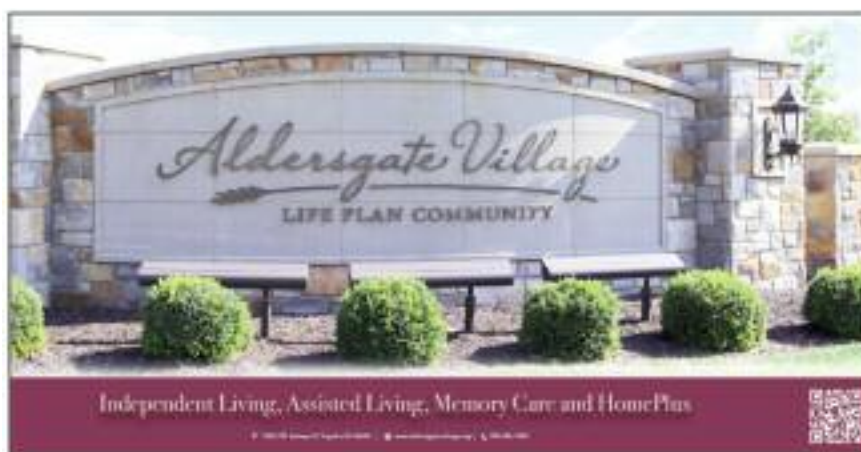
Retail pharmacies and clinics hold a unique position in the local communities they serve and are deeply committed to vaccine education and outreach. In addition to providing protection against illnesses such as influenza, vaccines also offer protection

against hepatitis A, hepatitis B, varicella (chicken pox), measles, RSV, pertussis (whooping cough), COVID-19 and more. By equipping people with consistent, factual information, retail pharmacies and clinics empower them to make informed decisions about their health and the health of their loved ones.

Research shows schools and colleges have the potential to cultivate a higher disease transmission rate that affects all ages. When students are protected against vaccine-preventable illnesses, they experience fewer absences due to illness.

Ensuring children are current on their vaccines also creates opportunities for parents and caregivers to check their own preventive health statuses. The National Institutes of Health notes vaccine-preventable diseases cost the country approximately \$27 billion annually in lost wages and increased healthcare costs.

Unlike some traditional healthcare settings, retail pharmacies and clinics are easily accessible. They are often located within local communities and have extended hours that cater to busy schedules, allowing flexibility for people getting their families vaccinated.



Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care and HomePlus



Options like the Kroger Family of Companies' Pharmacies and other retail pharmacies have established vaccine clinics within their pharmacy and clinic locations, making vaccinations a seamless and convenient part of the healthcare experience they provide.

Annual Gallup Polls consistently show pharmacists and nurse practitioners are among the most trusted people in the medical field. Healthcare professionals at retail pharmacies and clinics undergo rigorous training and

possess in-depth knowledge about vaccines, proper storage and handling as well as administration techniques.

By prioritizing proactive vaccinations, retail pharmacies create an environment that supports the well-being of students, teachers, staff and families, helping communities live healthier lives.

To learn more, visit [kroger.com/vaccinations](https://www.kroger.com/vaccinations) or visit a local pharmacy or clinic.

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Understanding 'Warning Strokes'

WHAT TO EXPECT IF YOU EXPERIENCE ANY STROKE SYMPTOMS, EVEN IF THEY DISAPPEAR



As a child, Steven Durst's life felt out of control. "My childhood was a mess filled with confusion and uncertainty," stated Steven. "I felt unsure and insecure regarding my future. Always moving around, I never knew where I would go next or who I would be with."

Steven was born in a struggling, post-Soviet Russia in 1996. After his father died, his mother, unable to raise Steven by herself, left her four-year-old boy at an orphanage. For the next three years, Steven moved from orphanage to orphanage. In 2003, an or-

ganization brought him and a group of older-aged orphans, who were considered less likely to be adopted, to the United States in hopes they might find a family.

The Durst family had no plans to adopt another child. They already had a five-year-old adopted son and two older girls of their own, who were starting their adult journeys. The Dursts hoped to encourage other families that were looking into the adoption process. That was until seven-year-old Steven literally ran

across their path, at which point Mrs. Durst knew Steven was supposed to be part of their family.

The American Nightmare

For the first year, they were one big happy family living the American dream. Soon, the dream would turn into a nightmare. He and his brother constantly fought for their parents' approval. At home and school, Steven was argumentative, angry, and usually in trouble. It seemed he would do whatever he could to push away anyone that tried to care for him. His parents didn't know what to do.

No matter how hard he tried to be good, problems kept happening. How could he make amends for things he didn't remember doing? If he was the problem, then he reasoned the only thing he could do to fix it was to leave. In his mind, if he was gone, then the Dursts would no longer have any problems. He didn't need anyone, he could take care of himself.

Unwanted & Unlovable

After his third attempt at running away, the Durst family knew that Steven needed help beyond what they alone could provide. They had tried therapy, tried a Boys Home, and even a special care facility. Nothing worked. Knowing of their struggle, a counselor recommended Show-Me Christian Youth Home.

Things wouldn't magically change for 12-year-old Steven. On the outside, he came across as a combative 'know-it-all' teen. On the inside was the same anxious, depressed orphan, whose survival instincts worked overdrive to push anyone away before they could leave and hurt him.

Year by year, God would chip away at the lies that had bound Steven. He had believed that he was unwanted, unlovable, and could trust only himself. That is why no one wanted him in Russia. That is why his Durst family sent him away. It would only be a matter of time before Show-Me came to

the same conclusion. Yet, there was something different about Show-Me that he couldn't explain.

Transformed Inside and Out

As Steven recounted, "it was

through the ceaseless love, care, dedication, and the model demonstrated by the workers and volunteers at Show-Me that started the transformation of my life. By their example, I began to recognize their reflection of the Lord Jesus Christ."

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sports

Tua Tagovailoa shares wisdom with fellow Alabama QB Bryce Young



For about three hours on Sunday afternoon, they were adversaries on a football field. But what bonds them together will last into eternity.

After Tua Tagovailoa's Miami Dolphins defeated Bryce Young's Carolina Panthers, 42-21, on Sunday, the two former title-winning star quarterbacks at the University of Alabama shared a long and heartfelt embrace.

"I think he's doing a tremendous job," Tagovailoa said in his postgame press conference about Young. "There's going to be times where you're going to make mistakes because you're a rookie, and there's things that when he plays the next game that he wished he knew this game, and he'll continue to grow from that.

"I just told him to keep the press, the naysayers, other people — that's just external factors — they're going to say what they're going to say, but you continue to believe in yourself, you continue to do the right things. You're going to go far."

Tagovailoa's words of encouragement were likely a much-needed gesture for the rookie Young. After jumping out to a 14-0 first-quarter lead, Carolina allowed Miami to score the next five touchdowns (including three Tagovailoa touchdown passes) to put the game away.

"I have a ton of respect for Tua — great player, great person," Young said during his own postgame press conference. "... He definitely did give some words of wisdom and stuff that I'll hold onto."

The Panthers' loss dropped them to a league-worst 0-6; Young has yet to

taste NFL victory. He's tossed six touchdowns, four interceptions and 967 yards while completing 63.2% of his passes in the five games he's played.

Meanwhile, Tagovailoa's Dolphins are 5-1 and tied with the Kansas City Chiefs for first place in the AFC. Tagovailoa's offense is the best in the NFL by nearly seven points and more than 100 yards per game. But it hasn't always been this way for Tagovailoa in Miami.

He didn't win the quarterback competition to start his rookie season in 2020, and didn't make his first appearance until Week 6. He finally won the starting job in Week 8, but on his first dropback, he was strip-sacked. He was benched twice later in the season amid shaky performances, and in a game the Dolphins needed to win to make the playoffs, he threw three interceptions and Miami lost.

Now that Tagovailoa is far beyond his rookie struggles, he has much wisdom to impart. But that's just one of the many reasons his words on Sunday carried such importance for Young.

As a star at Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, California, Young originally committed to USC in 2018. Yet in the fall of 2019, Young switched his commitment to Alabama. Why? Because he saw how the Crimson Tide's offense had shifted to maximize the talents of a quarterback like Tagovailoa. Young imagined himself in the very same role.

Carolina coach Frank Reich sees the similarities even now.

"Both have quick release, accurate, can throw at different arm angles, get the ball all over the field," he said last week, according to ESPN. "Good deci-

Heisman hopeful Penix thanking God 'for everything'

As he started his on-field interview with ESPN's Holly Rowe after Washington's thrilling 36-33 win over Oregon on Saturday, quarterback Michael Penix Jr. seemed to be processing a multitude of emotions all at once. His answer to Rowe's first question combined them into one: gratitude.

Gratitude for special moments like the game he'd just played in, gratitude for the trials he's overcome in his college career, and gratitude for the journey God has led him on.

"I've just got to give credit to the man upstairs and thank God for everything He put me through and allowing me to get to the spot I am today," Penix told Rowe. "It was a tough game, but I knew we'd be able to pull it off. ... I'm just so proud of this team and I just thank God for everything that He allowed me to have."

Penix first garnered national attention in 2019 while helping lead Indiana University to its first eight-win season since 1993, and in the shortened 2020 season when he led the Hoosiers to a 6-2 record. In 2019, IU went 5-1 in the six games Penix started before a shoulder injury sidelined him for the rest of the season.

sion-makers, not runners but enough mobility to move the pocket and make the play."

Yet the two quarterbacks are not just similar in the intangibles of the position, in enduring rookie struggles, or even in enjoying immense success at Alabama. They are also both devout followers of Christ.

Ever since he burst onto the scene in the 2018 College Football Playoff, Tagovailoa has repeatedly expressed his faith in God. It was even evident following Miami's only loss this season, a 48-20 defeat in Buffalo on Oct. 1. As he wore his characteristic eye black in the shape of a cross, Tagovailoa mentioned his mindset after the loss through the lens of faith.

"The best thing about being a believer in Jesus Christ, to me, is that the good Lord up above doesn't care whether you win a game, whether you lose a game," he said. "And for me, it's been a little tough having to play on Sundays, having to understand that I'm not able to go to church. Really, a lot of it is having to watch church online after

That was one of four season-ending injuries Penix suffered in his four years at Indiana.

The injuries took a significant mental toll on him.

"There were times when I'd wake up the day of the game, and I'd wait until my roommate leaves, and I'd just lie on the floor and I'd just cry to God, just praying that He'd protect me that day," he told Pac-12 Network before the season. "I knew where my head was at that time."

Penix transferred to Washington in 2022 and got the fresh start he was looking for. He played in all 13 games as the Huskies went 11-2, finishing second in the nation in passing yards (4,641) and fourth in completions (362).

His decision to return for another season cemented Washington as a preseason top-10 team and potential national title contender. Penix started his Instagram post announcing that he was coming back by giving glory to God and acknowledging the important role faith has played in his football career.

"First of all, I would like to thank God for blessing me with the opportunity to play this sport that I have been in love

games and things like that. But allowing me this platform, to me is the best thing in the world to be able to profess my faith."

He continued later, "Having to remember Scripture always keep me encouraged in continuing to press forward, especially in times like this."

God has also drawn Young to Himself, and Young has been vocal about his faith publicly at Alabama and now in Carolina.

The 2021 Heisman Trophy-winner thanked God after the Panthers made him the No. 1 overall pick this past April, and he joined the Sports Spectrum Podcast in August 2022.

"I'm based in faith," Young said on the podcast. "I'm blessed to have the family that I do that introduced me [to faith] when I was young. Throughout my life, my relationship has grown with the Lord and my faith has improved. Through that, I work to be the best version of myself that I can be and to embody Christ in all that I do."

"Regardless of how someone else views me, whatever award, accolade,

with all my life," he said. "I would like to thank all of Husky Nation and the University of Washington for believing in me and supporting me and my teammates in this wonderful journey."

So far, the Huskies have justified the hype. Penix's 2,301 passing yards are the second-most in the country, and he ranks in the top 15 in a variety of statistical categories, including touchdown passes (20), completion percentage (72.1%) and passer rating (189.9). Washington is the lone undefeated team remaining in the Pac-12 and No. 5 in the most recent Associated Press poll.

Penix threw for 302 yards and four touchdowns in the top-10 showdown with Oregon and was named the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback of the Week for his performance. He is also one of the Heisman Trophy favorites with the season approaching the halfway point.

Reflecting on his journey during a feature for the Pac-12 Network in September, Penix said the challenges he's faced have allowed him to demonstrate the resilience he believes is just part of his personality.

"It wasn't easy to get here," he said. "Everything that I've accomplished to this day, it came with a lot of heartbreak, a lot of tears. Nothing was going to be easy to be great. I'm more than just a football player, and deep down inside as a person, I'm a guy that's never going to quit."

whatever someone may say — negative or positive — I appreciate and am grateful for the positive, and even for the negative," he also said on the podcast. "But at the end of the day, what motivates me and pushes me is to model myself after the Lord. I definitely have a lot of work to do."

As pressure builds in his rookie season to get his first career win, Young seeks to remain steadied by the relationship he has with his unchanging Father in Heaven and learn from those who have gone before him, like Tagovailoa. Young's Carolina teammates believe he is the right guy to turn their season around.

"You don't really see a person's true colors until they're going through some adversity," said receiver Adam Thielen, according to ESPN. "So for him to handle the adversity our team is going through the way he has, man, those are the guys you want to fight for, those are the guys you want to play with and those are the guys that are going to have success in the future."



More than 70 homeless baptized after watching “The Blind” movie

The new movie “The Blind,” which tells the story of the “Duck Dynasty” family, is changing lives as well as attracting viewers to the theater. A number of people have been baptized after seeing the movie, which already had earned more than \$15 million.

Entrepreneur Ethan Drum helped share the movie with homeless people. More than 100 have now been baptized after seventy people accepted Christ during the initial showing, he said. Some people were so moved that they got baptized on the

spot, all a fruitful effort born out of Drum’s quest to bring the gospel to the vulnerable and those struggling.

“I was like, ‘Why don’t we just bring the movie theater to them?’” he said. “And so I called a friend of mine who owned a production company.”

From there, “The Blind” quickly made its way into these rehab centers, and true life change unfolded.

Drum said Phil Robertson of



“Duck Dynasty” recorded a personal video to show to the men

and women who watched the film. The clip recounted Robertson’s own struggle with alcohol, infidelity and chaos before coming to the Lord.

“He was like, ‘Hey, this movie is about me,’” Drum said. “If anyone should be embarrassed, I should — and, by the way, I was where you were and now I’m not. There was crying, laughing, gasping. The movie had such

an impact, because they were like, ‘he didn’t actually go back to drugs and alcohol. It actually did change; he finally did stop, and maybe I can stop, too.’”

Drum held impromptu baptisms after the showings. “On those two days combined, over 70 people were baptized,” he said. “And then I’ve been getting text messages that it’s still ongoing ... the movement hadn’t stopped.”

Drum said he plans to return to baptize more people still feeling spiritually affected by “The Blind.”

Steven: From Orphan to Overcomer

As a child, Steven Durst’s life felt out of control. “My childhood was a mess filled with confusion and uncertainty,” stated Steven. “I felt unsure and insecure regarding my future. Always moving around, I never knew where I would go next or who I would be with.”

Steven was born in a struggling, post-Soviet Russia in 1996. After his father died, his mother, unable to raise Steven by herself, left her four-year-old boy at an orphanage. For the next three years, Steven moved from orphanage to orphanage. In 2003, an organization brought him and a group of older-aged orphans, who were considered less likely to be adopted, to the United States in hopes they might find a family.

The Durst family had no plans to adopt another child. They already had a five-year-old adopted son and two older girls of their own, who were starting their adult journeys. The Dursts hoped to encourage other families that were looking into the adoption process. That was until seven-year-old Steven literally ran across their path, at which point Mrs. Durst knew Steven was supposed to be part of their family.

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and usually in trouble. It seemed he would do whatever he could to push away anyone that tried to care for him. His parents didn’t know what to do.

No matter how hard he tried to be good, problems kept happening. How could he make amends for things he didn’t remember doing? If he was the problem, then he reasoned the only thing he could do to fix it was to leave. In his mind, if he was gone, then the Dursts would no longer have any problems. He didn’t need anyone, he could take care of himself.

Unwanted & Unlovable

After his third attempt at running away, the Durst family knew that Steven needed help beyond what they alone could provide. They had tried therapy, tried a Boys Home, and even a special care facility. Nothing worked. Knowing of their struggle, a counselor recommended Show-Me Christian Youth Home.

Things wouldn’t magically change for 12-year-old Steven. On the outside, he came across as a combative ‘know-it-all’ teen. On the inside was the same anxious, depressed orphan, whose survival instincts worked overdrive to push anyone away before they could leave and hurt him.

Year by year, God would chip away at the lies that had bound Steven. He had believed that he was unwanted, unlovable, and could trust only himself. That is why no one wanted him

in Russia. That is why his Durst family sent him away. It would only be a matter of time before Show-Me came to the same conclusion. Yet, there was something different about Show-Me that he couldn’t explain.

Transformed Inside and Out

As Steven recounted, “it was through the ceaseless love, care, dedication, and the model demonstrated by the workers and volunteers at Show-Me that started the transformation of my life. By their example, I began to recognize their reflection of the Lord Jesus Christ.”

In 2011, Steven came to the realization that he could not do it on his own. He needed a Savior. He gave his life to Jesus Christ and was baptized. “Because of the Spirit of the Lord, I was able to break free from the lies and chains that were holding me down,” stated Steven.

Over the next few years, Steven would become a new creation — inside and out. Knowing Christ would never fail or leave him, he began to trust others. He no longer resisted guidance. While he still faced occasional stumbles, he now sought his Show-Me family’s counsel to overcome these challenges. Their wisdom was especially helpful as he began to prepare and walk into his adult life.



Flying High

Through the Path to Purpose program and conversations with some of his Show-Me family, who had served in the military, Steven realized the benefits of a military career. He thrived in the structure and routine of Show-Me. Military life would strengthen that discipline. After graduation in 2015, Steven enlisted in the Air Force.

Over the next six years, he served as a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) Launch and Recovery Sensor Operator, flying the MQ-9 Reaper. He completed six tours in Jordan, Kuwait, Turkey, Italy, Afghanistan, and Niger before leaving the Air Force in January of 2022 as a Senior Airman.

Steven invested and saved enough of his salary to buy a house and start classes at the University of Las Vegas Business School. Today, he is working toward a degree in finance and operates his own YouTube finance channel.

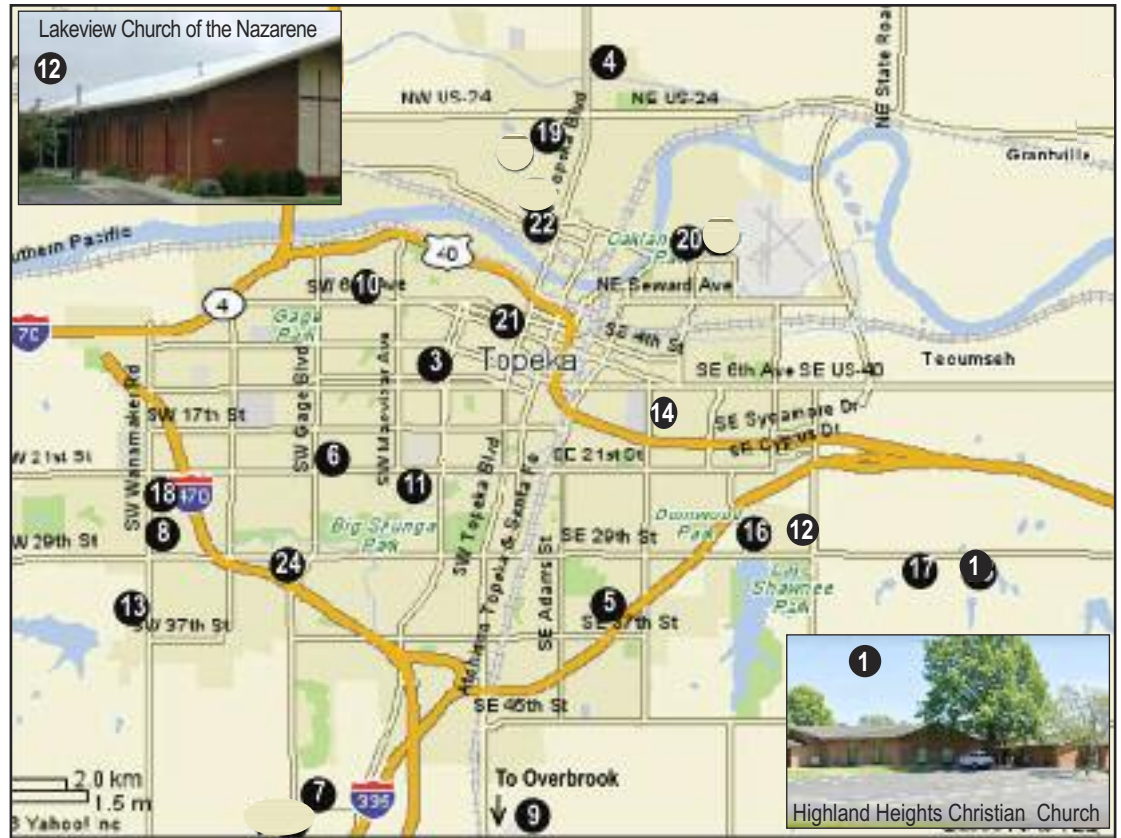
Chosen & Beloved

Looking back, Steven realizes God was in control the whole time. He isn’t unwanted; he was chosen by his Durst and Show-Me families. He isn’t unlovable; he is loved so much that the King of Kings died for him; he is so loved that his parents made some of the hardest decisions of their lives so that he could have the best chance possible.

“The greatest act of help we can offer to those in need is to direct them, not towards worldly solutions, but to Jesus Christ,” reminds Steven. “That is why Show-Me is successful in transforming lives because they point to Jesus, who is able to change you from the inside out and make you a new creation.”

—Shoe-Me Christian Youth Home / Join our Prayer Partner List to receive bi-monthly and urgent prayer requests. Call 660-347-5982 or sign up at www.ShowMeHelpingKids.com

New Resident Church Guide



17. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH
4425 S.E. 29th St., 785-379-9933.
Sunday Worship 10:00am & 5:30pm
Sunday Evenings at 5:30pm:
• AWANA
• Student Ministries
• reJengage
www.esbcks.org

22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH
1231 NW Eugene St.
Topeka, KS 66608
Pastor Roger Randel
Sunday School 9am; Worship 10:30am
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

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

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. 9:45am: Sunday School all ages
Sunday 10:45am:
Nursery, Children's Church, & Worship
Wed.: Prayer, Bible Study, & Discussion 7-8pm
Kids J.A.M. 'Jesus & Me!' 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
A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church
2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm
Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm
785-266-LOVE (5683)
J. Michael Borjon, Pastor

1. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
785-379-5642

Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM
2930 SE Tecumseh Road
Tecumseh, Kansas 66654
www.highlandheightsccc.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"
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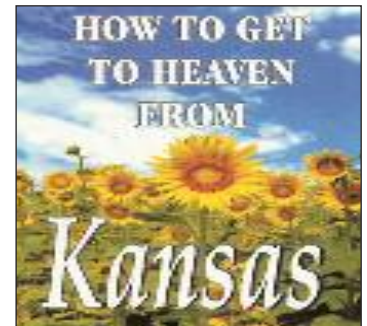
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More important than living in KANSAS is where you will live forever. Just as you would look at a map of KANSAS to find your way, so you must look at the Bible to find your way to heaven. The Bible says, "Narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." (Matt. 7:14). Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (Jn. 14:6). Jesus is the only way to Heaven and He gave these directions on getting there.

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

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

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

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



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