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TULIPS AT TWILIGHT Page 16

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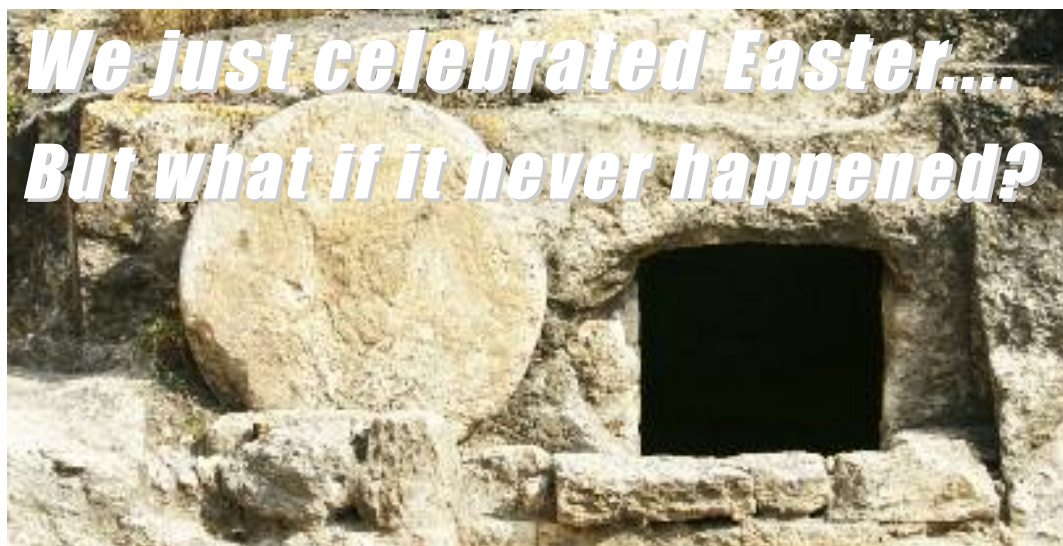
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NEW RESIDENT churchguide

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See inside back cover!



*We just celebrated Easter....
But what if it never happened?*

What If The Resurrection Never Happened?

Over 150,000 people die each day globally. Never in my lifetime has there been a single news report about someone dying, then rising from the dead to not die again. In the years I have been a minister and conducted numerous funerals, never have I observed a single person that has been laid to rest, then raised up to

avoid death again. In history there have been people who were dead for seconds, minutes or even hours—then came back to life. But never has there been one who has died, been buried, then days later raised from the dead, to escape its clutches forever. At no time has there ever been such a case—except for one. Jesus.

Understandably, the story of Jesus being resurrected has its critics. “A historical fact which involves a resurrection from the dead is utterly inconceivable” wrote the late Dr. Rudolph Bultmann, an influential New Testament German theologian. However, there are many who be-

■ Please see RESURRECTION page 2

Partial eclipse will darken the sky on April 8



On Monday afternoon, April 8th, the temperature will suddenly drop, and you'll see the sunlight dim.

Due to a partial solar eclipse, 87% of the sun will be obscured in Topeka skies on April 8. This will start at 12:36 in the afternoon and end at 3:09. The maximum eclipse will be at 1:53p.m.

The best place to see the eclipse would be an open area with no buildings to obscure your view.

Care must be taken while viewing because the energy from the sun during the eclipse is so intense it could cause eye damage or even blindness. To avoid this, you should wear special eclipse glasses.

Topeka Zoo Has a New CEO



After a comprehensive, nationwide search, the Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center has announced the appointment of Dr. Christina Castellano, as its next Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Dr. Castellano brings a wealth of experience and a deep passion for wildlife conservation to her new role at the Topeka Zoo. She has held leadership positions at various zoo, aquarium, and conservation organizations, including Utah's Hogle Zoo, Loveland Living Planet Aquarium, and Hawk Watch International. She also headed a special-

■ Please see ZOO page 3

Mattel Adventure Park will open In Bonner Springs in 2026

Worlds of Fun is getting some competition. A new Mattel Adventure Park in Wyandotte County will feature Hot Wheels roller coasters, a Barbie rooftop restaurant, Thomas & Friends attractions and more.

Crews plan to break ground this year and open the new theme park in Bonner Springs in 2026. It will be located near 118th Street and State Avenue, not far from Kansas Speedway. “Mattel Adventure Park Kansas City

will bring our iconic brands to life with epic roller coasters, family friendly attractions, an immersive theater, themed dining and so much more,” said Josh Silverman, chief franchise officer at Mattel. “We are thrilled to expand these themed entertainment destinations and invite new fans to experience the world of Mattel in all-new ways as they create lasting memories with loved ones.”

■ Please see MATTEL page 2



Free Seminars will help parents of troubled children

Charles White, retired Christian preschool teacher, cottage parent for troubled children, and foster parent, is inviting parents and grandparents to join him for free weekly one-hour seminars on parenting. White is the author of hundreds of articles for troubled families, and dozens of Christian coloring books.

White says they represent God's help for Parents of children who STRUGGLE daily with divorce, anger, loneliness, sleeplessness, sibling rivalry, rebellion, poverty, hunger, abuse, etc.

There are five free one-hour parenting seminars, Saturdays beginning April 6, 2pm at Community Church, 1819 SW 21st. Childcare is provided.

Week One: Giving your home a Bible makeover... Deuteronomy 6:7-9 the second half of the greatest commandment give us God's commands for sharing His word with our children. The essence of

these three verses is SURROUNDING our children with Bible verses...God's word beside their beds, on the walls of the home, in their pockets...in windows, above doorknobs and more. For a great preview of this seminar visit <https://www.bibleparent.com/hg-MAKEOVER.html>. Tons of free crafts will be sent home with both parents and children...childcare provided.

Week Two: Making shared prayer a lifelong HABIT for any child. This week focuses on learning the Lord's prayer, using a prayer cup, prayer puzzle and other take home crafts. See preview at <https://teachustoprayer.com/crafts.html>. The major goal is to stick with at least one prayer until we hear from God...the part where God talks and we listen...the part after the Amen.

Week Three: Introducing our children to God's wonder-full creation. In

today's world the average child spends almost 7 hours a day playing video games and less than seven MINUTES in the world God made for us, a world of growth and harmony, of living things and daily miracles. Each parent and child gets a homework assignment consisting of; a daily shared walk, a magnifying glass, flower painting, bird putty, an egg carton museum and bug jar and a tire garden or butterfly hatchery. This is Mister White's lifelong favorite and he prays that your family plants hope and harvests joy. See a very special preview at <https://www.bibleparent.com/hgcreation.html>.

Week Four: Seven reasons your child should start and end each day with a Bible verse in their pocket. Watch the preview at

<https://www.bibleparent.com/hg-pocketScriptures.html>. You'll be glad you did.

Sign up for free weekly parenting newsletters or Church bulletin inserts.

Week Five: God's FIX for troubled families...Making FELLOWSHIP the heart of the parent child relationship. Scientifically proven ways to guarantee your child never spends time in prison and ENJOYS being a contributor to the family. Start by bonding and rebonding in the kitchen, move on to sharing household chores, and finally...CATCH THEM BEING GOOD. Finally...make one night a month friends night where you invite your children's friends to be guests in your home. What a joy to share a house with children possessing a sincere desire to please. Share this free preview with your church and family friends.

Week Six: Helping the angry child. According to Dr. Ross Cambell, winner of the President's Award in pediatrics and author of many parenting books the



number one danger to your child is his or her own anger. It is a sentiment shared by a neighbor of mine, Dr. Karl Menninger, and MANY professional counselors. We pray as many parents as possible view our slideshow at <https://www.bibleparent.com/slideshows/23anger.pdf> and print out the parents' checklist to share with their children.

White is the web editor of www.bibleparent.com. He can be reached at jcc-cw@gmail.com.

MATTEL

continued from page 1

This will be the second Mattel Adventure Park from Mattel and Epic Resort Destinations. The companies have a second theme park opening this year in Glendale, Ariz.

The Kansas City-area park will have all the attractions at the Arizona park, including the Hot Wheels Bone Shaker and the Hot Wheels Twin Mill Racer coasters. There also will be a larger-than-life Barbie Beach House where fans can build a customized Barbie set in the Barbie Dream Closet Experience. It in-

cludes hologram technology to bring Barbie to life. For younger visitors, the Thomas & Friends: World of Sodor will feature five experiential attractions and rides, including an indoor play space.

Over at He-Man vs Skeletor Laser Tag, Masters of the Universe fans can fight in a massive arena. The park also will feature a mini-golf course inspired by the Magic 8 ball, Pictionary and other Mattel games.

"I'm anticipating more than 400 jobs



just for Mattel Adventure Park," said Mark Cornell, president of Epic Resort

theme park at its April 8 city council meeting. City officials will review the

Destinations. "I think that number could be a little higher as our development plans continue to grow. This is a great win for all. Kansas gets a great theme park, which brings Mattel brands to life. I think our value to the entertainment community is going to be second to none."

The city of Bonner Springs is planning a public hearing on the new theme park at its April 8 city council meeting. City officials will review the

project and discuss next steps

"Bonner Springs is a great destination for travelers and tourists already with Azura Amphitheater, the National Ag Hall of Fame, the Kansas City Renaissance Festival, ZipKC and a quaint, historic downtown," it said in a statement. "At the public hearing, the elected officials will consider this project and give direction on further negotiations and considerations to develop a project of this magnitude. We are committed to discussing this project with the state, the developers, and our community when we have more details in place for discussion."

RESURRECTION

continued from page 1

lieve the biblical story of Jesus' resurrection, such as Bible scholar, Dr. N.T. Wright, who has done extensive research on the resurrection. He says, "Because he is raised from the dead, he is Lord of the world, sovereign over the whole cosmos, the one before whom we bow the knee, believing that in the end every creature will come to do so as well."

From the day Jesus' tomb was found empty until today, the debate over Jesus' resurrection has been as divisive as ever among scholars. What if the critics are right? What if Jesus died, but never rose from the dead? What if the resurrection never happened and there was no Easter to celebrate? This presents at least three major prob-

lems.

1-A spiritual problem. According to Christian teaching, Jesus' death provided the shedding of blood for the forgiveness of mankind's sin. His resurrection completed the work. No resurrection would mean no forgiveness. Humanity would be cursed to bear the guilt and shame of their sin forever. All people would be destined to a vain life and fearful death because of no hope beyond ourselves. The Bible declares this, "And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." (1 Corinthians 15:17)

2-A moral problem. According to Christian teaching, God declares He does not lie and condemned the deceptive act among His followers in the Ten Commandments. If the resurrec-

tion never happened then God is a liar. Jesus is a liar. The whole Bible is a lie. The billions of Christians for the last 2,000 years are all liars, and Christianity is humankind's greatest conspiracy. The Scriptures addresses this as well, "And if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ..." (1 Cor. 15:14-15)

3-A theological problem. According to Christian teaching, Jesus was not a mere man but divine and His resurrection was ultimate proof. If Jesus had not risen from the dead, it would be legitimate to question the deity of Christ. If there was no resurrection Jesus was not divine, but a mere mortal. His miracles would be a hoax. His teachings would all be sus-

pect. He would be nothing more than an influential historical figure like Socrates, Gandhi or Martin Luther King, Jr.

What shall we say in response to all this? His tomb is empty. His bones have never been found. There were

eye witnesses to His resurrection. One early follower said, "This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses" (Acts 2:32). For centuries billions of these witnesses have been transformed by Him. This is the ultimate proof that Christ has risen. YES, JESUS IS ALIVE!



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Ms. Wheelchair Kansas Was Just Named 1st Runner-Up At National Competition

The 2023 Ms. Wheelchair Kansas (MWKS) recently attended the Ms. Wheelchair America event where she competed for the national title. Daija Coleman joined with 17 other women vying for the opportunity to represent women who are wheelchair mobile in the United States. This annual event was hosted in Grand Rapids, Michigan and was held August 28-September 3 at the Amway Grand Plaza in Grand Rapids. After an intense week of competition, networking, and empowerment, Daija came away with the great honor of being named the 1st Runner-Up! She also gained wonderful memories, new leadership and advocacy tools, and a new sisterhood from across the nation.

Daija is the nineteenth woman to represent the state of Kansas at the national competition since the creation of the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas organization in 2004. While in Grand Rapids, Daija participated in two personal interview sessions where she was scored based on her accomplishments, self-perception, communication, and projection skills. She also gave a speech on her chosen platform, "Why Not Us? Why Not Now? Be an Advocate in Your Community," and heard from speakers on a variety of topics related to leadership and advocacy. Daija was able to enjoy some fun activities as well. All 18 titleholders enjoyed a fun day where they had a scavenger hunt and got to tour the Frederik Meijer Gar-



dens and Sculpture Park. They also enjoyed themed evenings, including Dancing Through the Decades, Fairy Garden, and Under the Sea. The week culminated in the crowning ceremony, which was held Saturday, September 2, where Chandra Smith of Maryland was named Ms. Wheelchair America 2024. The preceding top four contestants were announced as follows: 1st Runner-Up-Daija Coleman of Kansas; 2nd Runner-Up- Annie Heathcote of Wisconsin; 3rd Runner-Up- Domanique Howell of Pennsylvania; and 4th Runner-Up-Cassie Riddick of Arkansas. As 1st Runner-Up, Daija will step in to assume the duties of Ms. Wheelchair America if, at any point, Chandra is unable to do so or needs support from the runner-up.

Daija, of Atchison, was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Kansas in March of 2023. Since receiving her title, she has worked to fulfill the MWKS mission, which is to

educate, advocate, and empower all people on a state level. Daija has been traveling to different areas meeting Kansans of all ages, speaking to different groups, and participating in local events. Some of her notable appearances have included attending the Easter Fest in Topeka, the Midwest Abilities Summit in Overland Park, and a 4th of July parade in Highland. She has also presented at Camp Milton, the Self-Advocate Coalition of Kansas

Conference, the Kansas Youth Leadership Forum, and to a group at the Exceptional Humans organization. Daija has also been mentoring Little Miss Wheelchair Kansas 2023, Olivia Woodard, throughout her year, and both titleholders have been able to attend various events together. Daija is currently planning many more appearances and will continue traveling across the state in order to spread her platform and advocate for Kansans with disabilities.

Daija will continue to fulfill the MWKS mission in the coming months and is available for speaking engagements and appearances. For more information, please contact Carrie Greenwood, President/CEO, at (785) 633-7255 or via email at mswheelchairkansas@yahoo.com. More information can also be found on the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas web site at www.mswheelchairkansas.org.

leadership, the Topeka Zoo will continue to thrive as a leading center for wildlife conservation, education, and community engagement."

Dr. Castellano is an internationally recognized conservation biologist and published author. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Biological Sciences from Fordham University and an MBA from Western Governors University. Throughout her career, Dr. Castellano has been building, implementing, and promoting strategic conservation and business programs. She has led successful field-based endangered species projects and facilitated wildlife initiatives within cultural and academic institutions worldwide. Dr. Castellano has been actively involved with the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA), including

her participation in the AZA's Executive Leadership Development Program.

"I am honored and excited to join the Topeka Zoo and Conservation Center," said Dr. Castellano. "The Topeka Zoo has a long-standing commitment to conservation, education, and community service, and I look forward to working collaboratively with our staff, volunteers, partners, and community to build upon that legacy."

As CEO, Dr. Castellano will oversee all aspects of the Topeka Zoo's operations, including animal care, development initiatives, and visitor experiences. She will work closely with the Board of Directors, staff, and stakeholders to further the Zoo's mission to enrich our community through wildlife conservation and education.

C5Alive Power Luncheon to feature Christiansen at West Ridge Mall

The April C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held on the 11th and will feature Kevin Christiansen of Cafe Barnabas.

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.

Upcoming luncheon dates are May 9th. and June 13.

Barry Feaker will return as the featured speaker on July 11th

C5 also hosts other periodic events, including EAST-ERFEST, the annual Topeka Easter Parade and Fun Fair, held on N. Kansas Avenue and at Great Overland Station on the day before Easter.

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 joining this Spring.

For more information about C5Alive, go to C5Alive.org, www.facebook.com/C5Alive, or call 785-640-6399.



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ZOO

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ized team responsible for breeding critically endangered species for reintroduction programs at Zoos Victoria in Melbourne, Australia. With over two decades of leadership in the zoo and conservation field, she is well-equipped to lead the Topeka Zoo into its next phase of growth and excellence.

"We are delighted to welcome Christina as our new CEO," said Fred Patton, President of the Topeka Zoo Board of Directors. "Her extensive background in zoo management, conservation, and education make her the ideal candidate to lead our institution forward. We are confident that under her

No twerking, drinking or smoking: The Cove Christian nightclub opens in Nashville



It can be difficult for younger Christians to find a place to hang out with friends and socialize without compromising their values. The Cove, a pop-up nightclub in Nashville, offers a fun alternative to the city's honkytonks and other night spots.

The venue likely has a bright future. Polls find that those under 18-35 are drinking less than in previous decades and looking for alternative activities.

The hotspot located in the heart of Music City has three nonnegotiable rules: no twerking, no drinking and no smoking. There reportedly is another unspoken rule enacted by the club: a playlist featuring all Christian

music. The discotheque, founded by seven black Christian men in their 20s, first opened its doors in 2023 with the intent of building "a thriving community and a welcoming space for young Christians outside houses of worship."

"We ourselves experienced a pain point of not being able to find community outside of our church, not knowing what to do to have fun without feeling bad for doing stuff that's conflicting to our values," CEO Eric Diggs said. "There wasn't a space to cultivate that, so we created it ourselves."

The Christian nightclub held its first monthly party during the holiday season this past November. Their

second event was during New Year's, and their most recent get-together was held just last month.

Kim Posala, who attended the opening night said "It's surreal," as those who arrived in traditional Nashville nightlife attire arrived and were given bracelets. "It's a community and that's what church is about."

The young entrepreneurs used the power of social media to reach people like Posala and build a community and promote the nightclub's events. A recent TikTok video on The Cove's page was captioned: "We've officially redefined party culture for Gen Z and young millennials. It all started with an idea. What if we could create a space for young adults to turn up and have fun without alcohol or substances? So we came up with the idea of starting a Christian nightclub in Nashville."

A spokesperson for "The Cove" told Fox News, "Our mission is to cultivate a welcoming space where young adults can connect, have fun and encounter God through innovative experiences and vibrant community. Recognizing the growing health-conscious movement among Gen Z and young Millennials, we offer a unique, safe and substance-free environment for young adults to enjoy themselves. This is more than a nightclub. It's a community. It's a movement."

In a 2023 poll Gallup found, "The overall rate of drinking in the U.S. has been generally steady in recent decades, but that masks shifts by age, with older Americans having become more likely to drink and younger Americans less likely."

"We ended up getting more than 10,000 followers before our first event, which was insane," said Eric's brother Jordan Diggs, 22, who manages the club's social media platforms.

"Christians get a rep for being corny. And we want to show that Christians can be normal, can be cool. And they can have fun."

Response to the club has been mostly good, though it has faced criticism from some Christians who say dancing and worship don't mix. says Jordan faces the comments head-on, saying, "just the words Christian and nightclub is going to start a lot of conversation."

Tulips at Twilight Returns to Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden



Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden, located at 1st & Clay, will feature Tulips at Twilight Thursday through Sunday nights from April 11th to the 28th, from 7 to 10 p.m.

The event is the winner of Kansas Recreation and Park Association Branch Award in February 2023, also best LOCAL EVENT 2023, and the Winner of Best Event in NE Kansas in the Best of Topeka 2021 awards. Visitors will see 20,000 tulips, 2,000 Daffodils and 4,000 Spring Annuals illuminated, and more than 100 lighted displays including larger-than-life hand crafted flowers as they stroll along the lighted garden pathways. Enjoy several lighted water features including pools, a stream, bridge, gazebo, and waterfalls that sur-

round the Asian Garden. The garden is open daily for a more tranquil experience.

Old Prairie Town buildings will be open for touring and FREE potted plants (one per person) on Friday and Saturday evenings. Thursday thru Sunday evening you can enjoy live music & entertainment, old fashion Ice Cream at the Drug Store, or the Meal Deal #1 which is a beef hot dog, chips and a drink for \$5.00 at the Concession Stand. Raffle item this year is a "Barbie Farm House Garden." Tickets are available at the Concession Stand.

All Ages are welcome at this family event. Admission fee is \$5. Children 5 & under are free. For more information visit <https://www.facebook.com/Old->



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“Jesus Disrupts” campaign taking gospel to nation’s elite colleges

The youth organization Christian Union hopes to reach 75,000 students at elite secular universities with the gospel during an upcoming eight-week evangelism tour.

Matt Bennett, founder and president of the group, says the theme “Jesus Disrupts” was chosen “to introduce students to how radical Jesus is. We are doing a much more extensive outreach this year, including national media outreach, so in terms of exposure, we expect this will be our biggest year yet.”

The schools where the campaign will focus on include Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Yale and Stanford.

“Jesus ministered among the downtrodden as well as the influential, and these nine universities produce a disproportionate number of future leaders for the

nation and the world,” Bennett said. “Also, students at these schools are, on average, less exposed to the gospel message than college students elsewhere. God loves all people and wants them to be saved if possible.”

The campaign seeks to reach students through what Bennett described as “a multifaceted plan incorporating digital media as well as on-campus events.” This will include promoting the “Jesus Disrupts” campaign extensively on social media, as well as offline advertisements placed around the nine campuses. There also will be “student-on-the-street” interviews asking youth about Jesus and religion, with these set to be combined into videos that will be posted on social media platforms. Flyers, posters, stickers and shirts promoting the “Jesus Disrupts” message will be distributed at the nine schools



and evangelistic gatherings will be held.

“Students today at the nation’s most rigorous schools are largely unaware of the most important message in the history of human-

ity,” Bennett said. “Jesus Christ has brought more good into the world than any other person, and these students deserve to know. He also is the only one who can forgive sins and transfer us from

the kingdom of darkness to the kingdom of light. We need to do everything we can to give these students the opportunity to believe in him.”



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Keeping political disagreements friendly

Don’t lose your friendships over political disagreements.

That’s the advice of Denise Grace Gitsham, a former Republican candidate for Congress who served in the George W. Bush administration. She offered her insights on this difficult topic, saying Christians often walk a fine line in election years between standing up for their values and saying something that might alienate their family and friends.

“So often when Christians engage in politics, they lose their joy, which is the hallmark of the Holy Spirit,” she says. “Scripture says speak the truth in love. If love was the same thing as truth, then that would be a redundant statement. Unity does not mean conformity. I am one of the most conservative people you will ever meet on policy. But conservative does not equal mean.”

Gitsham offered three ways Christians can engage with those they disagree with on politics.



First, establish biblical motives before the conversation starts. The goal is not to “win” a debate.

“If you establish at the outset of a conversation that your desire is to love this person and preserve the relationship or establish one — because that is your job, that is your number one responsibility as a Christian — then you will have a different way of engaging from the outset,” she said. “It’s not a life-or-death battle. You know that God’s in charge. You can speak your piece and you can move on, because you’re

not looking for validation of who you are and the need to be right from anyone other than God.”

Second, engage the conversation with humility and curiosity. “One thing that I’ve learned in my time in politics is that I have a perspective on the truth that is never the full perspective,” Gitsham said. “We will never see the full perspective until we get to heaven.”

Third, Christians must make “honorable assumptions” about the person instead of assuming the worst-case scenario.

“We’re not naïve — we’re just saying, ‘We’re going to choose to see these people the way God sees them. We’re going to presume that they’re coming with something legitimate to say,’” she said. “And whether you end up with them or on a different side, you’re gonna have a whole new understanding of the situation. And maybe it might even make you more effective in what you’re advocating for.”

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HELPING TAKE CARE OF MOM

Dear Dave: My mother-in-law is 85, and she's had some health setbacks recently. The family got together with her, and as a group, we decided it was time to sell her property and move her into an apartment at a nice senior living facility. She should see a little over \$300,000 from the sale of her house. Aside from that, she has about \$10,000 in a savings account. The problem is, she'll only receive \$2,100 a month in Social Security, and rent at the facility is \$2,600 per month. Plus she loves making donations to charities. With interest rates where they are, is a CD ladder a good place to put the money to help her cash flow expenses in the future?

- Ed

Dear Ed: If this were my mother-in-law, I'd want her to do better than a CD (certificate of deposit) ladder. Even with the deficit between her Social Security income and the cost of rent, she'll only need to see \$6,000 a year from the investment to make up the difference. And plus, she's 85. Even if she got nothing in terms of interest, the chances of her burning all the way through her nest egg before she dies are almost zero. I know the thought of her passing away isn't pleasant, but it's something you have to take into consideration.

As far as the charities go? Right now, she's the charity. Maybe not in the traditional sense of the word, but it's time for mom to come first. Only the strong can help the weak. I didn't let my toddlers carry our newborn. And when it comes to money, you've got to have the financial strength—the free and clear assets—to carry others. Take care of your own household first. That's her responsibility at this point. Ed, you're not going to mess this up unless you put the money in crypto,

or something stupid like that. If you want to do some high-yield savings as a part of it, that's fine. If it were me, I'd probably end up investing some of it too. Here's the thing: Overall, if you could make 8% on it, that's \$2,000 a month, and it lasts indefinitely. That's not even touching the principal. But like I said before, even if you make nothing on it, just divide \$6,000 into \$300,000. See what I mean? It's probably going to last as long as she does. Of course, there may be some other medical bills, and you'd probably want her to have a life other than just paying bills. That's why I'd like to see that extra \$2,000 a month happening. It would provide a little cushion. And there may be a few other little things from time to time the family would have to pick up, but that's not unusual in a situation like this.

You all can make this work for her. Don't be super aggressive, but don't be super conservative either.

-Dave

Well-meaning, but misguided

Dear Dave: Our son will be graduating from high school in May, and then heading off to college in August. He will also be working during the summer to save up money for school. When classes begin, do you think he should continue working a part-time job, or would it be better for him to focus solely on his studies?

- Brenda

Dear Brenda: There's really nothing wrong with either approach, especially during a kid's first semester in college. As a parent, though, I'd urge you not to fall into the trap of thinking his grades will go down if he holds a job while in school.

Research actually shows that, on average, kids who work while in college carry higher grade point averages than those who don't.

The reasons for this differ, depending on who you ask, but I think a lot of it has to do with them having to learn to manage their time — and their lives — more effectively.

Lots of kids could pay their way through school, and not have to

worry about student loans, if they just used some of the time they spend watching television and on social activities at a job.

We never required our kids to work during the school year, but they were self-starters. And when they came home for the summer, there was no such thing as just lying around the house all day. They had jobs, and they made money. Of course, some of it went toward having a little fun during their time off. But we made sure they set some aside for the next school year, too.

Long story short, the philosophy of not wanting kids at college to work so they can spend all their time studying is well-meaning, but misguided.

For the most part, kids who work while they're in school will make better grades and develop into more mature and well-rounded individuals.

I hope this helps, Brenda!

-Dave

Take control of your mind and money

Dear Dave: I'm trying to work my way out of debt, but it seems like something always happens to stall things or knock me backwards. I make \$55,000 a year, I'm single and I have \$15,000 in debt, along with a mortgage payment of \$1,224 a month.

I've been trying to live on a budget, but I'm still not sure where all my money goes. Can you help?

- Lindley

Dear Lindley: I know living on a budget can be hard at first. And honestly, it usually takes folks who are new to doing it about three or four months of practice before they start getting it right and seeing the results.

For starters, your house payment is a little heavy for someone making \$55,000 a year. I generally recommend keeping your mortgage or rent payment at about 25% of your take-home pay. Sometimes you can slide by paying a little more, but in those cases, you'd really have to be on top of your finances.

So, the biggest thing you can do right now is take control of your money, instead of letting it—or a lack of it—control you. And the best way to make all this happen is by consistently living on a realistic, written monthly budget. Once you start doing this, you've taken your first big step toward having

a real gameplan for your money. At that point, the idea of trying to live on a budget ends, and the fact that you are living on a budget, and telling your money what to do—instead of a lack of it dictating what you can do — becomes more of a reality.

Remember the Star Wars movie “The Empire Strikes Back”? At one point during Luke's training, Yoda tells him, “Do, or do not. There is no try.” In a larger sense, Yoda is urging Luke to focus and work harder, instead of continuing with half-hearted attempts

and giving up easily.

If you want to accomplish a difficult task, Lindley, you have to throw yourself into it completely. You must fully commit, and stop making excuses. You have to focus, and fight to make it happen.

It's no fun waking up broke at the end of every pay period. We both know this. So, put your head down and get your mind in gear. Make. This. Happen.

You can do it!

-Dave

Jim Hanna Earns Ameriprise Client Experience Award

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, a Private Wealth Advisor with Heart Financial Partners, a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC. in Topeka, KS, has earned the Ameriprise Client Experience Award for 2023.

Hanna was honored with this award because of his ability to consistently deliver personalized, goal-based advice and exceptional client service. Award recipients earned an overall client satisfaction rating equal to or greater than 4.9 out of 5.0 and maintained stellar business re-

sults. The award represents an elite group of Ameriprise advisors recognized as leaders for their commitment to making a difference in the lives of their clients.



Hanna

As a Private Wealth Advisor, Hanna provides financial advice that is anchored in a solid understanding of client needs and expectations and is delivered in one-

on-one relationships with his clients. For more information, please contact Jim Hanna at 785.357.6278 ext.19 or visit the Ameriprise office at 601 S Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603.



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Why Work with a Financial Advisor? Perspective from One.

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

One of the top questions I receive as a financial advisor is, "What exactly do you do and how can you help someone like me?" If you've ever wondered the same thing, you're not alone. The answer I give when I meet new people is this: Financial advisors are committed to helping individuals and families set and reach their financial goals. Advisors provide value beyond investment strategies and financial advice; they are there to help clients feel more financially confident for the expected and unexpected moments of life. Here are some specific ways you can benefit from this professional relationship:

Personalized advice. There's no "one size fits all" financial plan. A financial advisor can help you evaluate your current circumstances to create a plan of action specific to your goals and concerns. You don't have to achieve a certain level of wealth or have complex finances to enlist their services. Financial advisors are equipped to serve you, whether you are starting out in your career, in the middle of your working years, entering retirement or if you're already retired.

Investment strategies, product recommendations and more. A financial advisor will suggest ways to move forward based on your short-, medium-, and long-term financial goals. Investment strategies will vary based on your time horizon—the years ahead of you in which you have to reach your goals. Your advisor may recommend a balance of stocks, bonds and other solutions aligned to your risk tolerance. You may be advised on ways to optimize your tax sit-

uation, which can include investing in accounts that offer tax advantages, such as a Roth or traditional IRA, Health Savings Account, or 529 plan. You can expect an advisor to review insurance coverage and other solutions to strengthen your financial safety net. Lastly, your financial plan may also include tips for saving and budgeting.

Confidence in your financial decision making. A financial advisor can be a sounding board as you move through life and experience events that impact your bottom line. You can ask your advisor for input on how a job change, large expenditure, or other financial commitment will affect your financial outlook. You can feel more secure about your charitable giving when it's been incorporated into your overall plan. Together you can adjust your investment strategies to accommodate life circumstances. As a result, you will be able to make financial decisions knowing you have considered the larger picture.

Multi-generational support. A trusted financial advisor can be a resource for your entire family. Your goals may include caring for aging parents or putting kids through college. Your advisor can also educate you on a wealth of topics that impact your family's financial wellbeing. These may include estate planning, wealth transfer, wills, health care directives, powers of attorney, trusts and beneficiary assignments. It's never too early to introduce your adult children to your advisor and encourage them to make use of financial planning services. Financial advisors understand the values that drive you and can help instill these as your family forms their relationship to money.

Collaboration. In addition to pro-

viding consultation to you, your advisor can work directly with a tax preparer and estate attorney as needed. By keeping your advisor in the loop on tax and estate matters, you can be assured of comprehensive professional support.

Ongoing advice for your changing circumstances. Life happens. Goals change. Markets fluctuate. In a constantly changing world, a lasting relationship with a financial advisor allows you to work in tandem with a partner you trust to navigate all that life will throw your way.

Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA, CKA®, is a Private Wealth Advisor and Certified Kingdom Advisor® with Heart Financial Partners a private wealth advisory practice of Ameriprise Financial Services, LLC in Topeka KS. He specializes in fee-based financial planning and asset management strategies and has been in practice for over 25 years.

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The Left-Right Divide Is Not Bridgeable

By Dennis Prager

Millions of Americans, depressed by the ideological divide in America, harbor a wish that something or someone can bridge this divide.

This wish is understandable. But it is fantasy. The divide is unbridgeable. One might as well wish that daily consumption of a hot fudge sundae will lead to weight loss.

To cite a few samples:

How are we to bridge the gap between those who believe men can become women and women can become men and those who don't believe this? Between those who believe men menstruate and those who believe only women menstruate?

How are we to bridge the divide between those who believe "colorblind" is a racist notion and those who believe "colorblind" is the antidote to racism?

How are we to bridge the divide between those who believe Israel is the villain and Hamas is the victim and those who believe Israel is the victim and Hamas, which openly states its dedication to annihilating Israel and its Jewish inhabitants, is the villain, morally indistinguishable from the Nazis?

How are we to bridge the divide between those who believe young children should be brought to drag queen shows and those who believe this sexualization — and sexual confusion — of children is morally detestable?

How are we to bridge the divide between those who believe reducing the number of police will reduce violent crime and those who believe reducing the number of police will increase violent crime?

How are we to bridge the divide between those who believe in suppressing free speech if they deem any given speech "hateful" or "misinformation" and those who believe in free speech?

Every one of these positions is mutually contradictory. And this is just a partial list.

Ironically, even those who hold these mutually contradictory positions agree that these positions are unbridgeable. Only the naive (usually meaning non-left liberals) believe otherwise.



I recommend that any American who believes the left-right gap is bridgeable read the comments submitted by New York Times readers to any column that discusses a left or right position. These comments are a superb indicator of what those on the left, including liberals (I often distinguish between liberalism and leftism) believe. To submit a comment to a New York Times article or column, one must be a subscriber to the New York Times. So, virtually all those who comment are on the left, graduated from college and have enough disposable income to subscribe to the New York Times.

This came to my attention again this past week when reading all the most popular comments reacting to a column on "Christian nationalism" written by Ross Douthat, the one New York Times columnist who defends Christian conservatives.

"Christian nationalist" is the latest left-wing smear of conservatives. It joins "sexist," "racist," "homophobic," "Islamophobic," "transphobic," "xenophobic," "fascist" and "threat to our democracy" as the left's way of smearing — rather than responding to, let alone debating — those with whom progressives differ.

Douthat wrote an intelligent col-

umn explaining four distinctive conservative Christian positions and groups.

The comments rated highest on the list of "Reader Picks" are not only left-wing; they are irrational. Few, if any, actually define "Christian nationalism." They simply declare conservative Christians "Christian nationalists," just as they declare "transphobic" anyone who opposes hormone blockers for minors or opposes men who say they are women competing in women's sports.

These comments also reveal a lack of self-awareness I believe is a defining characteristic of leftism. Nearly every commenter writes that any American who seeks to advance policies rooted in Judeo-Christian values is a Christian nationalist and therefore a "threat to democracy." But if you seek to advance policies or laws rooted in a secular value system, that is perfectly in accord with American democracy.

"We progressives can advance our agenda based on our values, but when our opponents promote their values from a biblical perspective, they threaten democracy." In other words, leftists can bring their values into American life, but conservative Christians (and Orthodox Jews) may not.

As for the lack of self-awareness, the Left never perceives itself as imposing its values. The Left forced as many Americans as possible to get the frequently harmful COVID-19 vaccine. The Left forced young people who were at minimal risk from the virus to get vaccinated and forced children to miss school for nearly two years. But New York Times readers do not see themselves as imposing their values on Americans. In their minds, they never "threaten democracy"; only conservative Christians who wanted open churches and open schools did. And they never explain how, if a majority of the citizenry wants and votes for a particular value (or candidate) deemed conservative, democracy is "threatened." Isn't that the very definition of democracy — the candidate or policy with the most votes wins?

If you still think the left-right divide is bridgeable, it is only because it is too painful to confront the tragic reality of contemporary American life: Today's left-right divide is at least as great as the North-South divide before and during the Civil War. The only thing that remains the same is that it was the Democratic Party that opposed freedom then, and it is the Democratic Party that opposes freedom today.

Entertainment consumers say media pushes stereotypes of religion

By Dwight Widaman

A staggering 80% of entertainment consumers would like to see fewer religious stereotypes and more faith-based movies, according to a HarrisX poll conducted in collaboration with the Faith & Media Initiative.

The poll found that 69 percent of Americans and 63 percent of people around the world who consume entertainment say they believe entertainment perpetuates religious stereotypes. Only 31 percent of Americans say it does not. Further, 82 percent of Americans and 80 percent of individuals around the world say they believe it's "important that the entertainment industry improves their portrayals of faith to make them more accurate."

"This research shows there is an untapped market in entertainment media," said Brooke Zaugg, Executive Director of the Faith & Media Initiative. "Across the globe, consumers are looking for more accurate portrayals of faith and spirituality. This isn't about creating faith content, rather adding

faith fluency and diverse storylines to all types of TV and movies. We urge the entertainment industry to take notice of this enormous global audience; it's not just good business but also a priceless opportunity to unify people when the world feels increasingly divided."

Entertainment consumers also say they want to see more faith themes in movies and TV programs. "Faith and religion" ranked sixth out of 18 themes that consumers say they desire to see in movies and television. It ranked 13th out of 18 themes in what consumers say is currently present in entertainment.

The poll also found:

A majority of consumers say religious identity is the least represented, yet the most sensationalized element of identity portrayed.

Respondents say they don't see their religious identity on screen as much as their gender, race, or sexual orientation.

When they do see their religious identity portrayed, it's more likely to be a sensational or stereotypical depiction.

68% of global viewers say it is important to have diverse religious per-

spectives in TV and movies.

Most consumers across religions say portrayals of their faith follow repeat storylines, rather than cover fresh, diverse narratives.

Creating understanding and dispelling stereotypes are cited as the top reasons why representation is important.

61% of global consumers think TV and movies can foster dialogue between people of different beliefs.

59% of global consumers report learning something new about another religion from a movie or TV show.

A significant majority of respondents – 80% – say it's important that the entertainment industry improves portrayals of faith to make them more accurate.

"Consumers say they learn about other religions through entertainment and see the potential for faith-inclusive content to create understanding and dialogue in society," the survey report said. "Yet respondents share that when they see their religion or faith — and others — included in mainstream entertainment, they feel it's often sensa-



tionalized or that the portrayal leans on stereotypes."

Christian director Jon Erwin previously stated that Hollywood too often, gets faith wrong.

"A lot of entertainment today chips away at belief in things that are still worth believing in," he said. "Christianity is one of those things. But so is America or entrepreneurship or the family — or just a certain set of values on which Christianity rests. We're living in a very cynical

world where it's tough to know what to believe in. And if you watch a lot of popular shows but also movies, you find yourself in a me-vs.-everyone mindset, where it's hard to know what to believe in. And so we want to create content that restores faith in things that are worth it. Christianity is lifechanging for me and 2.5 billion people."

A Harris poll in the fall of 2023 found Americans believe the media in general mistreats religion in reporting

Baptism – Can It Save You?



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

When I walked into Terry's hospital room, and saw her laying on her bed she said to me, "I was wondering when you were going to get here." Her physical condition was deteriorating and she was not ready to face her Creator. As I got down on my knees and visited with her, we soon began talking about God, and I shared with her the good news of Christ. Later, as I was praying over her, she yelled out for God to save her from the top of her head to the bottom of her feet. It was an incredible moment. Weeks later when Terry was home and bedridden, she wanted to be baptized. So surrounded by family, and with a cup and towel I conducted her baptism. What a blessing! Then hours later

Terry left this world to see her new Savior face to face.

What prepared Terry for her new home with Christ? Was it some of the good things she had done, her baptism, her faith in Jesus or something else?

Like with Terry, many times I have been at the bedside of the dying. If someone is fatally sick, and knows their time is short and their not right with God, they might request to see a clergyman. If a dying person is baptized, are they saved? Have their sins been forgiven? Will they go to heaven?

Baptism is part of our American religious culture. Millions of followers in Catholic and Protestant churches have experienced the sacrament, from infants to adults, during memorable religious ceremonies filled with family and friends. Sometimes it is a quiet, solemn and reverent event. At other times it is filled with much energy and praise. The occasion is looked upon as an important religious milestone in a person's spiritual life.

Why does someone get baptized? Because it is a command given by God in the Bible, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of

Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins..." (Acts 2:38)

A baptism ceremony is filled with beautiful and significant symbolism. As a person stands ready to be baptized, they are a picture of their old self, standing dead in their sin as Jesus hung dead upon the cross. Then as Jesus was buried, so they are buried. Their old self gets buried in the waters of baptism. The water is an image of the Holy Spirit washing them of all their sin while being immersed into the life of Christ and His church. Then as Jesus rose from His grave with a resurrected body, so the one being baptized is raised up out of the water, like a new creation. It is a powerful thing to watch, an honor to administer, but most of all, it is life changing to personally experience. The mighty grace of God is almost palpable in those moments.

What is the singular most important focus in baptism? Jesus.

It is not the water, the Pastor or Priest, nor the one being baptized. It is about Jesus, and a picture of His suffering, death, burial and resurrection from the dead.

Sometimes we can elevate the



pomp and circumstance of a baptism ceremony above Christ. We can elevate the water above Him, believing it becomes holy. We can elevate the actual baptism above Christ, thinking that through it we can secure our eternal salvation.

Unless you have turned from your sins and to Christ, and placed your full trust in Him alone -- your baptism is meaningless. Do not believe anyone who says otherwise. Your baptism is not enough to forgive or absolve your sins. Only the blood of Jesus, which was shed from His cross can save you. Thankfully, Terry understood this when she cried out to Jesus in her hospital bed.

A prayer for you - "Lord God, if there is someone reading this that has been deceived, believing the waters of baptism are greater than the atoning blood of Jesus, open their eyes to see the truth. Bring them to turn from trusting in a ceremony, and to repent of their sin and trust in Christ alone for their salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen."

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Share your comment at cdecker@greatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com. Join Clint on a journey to Israel in November 2024. Go to greatawakenings.org for information.

“Tsunami of evidence” supports accuracy of Bible, professor says



Although numerous recent archaeological finds confirm the accuracy of scripture, the Bible does just fine even without them, said Tom Meyer, an author and professor at Shasta Bible College. “We don’t need archaeology to prove the Bible’s true,” he recently told CBN News. “The Bible stands on its own. It’s totally authoritative in all manners.”

However, he said, Christians often face challenges when evangelizing and sharing their faith, particularly when interacting with those who don’t believe the scriptures hold any authority.

“You know how it is if you’re sharing your faith or you’re evangelizing,” Meyer said. “If you tell someone, ‘You need to believe the Bible because the Bible says it’s true,’ you’re going to get some pushback.”

That’s why he said it’s helpful to have “different apologetics” that can be used to point to the gospel, noting that archaeology keeps “revealing new information from the pages of the Bible.”

“Bible archaeology has given us a tsunami of evidence that we already know — that all these people existed,” he said. “But we have proof of their names. King David, Isaiah, the prophet, King Hezekiah, etc. — we found their names and archaeological objects, which ... demonstrates the reliability and the accuracy of scripture.”

Meyer spoke about some of

the specific finds, arguing a few of the most compelling have

north pole of Israel,” he said. “Ever since then, we’ve been get-

ting these little drips and drops of information about King David’s kingdom.”

In 2023, he said another finding, forts built by King David, further illuminates one of the Bible’s key figures. “When they dug in Jerusalem, they found a giant moat,” he said. “A moat that dates from the time of David, a defensive fortification right in the city of Jerusalem.”

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The Little War exhibit at National War I Museum shows Great War from children's perspective

World War I took a heavy toll, not only on the soldiers who fought but also on the families who waited for them at home. The Little War, a new exhibit that opened this week at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, offers a revealing look at the war through the eyes of children.

"This is the first time the Museum and Memorial has experimented with an exhibition specifically for children, and also about children," said Natalie Walker, Special Curator — Women, Communities of Color, Indigenous Peoples. "Our goal is to have children and adults visit The Little War and explore a complex topic together in an environment specifically curated for young minds."

The exhibit brings to life events that happened more than 100 years ago.

"The Great War was supposed to be the war to end all wars, and yet here we are more than a century

later still experiencing global conflict," she told Metro Voice. "This exhibit provides a space dedicated to examining war from a child's perspective and an opportunity to have important conversations about ongoing conflict in the world."

Age-specific displays make the exhibit appropriate for all ages of children.

"The exhibition text for The Little War will be offered at two separate reading levels, third grade and eighth grade, to ensure accessibility and comprehension," Walker said. "Created for children and their grown-ups to understand the Great War from a child's perspective, The Little War will use imaginative play, original toys and games, photos and other artifacts from the time period to reach all ages."

Several hands-on activities also are available. "Guests can further engage with the themes of the exhibition in a small hands-on 'living



room' buildout that will feature WWI-era children's books and contemporary literature, as well as games and puzzles for play," she said.

Children may enjoy visiting several other areas of the museum after learning about The Little War, Walker said.

"In the Main Gallery we have several new interactive installa-

tions which combine elements of play and learning. There are four interactive table screens, each one examining a different aspect of the war: uniforms, maritime, communications and aviation."

"Additionally, there are touch-screen stations in the 'America Mobilizes' section of the Main Gallery, which allow the user to scroll through collection items il-

lustrating how Americans prepared for and supported the war effort."

"Another excellent and kid-friendly interactive is a touch-screen featuring images and videos of animals who helped the war effort. Both in the Main Gallery and the Bergman Family Gallery on the Lower Level, visitors can find displays of children's items from the time period."

Admission to The Little War is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and military and \$6 for youth, or \$4 when combined with a general admission ticket. Walker believes children will leave with a better understanding not only of the past but of the present.

"Children from all combatant nations greatly contributed to the war effort and played vital roles in home-front support," she said. "Their experiences are often overlooked, and it's my hope that this exhibition sheds light on and elevates children's significant involvement in World War I."

Ministries team up to triple number of Bibles for prisoners

Prison Fellowship International and Bible League International have distributed more than 550,000 Bibles to prisoners over the past decade, and they plan to triple that number in the next five years.

"Our partnership with Bible League International began with a few thousand Bibles and has grown into a fully-fledged, shared mission to reach the millions in prison with the good news of Jesus Christ," said Andy Corley, President and CEO of Prison Fellowship. "We are so grateful for their friendship, partnership and commitment. We look forward to expanding our impact together in the years to come."

Bible League International is committed to provide new language translations, expanding Prison Fellowship's ability to pair prisoners with resources that are in their native language. Bibles have been provided in English, Spanish, French, Kinyarwanda,



Kiswahili, Portuguese and Chichewa. Over the next five years, Bibles in Ukrainian, Arabic, Tagalog, Cebuano, Romanian, Russian and Bulgarian will also be distributed. Each Bible includes 52 Bible studies targeting needs unique to incarcerated in-

dividuals.

"Not only do we have a shared goal to reach 1.6 million prisoners with scripture resources, but there is an actual plan and path to achieve it," said Jos Snoep, president and CEO of Bible League International. "With PFI's global

presence and unique access to places where many wouldn't dare to go, plus BLI's extensive library of scripture resources and translations, the historic nature of this relationship means millions who desperately need it will receive the hope that comes from engag-

ing with God's word."

The Prisoner's Journey from Prison Fellowship is an in-prison evangelism program that transforms the lives of incarcerated individuals, from the inside out, by introducing them to a restorative relationship with Jesus. The program has been proven to increase prisoners' religious involvement, motivation for identify transformation and growth of virtues, while reducing negative feelings and aggressive behavior.

The course is facilitated through four key phases:

Invitation — Prisoners attend a promotional event introducing them to Jesus.

The course — Participants meet to learn about who Jesus is and what he wants for them. Graduation — Graduates are honored for completing the course and receive a Bible.

Discipleship — graduates are invited to enroll in further discipleship programs.

Danbury Institute launched to promote Christian worldview

A number of individuals, churches and ministries from across the nation have launched The Danbury Institute, a new organization promoting a Christian worldview in an increasingly secular society.

Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher believed that Christian-Judeo values were the bedrock of democratic principles. “The truths of the Judaic-Christian tradition,” she said, “are infinitely precious, not only, as I believe, because they are true, but also because they provide the moral impulse which alone can lead to that peace, in the true meaning of the word, for which we all long... There is little hope for democracy if the hearts of men and women in democratic societies cannot be touched by a call to something greater than themselves.”

The institute draws inspiration from the Danbury Baptists of the 18th century, advocating for a renewed engagement by Christians in national leadership roles to steer public policy and opinion toward Judeo-Christian values.

“I am both honored and humbled to endorse and recommend the Danbury Institute,” Richard Land, former president of the Southern Evangelical Seminar told the Christian Post.



Painted in 1865 by Constantino Brumidi, the Apotheosis of Washington in the eye of the U.S. Capitol Building's Rotunda depicts George Washington rising to the heavens in glory. Photo: US Capitol Architect, public domain

“Never has our beloved country more needed to be reminded of her founding values of soul freedom and religious liberty so bravely defended by our 18th century Danbury Baptist ancestors. I pray God’s manifold blessings on their noble efforts to protect and restore our sacred liberties.”

The Danbury Institute’s operational strategies, led by COO Collin Hain, will focus on informing and empowering churches and pastors to actively participate in governance. By advocating on behalf of Christian voices in Washington, the organization aims to ensure that Judeo-Christian values continue to inform the

nation’s future

In its first six weeks, even before its official launch, the Danbury Institute has been active in advocacy efforts. In Ohio, the organization played a key role in overturning the veto of the SAFE Act, which aimed to protect children from trans procedures and maintain gender-specific spaces. The

institute also been involved in national movements, such as the March for Life in Washington, and efforts to oppose legislation that is harmful to family and religious values. Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders has echoed the sentiments driving the institute, framing the cultural divide as a choice between what she terms “normal and crazy.”

The institute’s CEO, Scott Colter, emphasized the urgency of its mission, saying the status quo no longer can be tolerated and that Christians must actively defend the nation’s values for future generations.

“For far too long, Christians have sat idly on the sidelines, satisfied with the status quo,” he said. “The status quo can no longer be tolerated. We are watching in real time as the sacrifices our great grandparents made to defend our nation are squandered right before our eyes. As a father, I am not ready or willing to say to my children that we gave up and let go of our great nation before it could be preserved for them. We have to stand up and say that we respect life, we love liberty and we will expend effort, time and treasure to protect them.”

More information is available at www.danburyinstitute.org.

Tim Tebow gives Congress gripping testimony on trafficking



Former football star Tim Tebow recently visited Capitol Hill to encourage lawmakers to advance legislation that would protect children seen in child sex abuse material by funding and training more law enforcement dedicated to identifying trafficking victims, among other provisions.

“I’ve had the privilege of playing

for a lot of sports teams in my life,” he testified before lawmakers. “And on almost all of them, we’ve had incredible resources to give us a better chance at winning a game, something that ultimately, as much as we care about it, doesn’t matter. Why would we not give as many, if not more resources, to the front-line heroes that are going after the

most vulnerable boys and girls on the planet?”

Camille Cooper, vice president of anti-human trafficking and child exploitation at the Tim Tebow Foundation, told members of Congress that the foundation has important requests.

“We need to build a rescue team,” she said. “We need dedicated, specially trained victim identification analysts. And we need hundreds of them. We need to invest in their training, and we need the best tools that we have to go rescue these kids.”

The foundation urged Congress to advance legislation that would create a position focused on victim identification within law enforcement and the funding to deploy these analysts around the world.

Tebow has been an outspoken advocate for vulnerable children. He previously released a video in

anticipation of Human Trafficking Awareness Month,, which urged more Christians to become involved with the issue, featured songwriter Tauren Wells. “Has God ever opened your eyes to a problem, to a need, to injustice, to a hurting person?” he asked. “If so, he’s probably telling you to get off your butt and do something about it.”

In 2020 he pleaded with Christians to join him and his organization in saying “no more” to human trafficking. In an op-ed for Fox News, Tebow recalled a phone call he received one day from his missionary father, who informed him that he had just purchased four young girls overseas.

“People buy groceries. Shoes. Annual passes to Disney World,” Tebow wrote. “They don’t buy other people. But I had heard him correctly. My dad had opened up

his wallet and bought as many girls as he could with the cash he had on hand.”

Tebow worked with his father, Bob, to build a home for the girls. “Years later, countless more human trafficking victims have been rescued around the world, even right here in the states, because of the mission that began that day,” he said.

The hearing, held by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Crime and Federal Government Surveillance, focused on the alarming increase of child sexual abuse material being distributed online.

He ended his Congressional testimony saying “Most of you came to Congress because you wanted to make the world better, you wanted to help people, you wanted to change things. Today is not about policy or politics, it’s about people.”

Societal changes have Gen Z searching for meaning

Despite the overall decline of faith in American life, there are signs that members of Generation Z are searching for meaning. Christian campus groups at universities have seen growing interest from college students in recent years as Gen Z faced challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the rise of social media and political polarization.

Author and religious commentator Billy Hallowell says Hollywood, the media and universities typically all come from the same secular perspective, which has permeated society and given America's younger generation, Gen Z and millennials in particular, the false understanding that everything is about "you."

"I think what we're watching happen right now is people have been living this out," he said. "Gen



Z was brought up with it and they're hitting this wall and they're realizing, 'Oh my goodness, this wasn't true.' This lie that you're the 'God of the self,' and you get to decide everything, not only is it not true, it's not fulfilling, it leads us to dangerous places, there's no meaning."

Jay Richards, director of the Richard and Helen DeVos Center for Life, Religion and Family at the Heritage Foundation, said the trend is interesting, because until recently, Gen Zers were reporting low rates of belief in God and religious practice compared to other generations, but there has been a

fast pivot the other way in recent years.

"If you look from 30,000 feet, there has been a clear decline from generation to generation in the U.S. in terms of basic religiosity," he told Fox News. "Boomers, for instance, and Gen Xers generally score higher in terms of religiosity than millennials and Gen Zers. But it looks like there's less movement in the last few years among Gen Zers whom even a couple of years ago had really, really low participation rates in religion, much lower than average rates, in terms of belief in God."

More than 30 percent of millennials have no religious affiliation, which is up from 22 percent a decade ago, while 33 percent of the portion of Generation Z that has reached adulthood have no religious preference, according to a

Gallup survey in 2021. In 2020, U.S. church membership fell below 50 percent for the first time since Gallup started tracking the data 80 years ago. Only 47 percent of Americans said they belonged to a church, synagogue or mosque, which sat at 50 percent in 2018 and 70 percent in 1999.

Although Gallup has limited data on church membership among Gen Zers who have reached adulthood, data indicates their church membership rates are similar to millennials at around 36 percent. Hallowell said America's younger generation has turned to political issues, such as climate change, as causes to "worship" in place of religion. "When you do remove faith from society, you attempt to sort of push it to the side, not talk about it, something is going to replace that void," he said.

Kansas Sen. Marshall introduces bill opposing transgender foster care

The Department of Health and Human Services could not force foster parents to accept gender ideology or restrict the work of faith-based foster care organizations under a bill filed this week by Sen. Roger Marshall, R-Kan.



The legislation would block HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra from implementing a proposed placement rule that would dictate that minors who identify as LGBTQ be placed with providers who agree to affirm a child's gender identity, pronouns and provide them "services that are necessary to support their health and well-being," including hormone treatments and surgery. The measure was co-sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., and in the House by Rep. Josh Brecheen, R-Okla.

"All children in foster care, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, deserve safe and proper placement," Marshall told the Daily Wire. "This extreme proposal by the HHS instead discriminates against faith-based homes and loving foster parents in pursuit of pushing their radical gender ide-

ology and pronoun politics on religious families."

Marshall's bill would stop HHS from finalizing, implementing or enforcing the proposed rule or a similar measure.

"This rule would have an especially devastating impact in rural areas across the country, where there are fewer foster

care providers than children in need of safe homes," he said. "This administration needs to leave the politics out of it and help as many kids that need their love, care and support as possible."

Marshall previously wrote a letter to Becerra outlining his concerns with the rule but has not yet heard. The Kansas

Republican noted that the rule could have the effect of forcing Christian foster services from being able to work with states to provide homes for children. He also said the rule could cause conflict in states where transgender procedures on children have been banned.

"These procedures can cause ir-

reparable harm to children, many of whom have inconsistent parental guidance and lack the physiological development that is necessary to make an informed decision of such consequence," the letter said. "States should not be penalized for acting to protect the children of their state."

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AI use by students up sharply

An AI-based text analysis and plagiarism detection company has released alarming new data about students.

Across tens of thousands of college and high school students in seven countries, the company Copyleaks scrutinized the trends in AI and plagiarism detection over the past year.

It found changing habits regarding AI usage and plagiarism in schools and reports a 76% surge in AI-generated material over the year.

The analysis revealed that while AI-generated content among students increased year to year, plagiarism rates experienced a notable decrease of 51% during the same period, underscoring the academic integrity standards that are being put in place around the world.

“As the data highlights, students have gradually adopted generative AI over the past year. However, the data around plagiarism rates strikes me as most insightful. While there has been a decrease in the rate of plagiarism, it still persists, whether it be from GenAI outputs or students themselves, meaning it’s still a concern that needs to be addressed,” said Alon Yamin, CEO and co-founder of Copyleaks. “That’s why it remains an absolute necessity for academic institutions to

adopt comprehensive solutions that can detect AI-generated content and plagiarism to ensure full transparency and maintain academic integrity.”

The study found widespread AI adoption and subsequent detection across various countries. Australia had the highest average rate, with 31% of scanned assignments containing AI throughout the year.

But even as AI adoption grows, plagiarism garners concerningly high detection rates, with the UK (33%) and the U.S. (30%) averaging the highest across countries.

Additional key findings from the analysis included:

As AI adoption increases among students, it’s showing up in more of their work: Throughout the year, there was a noticeable increase in AI adoption among students. In January and February 2023, the average percentage of scanned assignments containing AI content was 12% and 11%, respectively. However, detection rates significantly rose later in the year, reaching 25% in November and December 2023.

AI and plagiarism detection is highest among online schools: E-learning institutions demonstrated the highest levels of AI and plagiarism detection among scanned assign-



ments, at 26% and 39%, respectively. This highlights that in-person learning, to some extent, inhibits these practices. Nonetheless, plagiarism persists across all academic settings, with rates of 29% in high schools and 28% in colleges.

Career and technical colleges recorded the highest rate of AI usage, while community colleges had the highest plagiarism rates. There was significant consistency in the rates of plagiarized content among different institutions. The average percentage of scanned assignments containing AI at career and technical colleges was 23%,

while community colleges had a 32% rate for plagiarism. Both private and public schools recorded a 28% plagiarism detection rate, with AI content detection rates of 19% and 14%, respectively.

“Rates of AI-generated content will only increase as students adopt these tools more widely,” added Yamin, “As such, oversight is critical for empowering content authenticity and originality.”

With the increasing availability and sophistication of AI technologies, academic integrity faces new and complex global challenges of cheating, the

company finds.

In 2023, BestColleges surveyed 1,000 undergraduate and graduate students to gauge their use of AI. The study found 56% of college students have used AI on assignments or exams. But 41% of students say they have not used it, and 4% declined to answer.

College professors are also specifically incorporating AI into assignments. Half of students (53%) say assignments required them to use artificial intelligence. Almost 80% of students said instructors discussed the use and ethics of AI in assignments.

An \$11k espresso maker part of dispute between seminary and former president



An \$11,000 espresso machine is part of a feud between Southwestern Baptist Seminary in Fort Worth and its former president, Adam Greenway.

Lawyers for Greenway, who resigned in September 2022, alleged in a complaint filed last week that the school and the chair of its trustee board defamed him, violated the terms

of a non-disparagement agreement and made him “unemployable.” “The actions of defendants have exposed plaintiff to public hatred, contempt and ridicule,” the complaint, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, alleges.

Greenway’s attorney previously had sent the school a demand letter for \$5

million to settle the dispute. The school denies any wrongdoing.

“We categorically deny the allegations contained in the lawsuit, will defend vigorously the institution and are confident the outcome will demonstrate that these claims are entirely baseless,” the school said in a statement.

The complaint alleges that leaders at Southwestern, one of six Southern Baptist seminaries, released incomplete and misleading details about the school’s finances that painted Greenway in a negative light. Among those details were the alleged purchase of an \$11,000 espresso machine and more than \$1.5 million in renovations to Pecan Manor, the school’s on-campus presidential residence, including \$60,000 in Christmas decorations.

According to Baptist Press, “The highly-publicized purchase of an espresso machine was part of a “com-

mercial grade coffee bar” costing \$11,123.49 that included a water filtration system, accessories and installation, the suit said. It was among items used during events such as graduation weekend, where approximately 1,000 graduates and families could flow through the home in a single day. Reception events during the Christmas season routinely saw the same sized crowds.”

Those details were released in a report on Southwestern’s finances, which detailed \$140 million in overspending across 20 years, much of it under the leadership of Greenway’s predecessor, Paige Patterson. That report, released by the school’s trustees, gave no details of why trustees allowed the overspending to go on for so long.

However, outrage over the espresso machine and the repairs to the presidential home went viral on social media and overshadowed the school’s

larger financial issues. Those expenses even became a joke at the Southern Baptist Convention’s annual meeting last summer in New Orleans. “I own my own home, have a Keurig and go to Hobby Lobby for my Christmas decorations,” Kevin Ezell, head of the SBC’s North American Mission Board, said in a question-and-answer session about the agency he leads.

A spokesman for the seminary said the school has not yet been served with the complaint.

“It is regrettable that Adam Greenway is suing the seminary he has previously claimed to love in response to Southwestern’s refusal to agree to his demand of \$5 million last fall,” its statement said. “It is also disappointing that his lawyer turned down multiple invitations to inspect the evidence supporting the public statements previously made by the seminary.”



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Lots of Spring Activities in NOTO

NOTO in Bloom Roaring 20s is April 20, 6 to 8:30 pm throughout the district and is a benefit for the NOTO Arts and Entertainment District endowment. This unique event celebrates the best of NOTO – the art, the food, the experience – and its impact on the community. Your ticket experience includes: food at both food trucks, 2 drink tickets at our specialty bars, spectacular silent auction, Avant Garde Underground Speak Easy, live art demonstrations, figure drawing experience, and more. Register: <https://noto.betterworld.org/events/noto-bloom>

NOTO in Bloom is the highlight for the district's Redbud Festival, which will include special activities throughout the month of April.

Compass Point home of Dirty Girl Adventures will present some original Blues music from Amanda Fish April 5. Doors open at 6pm, music at 7pm. This is your chance to hear Amanda in an in-

imate setting in our listening room at Compass Point. Cover Charge \$15. You are welcome to bring in your dinner or snacks during this show, no outside drinks of any kind are allowed. There is a full bar including many non-alcohol options.

The Morris Art Gallery is hosting the 2024 NOTO Fiber Arts Juried Exhibit, "Passion Projects."

This exhibit will be open to the public through April 27th. The NOTO Arts Center is open to the public Wed. 11-5, Thu & Fri. 11-7, Sat. 10-4, and by appointment.

On April 5, NOTO Arts Center will host the Youth Art Exhibit Grand Opening, 4-8pm.

Artismo Gallery & Bistro is hosting an



exhibit of fine art created by a diverse group of area artists including photography, painting and more. Emerging expressionist painters will be introduced to the district during April's First Friday ArtWalk. Also exhibiting new work from some of Topeka's favorite established artists! Plan to come in and see what the talented arts community will be sharing.

First Friday Art Walk continue. Hours are 10 am to 9 pm. First Friday Art Walk & Market is the first Friday of every month. The North Topeka Arts District has become an attraction to Art Lovers and History Buffs alike with beautiful scenes of art and history. Entertainment can also be found on First Fridays, at various venues during the artwalk up and down N. Kansas Avenue, as well as street-side vendors. The restaurants, locally owned shops, art galleries antiques and studios have become a favorite art walk destination.

You can also visit 3rd Friday's NOTO Night Out! Many Merchants are also open longer hours on Second Saturdays.

For more event information visit explorenoto.org/.

More North Topeka events:

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

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

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

VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS - Every Wed., 10:45 bible Study and meal at Noon, Topeka Church of the Brethren, 3201 NW Rochester Rd.

1 mile north of Dillon's North). FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 785-224-8803.

OPERATION BACKPACK - 1st Thurs., 6pm, Indian Creek Elementary, 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.

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CONCERTS

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

GRAND OTTAWA OPRY – 2nd & 4th Saturday, 5:30PM- pre-show, 6PM showtime, Ottawa Memorial Auditorium, 301 S Hickory, Ottawa. Tickets are \$15 and only at the door. Ph. 785-241-6762, email grandopry@gmail.com. GrandOttawaOpry.com

PICKIN' ON THE PRAIRIE BLUEGRASS JAM, every Sunday 1-3:00, Potwin Drug Store, Old Prairie Town, 785-215-6997 for info. Milkshake for the month of August is GIMME'S'MORE

LIVE AT LUNCH – Apr. 3, 11-1, Every Plaza.

ABBAFAB CONCERT – Apr. 11, 8pm, TPAC.

CRYIN' OUT LOUD CONCERT – Apr 19, 7:30pm, Compass Point Courtyard, 800 N. Kansas Ave.

NASHVILLE NIGHTS – Apr. 24, 7pm, TPAC

MARIA THE MEXICAN – May 3, Compass Point, 800 N. Kansas Ave.

WOOD VALLEY PICKERS – May 3, 7pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Bluegrass, folk & country. Free admission.

SHAWNEE CHORAL SOCIETY PRESENTS... AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL; May, 5; 7:00 PM. White Concert Hall, Free admission, donations gratefully appreciated, Special thanks to CoreFirst Bank & Trust and Washburn University; www.shawneechoralsociety.com

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

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

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

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

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

INSIDE OUT FELLOWSHIP CHURCH – Every Sunday 12pm service; Every Tuesday 7:30pm service. Location: 2409 NE Division St.. For info: 785-380-7031 or io@insideoutinc.net or www.insideoutinc.net

KIDS for JESUS! - Wednesday's 7 - 8pm, Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, enemies! For info: 785-266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: Lake-naz@aol.com

MID-WEEK PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY - Wednesday's, 7-8pm, Lakeview Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. You are invited! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene

LOL "LADIES OF LAKEVIEW" - Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Monthly Women's Ministry Events! (Cooking, Crafts, Outreach, Bible Study,

Fellowship!) Call the church office for info: (785) 266-3247, Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene Email: LakeNaz@aol.com

ROOTED CHRISTIAN HOMESCHOOL CO-OP; Colosians 2:6-7, Monday's 12-4pm. Cooking class for 4th graders & older at noon. Call the Church Office for more information. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Church: (785) 266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. LakeNaz@aol.com

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION - April 21, 10:45am, Oakland Church of the Nazarene, 939 NE Oakland Ave. Come celebrate with us the legacy of this great church (1934-2024)! Celebration service at 10:45am. Potluck to follow.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

SENIORS NUTRITIONAL LUNCH – Weekdays, except

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

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

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

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

TOPEKA ACAPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS – Topeka Acappella Unlimited is looking for female singers who

would like to sing four-part acappella harmonies. Topeka Acappella Unlimited is a Chapter of Sweet Adelines, International. Call Cindy Patton at 785-640-7403 for info

HARVESTERS MOBILE FOOD PANTRY, 1st & 3rd Sat,

2-3pm, Shawnee Heights UMC parking lot.

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

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OPEN INDOOR COURT PICKLEBALL – Sundays at 4pm, Berryton United Methodist Church (7010 SE Berryton Rd. All ages and abilities welcome.

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

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

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES – Outdoor events and activities. www.getoutdoorskansas.org/calenda

LAWRENCE FARMERS MARKET - Sat. 7:30-11:30, 824 New Hampshire Street. Opens April 13

BREAD BASKET FARMERS MARKET – Every Saturday

April 6 in the West Ridge Mall parking lot, south end.

TOPEKA YOUTH FOR CHRIST COMEDY CAFE – Apr. 5, 6:30pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane Ave. A Night of Laughter featuring comedian David Graham. Underwritten by table sponsors. Seating is limited. Make reservations at www.topekayfc.org/event/comedy_cafe or call the YFC office at 785-232-8296

SMOKE IN THE SPRING – Apr. 5-6, Osage City Community Building. Taste of Osage City BBQ and fun food trucks. Helps homeless animals.

FOOD TRUCK NIGHT – Apr. 6, 4-8pm, HHHS, 5720 SW 29. Featuring music by Sloppy but Lucky and food trucks. Helps homeless animals.

ALZHEIMER'S WALK FUNDRAISING GALA – Apr. 6, 6pm, Bradbury Thompson Alumni Ctr., 1701 Jewel. 785-207-3005.

JEROLD BINKLEY TULIP TIME – Apr. 10-26, 6am-11pm, Ted Ensley Gardens, 3650 SE West Edge Rd. also at Old Prairie Town/Ward-Meade Botanical Garden and Doran Rock Garden/Gage Park. Stroll the gardens to see 60,000 multi-colored tulips & other

spring flowering bulbs. Certain days will include vendors, live music, food trucks. 785-251-6800

C5Alive "POWER" LUNCHEON – Apr. 11, 11:30-1, in the West Ridge Mall Food Court, featuring Kevin Christiansen of Café Barnabas.

Cost: \$15 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$17 at the door

• \$20 for non-members & repeat guests.

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

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

SAVE THE DATE: C5 POWER Luncheon, May 9, 11:30-1.

TULIPS AT TWILIGHT – Every evening April 11-28, Thur.- Sat., 7-10pm. Family fun! A luminary walk & electric light show. Experience the Ward-Meade botanical garden and Old Prairie Town's historic buildings at night with hand-crafted electric light

displays. Admission for adults is \$5.00 with children 5 and under free. No pets allowed. Located at Old Prairie Town & Ward-Meade Park, 1st & Clay St.

FRIDAY FLICKS – Apr. 12, 8pm, Every Plaza. "Willy Wonda." Vendors open at 7pm.

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET - Saturday's April 13 to Oct. 26, 7:30am-noon, 6th & Harrison. The open-air market is full of fresh fruits and vegetables, herbs, arts & crafts, flower, home-baked goods and more.

FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL – Apr. 13, 12-5, Prairie Band Casino, 12305 150th Rd, Mayetta.

CALL TO THE STATE CAPITOL – Apr. 13, 1-3pm, Pray and stand for the truth.

SUNNY DAYS SPRING MARKET - Apr. 13, 10-4, Owls Nest parking lot at 29th & Adams. Free Bounce house. 785-506-9465

WAMEGO TULIP FESTIVAL – Apr. 13-14, 9am-4pm, Wamego.

TULIP FESTIVAL AT THE LAKE – Apr 13, 10am-3pm,

Ted Ensley Gardens at Lake Shawnee. Enjoy live music, visit craft vendors, enjoy fun for the kids and stroll the gardens to view more than 50,000 multi-colored tulips. \$5 admission

KANSAS AUTISM CONFERENCE - April 17, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Kansas Association of School Boards, 1420 SW Arrowhead Rd. Questions about the conference? Please contact Casey Melancon at casey.melancon@esmw.org or 816-891-2930. EVENT LINK: <https://www.easterseals.com/midwest/get-involved/events/kansas-autism-conference-1.html>

NOTO IN BLOOM "ROARING 20s" – Apr. 20, 6-9:30pm. This unique event celebrates the best of NOTO – the art, the food, the experience – and its impact on the community. Your ticket experience includes: food at both food trucks, 2 drink tickets at our specialty bars, spectacular silent auction, Avant Garde Underground Speak Easy, live art demonstrations, figure drawing experience, and more. Register: <https://noto.betterworld.org/events/noto-bloom>

PAWS IN THE PARK – Apr. 20, 10am-2pm, Topeka West High School. Attendee tickets can be pur-

C5Alive *Developing and Uniting Christian Leadership*

• Business • Non-profits • Churches

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

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

Apr. 11, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon
at West Ridge Mall Food Court
Featuring: **Kevin Christiansen of Cafe Barnabas!** Open to the public.
RSVP to info@C5Alive.org



Save the Dates!

- May 9: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
- June 13: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1
- July 11: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1, with Barry Feaker

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

YOUTH FOR CHRIST

COMEDY CAFE

A Night of Laughter
Featuring
The Comfy Comedy of Comedian David Graham



Friday Evening April 5th
TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH
1101 SW Mulvane Avenue
Topeka, KS 66604
6:30 pm

Seating is limited & Reservations are required
To make your reservation or sponsor a table go to:
www.topekayfc.org/event/comedy_cafe
or call the YFC office at 785-232-8296
The Comedy Cafe is underwritten by individual table sponsors: seating is limited



FRIENDS OF WARD-MEADE

TULIPS AT TWILIGHT

Luminary Walk & Light Show

April 11-28

Thursday, Friday, Saturday
& Sunday Only

7-10 PM

All Ages Family Event
\$5.00 - Children 5 & under free

1st & Clay St.
Topeka, KS

Old Prairie Town & Ward-Meade Park

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chased here: <https://2024paws.givesmart.com> The \$30 fee includes your event t-shirt!

BISCUITS & GRAVY – April 20, 8-10:00am, Kansas Ave United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 1029 N Kansas Ave. Dine in or Carry-Out. Free Will Donation. Send-A-Kid-to-Camp fundraiser. Camp Chippewa is a 660-acre United Methodist Camp and Retreat Center outside of Ottawa, KS.

MONTHLY FARMERS /FLEA MARKET – Apr. 27, 8-2, Meriden Antique Threshers, 8275 K4 Hiway.

WHITE CLOUD FLEA MARKET – May 2-5, 8-2, White Cloud, KS

MORNING'S LIGHT NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER MEETING – May 2, 7-8am, Topeka Reformed Presbyterian Church, 8345 SW 33rd St. Gather with others desperate to seek the Lord's face and blessing upon our nation. Pastor Brad Johnston, 785-207-7007 or brjusa@gmail.com

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER RALLY AT THE CAPITOL – May 2, 11:45am, 1st Floor Rotunda of the Capitol. Gather with others for prayer, Honor Guard, Home-school Children's Choir and more. (316) 516-0777 www.nationaldayofprayer.org; domna@cultureshield.com

TOPEKA ACAPPELLA UNLIMITED REHEARSALS - April 30, May 7 and May 14 at Topeka Bible Church at 7:00 p.m. All singers invited as our guests, you will rehearse with us, learn about us and can sing with us at our performances this summer. For more information, contact info@acappellaunlimited.com or see our website at www.acappellaunlimited.com

SOLE REASON GOLF TOURNAMENT – June 28, 2pm shotgun, Cypress Ridge Golf Course. Solereason@yahoo.com or 785-338-2965 or register at solereason.net. Benefits children that need sneakers. Lots of prizes and silent auction items. \$380 per team includes green fees, carts, drinks, meal.

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 Crittenton Services Center for Integrative Health, 5423 SW 7th St. www.ficrittenton.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 madondailey@gmail.com. To Join from Home via Zoom, contact Madon for the Zoom link.



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Check Out Our Newly Redesigned, Mobile-ready Breaking-news Website.

PICKLEBALL – Mon. & Wed, 1–3pm, First Baptist Church, 3033 SW MacVicar Ave. Park on West Side, where the gym is located. Contact Dave Mathias, davemathias@sbcglobal.net, or Betsy Thompson, betsyjthompson@gmail.com.

SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOOK CLUB - 1st & 3rd Mon. 2-4pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell Ave. Call the office: 785-249-3258 or email shepherdstopeka@yahoo.com for the book of study.

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/rhctopeka.org

TOPEKA LIONS CLUB – 1st Mondays at Noon - 1 pm at The Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave. Park on the North side. RSVP by Fri. for lunch/pay at the meeting. Visitors welcome. TopekaLions.org/contact-us to make reservations. WE SERVE!

BOY'S TRAIL LIFE & AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS TROUPOUS - Every Mon. 6pm, Cornerstone Comm. Ch., 7620 SW 21st. Faith-based scouting programs, age 5-18. Register: 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 Mondays at Noon - 1 pm at The Capper Foundation, 3500 SW 10th Ave. Park on the North side. RSVP by Fri. for lunch/pay at the meeting. Visitors welcome. TopekaLions.org/contact-us to make reservations. WE SERVE!

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 lilbopper1@gmail.com or call 228-2447.

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

MAP GROUP (MEMOIRS, ANCESTRY, PHOTOS) - VIA ZOOM - 4th Wed. 10-11:30am. Contact Rich McReynolds at rim4017@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? shepherdstopeka@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 Dillon's North). FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. Free will donations accepted. For info: 785-224-8803 or vip@topekanorthoutreach.org.

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. TopekaLions.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.

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 kittens812@sbcglobal.net

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

MONTHLY SCORE MEETING – 1st Sat., 8-9:30am,

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

TOPEKA 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., 5-5:30pm: 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.highlandheightscc.com or call 785-379-5642.

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 Thursday, 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

Send your calendar events to voice@cox.net See complete calendar at metrovoicenews.com

Half of American Muslims support Hamas attack: poll

A new Pew Research Center poll finds that roughly half of American Muslims believe that the Hamas terror organization is justified in its war against Israel.

The survey among 12,693 respondents between February 13th through the 25th and released on Wednesday, found that 49% of American Muslims say Hamas' reasons for fighting against the Jewish state are valid.

Just 18% of American Muslims, by contrast, believe Israel is justified in its fight against Hamas.

White Evangelical Protestants were the most likely among non-Jewish groups to say Israel's reasons for fighting Hamas are valid (74%) and Hamas' are not (71%).

Black Protestants were the least likely among non-Muslims to say Israel has a legitimate reason for fighting Hamas, with 39% saying the Jewish state has a valid reason, compared to



18% who said it does not, and 19% who believe Hamas has a valid reason for fighting Israel.

Among American Jewish respondents, 89% said Israel's reasons for fighting Hamas are valid.

Nearly two-thirds (62%) of American Jews also support the way Israel

has conducted its war against Hamas thus far, compared to just 5% of American Muslims.

Twenty-one percent of American Muslims said the October 7th invasion of Israel and massacre of Jews were acceptable, compared to 5% or less for all other religious groups surveyed.

Americans as a whole were far more likely to say Israel's reasons for fighting were legitimate as opposed to Hamas, with 58% of all respondents saying the Jewish state's war on Hamas is valid, compared to 15% who said they are not.

Just 22% of American believe that Hamas' reasons for fighting are valid, compared to 49% who do not believe they are valid.

Religiously unaffiliated Americans were the most likely of all non-Muslim groups to back Hamas' war on Israel, with 33% saying the terror group has valid reasons for fighting the Jewish state, though a plurality (48%) said Israel's reasons for fighting Hamas are valid.

When broken down along partisan lines, Republicans were far more likely to support Israel's military efforts against Hamas than Democrats, and were less likely to back humanitarian

aid to the Gaza Strip.

While Americans as a whole back aid to Gaza by a margin of 50% to 19%, just over one-third (35%) of Republicans back sending aid to the Gaza Strip. By contrast, half of Republicans support military aid to Israel.

Nearly two-thirds (66%) of Democrats, on the other hand, support Gaza aid, while only 25% back military aid to the Jewish state.

Democrats and Democrat-leaning independents are also more likely to say Israel's handling of the current war is unacceptable.

Young Democrats gave both Hamas and the Israeli government low marks, but were slightly more likely to express esteem towards Hamas than Israel's leadership, with 18% saying they have a positive impression of the Gaza-based terror group and just 16% saying the same of Israel's government.

Political agenda robs liberal comedy of its humor, Babylon Bee founder says



Comedy that comes from the political left is no longer funny, according to CEO Seth Dillon of Babylon Bee.

"I think one of the ways that they lost their sting was because they purposefully adopted this hands-off posture, where the politicians that they like, the people that are in power and the institutions that control our public discourse — everything from media and entertainment, education, the big corporations, all this stuff — is all dominated by people that they're in ideological lockstep with," he told The Christian Post. "They don't see these things as being funny; they see them as being good and true and that we need these things."

Gender ideology is an example of a topic that seemingly is off-limits to many leftist comedians despite its self-evident absurdity, which Dillon offered as evidence of the fact that many contemporary comedians "want to protect the narrative from criticism."

"These are really radical and crazy ideas, and it used to just be mocked and laughed at kind of universally, and now you do find very few instances of people on the left who are willing to make fun of it at all," he said. "So you end up hearing from a lot of comedians who are basically giving a sermon from the stage, they're preaching to the audience and they're going for 'clap,' as someone called it, where it's like this applause of af-

firmation instead of laughter from the audience."

Dillon praised HBO host Bill Maher for ridiculing the idea of transgender surgeries for kids by joking about how glad he was that nobody ever scheduled him "for eye removal and peg-leg surgery" when he wanted to be a pirate as a boy.

"He's mocking something that never should have been taken seriously in the first place, and he's doing it at a time when you're not supposed to, when it's considered hate speech to even go there," Dillon said of Maher. "Was it, like, crazy hysterical? No, it was mildly funny, but profoundly important."

Dillon also spoke about how he was raised as a pastor's kid and detailed the history of his family's Christian faith, noting how his mother was raised Jewish and his father was agnostic until they accepted Yehusah, Jesus, as savior.

"I've been a Christian for basically as long as I can remember, but I will admit that, as a teenager, I was repeating the sinner's prayer over and over again, trying to make sure that I was saved," he said. "I did that for a little while before I started to actually rest in the promise of Christ without feeling my own inadequacy, making it

seem like it was invalid."

Dillon, who regularly talks about social media censorship, will headline two banquets for Kansans for

Life. Thursday, April 11 he'll be in Overland Park and then in Wichita on April 12. For information about attending, visit the KFL website.



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MOPS rebrands as MomCO after 50 years of service

MOPS International is making a big change after 50 years serving young moms with encouragement. The organization will now be known as MomCo.

In a press release, the group said the rebranding came after months of work and anticipation and that it “remains committed to its founding mission... to encourage and equip moms of young children to realize their potential as mothers, women and leaders in relationship with Jesus and in partnership with the local church.”

The organization was founded 50 years ago in Wheat Ridge, Colorado and was incorporated as a nationwide ministry in 1981.

“Our mission has not changed,” said board chairman Greg Bowlin. “We will continue our trusted partnerships with churches around the world as we move into the next 50 years. This new name is built on a strong legacy of biblical integrity and community building.”



The move, which includes new websites and expanded social media platforms, is seen as further solidifying their commitment to empowering and supporting mothers around the world.

MOPS has undergone a journey over the years to ensure the organization continued to support the needs of the modern mom, meeting her exactly where she is around the globe, the news

release stated.

“Essentially, we have outgrown our original acronym,” explained Mandy Arioto, President and CEO. “Our board and staff have been aware for nearly 10 years that there was a growing disconnect between a name that was associated with cleaning products verses the pioneering, transformational movement we were seeing spread across the world. The old name no longer encompassed

the incredible community of women who were taking the message of Jesus to over 101 countries, reaching millions of moms in 25 languages. Often when God expands a calling on a person’s life, He gives them a new name. Abrahm becomes Abraham, Jacob becomes Israel, Saul is renamed Paul. This is a new season where God is giving the MomCo a new name and an expanded calling to reach the world.

Kelli Jo Smith, VP of Marketing and Church Engagement at MomCo, shared the organization’s incredible excitement to introduce the new brand to the world “This rebranding is more than just a name change; it signifies our dedication to creating a mom community around the globe and within the digital land-

scape, meeting moms where they are and connecting them with a vibrant, global sisterhood.”

A key to the relaunch is the new website with user experience and accessibility in mind. The website serves as a hub for mothers to connect, share experiences, access resources and find support within their local MomCo communities.

At MomCo, we remain committed to helping women pursue motherhood with courage and passion. Through our online platform or local meetups, we strive to foster meaningful connections and empower moms to thrive in their motherhood journeys.

Join us in celebrating this exciting milestone as we embrace our new identity as MomCo. Follow us on social media [[@MomCo_](#)] and visit our website [[themom.co](#)] to learn more about our mission and initiatives and how you can be part of our vibrant community.

Child star of “Family Affair” finds faith, sobriety after long battle

Actor Johnny Whitaker became a child star on the television series “Family Affair” and went on to live a turbulent life. Today, he shares a message of faith and overcoming addiction at a county jail.

“Once a month, I go in to share my experience, as well as offer strength and hope,” the 64-year-old told Fox News. “I do it through my ministry. I want to tell these guys that there is hope. They can get clean and sober. They can get out of the revolving door that they find themselves in.”

“Family Affair” centered on a swinging bachelor (Brian Keith) who was given custody of his late brother’s three children. Whitaker said he still has fond memories of bringing the series to life. “It was always fun,” he

said. “We were always coddled and cared for by Brian, along with the producers and directors. They took care of us. It was an adventure.”

Over the years, Whittaker kept busy making appearances on hit TV shows such as “Bonanza,” “Bewitched” and “Gunsmoke,” among others. But at age 16, he found himself attending parties in Hollywood where he was exposed to drugs and alcohol. It didn’t take long for him to use, and it quickly took over his life.

“I had a family intervention,” he said. “It was extremely embarrassing, and I was very upset. I signed this contract my brother gave me, but I didn’t stop. When you’re an addict, you don’t like to admit there’s a prob-

lem. You’re not just going to suddenly stop. But I believe that every addict and alcoholic knows



that they have a problem.”

It wouldn’t be until later that Whitaker had “aha moment, a God shot.” The drugs no longer had the same effect he was yearn-

ing for. And on Sept. 25, 1997, he decided to finally get help. His faith in God also gave him a new-

found purpose to get sober, he said. Today, Whitaker said he’s found peace through sobriety and faith. And through his ministry, he’s able to encourage other

inmates to turn their lives around as a drug and alcohol counselor. He previously served as a missionary in Portugal from 1979 to 1981.

“I’m not planning to fully retire,” he said. “I’m working on my memoirs and hoping to get that out at the end of the year. I also have a documentary on the drug policies of Portugal. And this summer in North Carolina, I’m working with Charlene Tilton, a friend of mine, on a new film. She’s the female lead, so we’ve been busy working on that.”

Whittaker’s co-star, Mary Anissa Jones, who played Buffy, never found the help she needed when the series ended. She died of a drug overdose in 1976 at the age of 18.



How to Improve the Functionality and Charm of Your Home

As you navigate the demands of modern life, it's empowering to know that your living spaces can keep up. Here are five smart home technologies that can help you take control and elevate your home into a sanctuary of modern convenience and elegance.

1. Ovens: With a smart oven, you may be able to limit the incidence of traditional kitchen snafus. For example, the Sharp Smart Convection Wall Oven with Microwave Drawer Oven (SWB3085HS), a combination appliance, features a single simple-to-use, full-color touchscreen control panel. It Works with Alexa to accept voice commands. (Alexa-compatible device sold separately.) You can turn the oven on and off hands-free, keeping the control panel clean. This model is an excellent example of what technological innovation can bring to home cooking—al-

lowing you to choose settings based on popular foods and recipes and giving you the ability to save up to 30 of your favorite menu items and cook times for easier access. Whether you're a seasoned chef or just starting your culinary journey, a highly functional smart oven can be a game changer in your kitchen.

2. Dishwashers: Who doesn't love extra help in the kitchen, especially when it comes to cleaning? A smart dishwasher can simplify daily chores. Many smart models can be operated and monitored remotely from your smartphone, so you can receive notifications when the cycle is complete or customize wash settings with the touch of a button to keep cleanup moving along while getting on with other activities. For a modern, eco-friendly



kitchen, prioritize energy-efficient features and advanced cleaning technology.

3. Air purifiers: Create a mindful living environment with a Smart Air Purifier like the Plasmacluster 7000 Series KCP110UW Smart Air Purifier and Humidifier by Sharp, which is compatible with Amazon Alexa and Google Assistant to allow voice control. (Assistant devices sold separately.) Monitor your home's air quality, adjust settings remotely, and even receive notifications when it's time to replace your air purifier's filters using the SHARP AIR app.

4. Microwaves: Today's smart microwave ovens are available in countertop, over-the-range and even Microwave Drawer ovens, which can be installed under the counter or in an island to complement your lifestyle. Simple voice commands like "Alexa, microwave frozen veggies" or "Alexa, defrost 1 pound of ground meat" can revolutionize how you spend your time in the kitchen.

5. Televisions: Thanks to smart televisions, you can elevate your binge-watching sessions and truly immerse yourself in stunning visuals, vibrant colors and seamless streaming experiences from the comfort of your home. Use your voice to find shows, play music, and control smart home devices with a Sharp AQUOS XLED 4K Ultra HD Mini LED Google TV. With personalized watchlists and profiles, everyone's experience can be customized for them. Another option is a Sharp Roku TV OLED 4K Ultra HD television, which works with popular voice assistants, making it a perfect fit for any smart home.

"Embracing the future of smart living can save you time, energy and hassle. From the kitchen to the living room, let smart devices seamlessly integrate into your daily routine," says Peter Weedfald, senior vice president of sales and marketing for Sharp Home Electronics Company of America.

— StatePoint

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entertainment

Discovering the 7 Churches of Revelation on the Big Screen

Combining archeology, history, science, and scriptures with film, Tim Mahoney offers a new examination of the warnings written by the apostle John regarding how we should choose to live. The movie theater experience with two movies (see local movie times here), March 10-11 Times of Fire and March 17-18 Times of Deception, starts with viewing a cave on Patmos where it's believed John may have been exiled and received a revelation from Jesus. The revelation includes letters to seven churches that provide keys to the condition Jesus wants for our hearts and faith.

Cinematography of these cities such as the Acropolis in Pergamon brings the past to life. Insights from the historical scenes and experts reflect the struggles in each location to give viewers a fuller appreciation of the praises and warnings. The messages, the last words Christ gave in the Bible, bring hope as Christ encourages us to make needed changes and be steadfast in faith.



ple of this church to stay with their first love, for Christ. People struggled with pagan worshipers who tried to eradicate Christians.

The letter sent to the Pergamum church addresses the wickedness of satanic worship. Also addresses, is the evil of witchcraft that can become a stumbling block to Christians who might consider fortune telling, dream therapy, and astrology harmless fun and not stay true to their faith.

Other churches visited and corresponding letters reveal the problems



Each city's unique attributes and culture tie to the challenges Christians faced. The first three faced persecution. The final four struggled with deception. Listen to an interview with Tim about the letters.

At Ephesus, a thriving Christian community and center of trade and politics, Paul had his missionary base for three years. Jesus urged the peo-

ple of deceptions and twisted views of scriptures that drew followers away. A segment of Thyatira's Christians listened to a false teacher named Jezebel. She led them into immorality and eating foods offered to idols, which finds its way into every age. Experts share the historic significance of the imagery of the churches, including the woman called Jezebel

and battle for holiness and purity.

Look for the city's historical condition and how that reflects the faith conditions. As you view the movies be a detective like the narrator. The city that's the most active place of archeology digs

The city that has the most active archeological digs.

The city with original church pillars still standing has become a symbol of hope.

What location has the oldest restored Christian church in the world?

What city references water the most, and why that is significant?

Where the largest ruins of a synagogue have been uncovered and its importance to Christianity.

How materialism and a decadent lifestyle in one city may have led to the warnings given to that church.

Check out more information including photos. Ask yourself, "Am I ready if Christ returned now?" Reflect on your own faith condition and lifestyle. Be aware of changes you need to make and areas in which to remain steadfast against outside forces and temptations.

By Karen Whiting | Special to Metro Voice



True story of "Duck Dynasty" star Phil Robertson now streaming

"The Blind," the true story of Phil Robertson of "Duck Dynasty" fame, will be available on demand from Great American Pure Flix, beginning on March 22.

"The message of 'The Blind' is wherever a soul is on life's journey, it is never too late to find redemption," said Bill Abbott, president and CEO of Great American Media. "We are honored to be the exclusive streaming home to such a high-quality movie."

The story includes the dark moments that led to Robertson's redemption. "When I ran up on Jesus all those years ago, I didn't know a movie about my worst moments would help reach thousands in theirs," he said. "We pray everyone will watch 'The Blind' so they can see that redemption and forgiveness are for every last one of us."

Robertson was 28 years old when he stumbled to his knees and saw the devil staring back from his own reflection. A decade of heavy drinking and fast living had left his life, his family and his marriage in tatters. It was only then that he

began to conquer the shame of his past, finding redemption in an unlikely place.

Born into hard times in Vivian, La., Robertson became the man of his house when he was just a boy. His father was away months at a time working on oil rigs and his mother was hospitalized repeatedly for mental illness. Robertson became one with the backwoods swamps, which brought him peace through nature and fed his younger siblings. A natural sportsman in the woods and on the field, he became a football phenomenon - a highly scouted high school and college All-American who received a scholarship to Louisiana Tech. Robertson was the first-team quarterback ahead of future Hall of Famer Terry Bradshaw.

He married his high school sweetheart, started a family and became a high school teacher. He rose from nothing to nothing but possibility before he lost it all. "The Blind" is a cinematic reminder that no one is beyond the grace of God, and no one is so far gone that they cannot turn their life around.





When Barbie meets Aslan: Netflix promises to be true to Narnia books

Christians who love “The Chronicles of Narnia” by C.S. Lewis understandably have been nervous since it was announced that Greta Gerwig would direct new film adaptations for Netflix. After all, she may be best known for last summer’s blockbuster “Barbie.”

However, she said the stories will be true to the source material. “It won’t be counter to how the audience may have imagined those worlds, but it will be bigger and bolder than they thought,” Netflix CEO Ted Sarandos said.

Gerwig is a fan of Lewis’ works. “I would say the two big books of my childhood were ‘Little Women’ and the ‘Narnia’ books,” she said. “So I had that, you know, instant excitement, but instant terror that comes from trying to tackle something that has shaped me.”

Gerwig said she is drawn to Lewis’ “euphorically dreamlike” stories.

“It’s connected to the folklore and fairy stories of England, but it’s a combination of different traditions,” she said. “As a child, you accept the whole thing — that you’re in this land of Narnia, there’s fauns and then Father Christmas shows up. It doesn’t even occur to you that it’s not schematic. I’m interested in embracing the paradox of the worlds that Lewis created, because that’s what’s so compelling about them.”

Sarandos called Gerwig an “incredible visionary” and said her adaptation will be “rooted in faith,” which is to be expected when adapting the work of C. S. Lewis. Before “Barbie Gerwig adapted Louisa May Alcott’s “Little Women,” which made waves among critics and audiences.

Gerwig’s Narnia films currently have not been cast, but rumors say that cameras are set to roll this year. A release date sometime in 2026 is anticipated.

Hispanic pastor is ‘Flamin’ Hot’ in Hollywood

A leading Hispanic pastor has a new mission field – Hollywood. The Rev. Samuel Rodriguez, president of the National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference, has produced such hit films as “Flamin’ Hot” and “Breakthrough.”

The blend of gospel-driven preaching and moviemaking is something Rodriguez said first came on his radar 10 years ago when he was pastoring in church and a woman came up to the microphone and said, “Samuel, God says ‘Hollywood.’”

“I had no inclination for Hollywood, no desire for Hollywood, to be honest,” he says. “I was one of those evangelical pastors who would preach strongly against Hollywood.”

But Rodriguez soon received a call from Paramount about screening the film “Noah” to see how it might appeal to the Christian community. He agreed and, like many commentators and Christian voices at the time, informed them the movie likely would not perform well among the evangelical community — a prediction that came true.

From there, TV producer Mark Burnett and actress Roma Downey, the team behind the hit TV series “The Bible,” asked Rodriguez to consult for their projects, with Christian entertainment company Pure Flix doing the same. Before long, Rodriguez ended up producing “Breakthrough,” a movie about a boy who falls through the ice and dies before his mother’s prayers bring him back from the brink of death. The based-on-a-true-story flick attracted quite a bit of support and attention.

“I saw that story about that kid who died for an hour at eight minutes and the Holy Spirit really prompted me,” he said.



“Something inside of me said, ‘You’re gonna make it into a movie.’”

Most recently, the pastor produced “Flamin’ Hot,” the real-life story of Richard Montañez, a janitor at Frito Lay who conjured up the idea for Flamin’ Hot Cheetos and reached success.

The movie, released by Fox Searchlight Pictures, explores the life of Montañez, including being the son of Mexican immigrants. He grew up in Southern California and was a farm worker with the rest of his family. A school dropout who struggled with reading and writing, Montañez was eventually found himself working at Frito Lay and suggested to management the idea of adding chili spice to the original Cheeto chip. His initiative grew into a multibillion-dollar idea and transformed him into an executive at the company.

The film is the first about a Hispanic individual produced with Hispanic producers, writers, directors, leading man and woman. It’s also the first faith-based film to stream on both Hulu and Disney+ simultaneously.

These films’ successes have led Ro-

driguez to other projects set to release in the future. “It really is by the grace of God,” he said.

Rodriguez said he wants to use these projects and his preaching to lead people to spiritual revolution and cultural reformation. “That’s my assignment,” he said. “We are here for such a time as this.” It was that same attitude of making use of opportunities to spread that Gospel that allowed him to lead the prayer at Donald Trump’s inaugural.

Montañez spoke of Rodriguez’s role in getting the movie made, saying it was central.

“Having Pastor Sam as an executive producer is one of the main reasons we decided on moving forward with the movie. His strategic involvement helps lead a few of our main personal focuses,” Montañez says. “Sam’s influence within the faith community and Hollywood is a benefit for any movie. His constant message of national unity is inspiring, and together we believe the movie will portray Latinos in a positive light and bring unity to our country in the process.”

The film is available for streaming.

2024 Movieguide Award Winners Include Dennis Quaid, ‘Sound of Freedom,’ ‘Jesus Revolution’

The films nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards recently evening are a mixed bag for Christians. The recent Movieguide Faith & Values Awards, however, recognized movies that the whole family can enjoy.

“Super Mario Bros Movie” was named Best Family Movie, while “A Paris Christmas Waltz” took home the award for Best Family TV. “Jesus Revolution” won Best Movie for Mature Audiences, and “Chicago P.D.” episode “New Life” was awarded Best TV for Mature Audiences.

In recognition of films and shows that highlight freedom and faith, the Faith & Freedom Award for Movies was awarded to “Sound of Freedom,” starring Jim

Caviezel. For TV, the award went to Prime Video’s “A Million Miles Away.” The Grace Prize, celebrating outstanding performances that exemplify God’s grace, was given to Dennis Quaid for “On a Wing and a Prayer” and Lori Loughlin for “A Christmas Blessing.”

“This was the most entertaining, enthusiastic and blessed Movieguide in 31 years,” Movieguide publisher Ted Baehr said. “I am grateful for God’s grace and everyone involved who made it great.”

Overall, 2023 marked a successful year for faith-based and uplifting films and television series. Lionsgate’s “Jesus Revolution,” which hit theaters in early 2023 and stars Kelsey Grammer, grossed \$52 million

domestically and was given an A+ CinemaScore grade by moviegoers. Angel Studio’s “Sound of Freedom” grossed nearly \$250 million worldwide, outperforming big-budget films including “Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny” and “Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One.”

“A Million Miles Away,” starring Michael Peña, Rosa Salazar and Julio César Cedillo, tells the inspiring true story of devout Christian José Hernández, a migrant turned NASA astronaut. The film garnered several award nominations, earned the No. 1 spot on Amazon Prime for several weeks and received a 96 percent audience score on Rotten Tomatoes.

Andy Erwin, one of the directors of

“Jesus Revolution,” said the success of such faith-based films and the star power they are attracting is evidence of Hollywood’s awakening to the underserved faith community.

“I think it’s really a moment in time where there’s been a group of individuals that have all been trying to work behind the scenes to tell stories of faith,” he said. “But collectively, whether it’s through ‘The Chosen’ or ‘Sound of Freedom’ or what we did with ‘Jesus Revolution,’ all of a sudden, it’s been legitimized.”

Here’s a recap of the winners:

Best Movie for Families – THE SUPER MARIO BROS. MOVIE (2023)

Best Movie for Mature Audiences –

JESUS REVOLUTION

Best Television for Families – A PARIS CHRISTMAS WALTZ

Best Television for Mature Audiences – CHICAGO P.D.: “New Life”

Epiphany Prize® for Inspiring Movies – JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM

Epiphany Prize® for Inspiring Television – DIVINE INFLUENCER

Faith & Freedom Award for Movies – SOUND OF FREEDOM

Faith & Freedom Award for Television – A MILLION MILES AWAY

Grace Award for Movies – Dennis Quaid for ON A WING AND A PRAYER

Grace Award for Television – Lori Loughlin for A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

Act Locally During Global Volunteer Month

April is Global Volunteer Month, a time to celebrate volunteers and inspire volunteerism in communities large and small.

Volunteerism is on the decline, according to research from AmeriCorps and the U.S. Census Bureau. And what's more, Points of Light, a global nonprofit dedicated to inspiring, equipping and mobilizing people to take action that changes the world, shared that 73% of people believe that volunteering is more important than ever, yet 66% think they can't make a big impact in their communities. During Global Volunteer Month, advocates are trying to change that perception at the local level.

"Volunteers are crucial to solving pressing challenges, creating vibrant communities and strengthening our social fabric," said Jennifer Sirangelo, president and CEO of Points of Light. "Every person has something to share or give."

To boost volunteer engagement

during Global Volunteer Month, Points of Light is sharing the following ways you and your family can make a positive impact in your neighborhood or town:

Spread the word: Use the Global Volunteer Month toolkit, along with the hashtag #GlobalVolunteerMonth to thank volunteers. Be sure to tag a volunteer whose impact you appreciate.

Take the pledge: To show your commitment to volunteering, take Points of Light's pledge. Then, discover ways to get involved that support your favorite cause and availability using Points of Light Engage, a database featuring hundreds of thousands of volunteer opportunities worldwide, including some in your area. Remember that volunteering doesn't have to be through a formal organization. Lending a helping hand to a friend, family member or neighbor counts, too. In fact, 70% of volunteer work is carried out locally and informally, without the involve-

ment of any organization, according to the UN.

Expand your impact: Learn about the Points of Light Civic Circle®, a framework that outlines the many forms of civic engagement. These actions include listening and learning, using one's voice, social entrepreneurship, volunteering, public, national or military service, using one's purchasing power to express values, working, voting and donating.

Get inspired: Points of Light recognizes ordinary people doing extraordinary things to strengthen communities and solve persistent problems with its Daily Point of Light Award. Know an outstanding volunteer in your community? Nominate them as a Daily Point of Light by visiting pointsoflight.org/daily-pointoflight, or to inspire others, share these stories of recent honorees:

Daily Point of Light Award honoree T'Kiyah Threatt is a 21-year-old from Uniontown, Alabama, a town of just over 2,000 residents. She dove into service as a high school junior when she started working with C.H.O.I.C.E., an organization that ensures young people get needed resources. Three years ago, she became the first president of the Youth Advisory Council and began leading mentoring efforts, going above and beyond to find funds for a scholarship for a deserving mentee. Even after moving away for college, Threatt returns to work with her own mentee while recruiting community partners and soliciting funding for programs.

Daily Point of Light Award honoree Teresa Gerald of Ridgeland, Mississippi, channels her passion for literacy into volunteer work through Friends of the Ridgeland Library, where she has held the elected position of president since 2014, contributing thousands of volunteer hours. Twice a year, Gerald manages,



promotes and works the Friends of the Ridgeland Library Book Sale. When the library's funding was cut by \$110,000 in fiscal year 2021-2022, her fundraising efforts with Every Library Institute raised \$112,000 in emergency funds.

No matter the scale, Points of Light recognizes the spirit of volunteerism as a driving force of change around the world.

"We're celebrating volunteers around the world all month long, as well as calling on people to take action. Throughout April, lend your time, talent and passion to a cause you care about and invite others to join you, creating a ripple effect of change," said Sirangelo.

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It's Tax Time: 3 Ways the Pros Can Help You Save This Year

As you file your taxes, you may be wondering how a successful tax plan can help you reach your financial goals, whether you're filing taxes for the first time as a young professional or approaching retirement.

During tax time, put this aspect of your financial plan on the front burner by working with a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional. Here are three ways a CFP® professional

can help you make the most of tax deductions, tax credits and tax-advantaged accounts:

1. Avoid surprises: A tax refund may feel like a boon, but it means that you gave the government an interest-free loan. However, you don't necessarily want to swing too far in the other direction and

end up with an unmanageable tax bill. A CFP® professional can help you adjust your tax estimates or withholdings, so you are more likely to break even next year-end. And if you do end up with a refund, they can help you redirect the money in a way that's beneficial to your overall financial plan.

2. Plan for the future: The maximum employee deferrals to defined contribution plans such

as 401(k)s and 403(b)s have risen considerably. A CFP® professional can help you determine how much you can comfortably contribute each month to shelter more of your wealth from taxes. This move has an additional benefit if you're close to the edge of a higher tax bracket — by trimming taxable income, you can fall

into a lower bracket and save. And, of course, by boosting deferrals, you will be setting yourself up for a more comfortable retirement.

3. Become a strategic giver: As you file your taxes each year, you may have noticed that there's a high bar for claiming deductions for charitable donations. In fact, for 2023, that standard deduction is \$13,850 for single filers and \$27,700 for married couples filing together. To make more of your charitable dollars, a CFP® professional can help you establish a donor-advised fund. This allows you to "bunch" your donations and qualify for deductions immediately. This tax-advantageous method of giving is good for you, and good for your end recipients, as it allows your contributions to potentially grow while you decide which charities to support.

CFP® professionals know the latest tax code changes that average investors often do not. To find a CFP® professional committed to acting in your best interest during tax time and beyond, visit LetsMakeAPlan.org. Taxes can be one of the most

complicated aspects of financial planning. With the help of a financial advisor, you can avoid surprises, save more of your

hard-earned money and be well-positioned to reach your goals.

– StatePoint



can help you make the most of tax deductions, tax credits and tax-advantaged accounts:

1. Avoid surprises: A tax refund may feel like a boon, but it means that you gave the government an interest-free loan. However, you don't necessarily want to swing too far in the other direction and

end up with an unmanageable tax bill. A CFP® professional can help you adjust your tax estimates or withholdings, so you are more likely to break even next year-end. And if you do end up with a refund, they can help you redirect the money in a way that's beneficial to your overall financial plan.

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Baseball icon Darryl Strawberry “praising God for his amazing grace” after heart attack



Darryl Strawberry, a former baseball star turned evangelist, is recovering after surviving a heart attack in suburban St. Louis.

In a social media post, the 62-year-old shared a picture of himself in the hospital bed and opened up about the health scare. He captioned the photo, “Praising God for his amazing grace and loving mercy in saving my life this evening from a heart attack,” he wrote.

“I am so happy and honored to report that all is well. So thankful for the medical team and staff at St. Joseph West in Lake St. Louis for responding so quickly and bringing me through a stent procedure that has brought my heart to total restoration!!! Your prayers are so absolutely appreciated as I continue to recover, in Jesus’ name!”

New York Mets spokesman Jay Horowitz said Strawberry was stricken a day before his 62nd birthday and is now resting comfortably at home. Strawberry is one of the most celebrated sluggers in baseball. He’s an eight-time all-star and four-time World Series champion who played for the New York Mets, Los Angeles Dodgers and New York Yankees over 17 years. The athlete, who has survived cancer twice, has also been open about his struggles with drugs and alcohol and how his experiences led him to Christ.

Today, he leads Strawberry Ministries with his wife, Tracy, which exists to “lead people to Jesus, teach them how to grow in their faith and experience freedom in Christ through step-by-step resources and daily encouragement.” Strawberry said. “I

have been privileged my whole life to live behind community gates in [million dollar] homes and everything. But at the end of the day, I was empty on the inside. I didn’t have what I needed on the inside.

“We can accumulate all these great things, but if you don’t have Jesus on the inside of you, you are not going to be well as a person. It doesn’t matter what another kind of material stuff we have. I have searched for so long to have such a relationship with God myself, but I didn’t know him.”

Strawberry shared his testimony in an interview with Metro Voice that is available at “Turn Your Season Around”: Baseball legend Darryl Strawberry on winning the game of life – Metro Voice News.

The Mets will honor Strawberry by retiring his No. 18 on June 1 at Citi Field during a game against the Arizona Diamondbacks. When announcing the move, Mets owner Steve Cohen called Strawberry an “iconic” member of the 1986 championship team.

Basketball star Caitlin Clark credits faith background for her success

College basketball sensation Caitlin Clark of the University of Iowa credits God for keeping her grounded despite playing in a national spotlight.

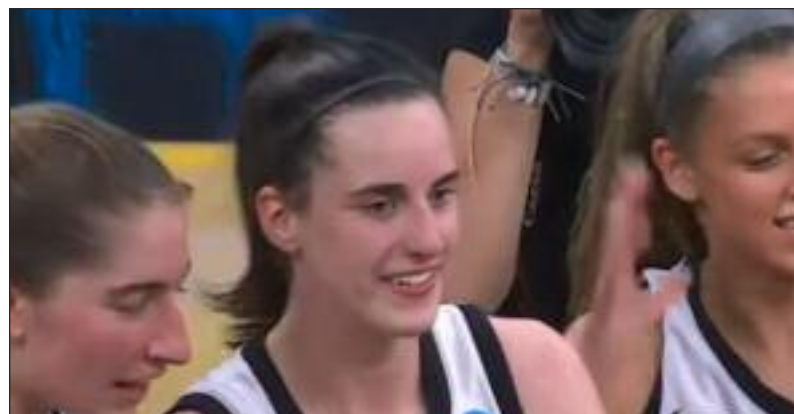
Clark broke the all-time women’s scoring record in February with a 49-point performance against Michigan, and then in March, played men’s legendary player “Pistol Pete” Maravich with 35 points against Ohio State to become the career scoring leader in all of college basketball. She had scored 3,771 points in her career entering the NCAA tournament.

Clark attended Dowling Catholic High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, and her family attends St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in West Des Moines.

“We get to live our faith every day,” Clark said in a 2018 interview while in high school. “Dowling starts every day with prayer and ends every day with prayer. This is a big reason why Dowling has such a special culture and is such a special place,” she said of her school at the time.

People saw her dedication and talent early on.

“She knows that she has some talents that other people weren’t necessarily born with, and she’s just looking to maximize them, not just for herself but for her teammates and on an even bigger scope for the fans,” Kristin



Meyer, her high school coach, said. “It’s not just about scoring a lot of points or winning; she loves playing in front of a sold-out arena, because she gets to entertain people and bring a smile to their face. For two hours she lets them have this great experience, and she takes that pretty seriously and knows that those gifts from God are an opportunity to bring joy to other people.”

Next season, Clark will be playing in the WNBA, most likely for the Indiana Fever, which has the No. 1 pick in the draft.

Father Joseph Pins, pastor of the family’s church, said Clark “does a great job just living out

the faith. We’re proud of our alumna who has done such a great, great, great, thing in life. It’s always good as we form children to watch this go through and see success not just on the basketball court but also in her faith life.”

Clark, while in high school, said the religious aspects of Dowling Catholic were a big reason she enjoyed playing here. “We get to live our faith every day,” she said. “Dowling starts every day with prayer and ends every day with prayer. This is a big reason why Dowling has such a special culture and is such a special place to go to school.”

Super Bowl rally shooting shows need for strong fathers, Chiefs kicker says

Kansas City Chiefs kicker Harrison Butker is challenging men to step up in the wake of the deadly shooting at the team's Super Bowl rally last month.

"I had to do a lot of thinking about what took place at the parade," he told EWTN. "I know that gun violence was a big discussion, but at the end of the day this is degenerative violence, and it should not be occurring. I think we need strong fathers in the home. We need men that are leading, that are setting good examples, that are teaching the young men in our society that violence is not the way to handle our disputes."

Disc jockey Lisa Lopez-Galvan



was killed and nearly two dozen others were wounded in the shooting near Union Station. Three men face federal gun

charges in the incident.

"It's very unfortunate what happened," Butker said. "Unfortunately, many, many children

were injured. A beautiful young lady was killed over someone getting offended and turning to violence to handle that dispute. It's so sad. I don't think guns are the issue. I think we need fathers in the home that are being great examples for our youth."

Lopez-Galvan was shot and killed while wearing Butker's jersey. The family asked Butker if he could provide one of his jerseys so she could be laid to rest in it. He agreed to give her family his jersey.

"I never set out to be an NFL kicker," he said. "I never set out to have this platform. I never thought I'd be having this success

in the NFL that I am. I never wanted to be this public person that people look to to see what their ideas are, what their stances are on different subjects, but because of that, it has given me a great following of people like this amazing woman.

"It's the faith. It was the most important thing in her life. It's the most important thing in my life. And to be able to receive that encouragement, that love, even though I never met her, I heard from her family how much she was encouraged by me and loved all my work, it's just very encouraging for me to continue on the path that I'm on and to be unwavering in my beliefs."

Ten March Madness coaches name Christian musicians as favorites

Don't be surprised to hear Christian music in the background during college basketball's March Madness.

CBS Sports asked all 68 head coaches in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament to name their favorite band or musician and

found a range of musical tastes. These ranged from "rock to hip-hop to old-school soul to go-go music to legacy artists," as CBS Sports put it. The Beatles made the list, as did Jimmy Buffett, Pearl Jam, Taylor Swift and Drake. But 10 head coaches said their favorite musicians were Christian artists.

Alabama coach Nate Oats and Grand Canyon University coach Bryce Drew each said it was Toby Mac. Stetson University's Donnie James listed Casting Crowns, while Morehead State's Preston Spradlin said it was Jeremy Camp. Baylor University's Scott Drew listed Elevation Worship. Longwood's Griff Aldrich named Hillsong. Texas Tech's Grant McCasland said it was Jervis Campbell. Other coaches on the list who put down Christian artists: Nevada's Steve Alford (Sanctus Real), Virginia's Tony Bennett (Maverick City Music) and Dayton's Anthony Grant (Lauren Daigle).

The CBS Sports article said there is nothing like the power of music. "Think about the bands and artists that mean the most to



you, how they reflect your personality and have shaped who you are," it said. "College basketball coaches are no different."

Among all 68 coaches, the most popular artists were Michael Jackson/Jackson Five, who were listed as favorites by five coaches. Tied for second with three each were the Eagles, Luke Combs and Jay-Z. Nine bands/artists tied for third with two each: 2Pac, Chris Stapleton, Dave Matthews Band, Drake, Earth Wind & Fire, Jimmy Buffett, Pearl Jam, Prince and Toby Mac.

CBS Sports' Matt Norlander compiled the list. "Being a huge music guy myself, I wanted to bring back a passion project I first did in 2016," he wrote. "To better

understand these coaches, let's take a peek at their streaming faves/record collection/CD archive and get a sense of who they are by learning about the artists they love most."

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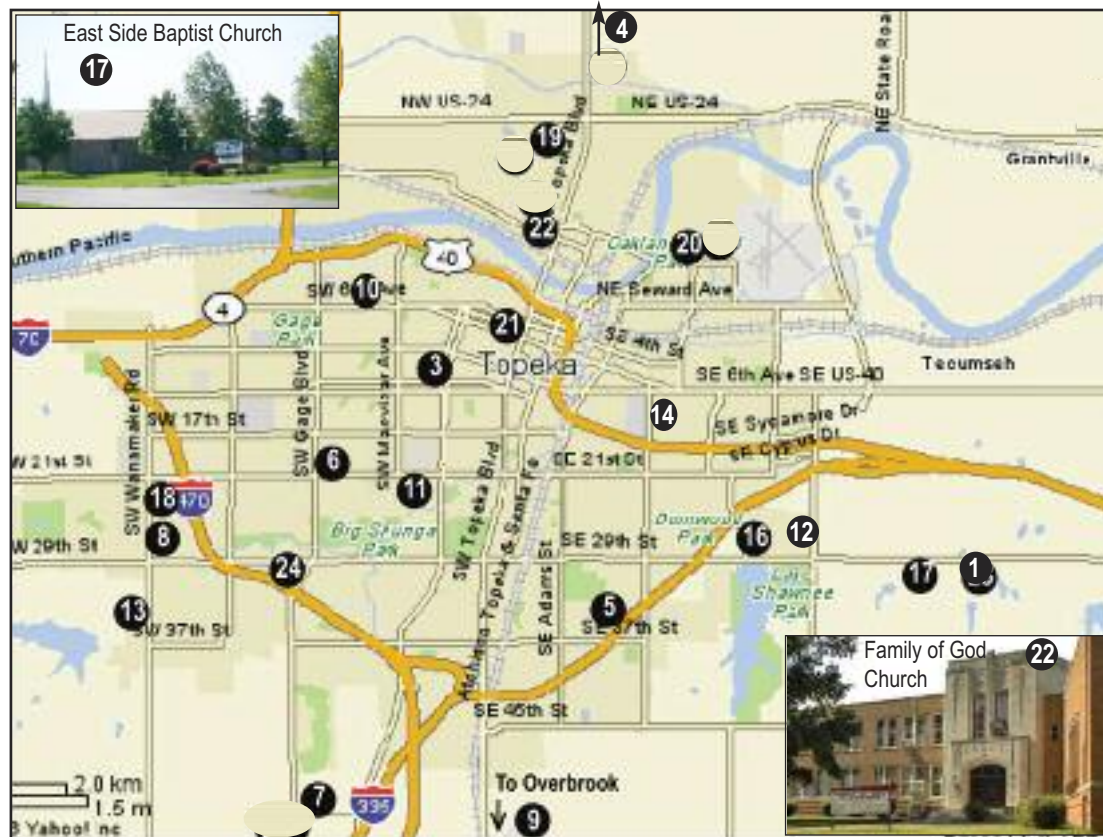
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22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH
1231 NW Eugene St.
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Pastor Roger Randel
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785-234-1111
FOGchurch.com

24. TRINITY REFORMED BAPTIST
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Sunday 9:30 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
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Pastor Dale Stockburger
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Sunday School: Sun 10am
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www.gccinoverbrook.com
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11. COMMUNITY CHURCH
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info@CommunityTopeka.com
Sun. 8:30am - Sunday School for all ages
Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word
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Rob Self, Senior Pastor
Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene
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4. BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH
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7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH
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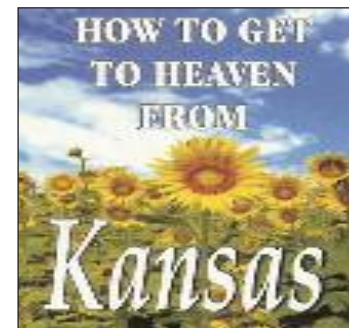
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1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "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:

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