



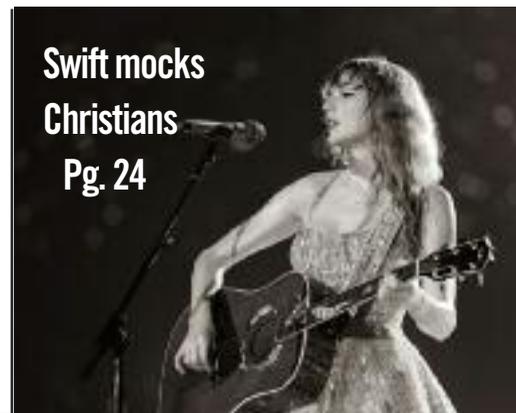
ENERGY PLAZA EVENTS

Page 16

metro VOICE

FREE!
TAKE ONE!

Swift mocks
Christians
Pg. 24



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NEW RESIDENT churchguide



Open Arms Outreach

See inside back cover!

Kids ride free on city buses May 15



A popular campaign is rolling out once again to help transport Topeka youth throughout the city over the summer. Topeka Metro kicks off Kids Ride FREE! starting Wednesday, May 15th. Youth ages 18 and under can ride the fixed route buses at no cost through August 15, 2024. Topeka Metro provides accessible, reliable and safe transportation for youth to travel to summer school, camps, pools, the library or any of their favorite places on Topeka Metro's bus routes. Teenagers can even catch a ride to work!

"This promotion has been one that families in Topeka look forward to because parents, grandparents and others

■ Please see BUSES page 3



Can we cultivate civility?

Braver Angels aims at depolarization

Braver Angels aims to help regular people "disagree better."

It's no secret that we live in a polarized world. Even if you ignore politics (good luck trying that), you'd also have to ignore entertainment news (exes or coworkers squabbling), sports news (rivals or teammates bickering), and social media (dislikes, trolls, goofs gone viral) to escape

polarization. But one impressive group is trying to ratchet down fiery rhetoric by helping people have conversations.

Braver Angels, a nonprofit organization with thousands of volunteers, holds workshops and programs to advance the art of civil conversation. With both "red" and "blue" facilitators, the group's mission is to "bring

Americans together to bridge the partisan divide and strengthen our democratic republic." It encourages treating others with "honesty, dignity and respect" through engagement, seeking common ground, and fostering cooperation.

Harry Boyte, a civil rights veteran and Augsburg University

■ Please see CIVILITY page 2

Spring in Kansas means morel mushroom season



The spring hunting season has arrived in Kansas – except people are hunting not for wild game but morel mushrooms.

"It looks like we are settling in for some warmer, wetter weather which can only mean one thing in April... mushrooms!" posted the FB page of Morel Mushroom Hunters of NE Kansas. They're right.

Kyle Crites posted this photo to the Missouri Morel Mushroom Hunting FB page which has over 133,000 followers. "Oop, I did it again," he quipped. His post has almost a 1,000 likes.

Morel mushrooms are considered a delicacy and are highly sought after by

■ Please see MUSHROOMS page 3

Columbia University classes go virtual because of pro-Hamas protests

Leaders at Columbia University told students overnight that all Monday classes will be held virtually because anti-Israel protestors have taken over the campus. The demonstrations, which began to protest the Israeli war on Hamas, have now devolved into students calling for Hamas to attack the United States and massacre Jewish students on campus, according to videos.

University President Nemat Shafik

said in a statement posted in the early hours of Monday morning that she was "deeply saddened" by certain actions of agitators, who have formed an encampment on the campus and have riled students and faculty with anti-Jewish slogans and chants.

"I am deeply saddened by what is happening on our campus," she wrote, according to Fox News "Our bonds as a community have been severely tested

■ Please see PROTESTS page 2



Bodies of Kansas pastor's wife and friend found in rural Oklahoma

The bodies of a pastor's wife, Jillian Kelley, and her companion Veronica Butler, who went missing in Oklahoma several weeks ago, have been found. The remains were found in rural Texas County, Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, FBI, and Texas County Sheriff's Office said Sunday on Twitter that the bodies would be "transported to the Office of the Oklahoma Chief Medical Examiner to determine identification and cause and manner of death."

"This case did not end the way we had hoped. It's certainly been a tragedy for everyone involved," OSBI Director Aungela Spurlock said.

The Texas County Sheriff's Office asked for public assistance on March 30 after the disappearance of 27-year-old Butler and 39-year-old Kelley, the wife of Pastor Heath Kelley, who were traveling from Kansas to Oklahoma.

The Kansas City Star reported that the pair left Hugoton, Kansas, but never arrived. The sheriff stated they were "traveling together to pick up children."

ABC News reported that Oklahoma police detained four persons Saturday on two first-degree murder, two kidnapping, and one conspiracy to murder first-degree charges in connection with Butler and Kelley's disappearance.

Tad Bert Cullum, 43; Tiffany Machel Adams, 54; Cole Earl Twombly, 50; and Cora Twombly, 44 were arrested the day before the remains were located and placed into the Texas County Jail.

Reports say that Adams is the children's paternal grandmother, and Cullum is Adams' boyfriend.

Butler was reportedly fighting for full custody of her children with their father, Adams' son Wrangler Rickman, who has legal custody but was apparently in a rehabilitation facility at the time of the disappearance.

The OSBI's public information manager Hunter McKee told Fox News that investigators located an abandoned vehicle in rural Oklahoma on the day of the women's disappearance and suspected "foul play" in a Facebook post last week.

"We're calling this a suspicious disap-



Jillian Kelley, 39 (R), and Veronica Butler, 27 (L), were both reported missing on March 30, 2024. Kelley is the wife of Heath Kelley, the outgoing pastor of Hugoton First Christian Church in Kansas. Heath Kelley recently accepted a new job at Willow Christian Church in Nebraska. | Screenshot:

pearance because as soon as you find a vehicle really in the middle of nowhere you know was occupied by two women, and those two women have vanished; it's concerning for us as well, so we are really trying to figure out what may have happened and doing everything we can to

find them," McKee said last week.

A source told ABC 7 that Butler was picking up her 6-year-old daughter and 8-year-old son in Eva, Oklahoma for her daughter's birthday.

Kelley traveled with her from Elkhart, Kansas for 16 miles, but the vehicle was

found three miles short.

Adams was in a "problematic custody battle" with Butler, who had two children with Adams' son, Wrangler Rickman, according to an affidavit by OSBI Special Agent Jason Ott.

Butler had supervised visits with her children every Saturday, and she, along with her friend Kelley, were on their way for such a meeting on March 30, according to Ott's affidavit supporting Adams' arrest.

"Butler planned on bringing her daughter to a birthday party but after they did not arrive, the family began looking for Butler," the affidavit said.

Butler's car was discovered in Texas County with signs of a violent struggle, officials said. Blood stained the nearby ground, and Butler's glasses "were also found in the roadway south of the vehicle, near a broken hammer," Ott wrote.

Texas County Sheriff Matt Boley said that Butler and Kelley were victims of a "targeted" attack and that authorities didn't believe anyone else in the public was in danger.

PROTESTS

continued from page 1

in ways that will take a great deal of time and effort to reaffirm. Students across an array of communities have conveyed fears for their safety, and we have announced additional actions we are tak-

ing to address security concerns. The decibel of our disagreements has only increased in recent days. These tensions have been exploited and amplified by individuals who are not affiliated with Columbia who have come to campus to pursue their own agendas."

The statement comes after the Orthodox rabbi at Columbia University

and Barnard College sent a message encouraging Jewish students to leave campus and go home after protesters were caught on camera espousing full-on support for terrorism and supporting violence toward Jewish students. Rabbi Elie Buechler sent a message to hundreds of students recommending they leave as soon as possible until the situa-

tion improves, noting that "what we are witnessing in and around campus is terrible and tragic."

"The events of the last few days, especially last night, have made it clear that Columbia University's Public Safety and the NYPD cannot guarantee Jewish students' safety in the face of extreme anti-semitism and anarchy," Buechler wrote.

"It deeply pains me to say that I would strongly recommend you return home as soon as possible and remain home until the reality in and around campus has dramatically improved."

House GOP Chair Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., has demanded that Shafiq immediately resign amid the protests and the threat to students' safety.

CIVILITY

continued from page 1

scholar and educator, helped put Braver Angels on my radar. He advocates using principles of nonviolence to get enemies talking, beyond just the political realm.

"The alternative to fury and dominating power is nonviolence," Boyte writes. "Nonviolence cultivates the spiritual, moral, and psychological discipline not to demonize opponents. The most effective way to make change is to understand where enemies are coming from, not to humiliate them."

I enjoyed Boyte's appearance on the Derate the Hate podcast, hosted by Braver Angels's "red" facilitator Wilk Wilkinson. Their interaction included ways that Boyte's Minnesota metropolitan church members connect with one another and rural church members amid differing viewpoints.

Wilkinson, a former truck driver, works toward bridge-building across many divides: socioeconomic, educational, cultural, spiritual, etc. In another podcast, he interviewed Christian communicator Daniel Darling about the subject.

Darling says he's a lifelong political and religious conservative but that interacting with those who differ helps him learn and sharpen his own ideas. His book title, *Agents of Grace: How to Bridge Divides and Love as Jesus Loved*, summarizes his approach. He notes that a biblical writer who advised "always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account" for your faith also included "but with gentleness and respect."

Darling asks himself whether all his opinions need to be aired publicly. He indicates he's learned to be selective in the disagreements he pursues. Sometimes he's composed digital comments and then, upon reflection, deleted them before sending or posting.

Neighbors who differ can learn to live side by side, he notes. Similar attitudes could benefit all public interactions.

They've certainly benefitted me. In the turbulent late 1960s, our diverse university fraternity had political liberals and conservatives, scholars and athletes, Christians, Jews, atheists, and agnostics. We'd debate the topics of the day — Vietnam, civil rights, the sexual revolution, the Jesus revolution — and more. Then we'd go to dinner or watch a basketball game together.

We got along because we respected and cared about one another. We still gather for reunions. Before one larger reunion, members began asking if their ex-spouses could come. Then ex-spouses began asking to bring their new spouses. The idea seemed curious at first, but we loved it.

That living experience helped shape my career, which has involved communicating on controversial topics in academia and the media. Today when I write or speak, I have in mind my fra-

ternity brothers, their significant others, spouses, ex-spouses, and spouses of ex-spouses back then and people like them through the years. I'm grateful for the lessons these friends and neighbors taught me.

It's probably not hard to understand why I resonate with what I've seen of Braver Angels' approach.

Retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer explains in the New York Times how disagreeing justices

have remained friends. Of our divided nation, he writes, "listening to one another in search of a consensus might help."

Wise counsel.

Rusty Wright is an author and lecturer who has spoken on six continents. His film commentaries and columns have been published by newspapers across the country and used by more than 2,000 websites.



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Faith leaders want Congress to tackle religious persecution

More than 100 religious freedom advocates are encouraging the U.S. Senate to pass bipartisan resolution SR-569, which would integrate religious freedom into U.S. foreign policy and address worldwide violations of faith.

The effort aims to protect freedoms for all religions, from Christians facing what's been called genocide in sub-Saharan Africa, to ethnic Muslims currently being held in Chinese concentration camps. It also targets Iran and Russia—which is destroying both Orthodox and Evangelical churches in the Ukrainian territory it occupies.

A world map of persecution of Christians shows the greatest threat in North Africa and Asia.

"We have seen firsthand the increasing threats to religious freedom around the world described in the resolution," the groups wrote in a letter to Congress, "From ongoing genocides and mass atrocities perpetrated against religious



U.S. foreign policy. The resolution proposes using diplomatic and sanctions tools to hold violators accountable. The advocates said the resolution "paints an accurate and disturbing portrayal of the religious freedom situation in too many countries.

"Because of that situation, the resolution's policy recommenda-

minority groups, to individuals imprisoned and exiled for their faith and beliefs, from unjust restrictions on religious gatherings and practices, to the destruction of religious sites, these threats against both people of faith and no faith are not only grave violations of fundamental human rights but also lead to instability, insecurity and a lack of economic development."

Introduced last month, the resolution seeks to establish religious freedom as a core human right and a cornerstone of

tions are vital: promoting religious freedom as an 'utmost priority' in U.S. foreign policy, holding violators accountable using all available diplomatic and sanctions tools, working with global partners, and expanding support for leaders and activists working to protect religious freedom worldwide," the letter said.

Sean Nelson, legal counsel for global religious freedom for ADF International, cited widespread violations against faith communities.

MUSHROOMS

continued from page 1

foodies and chefs for their distinct earthy and nutty flavor. Hunting for morels also is considered a recreational activity that allows people to explore nature and enjoy the outdoors. It's a great way to get some exercise and fresh air while also engaging in a fun and rewarding activity.

Finding morels can be quite challenging, which makes it a thrilling activity for some. Morels are elusive and typically grow in specific conditions, such as in wooded areas with particular soil types, so it requires some skill and knowledge to find them. The hunt for morels can be both exciting and addictive, encouraging mushroom hunters to come back year after year.

Kansas is home to at least three species of morels, which emerge from the ground in the springtime—usually mid-March through early May. These mushrooms have a distinctive conical cap and a hollow stem, and they range in color from light gray to dark brown. Although morels can be found in a variety of habitats, they tend to favor areas with rich soil, such as old orchards, river bottoms and recently burned or disturbed areas.

If you're hunting in Kansas, wildlife areas provide excellent foraging opportunities. Just keep in mind that any morels that you harvest on public land in Kansas cannot be sold. They can only be enjoyed for personal use.

Identifying true morels from false morels can be challenging, but there are some key differences to look for. Here are

some characteristics of true morels:

Cap and stem. True morels have a smooth, cone-shaped cap that is attached to a hollow stem. The cap also is attached to the stem at the bottom, unlike false morels.

Cap coloring. The cap of a true morel can range from cream to yellowish-brown. It typically is covered in pits and ridges that give it a distinctive appearance.

Stem coloring. The stem of a true morel usually is lighter than the cap and is completely hollow.

True morels commonly are found growing in forested areas, often near deciduous trees. They also can be found around dead or dying trees.

Morels can be sautéed, roasted or even grilled for a flavorful side dish or main course. They also pair well with pasta, eggs and many other ingredients.

the family budget."

No IDs are necessary when boarding, however, bus operators reserve the right to request proof of age for older youth. We encourage youth under the age of five to have a supervising adult accompany them if possible.

Maps and time points for routes are posted on Topeka Metro's website and are in all Topeka Metro shelters. For faster service, we recommend using the

DoubleMap app on a mobile phone which will show in real-time when the bus will arrive. For questions or help with trip planning, call Topeka Metro Customer Service at 785-783-7000.

Topeka Metro hours of operation are as follows:

- Monday through Friday - 5:40 a.m. to 6:40 p.m.
- Saturday - 8:30 a.m. to 6:40 p.m.

C5Alive Power Luncheon to feature Business Coach Anthony Blanco

The May C5Alive POWER Luncheon will be held on the 9th at Harley Davidson, and will feature Anthony Blanco, a business coach and trainer.

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 June 13th featuring Sylvia Hopper and July 11 featuring Barry Feaker

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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BUSES

continued from page 1

know that their child will be safely transported to their destination at no cost which helps their pocketbook," said Bob Nugent, Topeka Metro General Manager. "With prices rising on nearly everything, having free transportation for the kids during the summer months helps

Letters from 'Daisy' - No. 10

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

Shane M. Jones, LSCSW

Shane M. Jones & Associates, P.A.

#10... My story continues.

Daisy's back after a month break. It wasn't planned; however, a lot has gone on and surprisingly most of it has been positive.

For starters I had to start seeing a new psychiatrist. Let me tell ya; talk about someone on the opposite end of the spectrum than I was used to. This doctor's philosophy is like nothing I have seen before. When I began seeing him, I was on some 20 different medications. Well, after knowing him for 45 minutes he had taken me off of 12 different medications that first day. I didn't know exactly how I felt about that. I'd been on some of those medications for over 20 years. I wouldn't say I was physically addicted to any of them however I feel I did have an emotional attachment to most.

After fifteen plus years I had come to believe I needed those medications. The thought of not having them was extremely uncomfortable and I had some disturbing side effects coming off many.

It was a rough few weeks with bouts of depression, extreme irritability and even thoughts of suicide.

I am on six different medications, and only four are psychotropic. Yes, it feels good to be off so many, but now I have to feel. For decades these medications had numbed my feelings and senses. That in itself was very difficult to get used to. Even after four months I still find myself struggling with this. During this time, I had to come to believe a few things about myself and life in general. I had to believe that my life would go on without those medications. I had to come to believe that more is usually not better. That some of those medications were compounding my problems and not helping. I'm no doctor but out of those twenty medications, I'm sure there were ones that were interfering with each other and causing side effects I definitely didn't need. I needed to begin to see that I deserved to treat myself like someone I was supposed to be caring for. For so long I've been super negative about myself. To put it bluntly, I did not like myself. I truly hated everything I was and all that I thought about myself.

Along with releasing myself from all those medications, I also freed myself from another vice I had been strapped with my entire life. In the past six months I have lost close to 150 pounds. It's amazing how much better I feel and how easier life is. Don't get me wrong; this transformation has not been easy. I haven't worked this hard for anything ever in all my years. But it's amazing

how much better I feel about life and the inner motivation I have found.

Before this change I hated exercise and loved my carbohydrates. I had to

not only make healthy decisions regarding food but also how to be proud and positive about exercise. Let's just say I hated to sweat. I did not partake in manual labor. Now, however I look forward to working out as I feel so much better and positive about myself when I'm

done. I've watched myself go from fat and unhappy to proud and positive.

I still have a ways to go but have come a long way in a short six months. I've learned to believe in myself more, take care of myself in better ways and be proud of the changes I've made. My life is actually looking up and for once I'm not afraid of the future I actually believe I have. I can't remember the last time I was ever remotely this positive about anything in my life.

However, all these changes do come with some fear and uncertainty. Part of me is just waiting for the other shoe to drop. Like it's just too good to be true. I can't remember the last time I thought of myself as a normal and functional human being. As far back as I can recall, I was this fragile "thing" that needed to be rescued, handled with care and watched over by someone because I was unable to do it on my own. To be honest with you, it scares me to death to think of me as out in this oh-so-unkind world alone. For example, my therapist brought up the idea that soon I'll need to see him less often. I didn't say anything at the time, but this idea makes me feel very unsafe and super vulnerable.

My time in this world has been far from "the norm." From a very young age I was hurt by the people who were supposed to love and care for me the most. I am unsure if I'm ready to give up one of the only constants in my life. Yes, in the past months I have come a long way, but underneath I still have those uneasy, fearful, and frightening feelings.

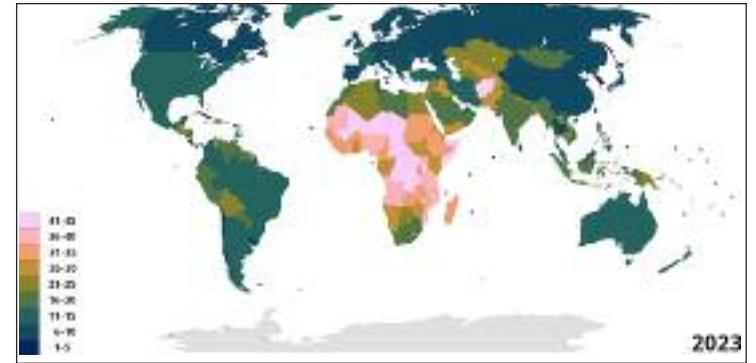
I want to be able to go out farther on my own, rely on others less and be more self-sufficient. I'd say I've made great strides in life recently. However, I don't know if I'm ready to be set free on my own out into this world that can be very undesirable and unforgiving.

More to come...

-Daisy



Worldwide fertility rates declining rapidly



Not that long ago, social scientists were worried about "unsustainable" population growth. Now, the reality is that fertility rates are expected to fall below the replacement rate in every region of the world except sub-Saharan Africa by 2040.

A comprehensive demographic analysis for the Global Burden of Disease Study analyzed global fertility in more than 200 countries between 1950 and 2021 and provides forecasts on future fertility rates to 2100.

"Fertility rates have declined dramatically around the world since 1950 and will continue to decline in almost all countries and territories up to 2100," the report said. "While human civilization is converging on a sustained low-fertility reality, comparatively high fertility rates in some low-income countries and territories will result in a clear demographic divide between a subset of low-income countries and the rest of the world."

According to statista.com, the world's most populous countries are India at 1.435 billion people, having surpassed China at 1.425 billion. Next is the United States at 340 million with 7 million having of those entered through the southern border since January 2021.

The U.N. says earth's population has risen from about 1 billion in 1800 to 2.3 billion in 1940, then 3.7 billion in 1970, and approximately 8 billion in 2022. You'd think that would be enough to sustain civilization.

The global fertility rate has dropped from 4.83 in 1950 to 2.23 in 2021. The total fertility rate is measured as the number of children born per woman. The report defines the replacement-level fertility rate, referring to the "minimum rate necessary for generational replacement of the population," as 2.1.

By 2100, the global fertility rate is projected to be 1.59, well below the replacement level. Even in sub-Saharan Africa, where total fertility rates are expected to remain above replacement level through most of the rest of the century, the total fertility rate is expected to drop to 1.82.

The report elaborates on consequences of declining total fertility rates worldwide,

predicting that "sustained low fertility rates — and a resulting contraction and aging of the population — will lead to serious economic challenges and increasing pressure on health systems, social security programs and the labor force."

In the U.S., according to VOX, the US, the birth rate has "been falling since the Great Recession of 2008, dropping almost 23 percent between 2007 and 2022. Today, the average American woman has about 1.6 children, down from three in 1950, and significantly below the "replacement rate" of 2.1 children needed to sustain a stable population."

In Italy, Vox reports, "12 people now die for every seven babies born. In South Korea, the birth rate is down to 0.81 children per woman. In China, after decades of a strictly enforced one-child policy, the population is shrinking for the first time since the 1960s. In Taiwan, the birth rate stands at 0.87."

Comparatively high fertility rates in poorer regions of the world will lead to "serious challenges related to sustaining and supporting a growing young population in some of the most heat stressed, politically unstable, economically vulnerable, health system-strained locations," researchers said. Implementing policy changes in the immediate future, especially in countries where the total fertility rate is at 1.75 or lower, may help prevent the total fertility rate from falling to the projections outlined in the "reference scenario," the report said.

Today, countries are now paying their citizens to have more children. Russia, one of the countries hit hardest by a decreasing fertility rate, women can receive a one-time lump sum of \$7,000 for families over two children. Hungary introduced loans of \$30,000 to newlyweds. Greece and Italy have bonuses per child.

"Even the richest, savviest, most committed governments have struggled to find policies that produce sustained bumps in fertility," Trent MacNamara, a history professor at Texas A&M who has written about fertility rates. "If such policies were discoverable, I think someone would have discovered them," he told Vox.

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Ancient Biblical manuscript will go up for auction in June

An ancient Biblical manuscript is expected to attract a high price when it goes on sale in June. The Crosby-Schøyen Codex, written on papyrus paper, is dated from A.D. 250 to 350 and is believed to have been produced in one of the first monasteries.

The codex is 104 pages long, was written over a period of 40 years and contains 1 Peter and Jonah. It is one of the oldest books of any kind in existence. Eugenio Donadoni, Christie's senior specialist for medieval and renaissance manuscripts, said Egypt's climate has helped preserve most of the oldest documents found today.

"All the major finds of Christian manuscripts that we had in the 20th century and at the end of the 19th century are all concentrated in Egypt for those very precise climactic conditions," he said.

Early followers of Jesus, "Yeshua" in Hebrew, are credited with "saving" Jewish history and documents. As the church grew and established monasteries, they became a center of Jewish knowledge after the destruction of the Jewish Temple in 70 AD and the dissolution and dispersion of Jewish communities undergoing persecution. These centers, spread from Greece to Egypt, continued to make copies of the Tanakh, the Jewish Bible which for Christians is known as the "Old Testament."

Donadoni expressed his amazement of the manuscript, saying, "It is of monumental importance as a witness to the earliest spread of Christianity around the Mediterranean: The earliest monks in Upper Egypt in the earliest Christian monastery were using this very book to celebrate the earliest Easter celebrations,



only a few hundred years after Christ and only a hundred or so years after the last Gospel was written."

The codex was discovered in the 1950s as part of the Bodmer Papyri, a collection of various Christian and pagan texts found in Egypt. It was bought by the University of Mississippi, where it remained until 1981. After a series of owners, Norwegian manuscript collector Martin Schøyen bought the codex in 1988. Schøyen will auction off the codex, along with other pieces from his manuscript collection, in June at Christie's in New York City. The selling price is expected

to be between \$2.6 million and \$3.8 million pounds.

The codex most likely was constructed for practical use based on its lack of ornamentation and probably was intended to be used by a small Christian community in the area. Its frequent use eventually would lead to the papyrus wearing out, until someone decided "to reinforce it with a modest binding forming a 'cartonnage' with the remains of the first and last surviving leaves," as suggested by the EWTN

Catholic Global News.

It is believed that the codex was then treated as a religious relic rather than a book and kept in a Pachomian monastery in Middle Egypt. It was eventually hidden on a hill with a cache of other documents, perhaps to keep it safe from Muslim invaders, until its discovery in the 1950s.

Like the Dead Sea Scrolls, the Crosby-Schøyen Codex reveals that the current Bible used today remains virtually unchanged from its earliest existence.



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Where's the money going?

Dear Dave,

I have a roommate, and we've shared the same two-bedroom apartment for about three years. During that time, we've always had an agreement that we would split the bills fifty-fifty. But for the last several months, he's been very late paying his half of the bills. There have even been a few times when he didn't pay his part at all, and I had to cover the entire bill. We both work good jobs, so money isn't an issue. He says he's broke, but when I ask him where all his money goes, he just shrugs and acts like he doesn't know. We're good friends, so I don't want to be cruel. How can I approach him about the situation?
— *Mikhail*

Dear Mikhail,

No matter whether you're talking about friendships or business dealings, to be unclear is to be unkind. Believe me, I understand you don't want to be mean to a friend. But situations like this should always be addressed directly and quickly, before things get out of hand.

You said you were good friends, and not just roommates, right? My advice is to suggest a night where you both just hang out at the apartment. Offer to pay for dinner to be delivered, and just relax and watch a movie or a game together. Before the night's over, tell him there's something you've been wanting to talk to him about, and begin an understanding—but firm—conversation about the last few months and the situation with the bills. Let him know he's a good friend, and you

enjoy his company, but the roommate agreement isn't working out because he's not living up to his agreement to pay half the bills. Give him every chance to give a reasonable explanation for things, but make sure he understands that you two aren't going to be able to be roommates much longer unless he starts paying on time.

Being understanding is key in a situation like this, Mikhail. You don't want to approach him with a bunch of accusations, but at the same time, you need to know what's going on. Maybe he needs help learning to budget money properly. You said both of you have good jobs, so that means his money has to be going somewhere. The problem is it sounds like it's not going to the right places.

When a friend is having a rough time, you should always do what you reasonably can do to help. But in this case, he's got obligations he needs—and agreed—to live up to. Do what you can, but in the end, he should understand it's time for him to get his act together.
— *Dave*

You're playing with fire

Dear Dave,

My wife and I owe about \$40,000 on our mortgage. My father-in-law, who is a very nice and generous man, said he wants to pay off the house for us, then let us pay him back over time. We've borrowed much smaller amounts of money from him in the past, and we were always able to repay it with no issues and no pressure. How do you feel about us taking him up on his offer?
— *Seth*

Dear Seth,

I understand you and your wife have been fortunate in these kinds of situations over the years. And I know your father-in-law would probably be a lot easier to work with than a mortgage company when it comes to the size and frequency of payments. But I still

think you're playing with fire if you take him up on the offer.

I assume your father-in-law is doing pretty well financially, since he can afford to make this offer. But the downside is just too risky. If I were him, I might offer to pay off the mortgage as a gift to my daughter and son-in-law. But a loan? No way. There are no strings attached to a gift that comes from the heart.

Don't get me wrong, Seth. I'm not bad-mouthing your father-in-law. What he's making is a very generous offer, and it's an incredibly nice thing to do. But in my mind, a very important consideration is being left out of the equation, and it's a spiritual issue. The borrower is always slave to the lender. Always. And sadly enough, nowhere is that more true than within a family.

Accepting this offer could bring instant discomfort into the relationship for you and your wife. This money situation is likely to hang over things like a dark cloud. Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special occasions will feel different—and kind of weird—when you're suddenly celebrating with your mortgage lender instead of just good, old dad.

Even if you come from a reasonable, stable family, and it sounds to me like your in-laws are very good-hearted folks, this debt will always be in the back of your mind. But if you're involved with a dysfunctional or controlling family, that tension is going to be right there—constantly.

I'd thank your father-in-law for his generosity and for the offer. But in my mind, it's just not worth the risk.
— *Dave*

A Safety Net, Not a Hammock

Dear Dave,

My husband and I are in a bad situation, and we're thinking about taking my parents up on their offer to move in with them. We both work

two jobs. I'm a medical transcriptionist with a small business on the side, and he's a warehouse clerk who is also trying to get a business off the ground. Combined, we bring home about \$70,000 a year, plus we have \$80,000 in debt between credit cards and a car loan. On top of all this, our rent went up 18% at the first of the year, and we can't afford the increase. Should we move in with my folks?
— *Melissa*

Dear Melissa,

I'm not opposed to families jumping into a situation together to solve a problem. That includes grown children moving back home for a short period of time. Sometimes, when the right people are involved (and proper boundary expectations are established and agreed upon), it can work out well for everyone. I just want you to be very careful that you're not using a move like this to mask the real problem.

I'm going to shoot straight with you. The real problem isn't an 18% jump in rent. The real problem is what that rent increase revealed about you both—the fact that you have weak careers. You guys are like two hamsters in a wheel right now. Neither one of you is afraid of work. That much is obvious. And you're working four jobs between the two of you, so there's no lack of effort. But you're not gaining any traction.

You're not making a lot of money, and the debt hanging over your heads isn't helping either.

Your parents are obviously good-hearted people, Melissa. If you do this, I want you, your husband and your folks to go into it with this mindset—your stay with them is a brief stopover on your way to prosperity. Don't go into this—any of you—with an attitude of the world is mean, rent went up, and we can't make it out there. This is a safety net, not a hammock. Use this time to begin addressing your financial issues, and take a long, hard look at your career and income situation. If you use this opportunity wisely, you can emerge in a better place with your money and with getting ahead in your careers.

God bless you all!

— *Dave*

* *Dave Ramsey is an eight-time national bestselling author, personal finance expert and host of The Ramsey Show, the second-largest syndicated talk radio show in America. He has appeared on Good Morning America, CBS Mornings, Today, Fox News, CNN, Fox Business and many more. Since 1992, Dave has helped people regain control of their money, build wealth, and enhance their lives. He also serves as CEO of Ramsey Solutions.*



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Should I downsize my home in retirement?

By Jim Hanna



Hanna

If you are approaching retirement or are already there, you may be considering downsizing your home.

It's a big decision, with ramifications for both your finances and your lifestyle. As you think about downsizing, here are some things to keep in mind:

Decide if a move makes sense. You can expect your needs and priorities to shift in retirement. Perhaps you won't require as much square footage as you did when raising children, or you may find it challenging to keep up with home maintenance like you used to.

It may be financially prudent and personally necessary to get out from under the costs and responsibilities of maintaining a larger property. Your location preference may shift, too. It is common for retirees to desire living closer to family members or in warmer climates.

Create a timeline for your move. Discuss the pros and cons of selling your family home now or in the future. External market factors can affect your next step. Timing the sale of your home and the purchase of a new one can be tricky. Be prepared in the event your home doesn't sell quickly.

Consult a real estate professional. A real estate professional can help you determine what needs to be done before putting your house up for sale. Your home may need repairs to meet code or maximize its list price. Get an appraisal of current market value and decide what you'll be comfortable spending on a new, smaller home.

Review your housing options. Once you decide to downsize, you can start looking for a new place that meets your needs and budget. If you're considering a condo or townhome (two popular options for retirees) make sure to factor in any fees or assessments that are charged to residents when calculating the overall cost of ownership. If you're in need of assisted living services, you'll also want to get a handle on those costs – and whether they can be offset by any long-term care insurance you may have – so you can plan accordingly. In terms of location, you may want to think about the proximity of amenities and services including grocery stores, transportation and your doctor's office.

Be prepared for a multi-gen conversation. A change as impactful as selling your home may prompt conversations with family members on the topic of your estate. Downsizing usually requires whittling down the personal possessions you've acquired over the years. If you're moving to a residence with managed maintenance, you won't need the lawn mower, snowblower, or other tools in your garage. That extra set of dishes might be more useful to someone else. If you're thinking of giving items to family members, be prepared for the possibility of different generations having different interests and attachments to your home and belongings. It can be a good idea to establish how you want to explain to family members your lifestyle goals for retirement, so they can support you through the process.

Review your finances carefully. Take the time to thoroughly review the financial implications of your specific situation. Just because you

are downsizing does not necessarily mean you will suddenly have a cash windfall or establish enormous savings. Remember that HOA expenses, lifestyle changes and upgrades in construction quality can add to costs. Additionally, if you choose to move to a retirement area that has more built-in services, it can increase your cost of living, as well. Taking the time to explore the intricacies of your situation can prepare you for the next steps. And remember: you don't have to do it alone. A qualified financial advisor can help you navigate this complex process with confidence.

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Communists Betray Workers, Teachers Unions Betray Students, Civil Rights Organizations Betray Blacks

By Dennis Prager

The Communist Party of the Soviet Union — like most communist parties — came to power as the great defender of workers.

In reality, the Soviet Communist Party didn't give a hoot about Russian workers. The party was nothing more than a totalitarian organization that used workers to gain power — and then suppressed the proletariat, just as it suppressed every other group. One of the first things the Communist Party did after attaining power was to disband independent labor unions and prohibit workers' strikes. Yes, the "workers' party" banned strikes.

The one major exception was the Chinese Communist Party, which came to power as the great defender of peasants. And the CCP slaughtered about 60 million of them.

This has been the modus operandi of every left-wing group everywhere: Claim concern for some group, and use that group to fool people — specifically, naive liberals, who share few values with the Left but have frequently served as useful idiots for the Left. Liberals do so to this day.

Teachers Unions

Teachers unions are nothing more than left-wing groups that use alleged concern for students to attain and retain power. The reality, however, is while they care about teachers, they harm students far more than they help them.

One example is teachers unions' opposition to school choice. Those who actually care about students support the right of parents to choose their children's schools — just as many teachers do when they send their own children to schools of their choice.

A second example is teachers unions' making it nearly impossible to fire incompetent teachers.

A third example was teachers unions' demands that schools lock down for nearly two years during the COVID-19 era. The unions did so despite there being no scientific evidence in support of school lockdowns and despite ample

warnings that many children would suffer intellectually, scholastically, emotionally and psychologically.

Moreover, wrote John H. Cochrane of the Hoover Institution in the Wall Street Journal, "When schools went remote, parents found out what was actually going on inside the classrooms. Teachers were coaching students to hate themselves, their country and their religious traditions and sexualizing young children."

The last point brings us to a fourth example: Teachers rob young students of their sexual innocence with premature talk of, and books that deal with, overt sexual activity, and the infamous use of drag queens to perform in front of children as young as 6 years old.

Just how left-wing teachers organizations are was made clear by the sympathetic left-wing magazine *The Nation* in January:

"A rank-and-file campaign inside the National Education Association is demanding the president stop 'sending military funding, equipment, and intelligence to Israel.' ... But the rank-and-file campaign goes beyond (that). ... Members want the NEA (National Education Association) to revoke its endorsement of Joe Biden for the 2024 presidential race until the president ... stops 'sending military funding, equipment, and intelligence to Israel.'"

That was only two months after Oct. 7.

Civil Rights Organizations

Most civil rights organizations are also essentially left-wing groups. They use alleged concern for blacks to attain and retain power, but they harm blacks considerably more than they help them.

A glaring example is the near-universal opposition of civil rights groups to school choice despite the fact that black Americans overwhelmingly support it. According to a 2023 RealClear Opinion Research poll, 73% of blacks support school choice — two points more than whites. They do so because large majorities of black students in public schools perform far below grade-level standards.

The reason the largest civil rights or-



ganization, the NAACP, opposes school choice has nothing to do with concern for blacks. It is that the left-wing position — again, the NAACP is a left-wing organization — on school choice is dictated by teachers unions.

Other civil rights organizations' positions that harm blacks include labeling as "racist" the most effective solution to racism: widespread colorblindness; supporting separate dorms and graduations for black college students; and support for lowering academic and professional standards to facilitate black advancement.

Feminist Organizations

Feminist organizations are additional examples of essentially left-wing organizations. The group they use to attain and retain power is women. Just as other left-wing interest groups, they harm the group on whose behalf they allegedly fight — in this case, women — far more than they help them.

The most obvious example is the support of major feminist organizations for men who say they are women participating in women's sports.

From the website of the National Women's Law Center:

"The National Women's Law Center (NWLC) unequivocally supports the inclusion of trans women in women's sports. And if you call yourself a feminist, you should too."

From the website of The Women's Sports Foundation (WSF):

"The Women's Sports Foundation supports the right of all athletes, including transgender athletes, to participate in athletic competition. ..."

In 2022, the WSF wrote a letter to the NCAA protesting any diminution of the right of biological males who say they are females to participate in women's athletics. The letter was cosigned, as expected, by LGBTQIA+ organizations but also by two major feminist organizations in addition to the Women's Sports Federation: the National Organization for Women and the National Women's Political Caucus.

Damaging women has been the primary legacy of organized feminism for the last half-century. That there are more depressed women, especially young women, today than at any other time in modern American history is directly attributable to left-wing influence generally (no religion, no country, no future) and to feminist doctrines specifically: Career is more important than marriage and family, and women can do just fine without a man to love and be loved by.

LGBTQIA+ Organizations

Perhaps the ultimate example of left-wing contempt for the groups they claim to represent is "Queers for Palestine." Palestinian queers have no rights; they face persecution and even death if they expose themselves to their society. Israeli queers are by far the safest, happiest and freest in the Middle East. But hating Israel is the left-wing position. At any cost.

Stadium debate: John Sherman's march to downtown Kansas City

As early voting is already underway for Tuesday's stadium tax vote, promises by proponents are being questioned. More business, more fans, more revenue, and even a pennant-winning team are now the lure.

The cost, about \$2 billion for the works, hotels, restaurants, clubhouses, and stores, is being bandied about like a hot potato between the owners, city, county, state, and others, all while the history of the St. Louis Rams football stadium is fresh at hand in the mind of the Missouri Legislature.

Perhaps a brief overview of the history of baseball stadiums in Kansas City would be beneficial.

First, there are many professional baseball teams with downtown stadiums, including in Detroit, New York, Boston, St. Louis, and other locations, many of which are historical structures.

Boston's stadium was built in 1912; Busch Stadium, on the other hand, was rebuilt in 2006. Detroit built Tiger Stadium in 1912, but Comerica Stadium replaced it in 2000.

Cleveland Municipal Stadium, where the Cleveland Indians played before

1994, was built in 1931, before the Indians moved to Jacobs Field.

The cost of building Jacobs Field was \$175 million, with \$84 million provided by Cleveland taxpayers and \$91 million provided by Indians owner Richard Jacobs.

In 2008, the naming rights were sold to Cleveland-based Progressive Insurance for an annual cost of \$3.6 million per year. In the stadium's opening year, attendance averaged 39,121 fans.

I focus on Cleveland because John Sherman, the majority owner of the Royals, was Vice Chairman of the Cleveland Indians/Guardians before buying a majority share of the Kansas City Royals, and it is his group that is proposing a downtown ballpark.

Kansas City has had its share of baseball teams and stadiums.

The original stadium was built for the Kansas City Monarchs in 1923, where they played from 1923 to 1931, and for the Kansas City Blues, a minor league team. For a while, it also served as a home for the Kansas City Athletics, the Kansas City Spurs soccer team, the Kansas City Royals, and the Kansas City

Chiefs football team.

Originally, it was known as Muehlbach Field from 1923 to 1937, Rupert Stadium from 1937 to 1943, and Blues Stadium from 1943 to 1954.

Initially, it accommodated 17,476 people on a single level, which grew to 30,296 from 1955 to 1961, 34,165 from 1961 to 1969, 34,164 from 1969 to 1971, and 35,561 during its final two years of operation, 1971 and 1972. The original construction cost was \$400,000.

The municipal stadium was integrated between 1923 and 1955, hosting the minor league Kansas City Blues of the American Association and the Kansas City Monarchs of the Negro Leagues.

When the Philadelphia Athletics relocated to Kansas City in 1955 to become the Kansas City Athletics, they almost completely rebuilt the stadium.

Showing my age, I remember going to see the athletes. Once, I was invited to lunch at the family bank along with players from the Angels and the Twins, and on one occasion, my grandfather took me to the game along with his guest, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Earl



Warren. At the time, I was too young to even think of quizzing him on cases. We had great company, and my hero at the time was a player, Bill Tuttle.

Much of the history of stadiums centers around the illustrious owners of the teams. Arnold Johnson was responsible for moving the Athletics from Philadelphia and the Blues, a Yankee farm team, to Denver. Initially, the plan was for him to spend a few years in Kansas City before relocating to Los Angeles. However, in 1955, the Athletics drew 1,393,054 in

attendance, the third highest in baseball, and the Athletics found a home.

In 1960, following Johnson's death, Charles O. Finley bought a controlling interest in the team. He brought a lot of changes: Harvey, the baseball-providing rabbit behind home plate, and new colors, green and gold. He invested \$400,000 of his personal funds to renovate the stadium, for which the city reimbursed him \$300,000.

The lease between Charlie and Kansas

■ Please see STADIUM on page 11

Driven to Want What Others Have



CLINT DECKER

President and Evangelist with Great Awakenings, Inc.

Speaking Truth

"Picture it in your mind." That is what I was taught when I attended a conference soon after graduating from high school. It was to help teach me about goal setting and achieving success like I had read about in books. I wanted to be a famous, accomplished and wealthy businessman. Going down to the new car lot I thought would help. There I found the car of my dreams and visualized myself in the driver seat. Furthermore, on a piece of paper I wrote down how, "I want to succeed so I can have money to buy my dream car."

I was a foolish 19-year-old, and did not realize it. I was driven by the accolades and financial achievements of others. I wanted what they had. Do

you know what that is called? Coveting. It is probably not a word you have used in the last week, but it may be something you have been guilty of too.

The Lord God speaks plainly about this in the Ten Commandments, "You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's." (Exodus 20:17) Coveting is greed. It is where you want more than what you have, or want what someone else has, for selfish gain. Jesus once said, "Take care, and be on your guard against all covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions." (Luke 12:15) And what is coveting driven by? Lust, which is an evil desire that seeks to satisfy its passions, regardless of the cost.

Why is coveting condemned by God? Because of its perilous consequences. A married man covets another woman, which leads to an adulterous affair and a divorce. A woman covets more clothes and shoes, a nicer car and bigger home leading to severe debt problems. A

man covets more achievements, a larger income and a bigger business leading to a wife and children that he rarely sees.

And many crimes are rooted in covetousness. Embezzlement, fraud, theft, robbery, extortion. In the end, divorce, fractured families, bankruptcy, job loss, imprisonment and even murder have all been the fruit of a covetous life.

Throughout human history, our lust for more and more has never been satisfied, but instead has led to self-destruction; for an individual, a family and sometimes even for a nation.

What is the answer to a covetous life?

The Bible says, "But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who [covet] fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction." (1 Timothy 6:6-9)

Here are four principles to an un-



selfish and generous life. 1) Godly contentment. Trust in God, where He alone is enough to satisfy all your desires. 2) Godly gratefulness. Be thankful to God for all you have, whether little or much. 3) Godly character. Put honesty, hard work, giving to others and personal integrity as a higher priority than the collection of things. 4) Godly perspective. Realize that all you get in this life, stays in this life and cannot go to the next. Also understand that God wants you to excel, but to do it for His glory, the good of others and not for selfish gain.

And how can you live like this? Only through Jesus. His sacrificial death and resurrection provided a way for you to be forgiven. And when you turn to Him, He will fill you with

Himself and all you need to live a godly life that is filled with His joy, thankfulness and peace.

A prayer for you – Lord God, search each of our hearts if we are living a covetous life. Are we coveting another's spouse? Are we coveting someone else's successes? Are we coveting material things? If so, Lord, we call upon you to transform us. Change our hearts. Bring us to be content with all you have given us. In Jesus' name. Amen.

—Clint Decker is President of Great Awakenings. Share your comment at cdeckergreatawakenings.org and follow his blog at clintdecker.blogspot.com. Join Clint on a journey to Israel in November

The Dirty Dozen: List of sexually exploitative companies released



The National Center on Sexual Exploitation has released its annual list of 12 mainstream contributors to sexual exploitation. This year's rankings includes big tech companies, online retailers and a U.S. law that is at the root of all tech platform's failure to prioritize safety.

Apple's record is rotten when it comes to child protection. This big tech titan refuses to detect child sex abuse material, hosts dangerous apps with deceptive age ratings and descriptions, and won't default safety features for teens.

Cash App. "Do more with your money" shouldn't apply to buying sex and paying for abusive content. This peer-to-peer payment app appeals to pimps, predators and pedophiles looking for a covert way to conduct criminal activity.

Communications Decency Act Section 230. The Greatest Enabler of Online Sexual Exploitation. Misinterpretations of Communications Decency Act Section 230 grant big tech blanket immunity for any and all types of sexual abuse and exploitation they facilitate. Until we amend CDA 230, corporations can't be held accountable.

Providing a platform for sex buyers, traffickers and deep fakers. Cloudflare says it wants to build a better internet. So why does it provide services to some of the most prolific prostitution forums and deep-fake sites?

Discord is a hotspot for dangerous interactions and deep fakes. This platform is popular with predators seeking to groom kids and with creeps looking to create, trade or find sexually abusive content of children and unsuspecting adults.

The world's largest professional network is an amateur when it comes to stemming sexual exploitation.

LinkedIn legitimizes Pornhub and other exploitative enterprises by providing them a platform, overlooks users promoting deep-fake pornography tools and fails to stop rampant sexual harassment against women.

"Moving fast" and making money at all costs leaves children to pay the price. Meta's launch of end-to-end encryption, open-sourced AI and virtual reality are unleashing new worlds of exploitation, while its platforms such as Instagram continue to rank among the most dangerous for kids.

Microsoft's GitHub. Microsoft's GitHub is the global hub for creating sexually exploitative AI tech. The vast majority of deep fakes, "nudify" apps

and AI-generated child sex abuse content originates on this platform owned by the world's richest company.

Reddit is riddled with sexploitation. Child sex abuse material, sex trafficking and image-based sexual abuse hide in plain sight among endless pornography subreddits allowed on this platform, content which will be further monetized now that Reddit is public.

Roblox treats child protection like a game. Among the avatars, blocks and buildings, kids are exposed to predators, rape-themed games and age-inappropriate content such as sex parties.

"MusicPorn for everyone." Sexu-

ally explicit images, sadistic content and networks trading child sex abuse material on its platform prove Spotify is out of tune with basic child safety measures and moderation practices.

Known as the "dark web alterna-

tive," Telegram unleashes a new era of exploitation. Messaging app Telegram serves as a safe haven for criminal communities across the globe. Sexual torture rings, sextortion gangs, deep-fake bots and more all thrive on an alarming scale.

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John Lindell, Mark Driscoll reconcile but comments spark further controversy

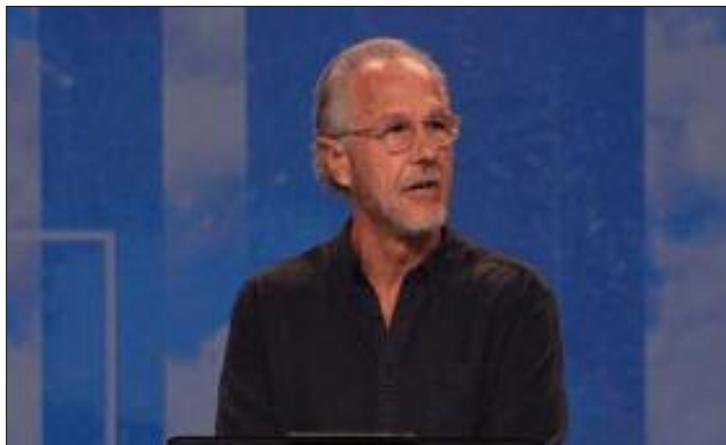
The Stronger Men's Conference in Springfield last weekend made national headlines when speaker Mark Driscoll rebuked what he called the "Jezebel spirit." Although John Lindell, pastor of conference sponsor James River Church, told him he was "out of line" and removed him from the platform, he later invited him back.

Social media commentators and pastors continue to speak out after reviewing the videos.

Critics of the event have been quick to point out flaws and accountability issues.

"What @johnlindell said after he invited Driscoll back on stage at the Stronger Men's Conference is FAR worse than the sword-swallowing performance," posted Jon Root on Twitter. "The fact thousands of men clapped and cheered at this false teaching breaks my heart."

As the two appeared on stage, Lindell said "You have to be careful that you do not criticize people who have the anointing of God on their lives." The remark drew applause and gasps from the audience as Lindell continued. "Better to say nothing. Because what happens is once you begin to criticize someone who has the anointing on



them, you're in the flesh."

Lindell then argued that Driscoll should have addressed his concerns privately with him before airing his grievances on the main platform according to video later posted to social media.

But before that, Lindell also sparked further controversy when he stated no one should fellowship with Driscoll until he repented. In a video posted online, Lindell also said that people should not criticize "anointed" leaders. That remark sparked outrage among many who believe there should be more, not less, accountability within church leadership.

Later, in a follow-up appearance,

Driscoll apologized to Lindell for his handling of the situation.

"I love this guy; I believe in this guy," Lindell said of Driscoll. "Let me tell you what I said to my sons as we were sitting over there as Mark was talking: 'You want to know what John the Baptist was like? Mark's a prophetic voice to our generation.' Nothing about what was said changes that."

He went on to say he and Driscoll spoke privately after the incident and reaffirmed their friendship. Lindell then called Driscoll "a gift to the Kingdom" and "a gift to James River."

After thanking Lindell for having "such a great heart for men"

and leading what he described as "the greatest men's event in the country right now," Driscoll acknowledged the James River pastor's "spiritual authority" over the conference, admitting he was wrong in how he addressed his concerns.

"I believe what I should have done, since I had another session, I was thinking about it," he said. "It wasn't in my notes; I didn't intend to go there. I was up late praying for the men. I should have, between sessions, talked to you rather than just verbal processing on the stage. And as the father and the head of this house, you could've given me a thumbs up or thumbs

down, and I need to honor that as spiritual authority. And I honor your spiritual authority — always have.

"So I apologize to you for not going that route, which would have led us away from the most awkward moment in the history of any men's event. And if I were you, I wouldn't let me speak again. That's something you should worry about."

Lindell then allowed Driscoll to present his planned message.

The church posted a video (below) to social media commending a successful men's event but the sword-swallowing event and pole were not included in the images.



STADIUM

continued from page 1

City honored his desire to keep the team in Kansas City, right up to the time he executed an escape clause in the document, and in 1968, the team moved to Oakland.

Fortunately, Kansas City earned an expansion team in 1969, the Royals, a name that had nothing to do with the Monarchs' history but had everything to do with the American Royal. It also had everything to do with the owner, Ewing Kauffman, who instituted a complete player development system that resulted in two World Series wins.

In 1973, Kauffman Stadium opened in Kansas City at the intersection of I-435 and I-70, acknowledging the dispersed fan base of both the Royals and Chiefs across numerous states and counties.

I can remember catching the Royals on radio from Chanute, Kansas, and later in Colorado, before Colorado had its own team, the Rockies. The joint stadiums not only allowed for access but also shared parking and other amenities. Kauffman Stadium initially had seats for 40,793.

Ewing Kauffman died in 1993, and his estate maintained ownership until 2000, when David Glass bought them.

In 2007, Royals Stadium was refurbished. The seating capacity was lowered to 37,903, and the cost of renovating the stadium, which was \$250 million, was borne by Jackson County, Missouri residents, and Royals management. As a result, Jackson County residents were given a preference for Royals tickets.

In 2020, the majority ownership of the Royals was sold to John Sher-

man, with a host of Kansas Citians as minor owners.

In 2022, John Sherman, in an open letter, called for a downtown ballpark for the Royals.

Despite the current lease on the Royals' Stadium running until 2031, the Royals have proposed a \$2 billion expenditure, a mixture of public and private funds, that will supposedly create 20,000 jobs and an estimated \$2.8 billion in economic output.

Like many, I question the numbers, site selection, and secondary expenses, like infrastructure. I also question whether a different location can spur a team to winning seasons. There are a great many unknowns: the cost of real estate, the displacement of people and businesses, the destruction of historic structures, and even the sources of funding for the project.

I am reminded of the T-Mobile Center and the words of Mayor Barnes in 2007, "If we build it, they will come," meaning a professional basketball or hockey franchise. We're still waiting on that team.

I am reminded of Charles O. Finley, who promised to keep baseball in Kansas City. I am reminded of why we needed a new airport, promised not to be funded by public tax sources but with no improvement in infrastructure getting to and from it. Perhaps a great deal will depend on the city itself.

Unlike Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, or LA, our Royals belong to the counties, cities, and states surrounding Kansas City and Jackson County, as well as Kansas City. During a period when numerous baseball teams are experiencing a decline in fan base, I seek additional answers to unasked questions.

An early location was near the Kansas City Star building, another tax mess that Kansas City would rather forget. After receiving a tax abatement, McClatchy, the owner of the Kansas City Star, transitioned to private ownership, being acquired by Chatham Asset Management, and the building was vacated by the Star in 2021. The building is now owned by the Privatera family, who are inclined to sell it to the Royals.

The Jackson County Legislature, mindful of the consequences of every political move, voted 8 to 1 in January to extend the current 3/8% sales tax for 40 years, dividing it equally between the Chiefs and Royals.

The only questions remaining are whether Jackson Countians will vote to continue the sales tax or believe it's a \$2 billion trick play.

—Robert White is a local historian

Ministry helps combat 'epidemic' of fatherlessness

Sean Teis, who was abandoned by his father at a young age, calls fatherlessness a national epidemic.

"The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says that fatherless children are at dramatically greater risk of drug and alcohol abuse, mental illness, suicide, poor educational performance, teen pregnancy and criminality," he states. "We look at our country, and we're like, 'Why are all these things happening? Why are all these people committing crimes? Why is all this abortion happening?' And it's not always from fatherlessness, but many times these kids are growing up without a dad, without a mom, without both."

Teis and his wife, Jackie, founded Life Factors Fatherless Ministries, which



equips individuals to fulfill James 1:27 through practical ministry in their churches and communities to fatherless families. The ministry, which has the stated aim of "spreading awareness, cre-

ating unique resources, speaking, partnering with local churches and establishing local fatherless family ministries and support for these families nationwide," employs a multifaceted approach to

combat this crisis.

Initiatives range from informative books such as "The Fatherless Journey for Guys" and "The Fatherless Journey for Girls" to digital resources and mobile applications such as GodismyDad.com. The ministry also advocates for mentoring and local church involvement, offering a non-programmatic, organic approach to support.

"The 'God is my Dad' brand has been such a positive thing for children who don't have an earthly dad," Teis said. "God is my dad and he cares about me. It's my story, too: God's my dad and through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, God will be your heavenly father."

Despite the evident need for addressing fatherlessness, Teis, a former youth

pastor himself, said there's been a significant challenge in gaining widespread attention from both cultural and, tragically, religious platforms.

"It's been an uphill climb, really, over the past 15-plus years trying to get pastors to take this issue seriously," he said. "It's affecting every single person in the United States of America, we try to tell people that in churches, when I speak, it's affecting everybody. But they don't want to shine a light on it. I'm not bashing pastors, but I honestly believe that churches need to shine a light on this, and we have resources to help them with that."

Now a father of three himself, Teis said he's even more determined to break the cycle of fatherlessness.

The federal push for massive mail-in prison voting



A federal effort to register voters using the government's vast reach, including throughout the U.S. prison system, is raising concerns from critics who have said it won't benefit Democrats and Republicans equally.

Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson wrote to U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland on March 6 alleging that agencies under the attorney general's charge are "attempting to register people to vote, including potentially ineligible felons, and to co-opt state and local officials into accomplishing this goal."

The allegation relates to President Joe Biden's Executive Order 14019, which states, "The head of each agency shall evaluate ways in which the agency can, as appropriate and consistent with applicable law, promote voter registration and voter participation."

Among other things, this order has

forced U.S. Marshals to modify more than 900 contracts with prisons and jails to provide voter registration documents and facilitate mail-in voting for inmates, Mr. Watson wrote.

"We have worked extremely hard to restore the confidence of Mississippi voters in our election process," Mr. Watson told The Epoch Times. "To have the Biden administration and the DOJ purposefully undermine these efforts and jeopardize the integrity of Mississippi's elections is unacceptable."

The secretary of state is the chief election officer in Mississippi.

The work by the Department of Justice to register voters in prisons, critics say, is just the tip of the iceberg.

Other agencies, including the Department of Education, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and

Urban Development, are also carrying out campaigns to sign up new voters.

On Feb. 26, Vice President Kamala Harris lauded a federal plan to use work-study grants to pay students to register voters.

In addition, President Biden's executive order directed federal agencies to select "approved, nonpartisan third-party organizations and state officials to provide voter registration services on agency premises."

President Biden's executive order was called "visionary" by Ceridwen Cherry, a former staff attorney on the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Voting Rights Project, who said, "In a democracy, governments at all levels should be doing everything they can to help eligible people register to vote."

However, critics say elections are under the purview of states, not the federal government.

"The reason it's such a big problem is that, with the president, it's only one political party that's in power," Stewart Whitson, legal director of the Foundation for Government Accountability (FGA), a conservative think-tank, told The Epoch Times.

"If you allow the president to be the one to decide where all these massive resources are channeled, that's problematic," he said, adding that this is why the Founders gave election authority to states and not to the federal executive.

Implementation Questions

The plan has been called "Bidenbucks" by some of its detractors, referencing the injection into state election programs of \$400 million in 2020 from Facebook co-founder Mark Zuckerberg, dubbed "Zuckerbucks."

"This is Zuckerberg on steroids because instead of \$400 million, it's unlimited funding and resources and the reach of the federal government and all its offices located across the

country," Mr. Whitson said.

President Biden's executive order includes the directive for federal agencies to find ways to distribute "vote-by-mail ballot application forms" as well as assist applicants in completing the application "in a manner consistent with all relevant State laws."

Read the full story at *TheEpochTimes* | reprinted with permission | by Kevin Stocklin

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White evangelicals have one of highest retention rates of religious groups surveyed



White evangelicals have one of the highest retention rates of all religious groups, keeping three-fourths of their members last year, a survey by the Public Religion Research Institute found. Black Christians are number one.

This was an improvement over 2016, when white evangelicals retained only two-thirds of their members, with the report noting that the “net loss of members among white evangelical Protestants has declined.” The religious groups that did the best at retain-

ing members were black Protestants (82 percent) and Jewish Americans (77 percent), while white mainline Protestants “continue losing more members than they replace and at higher rates than other Protestants.” Catholics continue to lose more members than they gain, with the retention rate for Hispanic Catholics (68 percent) being slightly higher than white Catholics (62 percent).

More than one-fourth of Americans identified as religiously unaffiliated in 2023, an increase from

the 21 percent reported in 2013. The religiously unaffiliated was the only major religious category experiencing growth, according to the survey. Among Americans who left a religious tradition to become unaffiliated, 35 percent were former Catholics and 35 percent were mainline Protestants.

“After observing the growth of unaffiliated Americans for decades, our survey confirms that this trend is not slowing,” said Melissa Deckman, CEO of the institute. “While most Americans are still religious, the ranks of the unaffiliated will

continue to swell with both Americans who leave their religion — increasingly because of religious teachings about LGBTQ people — as well as those who are now being raised in religiously unaffiliated households.”

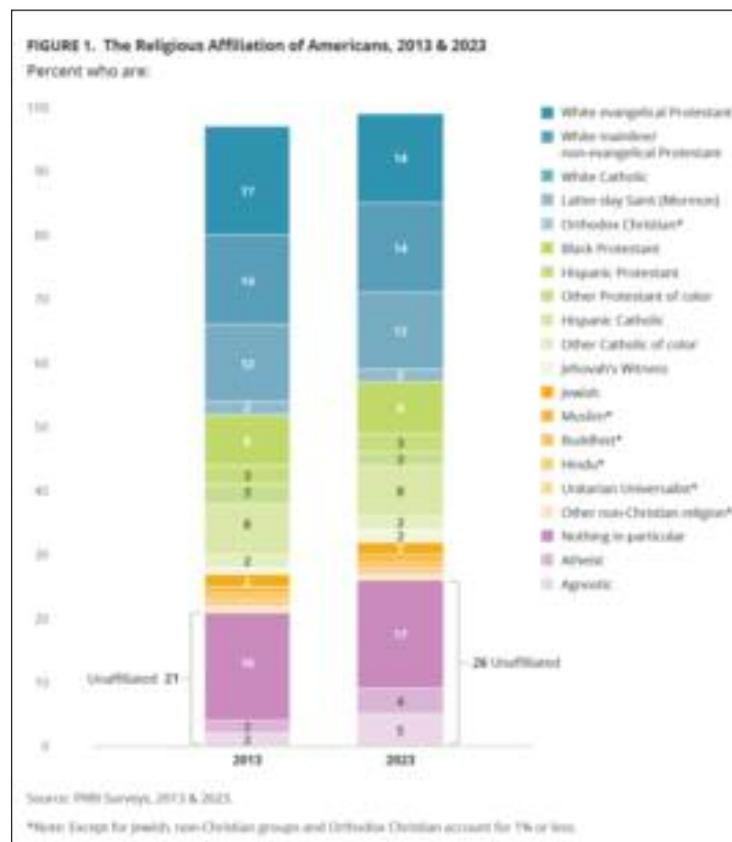
In recent years, there has been much debate over whether the decline in white evangelical Americans was accelerating because of

various factors, including media portrayals of white evangelicals overwhelmingly supporting President Donald Trump. In 2021, the Pew Research Center released a report finding that the percentage of white Americans who identified as born again or evangelical during the Trump administration increased.

TABLE 2. Religious Switching in the U.S in 2023
Percent of the general population:

	Childhood Affiliation	Entering Group	Leaving Group	Current Affiliation	Retention Rate	Net Gain/Loss
White evangelical Protestant	13.6	3.4	3.3	13.7	0.76	0.1
White mainline/non-evangelical Protestant	18.7	3.4	7.8	14.3	0.58	-4.4
Black Protestant	8.9	0.5	1.6	7.9	0.82	-1.1
Hispanic Protestant	2.8	1.4	0.9	3.3	0.67	0.5
Other Protestant of color	2.7	0.3	0.9	2.1	0.67	-0.5
White Catholic	17.8	0.7	6.7	11.8	0.62	-6.0
Hispanic Catholic	11.6	0.4	3.7	8.2	0.68	-3.4
Latter-day Saint	1.8	0.5	0.5	1.8	0.7	0.0
Other Christian	4.7	0.7	1.6	3.8	0.65	-0.9
Jewish	2.2	0.3	0.5	2.0	0.77	-0.2
Other non-Christian religion	3.6	2.0	1.5	4.2	0.6	0.6
Unaffiliated	10.4	18.1	2.5	26	0.76	15.6

Source: PRRI, Religious Change Survey, Nov. 16-Dec. 7, 2023.



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Churches are tapping into pickleball to share the gospel

Some find the constant pop of the wiffle ball batted about by oversized ping pong paddles annoying. Others see pickleball as encouraging exercise, multigenerational competition, and camaraderie.

Regardless, it's here to stay.

It's called the fastest-growing recreational sport in the U.S., although it has been around since 1965, invented as a family diversion at Bainbridge Island, Wash.

With short 11-point games, mostly played by doubles teams, people of varying abilities can occupy the same court space. Open play allows for multiple combinations of players, while leagues may be geared to established teams or rotating partners.

Churches from California to Missouri and Kansas to New England and Florida have discovered how to tap into this phenomenon for ministry purposes.

A big city league of its own

First Baptist Dallas runs seasonal pickleball leagues in its Wicker gym.

Brent McFadden, the church's sports and recreation minister, said he first heard about pickleball in a staff meeting a few years ago when a colleague suggested the sport be offered at the church.

"We all laughed," McFadden recalled. "We asked, 'What is this thing called pickleball?'" They taped lines on the gym floor and hosted a league in 2018. The response was "all right," McFadden said. Then COVID hit and interest dwindled. That was soon to change.

When his brother-in-law, a sports statistician, was isolated in the NBA's competition "bubble" during the 2020 COVID season, the sport reappeared on McFadden's radar.

"My brother-in-law got into it with the referees and statisticians playing pickleball every day during that isolation," he said. "He told me that the sport was taking off."

By 2022, McFadden and team installed permanent pickleball lines at the church gym and leagues resumed, joining the list of adult and youth recreational activities such as volleyball, youth basketball, cheerleading, golf, and soccer camps offered at the church.

A higher purpose

McFadden, a former college baseball player who once worked in the front office of the Oakland A's Double-A affiliate, didn't originally intend to work in sports ministry. But he found community outreach events required of his position with the A's compelling, and he began to see a higher purpose.

A mentor told him, "If you run a sports ministry just to play sports, without it being Christ-centered, what's the good in that?"

"I truly want [participants] to get more out the experiences [at the church] than just to play sports," McFadden said, adding that pickleball offers unique opportunities for socialization and ministry. So, he provides weekly video devotionals with Scripture and applications for

league teams to watch.

"I don't want to provide a way for people just to connect physically, but also to connect with Jesus spiritually," he added.

"A lot of people want to play," he said. First Dallas offers three seasonal leagues per year. Players sign up in teams of two and the church helps prospective players find partners if needed.

Men's and mixed doubles league play occurs during the church's Sunday afternoon Discipleship University time. Women's play hasn't proved as popular, McFadden said, but may be added in the future.

Some 80 players of mixed ages participated in the fall 2023 league; 36 teams signed up for the winter 2024 league.

The fall mixed league winner was Kay Seamayer, an 83-year-old senior women's basketball champion known as "Granny Globetrotter." She teamed with Jim Lockhart, in his 60s, to win the league, illustrating one of pickleball's distinctives: an octogenarian can take down millennials with well-placed dinks, drives, lobs, and placement over power.

But the spiritual possibilities far outweigh all other benefits.

"Sports ministry is so crucial ... an opportunity to bring people into your church who likely have not heard of Christ or heard very little. His ways are always better. That is the exciting part to me," McFadden said.

Small city pickleball vibes

Pickleball is relatively inexpensive and



easy to learn. An average church gym with a full-sized basketball court has room for three pickleball courts, which are about one-fourth the size of tennis courts. Sturdy, good-quality portable nets cost less than \$200.

This accessibility is one of the reasons Jerry Don Gleaton started offering pickleball at Brownwood's Coggin Avenue Baptist Church about four years ago. The former Major League Baseball player and Coggin's activities director said members recommended the sport.

Gleaton initially started opening the gym for pickleball on Monday nights, then added daytime playtimes, some in conjunction with the newly formed Brownwood Pickleball Club. The church made the initial investment in portable nets, which the club replaces as needed.

"We see people getting invited to play pickleball and then getting invited to church," Gleaton said.

One indoor play date per week is reserved for Coggin members and guests, an effort spearheaded by church member Sandy Joyner, who also sets up separate

playtimes at the city's public courts.

"It's a great ministry," Joyner said. "Pickleball has brought community to so many."

Joyner said her prayer is that "God will touch people's hearts and connect those who desperately need community and ultimately, Jesus!"

Another Coggin member, Jina Joss, used pickleball to invite women to a home Bible study on prayer, posting the details on the Brownwood Pickleball Club's Facebook page. About 15 women signed up for the six-week study, and whoever feels like it after each session hangs around to play on nearby private courts.

"We all play pickleball. We have community in that, so I thought pickleball would be a good segue into Bible study," Joss said.

"Pickleball lends itself to conversation," she added. "It's all about fellowship. Why not include Bible study in that? Why not fellowship with Jesus?"

—Jane Rogers / Baptist Press / used with permission

More than 1,200 churches left Southern Baptist Convention in 2022



The Southern Baptist Convention lost more than 1,200 churches in 2022, according to the SBC's 2022 Annual Church Profile, which was released this week by Lifeway

Research. The losses in 2022 were an increase from the previous two years, when 1,003 congregations closed and left in 2021 and the SBC lost 1,002 congregations in 2020.

"Every week, the national network of Southern Baptist congregations changes," said Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research. "Once each year, we take a snapshot of the current Southern Baptist congregations to report national statistics. Later, analysis between annual lists of congregations reveals more details of these constant changes."

The primary reason congregations no longer are considered active Southern Baptist congregations is that they cease to exist. Around four in five of the missing congregations disbanded or closed. Aside from the congregations that disbanded or closed

with a reason given, most other previously Southern Baptist congregations either left the convention or were disaffiliated.

In May 2023, Lifeway published a report showing that the SBC saw a decline of approximately 457,000 people, which is the largest membership drop in a century. Total SBC membership went from roughly 13.68 million members in 2021 to 13.22 million members in 2022. "457,371 members lost is the largest single-year numerical drop in more than 100 years," the report said.

The SBC lost 416 member congregations.

"Much of the downward movement we are seeing in membership

reflects people who stopped participating in an individual congregation years ago, and the record keeping is finally catching up," McConnell said at the time. "Membership totals for a congregation immediately reflect additions as well as subtractions due to death or someone removing themselves from membership. But many congregations are slow to remove others who no longer are participating."

Despite the losses, the reported SBC membership is still more than the approximately seven million reported in 1950 but several million below the peak of roughly 16.3 million people reported in 2006.

Veteran NPR editor blows whistle on newsroom bias

A longtime National Public Radio editor has confirmed what most listeners already knew — as a “public” media entity, NPR does not reflect America. Democrats outnumber Republicans in the newsroom by a margin of 87-0, according to senior business editor Uri Berliner. You can listen to an interview with him below.

Berliner, who has won numerous awards for his NPR reporting, pointed in particular to its flawed coverage of the Hunter Biden laptop, Russiagate and the COVID lab-leak theory, and he also claimed NPR leadership’s reaction to the George Floyd killing in 2020 was to declare systemic racism was “a given” and “our mission was to change it.” He said the lack of “viewpoint diversity” had spilled over into how NPR covered such topics as the Israel-Gaza war and avoided terms such as “biological sex” in its reporting.

“An open-minded spirit no longer exists within NPR, and now, predictably, we don’t have an audience that reflects America,” he began the column.

He goes on to say, “I’m offering three examples of widely followed stories

where I believe we faltered. Our coverage is out there in the public domain. Anyone can read or listen for themselves and make their own judgment. But to truly understand how independent journalism suffered at NPR, you need to step inside the organization.”

“So on May 3, 2021, I presented the findings at an all-hands editorial staff meeting,” Berliner wrote. “When I suggested we had a diversity problem with a score of 87 Democrats and zero Republicans, the response wasn’t hostile. It was worse. It was met with profound indifference. I got a few messages from surprised, curious colleagues. But the messages were of the ‘oh wow, that’s weird’ variety, as if the lopsided tally was a random anomaly rather than a critical failure of our diversity north star.”

Berliner, who has been at NPR for 25 years, “eagerly” voted against Donald Trump in 2016 and 2020 but wrote that he found NPR’s advocacy-style coverage of his presidency wrongheaded. He said



he’d had regular conversations with news leaders about the homogeneous political culture, to no avail.

“Throughout these exchanges, no one has ever trashed me,” he said. That’s not the NPR way. People are polite. But nothing changes. So I’ve become a visible wrong-thinker at a place I love. It’s uncomfortable, sometimes heartbreaking.”

Berliner noted that polling showed NPR’s audience had become significantly less diverse over the years as well, going from slightly left-leaning overall in 2011 to overwhelmingly so by 2023.

“Only 11 percent described themselves as very or somewhat conservative, 21 percent as middle of the road, and 67 percent

of listeners said they were very or somewhat liberal,” he said. “An openminded spirit no longer exists within NPR, and now, predictably, we don’t have an audience that reflects America. That wouldn’t be a problem for an openly polemical news outlet serving a niche audience. But for NPR, which purports to consider all things, it’s devastating, both for its journalism and its business model.”

NPR was quick to defend itself, not waiting for an internal investigation to see if the accusations had merit.

NPR’s chief news executive, Edith Chapin, wrote to staff Tuesday afternoon the news leadership team rejected Berliner’s assessment.

“We’re proud to stand behind the exceptional work that our desks and shows do to cover a wide range of challenging stories,” she wrote. “We believe that inclusion — among our staff, with our sourcing, and in our overall coverage — is critical to telling the nuanced stories of this country and our world.”

However, the problem at NPR is something all of mainstream media is grappling with. New York Times publisher A.G. Sulzberger warned last year against journalists embracing a stance of what he calls “one-side-ism”: “where journalists are demonstrating that they’re on the side of the righteous.”

“I really think that that can create blind spots and echo chambers,” he said.

Berliner’s account of what’s happening behind the microphone at NPR may have already been noticed by listeners. The media outlets mobile web traffic is down 75% from 2022.

He ends by offering path forward.

“With declining ratings, sorry levels of trust, and an audience that has become less diverse over time, the trajectory for NPR is not promising. Two paths seem clear. We can keep doing what we’re doing, hoping it will all work out. Or we could start over, with the basic building blocks of journalism. We could face up to where we’ve gone wrong. News organizations don’t go in for that kind of reckoning. But there’s a good reason for NPR to be the first: we’re the ones with the word public in our name,” he states.

Church plant in Columbia reaches secularized student population

Church planter Colby Corsaut has found his latest mission field on the University of Missouri campus in Columbia.

“As a missiologist, it was pretty shocking to look at the city and see the lostness,” he said, according to “The Pathway.” “There are 100 nationalities here. There

are students, there are refugees. Over 65 percent of the general population and 85 percent of the collegiate population identify as non-religious.

“By some statistics, it’s the fastest growing city in Missouri but just far enough outside the major cities that no one feels responsible for it. All 50 states and all 114 of Missouri’s counties are represented here, so it’s unbelievably influential.”

Although there still are solid churches in the college town, theological drift and liberalism have caused that number to shrink dramatically over the years, with the



gospel’s visibility shrinking with it. More Bible-believing churches are needed to minister to and train vast swaths of the population, especially college students.

“There’s a desperation among the existing Christians here to see God do something, but the idea of winning almost seems like a foreign concept,” Corsaut said. “But if you can reach people in these places, they often become the best missionaries to go anywhere else, whether they’re going back to Kansas City or Bangladesh.”

Corsaut comes to mid-Missouri by way of 10 years of collegiate min-

istry at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, followed by time as an International Mission Board church planter in France. When he and his family began to feel God’s call to Missouri, they knew they

wanted to focus on college students to ensure the church continues with fresh generations of leaders.

“The number of pastors in their 60s has tripled over the last few years,” he said. “There’s just not a ton of guys in the pipeline between 18 and 40.”

Corsaut is partnering with The Bridge Collegiate Ministry, a new Baptist presence at the University of Missouri started by Missouri Baptist campus missionary Scott Westfall. The ministry has grown to 20 to 30 students.

“We want to see that collegiate

work be the spear tip that reaches tons of young leaders and funnels them back to not just The King’s Church, but also our existing sister

churches,” he said. “We’d love to train them as youth pastors, children’s workers and maybe give them an opportunity to preach.”

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FOGchurch.com

Spring Activities continue in NOTO

Exhibiting this month inside the NOTO Arts Center Morris Gallery, "A Fine Art 7.0" photography exhibition. Curated by Barbara Waterman-Peters, this exhibit features selected fine art photographers for this seventh iteration of this annual photography exhibition. This exhibition brings together some of the most interesting work being produced in the region. Our gallery hours are Wednesdays 11-5, Thursdays and Fridays 11-7 and Saturdays 10-4 and by appointment.

For First Friday on May 3, Quincy Elementary Visual Arts Signature School welcomes everyone to visit and view the student art show at the NOTO Arts Center Rosebud Community Room, and see the food-themed artwork inspired by artists like Wayne Theibaud to Paul Cezanne. All made by our talented K-5 elementary students! If you see something you fancy, why not buy it? All the student artwork is for sale, and all the

proceeds go right back to the student artists. Promote an entrepreneurial spirit and put a smile on a student's face by supporting the arts today! Other activities include:

- Food Songs with Quincy Music Program from 4PM-5PM. Quincy music students will be dishing up a varied menu of songs centered on our favorite theme: FOOD. Whet your appetite with some familiar ditties and take a heaping plateful of several new numbers as we serve course after course of tasty tunes. Bring your appetite and be ready for some fun entertainment!

- OUTDOOR PAINTING with a FREE 9" x 12" CANVAS 4:00 PM-6:00 PM. You can also enjoy an interactive art station just outside the NOTO Arts Center in the Teeter Courtyard. Quincy families and the public alike are welcome to



paint whatever their hearts desire! Stop by to receive a FREE 9" x 12" canvas and paints, and let your creativity flow!

- Pinback Button-Making. Activity is available to the public with a \$1.00 donation. Create your own design with Sharpie Marker.

Also on May 3, Rogue Events will feature an unforgettable evening of live music, mouthwatering cuisine, artisanal cocktails, and delectable gourmet treats! Join us as we groove to the soulful tunes of Layni Hernandez, indulge in the flavors of local caterers, and explore an array of gourmet smores options. There's something to delight every palate! All ages welcome, \$7 cover for adults 18+.

Also on May 3, Kit Barley will be featured 3-5pm at Artismo Gallery & Bistro, From 7-9pm, get rocked and rolled with TNT (\$5 cover), and then from 9-10:30 party with Prooph, Bquet featuring ITH (\$5 cover). Artismo is also now featuring a Sunday Paint & Sip from 3:00 - 5:00pm.

On May 17, join Compass Point, home of Dirty Girl Adventures, for LIVE MUSIC on the Courtyard with Topeka classic ... Paradize Band at 7pm! \$10 cover.

In Redbud Park on May 17, see Severio Mancieri at 7pm as the NOTO Summer Concert Series begins, a celebration of music that strives to offer culturally rich experiences for the community through a diversity of genres and performers. In addition to regionally acclaimed bands, concerts feature a local emerging artist as the opening act. With the intentional focus on diverse music, the vibe of NOTO, and the intimacy of Redbud Park, these FREE concerts are like none other in the community.

Mancieri is a traveling troubadour from Duluth, Minnesota. Currently traveling the Midwest like a nomad in a Minivan. Born 3 months early and asthmatic, he's been playing piano since 6 and guitar since 10. In the last three years, he's done over 325 shows, has released an EP "Can I", a music video to accompany it, and a full length album "A Thousand Feet From The Sun". This is an artist you won't want to miss.

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

the events calendar

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

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 grandootpry@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 – May 1, 11-1, Every Plaza. Rewind
EATS AND BEATS – May 2, 11-1, Every Plaza. The Bash

WOOD VALLEY PICKERS – May 3, 7:30pm, Classic Bean, Fairlawn Plaza. Folk & Country, Free admission. 785-271-5005

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

LIVE AT LUNCH – May 8, 11-1, Every Plaza. Blacktop Thunder

EATS AND BEATS – May 9, 11-1, Every Plaza. Alter Ego

MILLTOWN BAND – May 10, 7-10pm, Compass Point, 800 N. Kansas Ave.

LIVE AT LUNCH – May 15, 11-1, Every Plaza. Colin Nichols

EATS AND BEATS – May 16, 11-1, Every Plaza. Megan Luttrell - Departure

COMMUNITY CHAMBER ORCHESTRA - May 17, 7pm, Morganville (closed) School, 307 Main, Morganville, KS. Family-friendly classical music program presenting KSU's new violin and viola faculty member, Dr. Madeleine Jansen, as our violin soloist on the first work by Dvorak, followed by famous works of Barber, Telemann and Mozart. Contact: Dr. Anne Clark, 785-926-4725 or baclark@twinvalley.net. website: www.kansasmusic.net. Admission: \$8/person or \$18/family

LIVE AT LUNCH – May 22, 11-1, Every Plaza. Howard Mahan and Mike P

EATS AND BEATS – May 23, 11-1, Every Plaza. B Howard Crist – Chance Encounter

LIVE AT LUNCH – May 29, 11-1, Every Plaza. Michael Eichten

EATS AND BEATS – May 30, 11-1, Every Plaza. Big Harry Blues Band – Nucklehead Jones

SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

HARVESTER'S PROGRAM FOR SENIOR CITIZENS - every second Sat., takes place at Christian Lord Min-

istries, 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: Lakenaz@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; Colossians 2:6-7. Monday's 12-4pm. Cooking class for 4th graders & older at noon. Call the Church Office for



Join us at the Capitol in Topeka for the
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May 2, 2024 • 11:45 AM

National Day of Prayer Rally

Kansas Capitol - 1st Floor Rotunda

- Honor Guard
- Homeschool Children's Choir
- Prayer for our nation, children, families, military and leaders
- Prayer for protection and creative strategies to bring His Kingdom to earth

"Behold how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell together in unity." Psalm 133:1

more information. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Church: (785) 266-3247. Facebook: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene. LakeNaz@aol.com

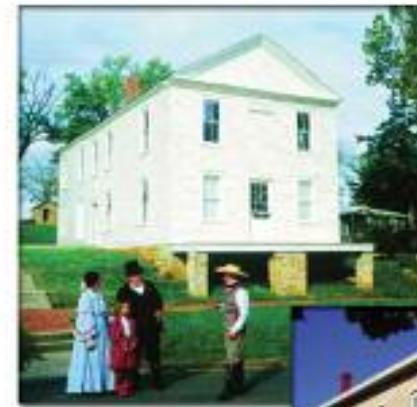
GARAGE SALE - Friday, Apr. 26-27, 8-1: First Chris-

tian Church, 1880 SW Gage. Enter from Stone St.

COMMUNITY WORSHIP NIGHTS – May 3, 8pm, New Hope Church, 2915 SW 8th Ave. Join us this summer for THREE incredible nights of worship as the Community Worship Nights Summer Series visits Topeka!

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Tickets for the ENTIRE summer are only \$20 - no extra fees! Here's who's visiting:

5/3 - Alexander Pappas, Cade Thompson, Cline; 6/7 - Natalie Layne, Mackenzie Phillips, Luke Bower; 7/12 - Eli Gable, Iveth Luna, Stephen Stanley. The first event will be held at New Hope Church and the second and third will be at Highland Park Baptist Church! Get tickets at: <https://showops.co/e/472/community-worship-nights-topeka-ks>

THE GREAT JUNGLE JOURNEY VBS - June 22-28. An epic cruise from Genesis to Revelation. Saturday, June 22nd, 2-4pm, VBS Kick-Off Carnival; Very Busy Sunday, June 23rd, 9:45am - noon; VBS - Monday - Thursday, June 24th - June 27th, 5:30 - 8pm; Family Fun Friday, June 28th, 5:30 - 8pm. Lakeview Church of the Nazarene, 2835 SE Croco Rd. Bring your friends, family, neighbors, & enemies! Contact info: (785)266-3247, FB: Topeka Lakeview Nazarene, Email: Lakenaz@aol.com

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 nhonl@tscpl.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 ACAPPELLA UNLIMITED AUDITIONS - Topeka

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

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 proof of income required, first come first served. Distributing fresh produce and other items to families in need. 785-234-1111 www.RandelMinistries.com

TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY PLAY BUS - 9:30am-noon, Lakeview Nazarene Church, 2835 Croco. Every Tuesday, enjoy story time, play opportunities, books for check-out & take & make art. 785-266-3247.

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

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

WOODSHED FLEA MARKET - Sundays 10-3, 1901 N. Kansas Ave.

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., Topeka, KS.

DOWNTOWN TOPEKA FARMERS MARKET - Saturday's thru 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.

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

CELEBRITY PANCAKE FEED - Apr. 27 7am-12pm, Combat Air Museum at Forbes Field. All you can eat Perkins pancakes for \$7 donation, plus sausage, juice & coffee. Museum tour included. 785-862-3303

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

ING NETWORKING LUNCH - May 1, 11:30-12:30, Big biscuit.

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; onna@cultureshield.com

WASHBURN TECH CAR SHOW - May 3, 9am-2:30pm, 5724 SW Huntoon. Silent Auction, Bake sale,

music. Pre-register here: <https://washburnvpaa.qualtrics.com/.../S26w9lgKC4kEwDJM>

REDBUD FESTIVAL - May 3-5, NOTO area on N. Kansas Ave. Chalk Walk event for all ages.

DUGOUT CAR SHOW - May 4, 8-2. 17th & Fairlawn.

FLEA MARKET AT THE BARN - May 4, 10-4, 4701 SW

Auburn Rd.

TOP CITY TACO LOCO - May 4, 12-4, Vail Event Ctr.

FOOD TRUCK NIGHT AT HHHS - May 4, 4-8pm, 5720 SW 21st. Food and live music. Bring your lawn chair. Helps homeless animals.

CINCO DE MAYO - May 5, 11am-9pm, Evergy Plaza. Live bands, Mexican dancers, authentic food, family



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

**May 9, 11:30-1: "POWER" Luncheon
at Harley Davidson Meeting Room**

**Featuring: Anthony Blanco,
Business Coach** Open to the public.

RSVP to info@C5Alive.org



Save the Dates!

- June 13: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1, with Sylvia Hopper
- July 11: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1, with Bary Feaker
- Aug 8: POWER Luncheon, 11:30-1

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

Landowner rights upheld in unanimous SCOTUS ruling

The Supreme Court ruled unanimously on April 12 that a California county violated a landowner's rights when it demanded upwards of \$23,000 in development impact fees.

The ruling curbs the power of governments to use the permitting process to force property owners to pay large development fees and is one in a series of decisions in recent years by the Court in favor of private property rights.

Justice Amy Coney Barrett wrote the Court's opinion in *Sheetz v. County of El Dorado*, finding that the unconstitutional conditions doctrine precludes the fees.

The doctrine forbids unrelated fees from being attached to permission to move forward with construction on private land.

In the case, homeowner George Sheetz, represented by Pacific Legal Foundation, sued El Dorado County, California,



claiming it violated his rights under the Fifth Amendment's takings clause and the 14th Amendment.

The Fifth Amendment states that "private property [shall not] be taken for public use, without just compensation."

The 14th Amendment says that no state shall "deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

In 2016, Sheetz purchased a vacant lot, intending to build a small, manufactured home in which he and his wife would live in retirement.

But when he sought a building permit from the county, he was told he would have to pay a so-called traffic impact fee of \$23,420 to cover studies on traffic impact.



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fun, crafts. Bring your lawn chair.

GRAND REOPENING OF SHOPPERS KITCHEN – May 7, 12-1pm, 250 SE 29th. Ribbon cutting and light snacks. Full lunch menu also available.

C5Alive “POWER” LUNCHEON – May 9, 11:30-1, Harley Town meeting room. Featured Speaker: Anthony Blanco, Business Coach & Trainer.

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, June 13, 11:30-1, at Shoppers Kitchen, featuring Sylvia Hopper.

MIDLAND CARE CELEBRATION WALK – May 10, 6pm, 200 SW Frazier Circle. Music by Sante Fe Band. Food Trucks, childrens entertainment.

ING NETWORKING LUNCH – May 15, 11:30-12:30, Harley Davidson.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE – May 23, 9am-3pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 3509 SW Burlingame. To make your life-saving appointment call 800-RED-CROSS or visit www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: TopekaCLC). Bring a photo ID, drink plenty of water and eat prior to your appointment. Save time at your appointment by completing RapidPass - pre-reading and questions - the DAY OF your appointment via the blood donor app or visit www.redcrossblood.org/rapidpass.

SPRING TUNE UP CLASSIC CAR SHOW – May 25, 11-2, 1550 Wanamaker.

MULVANE ART FAIR – June 1-2, Mulvane Art Museum, Washburn University Fine Art, food trucks, music, childrens activities

GERMANFEST – June 1 & 2, 312 NE Freeman, Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Parish

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.fi-oorcirkansas.org Sun. 4-5 pm Yoga; Mon. 12-12:45pm Cardio Remix; Mon. 5:30-6:15pm STRONG™; Tue. 12:15-1:15pm Restorative Yoga; Tue. 5:30-6:15pm Zumba®; Wed. 5:30-6:15pm Cardio Sculpt; Thu. 12:15-1:00pm Pilates + CIRCL Mobility™; Thu. 5:30-6:15pm Zumba®; Fri. 12-12:45pm POUND

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

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

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

SHEPHERD'S CENTER BOOK CLUB - 1st & 3rd Mon.

2-4pm at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1275 SW Boswell Ave. 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. Topekaliions.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 DOMINOS – 1st & 3rd Tue., 2-4pm, St. David's Episcopal Church, 3916 SW 17th St. Do not come before 1:45pm. Email Ottie Reed, reed7111@gmail.com, or Mary Adkins, marycat-keeper@gmail.com

MAP GROUP (MEMOIRS, ANCESTRY, PHOTOS) - VIA ZOOM - 4th Wed. 10-11:30am. Contact Rich McReynolds at rlm4017@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. Topekaliions.org

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

INTENTIONAL MOM - 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Auditorium, 1135 SW Mulvane, 2835 SE Croco. Social gathering, guests welcome. 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 fofster60@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

TOPEKA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY - 4th Friday of the month, 7:15pm, 1st Congressional Church, 1701 SW COLLINS.

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

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 Round-table discussion with members of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). Info: 234-3049.

TOPEKA GREAT LIGHT AGLOW – For meeting info contact Vickie Lynch at greatlighttopeka@gmail.com.

SUPPORT GROUPS

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

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

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

MIDLAND CARE GRIEF SUPPORT Groups: Building A, 200 SW Frazier Circle; **Every Mon.**, 4-5pm: 12 Week Adult Group for Recent Loss 1st and 3rd Thu., 10:30am & 5:30pm—Ongoing Adult Group 1st and 3rd Thu., 5:30pm: Ongoing Young Adult Group (4-18 years of age) For All Groups: Call for start dates and info packet. Group and individual grief support available upon request. Info: 785-232-2044 ext.341

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

ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT – Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. Kay Lyn at KLCarlson20@cox.net.

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

PURSUIT FOR SEXUAL PURITY – Men struggling with pornography & sexual addiction. This bible study/ accountability group uses the Pure Desire book by Ted Roberts. For info: 249-9509. All inquiries confidential.

ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS – Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. All of our programs have moved from in-person to virtual. Caregiver support group via Skype 9:30am every other Wednesday. Email Hayley Young at hdyoung@alz.org or call 785.379.3067 for the meeting link and other info.

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

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

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS/BEREAVED PARENTS GROUP – 4th Mon. in Formation classroom at Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Discussion starts 7pm; fellowship & refreshments 8:30. 785-272-4895

CAREGIVERS GROUP - Caring Hearts of Hope meet 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 5:30-6:30pm at Highland Heights Christian Church. This group will root its encouragement in God's word and prayer as well as conversation and sharing and is open to all those who care for others with illnesses such as Alzheimers, dementia, cancer or other debilitating illnesses or injuries. For dates and info, go to "Weekly Class List" at www.highlandheightssc.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 to 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 and 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30-8, at 1st Congregational Church, 17th and Collins. For info: Topeka.heals@gmail.com or 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 walnutviewccc@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

Actor Gary Sinise bolstered by faith thru son's cancer, death

Actor Gary Sinise and his family leaned on their faith when his son, Mac, died from a rare form of spinal cancer earlier this year. "It was just inspiring to see how it helped sustain him through this cancer battle," the "Forrest Gump" star says.

After the first tumor was removed in September 2018, Mac was monitored. Tragically, by May 2019, the cancer had returned.

"It had come back and it was starting to spread throughout his body," Sinise said. "He was back in the hospital again, and he started chemo and radiation at that point, but there is no cure for this particular cancer. There's no reliable drug that has been used to fight it that has been effective."

Mac had to resign from his po-



sition with his foundation as he mustered the energy to fight on, relying on faith to cope and process. Throughout the ordeal, Mac prayed, journaled and revisited creating music he started years before but never completed. Despite Mac's struggles, Sinise said his son's spirit was

truly uplifted and bright, with his faith supporting him throughout his tribulations.

"I know his faith played a strong part in helping to sustain him through this battle," he told CBN. "And I was there with him every step of the way in these hospital stays and with him those

final days before he died and saw him struggling. But I knew that he was fulfilled with what he'd accomplished at the end."

Sinise, who also is a man of deep faith, was candid about the struggles of being a loving father watching his son suffer, especially as his wife, Moira, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer just months before Mac's diagnosis, herself facing Mac's surgery, chemotherapy and radiation.

Sinise's foundation serves veterans and their families, men and women who have given their all for America and who often find themselves in great need of emotional and physical support.

"All those broken families that I've had the privilege to touch over the years — our veterans and first responders and Gold Star kids — they've all had those

moments where they buckle and they fall down," he said. "Somebody has to reach out and touch you and help to pick you up."

After Mac's death, he decided to make the family's private battle public to help inspire others through his journey. As Mac's life came to a close, Sinise said his son was thinking a lot about his mortality, recognizing "cancer was beating him" and realizing what that would mean. He spent time reading a St. Augustine prayer book that contained underlined text and his thoughts, giving a lens into his spiritual condition.

"That was his special prayer book that he left his mother," he said. "He wrote in it, 'At my passing, give to mom,' and a lot of things are underlined in there."

Pastor Greg Laurie believes Iran's attack a biblical sign



Although Pastor Greg Laurie believes Iran's attack on Israel last weekend is a significant biblical sign, he cautions against concluding that the event could lead to the scenario described in Ezekiel 38, which sets the stage for the ultimate victory of God's people and the acknowledgment of God's power and authority by the nations.

His comments come after Iran fired 320 ballistic missiles, drones and cruise missiles at Israel. The first time in history that the world's largest sponsor of terrorism had attacked the Jewish state.

Laurie, an author and pastor of Harvest Fellowship in Riverside, Calif., discussed the situation in Israel in his sermon on Sunday. "Iran has never openly attacked Israel," he said, adding that Iran typically has acted through proxies such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

The Bible says the Jewish people will be regathered in their homeland in the end times, which happened in 1948, Laurie explained, adding that the Bible says Israel will be isolated, which is happening.

"The Bible also says anti-

semitism [Jew hatred] would grow stronger in the end times," Laurie said. "That, too, is happening. And the Bible says a large force from the north of Israel would attack her. That force is identified as Magog. Many scholars believe Magog is Russia. No one can say that with absolute certainty, but it seems likely. But we do know that one of the allies that marches with Magog against Israel is Persia. Persia is Iran."

The Bible tells Christians to pray for peace in Israel, Laurie said, adding that 99 percent of the missiles sent by Iran to attack Israel were shot down. The pastor then read Deuteronomy 33:29: "Blessed are you, Israel! Who is like you, a people saved by the Lord? He is your shield and helper and your glorious sword. Your enemies will cower before you, and you will tread on their heights."

When Christians witness these events unfolding, their response should be to affirm their belief in the truth of the Bible's prophecies, recognizing that redemption is near, rather than "freak out,"

Laurie said.

President Joe Biden has reaffirmed robust U.S. support for Israel. The U.S. administration also strangely asked Israel not to respond. That policy caught many off-guard with some asking if the Biden would likewise stand down if Iran or North Korea also fired 320 missiles into the United States.

But overwhelming support among the American population for Israel has successfully countered pro-Hamas protesters on college campuses and those shutting down bridges and airports

across the country. The United States reportedly has expedited military support, deploying additional aircraft and missile defense systems to the region. The global reaction has been swift, with widespread condemnation of the Iranian regime's actions seen as reckless and provocative. From Paris to London, governments have echoed the need for stability and caution to avoid further inflaming the situation.

Israel has not taken credit for missile attacks within Iran that is believed to be the response.

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Faith propels Dennis Quaid from drugs to life of fulfillment

Living a hard life prepared actor Dennis Quaid to experience the life that God has for him today.

“It has gotten me through hard times,” he says. “It has gotten me through good times, too. Good times and gratitude. I lean on God when it comes to the hard times as well. You know, we all need that. It’s something that gives me a lot of joy.”

Quaid attended Sunday School as a child but later drifted away from his faith until he was able to recover from a cocaine habit. Getting over it, he says, was a breakthrough that saved his life.

Quaid says in his youth he identified as a Christian but moved away from that faith. “I turned to Buddhism, and I read the Dhammapada and then I read the Quran and the Bhagavad Gita and I read the Bible four times, cover to cover,” he told *Variety* in 2023.

He says he found what he didn’t like, what he called “churchianity.”

“I read the Bible again, cover to cover, and was really struck by the words of Jesus, and that’s where my personal relationship with Jesus

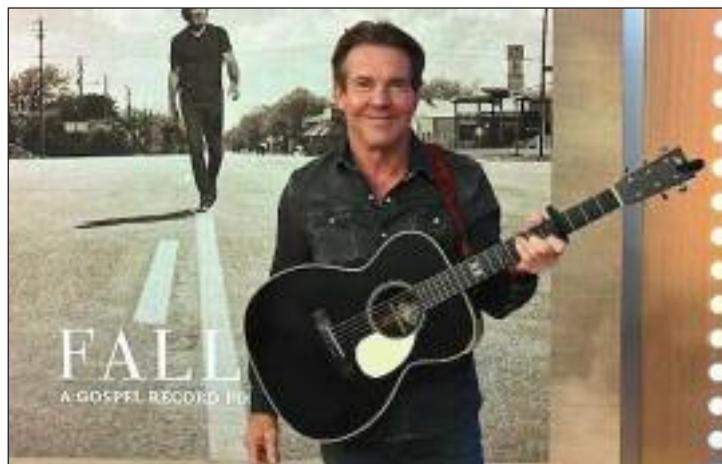
started,” he told Fox News. “That’s grown over the years. So I wrote ‘On My Way to Heaven’ which is the song that I wrote for my mother back in 1990. When I got out of cocaine school, as I call it.”

Quaid released his debut gospel record, “Fallen,” with the encouragement of The Gaither Vocal Band, last July. It was inspired by his own life and followed his work in faith-based movies like “Soul Surfer” and “I Can Only Imagine.” He doesn’t like the religious labeling of the films, saying they limit who sees them. He prefers the term “aspiration” rather than faith-based” and believes they’re gaining a wide audience.

“The formula for success for these films is simple: It’s either a good movie or it’s not. In the past, what were called ‘faith-based films’ were generally very low-budget and most of them were not very good productions,” he has stated in the past.

The subtitle for “Fallen,” is “a gospel record for sinners.”

“It’s autobiographical,” he said. “It turns out to be a part of the



story. My spiritual journey. When you get down to it, it’s everything. It’s a God-sized hole. I think it’s inside all of us that we fill with other things. It’s really important to me. It makes life worthwhile. It explains a lot of things that we don’t have words for.”

His time in Nashville has also been therapeutic and he believes friends with similar values are more easily found there. He told *Variety* that Hollywood can be lonely, especially today.

“Maybe it’s because I’m older,”

Quaid surmises, “But there doesn’t seem to be the sense of community in Hollywood that I felt in the ‘70s, even into the ‘80s. It’s always been about people in their cars, but today it’s even more so. People stay in their trailers, they’re on their phones. There’s not the same kind of communication there once was. L.A. has been very good to me, and I have great friends. But it is hard to make friends. There is a lot of self-involvement. In Nashville, you know your neighbors.”

Faith is the foundation of his

marriage to his fourth wife, Laura Savoie. Quaid, 69, met Savoie, 30, in 2019 at a business event. At the time she was working toward her second Master’s degree at the Texas McCombs School of Business. A year after meeting, the two got married, and a year later, they paired her business expertise with his film experience to form a production company called Bonniedale Films.

“God is in my wife and my relationship, and it’s another thing that I never really had before,” he said. “She and I have such a beautiful relationship, and we pray together.”

He says faith doesn’t usually open doors for someone in Hollywood. “A lot of people are embarrassed to talk about their faith. They think it’s some kind of Boy Scout thing, where you’ve got to follow the rules. But I talk to God a lot, every day. I question everything I do. I believe it’s about keeping trying. It’s about self-examination and throwing your ego out the door,” he shared with *Variety*.

Quaid new recording is titled “Fallen: A Gospel Record for Sinners.”

American Idol Gospel singer Mandisa dead at 47



Grammy-winning contemporary Christian singer Mandisa Lynn Hundley, a former top-10 American Idol finisher, was found dead Thursday in her Nashville home. She was 47. The announcement was made on social media, and no cause of death was given.

Mandisa’s father, John Hundley, confirmed her death, saying it was a shock.

Mandisa competed on season 5 of “American Idol,” which aired in 2006. She made it to the top nine in the music competition show. A year later, she released her first full-length album, “True Beauty.”

During her time on “American Idol,” she became known not only for her powerhouse vocals, but also for an inspiring speech she gave to judge Simon Cowell. After her audition,

Cowell made remarks about her weight, and later in the process she confronted him about his comments in a conversation with him and his fellow judges Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson.

“Simon, a lot of people want me to say a lot of things to you,” she began. “But this is what I want to say to you is that, yes, you hurt me, and I cried and it was painful. It really was. But I want you to know that I’ve forgiven you and that you don’t need someone to apologize in order to forgive somebody. I figure that if Jesus could die so that all of my wrongs could be forgiven, I can certainly extend that same grace to you.”

Lakisha Mitchell, the late wife of Southern Baptist pastor Breonus Mitchell, inspired Mandisa’s hit “Overcomer,” the title song of the album that garnered a 2014 Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Christian Music Album. Breonus Mitchell, senior pastor of Mount Gilead Baptist Church in

Hermitage, Tennessee, remarried in 2018.

“Obviously we are saddened by her transitioning,” he told Baptist Press. “Mandisa was just a bright light, a bright witness. She was true to her faith, even though she dealt with the depression and the issues with Kisha’s transitioning, she’d just rebound. And I think that song ‘Overcomer’ and her work just epitomize her life, how she’s just been this big overcomer of so many issues.”

Lakisha’s death from breast cancer in 2014 after the album’s success caused Mandisa to spiral into a deep and lengthy depression, which she overcame. But she continued to struggle with her mental health, sharing her issues publicly and in her 2022 book, *Out of the Dark: My Journey Through the Shadows to Find God’s Joy*.

“She’s just been a tremendous overcomer,” Mitchell said of Mandisa. “The Scriptures say we sorrow not as those who have no hope, and this is the hope

we have, that even in the midst of death there is life. We’re saddened, but at the same time celebrate another young life, but a life well-lived.”

In 2022, she released a memoir called “Out of the Dark: My Journey Through the Shadows to Find God’s Joy.” The book’s publisher, K-Love, released a statement on her death via David Pierce, the organization’s chief media officer.

“Mandisa loved Jesus, and she used her unusually extensive platform to talk about Him at every turn,” he said. “Her kindness was epic, her smile electric, her voice massive, but it was no match for the size of her heart. Mandisa struggled, and she was vulnerable enough to share that with us, which helped us talk about our own struggles. Mandisa’s struggles are over. She is with the God she sang about now. While we are saddened, Mandisa is home. We’re praying for Mandisa’s family and friends and ask you to join us.”

IHOPKC denies plans to shut down, contradicting leaked recording

The embattled International House of Prayer Kansas City (IHOPKC) reportedly is winding down the operations of its movement and missions. The financial impact of the sexual abuse scandal connected to founder Mike Bickle led to the decision.

“IHOPKC as an organization is beginning to wind down,” IHOP University President Matt Candler said in a leaked recording reported by the Roys Report. “We’re going to be maintaining our prayer room and eventually beginning a new organization.”

Isaac Bennett, who leads IHOPKC’s Forerunner Church, noted that lawsuits from the victims in Bickle’s sexual abuse scandal presented the ministry with “significant liabilities.”

On April 15, the organization emailed staff saying the organization is “suffering significant losses” and “cannot sustain current infrastructure in place.” It also alluded to a human deficit saying it is “more complex than simply finances.”

The email stated it is “closing for good” and shifting to a church model with fewer staff.

On Thursday the Christian Post reported the organization backtracked saying it was not closing but will start a “transition and reorganization process.”

“In a word, IHOPKC is NOT closing,” IHOPKC wrote in yet a new state-



ment. “. . . Over the course of these last months, our leadership team has tirelessly endeavored to review and analyze the entire IHOPKC organizational structure and the many missions we have undertaken over our 24 years of existence. That review and reflection has led to internal decisions to begin a transition and reorganization process, which will allow us to focus on our main mission yet deal with the realities of finance.”

The ministry is also beginning a new fundraising campaign which has raised eyebrows.

Ministry Watch, an organization that seeks accountability in the church and non-profit community, says the

fundraising is misleading. the organization’s founder, Rusty Leonard, says it shouldn’t be raising money if it is closing.

“Somebody who’s donated could come back at them and say, ‘Hey, you were telling X. Y was actually the truth. I gave money based on X and now you have basically stolen my money from me and I want it back,’” said Leonard.

He went on to claim the IRS and State of Missouri could fine IHOPKC for such actions.

“It’s probably that things are moving really, really fast for this organization right now,” he told The Roys Report. “But it’s something where they need to address very quickly and start shooting

straight with everybody. Otherwise, they are going to have some additional problems, which only compound the problems they already have.”

Boz Tchividjian, Billy Graham’s grandson, an attorney and longtime advocate of sexual abuse survivors who is representing one of Bickle’s alleged victims, said if IHOPKC leaders believe the ministry can just shutter then reemerge as a rebranded organization to escape liability, they are living in “fantasyland.”

“The notion that they can just shut it down and start a new organization and all of that prior potential liability is wiped away is fantasyland,” he said. “To suddenly take all the property, put it in the name of a new organization to limit liability that would what I believe be called a fraudulent transfer. A court would not allow that.”

In February, after a third woman alleged she was groomed and sexually abused by Bickle in the 1980s when she was 14, Tchividjian said the ministry should close permanently.

“It’s time,” he posted on X. “It’s time to permanently close the doors at IHOPKC, It’s time to take whatever monies are left & put them into a fund for those whose lives have been wrecked by a place that claims to love Jesus so much it prays to him 24/7. The praying hasn’t worked. It’s just made IHOPKC more pious in defending the indefensi-

ble. It’s time.”

Bennett explained in the leaked recording that although IHOPKC has been looking at different ways to navigate the sexual abuse scandal, they have found no way around the liability the organization has been exposed to as a result of the allegations of the ministry’s mishandling of the abuse allegations.

“In cases where there’s clergy abuse, where there’s allegations that are outstanding — when there’s now interest in having an investigation that goes back through all of our 24-year history to find cases where there’s been mishandling of abuse or where there’s been cover-up or whatever else it is people believe has been gone on — those things will produce inevitably a contingent of individuals who are wanting to get restitution,” he said. “And they’re not going to go knock on Mike’s door because, well, he probably won’t answer. But they’re not going to knock on Mike’s door, because he doesn’t have any money. But IHOPKC has facilities.”

To keep IHOPKC at its current operational level, it would have to let go 90 percent of its paid staff, Bennett said. So instead of 500 staff, IHOPKC would have to run the organization with just 50.

“We are at an impasse,” he told The Christian Post. “There’s no other way forward. So the Lord is kindly inviting us into a new era.”

Missouri among states suing Biden administration over student debt scheme

Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey is taking the lead in a lawsuit against the Biden administration’s latest plan to cancel billions of dollars in student debt.

“With the stroke of his pen, Joe Biden is attempting to saddle working Missourians with a half-trillion dollars in college debt,” Bailey said, according to “National Revie.” “The United States Constitution makes clear that the president lacks the authority to unilaterally ‘cancel’ student loan debt for millions of Americans without express permission from Congress.

“The president does not get to thwart the Constitution when it suits his political agenda. I’m filing suit to halt his brazen attempt to



curry favor with some citizens by forcing others to shoulder their debts. The constitution will continue to mean something as long as I’m attorney general.”

The joint lawsuit targets Biden’s Saving on a Valuable Education (SAVE) repayment program, which will cost Americans \$475 billion over the next 10 years. This amount

is \$45 billion more than the price tag attached to the White House’s previous student-loan forgiveness plan that the Supreme Court struck down last June.

The Court ruled that Biden cannot “unilaterally alter large sections of the American economy” through the Higher Education Relief Opportunities for Students (HEROES) Act, according to the 6–3

opinion in Biden v. Nebraska. In this case, Missouri played a notable role in challenging the \$430 billion forgiveness program.

“Yet again, the president is uni-

laterally trying to impose an extraordinarily expensive and controversial policy that he could not get through Congress,” the 62-page lawsuit said. “This latest attempt to sidestep the Constitution is only the most recent instance in a long but troubling pattern of the president relying on innocuous language from decades-old statutes to impose drastic, costly policy changes on the American people without their consent.”

Attorneys general Tim Griffin of Arkansas, Ashley Moody of Florida, Christopher Carr of Georgia, Drew Wrigley of North Dakota, Dave Yost of Ohio and Gentner Drummond of Oklahoma joined Bailey in challenging Biden’s debt-cancellation agenda.



Budget-Friendly Ideas to Boost Curb Appeal

Your home's first big impression is its curb appeal, so if your place is in need of some sprucing up, you may wonder how you can make some updates without breaking the bank.

These 10 ideas are easy on budgets, but they can also make a big impact on your home's exterior image.

1. Paint your front door. As long as your front door is in good condition, there's no need to replace it completely. A fresh coat of paint can instantly update your home's facade. Go bold or stick with a classic hue – it's all up to you.

2. Dress up the windows. Add character and charm by enhancing your front windows. You might add wooden shutters, window box planters or both. Also look at the

trim around the windows. If it's chipped and peeling, adding a fresh coat of paint doesn't just look nice, it can protect your windows from damage, too.

3. Clean up flower beds. An unkempt flower bed can drag down an otherwise stunning home. Keep beds tidy and vegetation trimmed, even during the off-season. Watch for weeds and replenish mulch or rock ground cover as needed to keep the beds looking healthy and inviting.

4. Install new lighting. Replacing outdated light fixtures can give your exterior an instant upgrade. There's no right or wrong style; just choose a color and look that matches the rest of your design.

5. Replace worn welcome mats. A cheerful mat at your front door



can be an inviting sight for visitors, but those mats inevitably wear with time, and what was once bright and charming becomes dingy and dull. A new mat can help bring back that cheery entry you once cherished.

6. Pressure wash the drive and walk. Over time, driveways and sidewalks collect an incredible amount of grime. Pressure washing not only eliminates the filth, but the clean surfaces also add to your home's visual appeal.

7. Add new vegetation. Landscaping is a relatively inexpensive way to introduce more personality to a yard. Aim for a mix of pretty and practical, such as some low flowering bushes and some trees or bushes that offer privacy and shade.

8. Keep up with basic maintenance. When your home is in poor repair, it shows. Pay attention to bent or rusting gutters, imperfections in the roof and other maintenance matters that aren't just aesthetic; left unrepaired, they can also result in major damage.

9. Pay attention to details. Functional items like the mailbox might not seem like much of a design element, but these small details can be a big distraction if they're not in good condition. Update or replace as needed to keep your aesthetic in sync.

10. Add seasonal decor. There's no need to go all out for every occasion, but some timely decorations that celebrate the holiday or season can make your entry fun and festive. Coordinate wreaths, planters, signs and other accent pieces for a cohesive look that says, "come on in."

Find more affordable ideas for upgrading your home and garden at eLivingtoday.com.

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TAYLOR SWIFT MOCKS CHRISTIANITY IN HER NEW ALBUM

While it's no secret that Taylor Swift is not a Christian, she made her hatred for religion known through her newly released album "The Tortured Poets Department."

The album is full of minor quips that elevate Swift above God while also featuring two songs devoted to tearing down the Christian sexual ethic.

Swift's elevation of herself over God begins in the song "I Can Fix Him (No Really I Can)," where she sings about dating a "bad boy" whom she—and only she—has the ability to fix.

"They shake their heads sayin', 'God help her,' / When I tell 'em he's my man," Swift sings during the chorus. "But your good Lord doesn't lift a finger / I can fix him, no, really, I can. And only I can."

At this point, Swift mocks the power of prayer, revealing how the bad boy she has decided to date remains bad despite her fans praying for their relationship. She then takes the mockery a step further, revealing that even though the Lord cannot fix her man, she can. At the end of the song, however, she reveals that she wasn't up to the task, singing, "Well, maybe I can't," while making no comment on the Lord's decision not to step in either.

Swift later reiterates that love and relationships are her gods when, in "lomi" (love of my life), she calls her lover the "Holy Ghost." This analogy further reveals her view of the Lord as someone who can be replaced by human relationships.

The singer's disdain for Christianity, however, is put on full display through "But Daddy I Love Him" and "Guilty as Sin?" where she blasts the Christian sexual ethic and Jesus' teaching on lust.

"I just learned these people only raise you / To cage you," Swift sings during the opening of "But Daddy I Love Him." "Too high a horse for a simple girl / To rise above it / They slammed the door on my whole world / The one thing I wanted."

Complaining about the "oppressive" nature of the Christian sexual ethic to wait until marriage for sex, Swift sings about rising above the Bible's teachings.

"Now I'm running with my dress unbuttoned / Screamin', 'But daddy I love him / I'm havin' his baby' / No, I'm not, but you should see your faces," she sings during the chorus, continuing to mock



the Bible's teaching and joking about having her boyfriend's baby.

"I'm telling him to floor it through the fences," the chorus continues, with Swift pushing the imagery of breaking out of the "oppressive" guards put in place by the Bible. "No, I'm not coming to my senses."

Swift goes on to bash those who try to share the Gospel with her and help her find peace in her relationships by not giving herself up before marriage.

"Sanctimoniously performing soliloquies I'll never see / Thinkin' it can change the beat / of my heart when he touches me / And counteract the chemistry / And undo the destiny," she sings. "You ain't gotta pray for me / Me and my wild boy and all of this wild joy / If all you want and is gray for me / Then it's just white noise, and it's just my choice."

While Swift is right that sermons about the Bible's teachings on sex will make no difference if they fall on deaf ears, she is mistaken when she says that it cannot change the chemistry that comes from attraction. While sexual attraction itself is not a sin, falling prey to lust and temptation, which is often the result of that attraction, is.

Thankfully, Christ equips us to handle it, and through the Holy Spirit, believers can overcome the strongest temptations—even sexual ones. One of the fruits of the Spirit is self-control. While that wouldn't "change the beat of her heart when he touches her," it would, in fact, "counteract the chemistry and undo the destiny."

Swift, however, finds it oppressive to live under a belief system that asks something of her rather than allowing her to follow her heart and do what feels right.

She further throws shade on the Bible's teaching in "Guilty as Sin?" when

she questions Jesus' teaching from Matthew 5, which says, "Anyone who even looks at a woman with lust has already committed adultery with her in his heart."

"What if he's written 'mine' on my upper thigh only in my mind?" she asks during the chorus. "I keep recalling things we never did / Messy top-lip kiss, how I long for our trysts / Without ever touchin' his skin / How can I be guilty as sin?"

Ironically, while the album mocks the Christian ethic, questioning why lust and sex outside of marriage are sinful, she also reveals the fruit of her sexual ethic throughout the album, sharing the brokenness and heartbreak she has experienced as a result of failed relationships.

In "Florida!!!" she sings about going off the deep end and all in on worldly fun and entertainment.

"I need to forget, so take me to Florida / I've got some regrets, I'll bury them in Florida / Tell me I'm despicable, say it's unforgivable / I need to forget, so take me to Florida," she sings. "Tell me I'm despicable, say it's unforgivable / What a crush, what a rush, f*** me up, Florida / It's one h*** of a drug."

While Swift has since clarified that this song was about a fantasy rather than an actual experience she has had, it still glorifies going off the deep and engaging in complete debauchery.

Most people would admit that the consequence of this type of living is an emptiness that cannot be filled. This is because those who live like this fill themselves with the world rather than with Christ. Swift admits this, too, but she does not blame the debauchery for her struggles.

"I'm so depressed, I act like it's my

Director Martin Scorsese producing TV series about Christian saints

Legendary filmmaker Martin Scorsese will produce and host a documentary series about Christian saints.

"Martin Scorsese Presents: The Saints" is scheduled as an eight-part limited series, with the first four episodes debuting in November 2024 and the second four in May 2025 on Fox Nation. The drama will cover "the remarkable stories of eight men and women who risked everything to embody humanity's most noble and complex trait—faith," the network wrote of the project.

"Having the greatest storyteller tell some of the greatest stories of all time is exactly the kind of exclusive content that is driving Fox Nation's success," said Jason Klarman, Fox News Media's chief digital and marketing officer. "It's an honor to welcome the world-renowned Martin Scorsese to the Fox Nation platform."

Scorsese said of the project, "I've lived with the stories of the saints for most of my life, thinking about their words and actions, imagining the worlds they inhabited, the choices they faced, the examples they set. These are stories of eight very different men and women, each of them living through vastly different periods of history and struggling to follow the way of love revealed to them and to us by Jesus' words in the gospels. I'm so excited that this project is under way and that I'm working with

so many trusted and talented collaborators."

The eight saints to be profiled in the series are Joan of Arc, Francis of Assisi, John the Baptist, Thomas Becket, Mary Magdalene, Moses the Black, Sebastian



and Maximilian Kolbe. Earlier this year, Scorsese said he was working on a "film about Jesus" in an effort to alter public perceptions of religion.

"I'm trying to find a new way to make it more accessible and take away the negative onus of what has been associated with organized religion," he told the "Los Angeles Times" during a January interview.

Scorsese, 81, told The Los Angeles Times that he has completed a screenplay for a new film about Jesus, based on the book "A Life of Jesus," by the Japanese writer Shusaku Endo. Metro Voice previously reported on the new project which will explore the teachings of Jesus.

birthday," she sings during the chorus of "I Can Do It With A Broken Heart," revealing that while she is committed to celebrating and elevating herself, she is still greatly depressed.

The fact that one of the most popular and famous celebrities of her generation cannot find happiness reveals that living in the world leads to death while living for Christ and under his teachings leads to life. Unfortunately, Swift has chosen the path toward death and is reaping the fruits of her labor.

Movieguide® previously reported on Swift:

In Taylor Swift's "Willow" music video, she includes occult worship, a troubling practice being normalized in culture across numerous forms of media.

The "Willow" music video follows Swift as she tries to connect with her lover. Something always stands in their way, and they are forced to escape to different time periods where they attempt

to connect again. The scenes for the first two verses find Swift in a forest and a 1920s bar before the third scene takes place during cult worship around a campfire.

This cult worship scene has no relevance to the song, nor does it tie into the scenes from the previous verses. Swift observes the occult ritual taking it in for a few moments before taking her place and joining the dance for the second half of the verse. After, she leaves to travel through time again and continue looking for her lover, whom she eventually convenes with during the final chorus of the song.

The inclusion of the campfire witchcraft scene is confusing, as it was unnecessarily added onto lyrics it has zero relevance to. Nonetheless, it provides another worrying example of the way witchcraft and pagan worship are being pushed into pop culture and becoming normalized.

Star of TV series “County Rescue” focused on bringing faith to Hollywood

Actor Brett Varvel, who appears on the Great American Family series “County Rescue,” is on a mission to bring faith to the entertainment industry.

“The thing that we explore in this show that’s maybe different from other medical dramas is that we go into the interpersonal workings of this ensemble that we have on screen,” he told CBN News. “And we see real-life questions: What do you do when you’re trying to discover your purpose in life? What do you do when things don’t go your way? What do you do when tragedy strikes?”

He said “County Rescue” combines faith, family, romance and so much more, showing what happens in the lives of EMTs who put themselves in harm’s way every single day to save others’ lives. The biggest differentiator, of course, is faith, something Varvel called a key component to the show, which also is streaming on Great American Pure Flix.

Varvel shared his passion for performing and creating content in the faith and family-friendly TV and movie space:

“When I was 18 years old, I had entered a short film that I made into a statewide arts competition in Indiana, where I’m from,” he said. “It was just a



proclamation of what Jesus has done in my life. I’ve been set free from my sin. I’ve been born again.”

Varvel’s film won first place in the state, which blew his mind. The actor said he was especially inspired when he heard his movie had led a man to Christ.

“My film was playing and I heard about a janitor who peeked his head in and ended up giving his life to Jesus after watching my film,” he said. “And it was like, in that moment, I saw this new direction in life that God wanted me to go in, which was to take the talents and abilities that He’s given me and to proclaim

hope to people.”

Ever since, Varvel has used his skills to create movies and TV shows, mixing his love for entertainment with his quest to share Jesus. “County Rescue” is the latest continuation of that mission.

“What I’ve always grounded myself in is, I want to be about the truth found in God’s word, the biblical promises that we see that are going to lead us to hope in life, an eternal life in Jesus,” he said. “And that’s why I love the show like ‘County Rescue.’”



Half of “The Chosen” viewers are not Christians

The popular television series “The Chosen” is having an impact beyond simply entertaining Christian viewers. Research by the producers found that many non-Christians also are tuning in.

“We recently had some data come through that showed about half of viewers were either practicing Christians or cultural Christians,” Katherine Warnock, vice president of original content for the program says.

The series, which is not without controversy, launched in 2017 after a successful crowdfunding effort but grew into viral status during the 2020 pandemic and is currently on television and in theaters. Episodes seven and eight will debut at the box office this week.

“We were also surprised about the level of Gen Z and younger that were consuming our show, because our core audience is definitely millennial and older,” she said. “But just to see not only the balance between female and males watching our show, which is wonderful, because the church is definitely not that balanced at times, and then to see the younger generation but also the non-

Christian faith audience come to the table has been a joy.”

Creator Dallas Jenkins and his writing team have a goal of reaching every demographic group, Warnock said. “When Dallas and the writers say, ‘Hey, we want the world to be introduced to the authentic Jesus,’ they mean it,” she said.

The Jesus of the Bible, she said, attracted “all types of people and world-views.” Warnock and her team recently heard from a fan of the series who is an agnostic and said he often weeps when watching.

Jenkins offered a preview of this season’s content. “This season, we’ve got significant biblical events happening like the death of John the Baptist and the raising of Lazarus from the dead,” he said. “These moments are better watching with a crowd and on the big screen.”

Warnock confirmed that season five of “The Chosen” will spotlight Jesus’ entrance into Jerusalem for Holy Week. Seasons seven and eight will include the crucifixion and resurrection, respectively, she said.

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 co-



medians “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 affirmation 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 basi-

cally 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.

50+ Lifestyles

A Guide to Enjoying Life in the Best Years

How to Erase Negative Self-Talk and Feel Better

It's been four years since the collective trauma of the pandemic created widespread grief, anxiety and isolation, but the psychological wounds of this period have not fully healed.

The American Psychological Association reports continued elevated rates of anxiety and depression

among Americans, and mental health experts say that negative self-talk plays a large role in these conditions and other psychological issues. The good news? Individuals can work on subtracting a harmful inner monologue from the equation.

"Simple tools can help people

break the cycle of negative self-talk and find some inner peace," says Elizabeth Scott, PhD, a wellness coach, health educator and author of "8 Keys to Stress Management."

That's why Pilot Corporation of America (Pilot Pen) is supporting the Erase Self-Negativity Initiative in partnership with key mental health and wellness experts, including Dr. Scott, and with guidance from America's largest grassroots mental health organization, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

As part of the initiative, Dr. Scott and NAMI have created a guided exercise to help individuals begin their journey toward erasing the disempowering influence that negative self-talk has on their lives. The exercises include writing down the negative beliefs one holds about themselves and then destroying or erasing the writing, a practice that has been found by research to be helpful in minimizing those beliefs.

"Simply externalizing these negative thoughts empowers us to rewrite our narrative and opens the door to giving ourselves more grace," says Dr. Scott.

Dr. Scott stresses that similar to maintaining physical health, consistency is key with mental health. This is why every April 10 will be recognized as National Erase Self-Negativity Day and the initiative will use the 10th of each month, as a day to start or revisit the writing exercise and reflect on personal progress.

Here's what's needed to get started:

1. A quiet, restful location,
2. A desire to create change
3. Paper

4. A FriXion erasable pen, which offers more than just the ability to write and erase completely; but also symbolizes the power individuals have to change things and write more positivity into their story.



The Erase Self-Negativity Worksheet can be found by visiting erase-selfnegativity.com. For additional resources to understand how common, and treatable mental health issues can be, visit nami.org.

"While we can't control the negative messages we might receive from the outside world, we can work on

what we tell ourselves. With just a few minutes of quiet time, we can harness the transformative power of writing in a way that will challenge the damaging assumptions we hold about ourselves and foster more self-compassion," says Dr. Scott.

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Fitness Tips for Seniors



No matter your age or physical condition, it's never too late to start exercising and get fit. These easy tips will help you get started safely and make it fun.

What are the benefits of exercise for older adults?

There are many reasons why we tend to slow down and become more sedentary with age. It may be due to health problems, weight or pain issues, or worries about falling. Or perhaps you think that exercising simply isn't for you. But as you grow older, an active lifestyle becomes more important than ever to your health.

A recent Swedish study found that physical activity was the number one contributor to longevity, adding extra years to your life—even if you don't start exercising until your senior years. But getting active is not just about adding years to your life, it's about adding life to your years.

Getting moving can help boost your energy, maintain your independence, protect your heart, and manage symptoms of illness or pain as well as your weight. Regular exercise is also good for your mind, mood, and memory. It's never too late to find simple, enjoyable ways to become more active, improve your mood and outlook, and reap all of the physical and mental health benefits of exercise.

Physical health benefits of exercise for seniors

As an older adult, exercise can help

you to:

Maintain or lose weight. As your metabolism naturally slows with age, maintaining a healthy weight can become a challenge. Regular exercise helps increase your metabolism and build muscle mass, helping your body to burn more calories.

Reduce the impact of illness and chronic disease. People who exercise tend to have improved immune and digestive functioning, better blood pressure and bone density, and a lower risk of Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, obesity, heart disease, osteoporosis, and certain cancers.

Enhance your mobility, flexibility, and balance. Exercise improves your strength, flexibility, and posture, which in turn can help with your balance and coordination, and reduce your risk of falls. Strength training can also help alleviate the symptoms of chronic conditions such as arthritis.

Mental health benefits

Exercise can also help you to:

Improve how well you sleep. Quality sleep is vital for your overall health as you get older. Regular activity can help you fall asleep faster, sleep more deeply, and wake feeling more energetic and refreshed.

Boost your mood and self-confidence. Exercise is a huge stress reliever and the endorphins produced can actually help reduce feelings of sadness, depression, and anxiety. Being active and feeling strong can also help you feel more self-confident.

Improve your brain function Ac-

tivities like Sudoku or crossword puzzles can help keep your brain active, but little comes close to the beneficial effects of exercise on the brain. It can aid brain functions as diverse as multitasking and creativity, and help to prevent memory loss, cognitive decline, and dementia. Getting active may even help slow the progression of brain disorders such as Alzheimer's disease.

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Overcoming obstacles to getting active as you age

Starting or maintaining a regular exercise routine can be a challenge at any age—and it doesn't get any easier as you get older. You may feel discouraged by health problems, aches and pains, or concerns about injuries or falls. If you've never exercised before, you may not know where to begin, or you may think you're too old or frail and can never live up to the standards you set when you were younger. Or maybe you just think that exercise is boring.

While these may seem like good reasons to slow down and take it easy as you age, they're even better reasons to get moving. Becoming more active can energize your mood, relieve stress, help you manage symptoms of illness and pain, and improve your overall sense of well-being. And reaping the rewards of exercise doesn't have to involve strenuous workouts or trips to the gym. You can gain the benefits from adding more movement and activity to your life, even in small ways. No matter your age or physical condition, it's never too late to get your body moving, boost your health and outlook, and improve how well you age.

Six myths about activity and aging

Myth:

"There's no point to exercising. I'm going to get old anyway."

Fact:

Regular physical activity helps you look and feel younger and stay independent longer. It also lowers your risk for a variety of conditions, including Alzheimer's and dementia, heart disease, diabetes, certain cancers, high blood pressure, and obesity. And the mood benefits of exercise can be just as great at 70 or 80 as they were at 20 or 30.

Myth:

"Exercise puts me at risk of falling down."

Fact:

Regular exercise, by building strength and stamina, prevents loss of bone mass and improves balance, actually reducing your risk of falling.

Myth:

"It's too frustrating; I'll never be the athlete I once was."

Fact:

Changes in hormones, metabolism, bone density, and muscle mass mean that your strength and performance levels inevitably decline with age. But that doesn't mean you can no longer derive a sense of achievement from physical activity or improve your health. The key is to set lifestyle goals that are appropriate for your age. And remember: a sedentary lifestyle takes a much greater toll on athletic ability than biological aging.

Myth:

"I'm too old to start exercising."

Fact:

You're never too old to get moving

and improve your health! In fact, adults who become active later in life often show greater physical and mental improvements than their younger counterparts. If you've never exercised before, or it's been a while, you won't be encumbered by the same sports injuries that many regular exercisers experience in later life. In other words, there aren't as many miles on your clock so you'll quickly start reaping the rewards. Just begin with gentle activities and build up from there.

Myth:

"I can't exercise because I'm disabled."

Fact:

If you're chair-bound, you obviously face special challenges. However, you can lift light weights, stretch, and do chair aerobics, chair yoga, and chair tai chi to increase your range of motion, improve muscle tone and flexibility, and promote cardiovascular health. Many swimming pools offer access to wheelchair users and you can also find adaptive exercise programs for wheelchair sports such as basketball.

Myth:

"I'm too weak or have too many aches and pains."

Fact:

Getting moving can help you manage pain and improve your strength and self-confidence. Many older people find that regular activity not only helps stem the decline in strength and vitality that comes with age, but actually improves it. The key is to start off gently.

-By Lawrence Robinson, Melinda Smith, M.A. and Jeanne Segal, Ph.D.



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sports

Patrick Mahomes says he would step away from football for his family



Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes put family above football in a recent cover story in "Time" magazine. He said he will keep playing in the NFL as long as it doesn't "take away from my family time" with his two kids and wife, Brittany.

The magazine named Mahomes one of 2024's "World's Most Influential People," and he opened up about his career and being a father to daughter Sterling, 3, and son Bronze, 1.

"I've looked, if I played until Tom [Brady]'s age (45), my daughter would be 19, 20 years old," Mahomes said.

"That would mean missing plenty of youth sporting events and other commitments. I would love to play that long. At the same time, I want to be there for my daughter. If I can do that, I'll continue to play. But if I feel like it's taking away from my family time, that's when I'll know it's time to go."

At one point in the story, Mahomes talked about his Super Bowl victories and disputed that he's even close to being like Brady.

"You have to build a consistency of a career," he said. "You see that in any sport. I've had a great run. I think I've done a

great job so far. But it's hard to take away from what Tom did for so long, what Peyton Manning did or Aaron Rodgers.

"There are so many guys, they were at such a high level for such a long time. In order to be in that conversation, you have to do that on a year-to-year basis. You can't take it for granted that you did it the year before. That's something I'll talk about when I'm done

playing. Then people can make those decisions."

Brittany and Patrick met in high school in Texas. They welcomed their daughter in 2021, and the couple finally tied the knot in 2022.

In 2022, they shared news that they were expecting again and welcomed their son later that year.

FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

This must be one of the best times of the year to be a sports fan because there is so much happening right now. Baseball, basketball, hockey, golf, Nascar, you name it. Even the NFL is getting in on the action with their draft being held at the end of April.

The Kansas City Royals have gotten off to a good start this year. They currently sit at 14-10 and are 3 and half games out of first place in their division. Sure, I know it's early, but we should get excited about this.

In years past they have been written off by the end of April for starting poorly. Why can't we go all in at the end of April? Everyone is waiting for the proverbial wheels to fall off. I understand, but there are reasons to be opti-



mistic.

I believe that good pitching overcomes good offense and looking at the Royals pitching staff is the first reason we should be excited. They have an ERA of 3.21 which is 5th lowest in the majors. The only weak link in their armor right now is the bullpen, or should I say Will Smith. However, he's a proven successful pitcher so I'm sure he'll come around.

Offensively, they have 28 home runs, 6th in the majors and a slugging percentage of .403, which is 9th. They signed Bobby Witt Jr. To a long term deal during the off-season and they seem to have a good core of players that will all be there for awhile. I'm saying that the future of the

Royals looks bright.

The Royals are a fun and exciting team to watch. They pitch and play defense well. They have timely hitting and they can steal bases when needed. They kind of remind me of another Royals upstart Royals team in 2014. Time will tell.

I don't watch the NBA much during the season, a few games here and there depending on who is playing. However, when the NBA playoffs roll around I pay a little more attention. Not sure which team I want to win it all, but I'm intrigued by the Oklahoma City Thunder and the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Thunder finished in first place in the Western Conference this year after finishing in 10th place last year. I'm always amazed when teams have huge turn-arounds like that.

As far as hockey goes, I grew up a Montreal Canadiens fan but they seem to have fallen on hard times and they failed to make the playoffs. Oh well. Maybe I should pay more attention to them next year,

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Masters champion says his faith makes him a champion with or without golf

Golfer Scottie Scheffler gave credit to his Master after winning the prestigious Masters tournament in April.

"I believe in one Creator, that I've been called to come out here, do my best, compete and glorify God, and that's pretty much it," he said.

"Golf is something that I do. It is a tremendously huge part of my life, but it doesn't define me as a person. I happen to be good at it some weeks...and the next week I'm bad at it," he shared. "I'm a faithful guy. I believe in a Creator. I believe in Jesus. Ultimately, I think that's what defines me the most."

Scheffler, whose wife Meredith was not in Augusta because she is expecting their first child later this month, has spoken many times about the strength of his faith. He attends Bible study with his caddie Ted Scott and together with fellow Ryder Cup star Sam Burns cohosts an annual retreat with members of the College Golf Fellowship, a faith-based ministry.

Scheffler said his wife was a great help to him as he tried to pass the long hours in the morning until his tee time. "She sent a lot of prayers," he said. "My neck was bugging me a little bit. She just prayed for some healing and prayed for a lot of peace out there. I had a good conversation with my buddies this morning about the victory, and that victory already being secure."

Scheffler said his faith helped him during his final round on Sunday.

"My buddies told me this morning, my victory was secure on the cross," he said, according to video. "And that's a pretty special



feeling; to know that I'm secure forever and it doesn't matter if I win this tournament or lose this tournament. My identity is secure forever."

"Yeah, I mean, I believe that today's plans were already laid out many years ago, and I could do nothing to mess up those plans," he said. "I have been given a gift of this talent, and I use it for God's glory. That's pretty much it. So when I'm out there, I try to compete to the best of my abilities."

Scheffler concluded by citing his priorities in life.

"I will go home, soak in this victory tonight," he said. "And we will definitely enjoy the birth of my first child. But with that being said, I still love competing. My priorities will change here very soon. My son or daughter will now be the main priority, along with my wife, so golf will now be probably fourth in line. But I still love competing. I don't plan on taking my eye off the ball anytime soon, that's for sure."

Scheffler's consistent message throughout his time in the spot-

light has been focused on finding identity in Christ.

Following his 2022 Masters win, Scheffler appeared on the "Golf. Life. Faith." podcast and spoke extensively on the subject.

In his official press conference during the Masters tournament that year, the message was the same: golf doesn't define him, Christ does.

"The reason why I play golf is because I'm trying to glorify God and all that He's done in my life and so for me, my identity isn't a golf score," he said. "Jesus loves you, and nothing changes that, and all I'm trying to do is glorify God, and that's why I'm here, and that's why I'm in this position. So for me, it's not about golf."

Scheffler added that his wife prays for him before he hits the course, asking the Lord for peace.

"Meredith always prays for peace because that's what I want to feel when I'm out there on the golf course," he said. "I want to feel peace and have fun and just feel His presence, and so that's her prayer every day, and I really felt that today."

Sole Reason's 6th Annual Golf Tournament is now two days

Sole Reason's 6th Annual Sneaker's and Smiles Golf Tournament has expanded to two days, with separate tournaments being held on Friday June 28th at 2pm, and Saturday the 29th at 8am at Cypress Ridge Golf Course. The event benefits Sole Reason, a local not-for-profit under 501 c (3) that provides free sneakers to kids in need in the Topeka, KS area.

"Sole reason has been so blessed to be able to provide new sneakers to so many wonderful kids over the last 6.5 years," said Jerry Hudgins, Sole Reason Founder.

"One of the ways we continue to do this is through our annual Sneakers and Smiles Golf Classic. There's always so much excitement and support from those who participate."

There are several activities at the tournament, including a putting contest, closest to the pin, longest putt, and a hole-in-one contest.

"We're excited for our 6th annual golf tournament. We're always blown away by the community

support for this event, and we are excited to raise some money to help provide sneakers to kids in the Topeka and surrounding areas!" said Sandra Clear, Sole Reason Board President.

A silent auction featuring items from in-state D1 programs as well professional sports teams in Kansas City. Bidding is done day of event and in person.

"We will be having a couple of fan favorite additions... a raffle and silent auction for Chiefs, Jayhawk, Wildcat and Royals items and local gift cards," Hudgins said, "So come and join the fun. More sneakers. More smiles. And more of a great time!"

The entry fee for the 4 person scramble is \$380 per team. The fee includes green fees, cart, drinks, and meals.

Sign Up Today! Register online at: www.SoleReason.net. For sponsorships or more information, please contact Jerry Hudgins, tournament director, at (785) 338-2965 or e-mail: sole_reason@yahoo.com.

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4 Person Scramble Tournament

Friday, June 28th Shotgun start: 2pm 	OR	Saturday, June 29th Shotgun start: 8am
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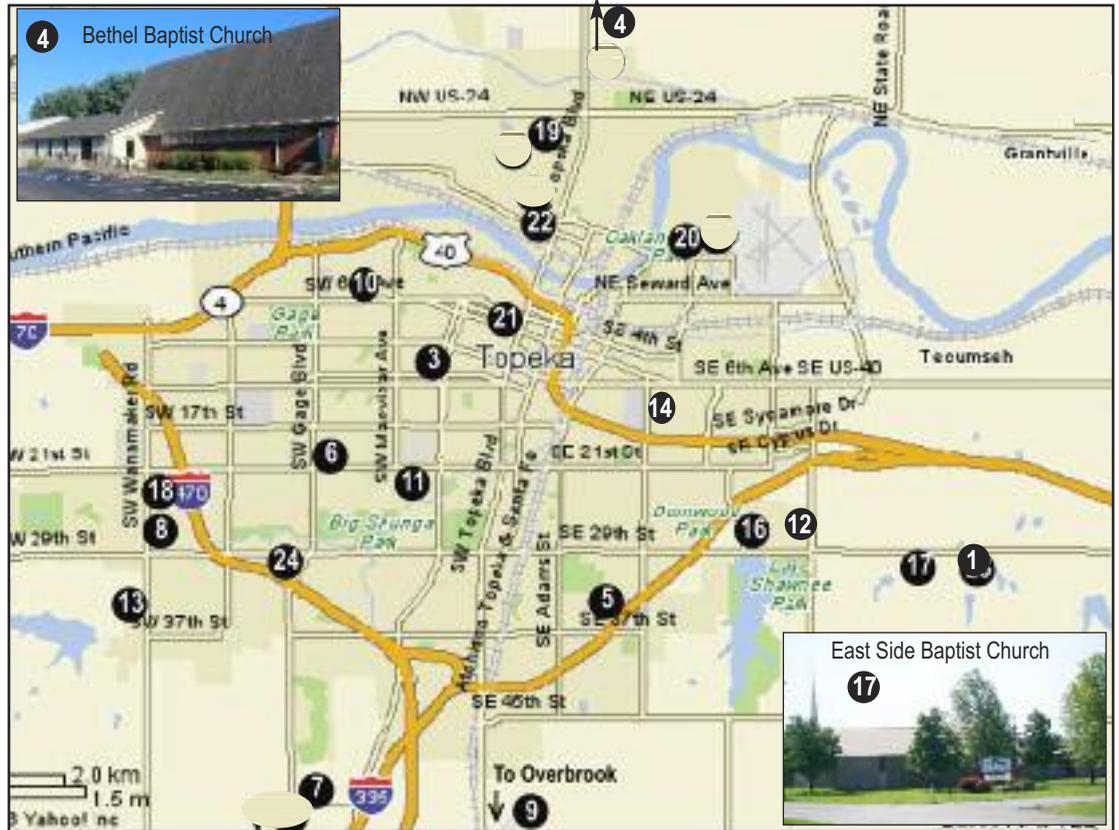
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2024 For more information go to www.solereason.net or contact Jerry at (785-338-2965) or e-mail sole_reason@yahoo.com

New Resident Church Guide



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Sunday Evenings at 5:30pm:
• AWANA
• Student Ministries
• reJengage
www.esbcks.org

22. FAMILY OF GOD CHURCH
1231 NW Eugene St.
Topeka, KS 66608
Pastor Roger Randel
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Wednesday Bible Study 7pm
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
1937 NE Madison St,
Topeka, KS 66616 • 785-506-4594
Pastor Dale Stockburger
Sunday Worship: 11 am and 6pm
Sunday School: Sun 10am
Wed. Evening Worship: 7pm

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21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP
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Sun. Service 10:45 am
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 7pm

3. TOPEKA BIBLE CHURCH

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785-234-5545
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Livestream at 9:00 am
Sunday School & Bible Studies:
9:00 & 10:30 am
www.discovertbc.com

4. BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH

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785-286-0467
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Worship at 10:30am
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5. INDIANA AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Morning Worship – Sunday – 10:45 a.m.
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6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST

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11. COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Sun. 10:00am - Worship & Word
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12. LAKEVIEW CHURCH of the NAZARENE

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Rob Self, Senior Pastor
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Sunday 10:45am:
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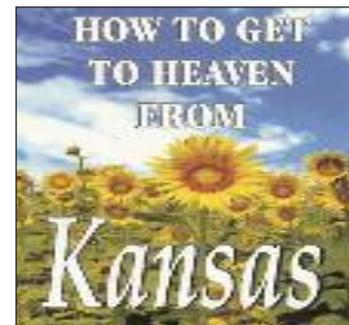
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1. Realize you are a sinner. Everyone starts the same place spiritually. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." (Rom. 3:23). Sin's penalty keeps you out of Heaven and condemns you to Hell, separating you from God. Romans 6:23 says, "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:

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

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