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VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 5

**January 2014**

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*See inside back cover!*

## Kansas' prison space problem

Travis Perry | Kansas Watchdog

Things are getting a bit cramped in Kansas prisons.

At last count, the Kansas Department of Corrections said Sunflower State penitentiary facilities are overbooked to the tune of about 74 inmates. The figure jumps to an overage of 127 if we're just looking at adult male prisons.

Yet Kansas simultaneously spends gobs of money each year to incarcerate 1,724 men and women whose most serious crime is a drug-related offense. Just how



much does the state shell out to lock up these non-violent offenders?

It's a little more than \$42 million annually.

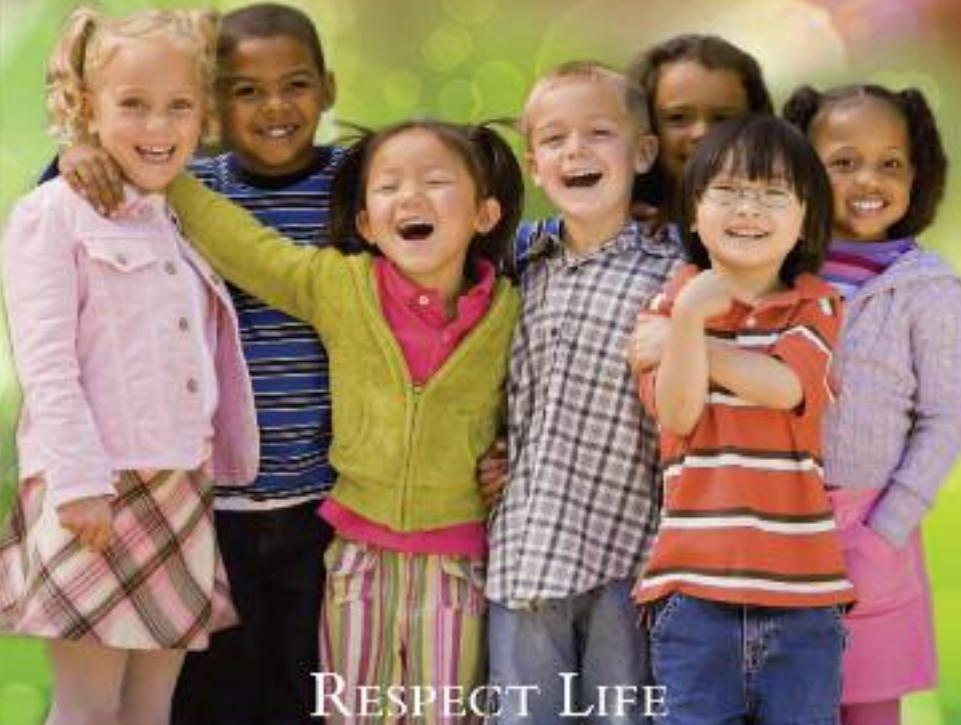
Rep. John Rubin, R-Shawnee, and Rep. Gail Finney, D-Wichita, members of the House Corrections and Juvenile Justice Committee, agree the state shouldn't be tossing away cash keeping these individuals behind bars. They just don't see eye-to-eye on how to go about it.

Committee Chair Rubin points to landmark legislation passed in the most recent session, the Justice Reinvestment Act, as Kansas' solution to the problem of increas-

■ Please see PRISON page 2

I came so that all might have *life* and have it to the full

John 10:10



**RESPECT LIFE**



## Caring for the living – born and unborn

by **Dwight Widaman**

What does it mean to be pro-life? That's a question I've been asking myself since before my late mother-in-law, Aleta, developed dementia after surgery for a broken hip. Seeing Aleta's care in a Versailles, Mo. nursing home up close, I came to appreciate the tireless hours and meager pay of her care-givers; the cheery smiles of volunteers and the dedication of my in-laws to ensure a tender and dedicated treatment befitting such a wonderful woman.

While many people think of being pro-life as singularly dedicated to saving the life of a child from abortion, it's much more. Yes, it is about unborn babies—we must never lose sight of that. There are many fine organizations that provide counseling and medical assistance to women in crisis pregnancies. But it also includes shelters which give women "breathing room" before they feel pressured by family or friends to abort their child. These women may be fleeing an abusive situation or economic crisis.

How about organizations working to end the sex-trafficking of young girls? Then there are the organizations that teach life-skills and provide training to help women end a cycle of poverty. Self-sufficiency empowers women to take control of their lives, gain confidence and make good decisions.

Pro-life also means prayerfully seeking the Lord about adopting a child or serving as a foster parent. There are many state programs and ministries crucial to finding children homes. Then there are the ministries that deal with the emotional effects of a mother's (and father's) decision to terminate a pregnancy. These women must be shown Christ's unconditional love. They don't need finger-pointing condemnation, but a hand offering help and understanding.

And, ultimately, as we work together to build a culture that respects life at all stages, it also means speaking truth and working to promote laws that respect life, protect women and children, and provide safeguards for our disabled and elderly. Legislation still makes a big difference.

**Respect Life**  
**Special Guide**  
**Page 10**

## How Kansas' Capitol project doubled in cost

Travis Perry | Kansas Watchdog

The work is finally done and the shiny gleam of the Kansas Capitol's newly copper-clad dome is something to behold.

But there's one fact that doesn't get much play as state lawmakers celebrate the conclusion of Kansas' epic restoration of the Capitol building: The price tag.

Originally slated to take five to eight years and cost \$90 to \$120 million, the restoration of the Capitol has essentially doubled in both time and cost since its inception in 2001.

However Sen. Jay Emler, R-Lindsborg, said that technically isn't the case. While the final cost is roughly \$320 million, he said original estimates anticipated that costs could — or would — change over the duration of the

■ Please see CAPITOL page 3



## KS ranks 4th in volunteering

A new report ranks Kansas fourth in the nation when it comes to volunteering. The report was issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service.

The Volunteering and Civic Life in America report says nearly 37 percent of Kansas residents volunteered in 2012. That amounts to nearly 808,000 volunteers giving 82.9 million hours of service. It also estimated the worth of that volunteer work at \$1.59 billion.

Nationwide, the group found that roughly one in four adults volunteered last year. Altogether, 64.5 million Americans volunteered nearly 7.9 billion hours. The estimated value of the volunteer service was estimated at nearly \$175 billion.

# Obamacare (ACA): Changing Deadlines

Scott Day

Since October and November were disastrous...December became the pivotal month for the Affordable Care Act. And in response...there has been a flurry of changing deadlines and even some relief from the individual mandate...but that won't apply here in Kansas.



Due to the Healthcare.gov debacle...the Administration announced in November that they were moving the enrollment deadline for January 1 effective dates from December 15 back to December 23. Then on December 23...they announced you could enroll through Christmas Eve...December 24. Then they announced if you can "prove" that you had technical difficulty you could have another extension. What?? This will be done on a case by case evaluation...good luck!

If you successfully got enrolled with Healthcare.gov (website or 800 phone number) you can relax...right? No...you can't relax just yet. Completion of your application with Healthcare.gov only means that you have completed their application. There are still more steps that you have to be cognizant of...like paying your premium. It takes Healthcare.gov a minimum of three days to process your application and then transmit it to your insurance company. Healthcare.gov gives you a phone number from your insurance company to contact to set up your insurance payment. If you don't make the arrangements to have your insurance company receive your first month's payment...you won't have insurance. Your payment must be paid before the insurance is considered fully enrolled. One carrier on the KS Marketplace has announced that you have until January 10, 2014 to complete your payment before your plan will be terminated. I recommend you call your insurance company ASAP and make sure that: a) they have received your appli-

cation; b) confirm your plan and premium; and c) schedule your first payment.

Future enrollment deadlines are: January 15, 2014 for February 1 effective dates; February 15 for March 1 effective dates; March 15 for April 1 effective dates; and March 31 for May 1 effective dates. March 31 is also the end of open enrollment...unless things change.

On December 19...the Administration announced that if you were one of the 5 to 6 million people that had your policy terminated on December 31, 2013...you would be allowed access to purchase a Catastrophic plan (normally limited to those under the age of 30) OR you can choose to be EXEMPTED from the Individual Mandate for one year! As I mentioned above...this does not apply in KS because the 10,000 people that received a termination letter were awarded a reprieve and were allowed to keep their current non-ACA compliant plan for one year.

Exemption from the Individual Mandate is a good thing...correct? It's good for the 5 to 6 million because they can look at the new plans and if they feel they are unaffordable...they can go without insurance and not face the fines for one year (2016)...the rest of us still have to deal with purchasing insurance or facing a fine in 2015.

The bigger concern is with the insurance companies in the States that had large numbers of cancellations...they did not reinstate those plans. The carriers were anticipating the terminated policy holders to be "first" in line to purchase a new health insurance plan...and now they have been given a one year "pass." If an overly large percentage of these people do not enroll...it makes it much harder to reach the 7 million new individual market enrollees needed to help hold premiums down in the coming years.

The other concern about the relaxing of the Individual Mandate is that once



relaxed...it could be relaxed even more...depending on how the enrollment goes. This would not be a good thing for the insurance companies...they NEED people to enroll in plans or else the market could get destabilized.

So how has the enrollment experience improved with Healthcare.gov? For our enrollments...not very well. I did successfully get my first online enrollment completed on December 2, 2013 and it took about an hour...it was a single, young person...normally what you would think would be a quick enrollment. As I was encouraged that maybe the website may work better...I scheduled the rest of my month with employer enrollments...assisting uninsured employees with their enrollments.

At my first enrollment...after 2 1/2 hours of unsuccessfully trying to get a client logged onto healthcare.gov...I converted to the telephone application process. This proved to be much quicker...averaging about 30 to 45 minutes per application. Then I had a four hour telephone application. The next week...I tried the website again to no avail...healthcare.gov would not recognize the newly created passwords of our clients. Later in the week I had a five hour application over the telephone. Overall though...the telephone

has proven to be the most reliable process for our enrollments...I personally enrolled 9 people by telephone on the first deadline day of December 23...two more than the final healthcare.gov enroller I talked to that day!

I have talked with three different Certified Application Counselors...and they have reported very low enrollments due to the website difficulties. I reported the same problems with the website...so we went to the telephone. We have learned that the telephone call centers are tied to the same systems as the website...my 5 hour telephone enrollment was due to three crashes of their system on December 17...and my client had to start over 3 times...they were a Saint for their patience and their determination!

On the enrollment front...the individuals that qualify for large subsidies are all enrolling. And everyone else is weighing the cost of the insurance to their income. I have had several tell me they will wait to decide till sometime in March...March 31 is the final deadline. But I have also had several tell me they will take the fine...they just couldn't afford the extra cost...some of these even were eligible for partial subsidies. Individual and family budgets will be the final factor that determines whether people purchase insurance or not.

Next month...I will discuss some of what we learned about the enrollment process and the plan determination process...it's been very interesting to say the least.

Scott Day is co-owner of Day Insurance Solutions, LLC, a Topeka health insurance agency. He serves on the Kansas State Employees Health Care Commission and also serves as the President of the Kansas Association of Health Underwriters.

**If you successfully got enrolled...you can relax...right? No...you can't relax just yet.**

## PRISON

continued from page 1

ing incarceration and recidivism.

Under this law, court services and community corrections officers can require violators to serve two or three days in jail for minor infractions. Judges can impose 120 to 180-day sentences for more serious infractions, or use the current penalties of 60 days in jail or full revocation. Under previous law violators could be sent back to prison for years to complete unexpired terms.

The bill also places greater emphasis on utilizing local rehabilitation and mental health centers to address drug-related issues.

"If these people are non-violent, if we can keep those who are not a threat to public safety in the community to get drug or alcohol treatment or mental health treatment to reduce recidivism, we should," Rubin said.

"We have already built into the sentencing guidelines presumptive probation for folks who are not a threat to public safety," he said about drug possession convictions.

But Rubin made one thing clear: he

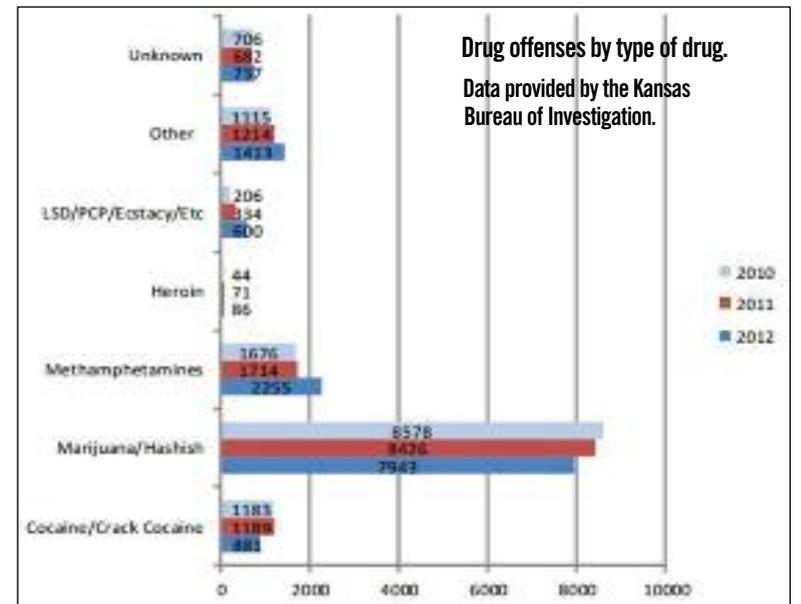
The committee's ranking Democrat argues that Kansans are being needlessly locked up for minor drug possession charges. It's a problem she has seen hit some constituents hard, and says that while the Justice Reinvestment Act is "a good step forward, I think there's probably more that we can do."

The KDOC doesn't track drug convictions by the type of narcotic involved. However, according to statistics provided by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, more than 60 percent of all drug offenses statewide since 2010 have involved marijuana. That's more than cocaine, methamphetamine, LSD, heroin and all other drugs combined. The data provided didn't include statistics from Topeka, Overland Park, Olathe and Kansas City, as those cities don't track specific drug types.

Finney said simple possession charges can result in a domino effect that derails lives and families.

"I think we're spending too much money incarcerating these people when we can do a better job getting them some rehab and reemployed," Finney said.

Finney has previously introduced legislation to establish and regulate medical marijuana in Kansas.



doesn't support reforming drug laws to keep these individuals from conviction in the first place, and said not all non-violent drug offenses are created equal.

"I suspect that the vast majority of those in the prison system need to be there," Rubin told Kansas Watchdog.

Finney disagrees.

In the end, though, both lawmakers say cash is the ultimate determining factor. Legislative funding reductions may affect efforts to combat recidivism enacted in the aforementioned corrections bill, as KDOC is facing more than \$1 million in budget cuts this year.



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# Big Year for Pro-Life Legislation

by Mailee Smith

Life-affirming legislation designed to protect women from the harms inherent in abortion garnered increasing attention and support from legislators and the American public this year. In 2013, 48 states considered approximately 360 measures related to abortion, most of which sought to protect women and their unborn children from a predatory abortion industry which, as the Kermit Gosnell

case aptly demonstrates, places concerns for profit over women's health and safety.

Of those considered, 69 provisions were enacted. This continued a trend that began in 2011 when 70 life-affirming measures were enacted, and 2012, when 38 such measures were passed - a large number for an election year.

But perhaps the best measure of legislative accomplishments this year comes not by way of numbers, but in the fear and consternation such legislation engendered among abortion advocates and their allies.

For example, abortion advocates appear particularly dismayed with recent legislative efforts to enact laws prohibiting abortion after five months of pregnancy. The reality is that a woman seeking an abortion at 20 weeks is 35 times more likely to die from abortion than she is in the first trimester. At 21 weeks or more, she is 91 times more likely to die from abortion than she is in the first trimester. Legislative efforts to limit abortion after this point directly protect maternal health.

Even the liberal Huffington Post admitted that Americans overwhelmingly support limitations on such late-term abortions.

But abortion advocates oppose banning late-term abortion as well as laws requiring that women be informed of the health risks they face from abortion. Such a stance reveals that abortion advocates are neither "pro-woman" nor "pro-choice."

The abortion industry's reaction to chemical abortion regulations also reveals its commitment not to women's health, but to advancing its abortion-on-demand agenda.

In 2011, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration reported over 2,200 complications after women used abortion-inducing drugs (RU-486). Among those were eight deaths caused by severe bacterial infection-and in each of those eight cases, the woman used the chemical abortion drugs in a manner not approved by the FDA. On the other hand, the FDA has received no reports of women dying of bacterial infection following administration of the drugs according to the manner approved by the FDA.

With these deaths in mind, it only makes sense for state legislatures to impose regulations on chemical abortion that require physicians to administer the drugs only in a manner approved by the



Participants in the annual March for Life rally pass the U.S. Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C., Jan. 25, 2013. The pro-life marchers on Friday marked the 40th anniversary of the Roe v. Wade U.S. Supreme Court ruling legalizing abortion, and Pope Benedict expressed support for the demonstrators.

## CAPITOL

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project. Initial figures were never set in stone, he added.

Sen. Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka, has served on the Capitol Restoration Commission from the start. Hensley said the significant price increase was largely a result of construction crews discovering unknown issues throughout the process. The building was in poor condition, Emler said, because it had largely gone without major maintenance and care for the better part of 80 years.

Additions in recent years, like a new roof, were added to ensure money spent on work already completed wouldn't go to waste, Emler noted.

"It probably wouldn't have been in the best interest of the taxpayers to let all that restoration work go down the tubes," Emler said.

Hensley told Kansas Watchdog he regrets the final cost of the project.

"We can't be satisfied with the final cost of the restoration due to its size, but I believe the people of Kansas will be very satisfied with the end results," Hensley said.

Emler said at times he's torn on the cost to taxpayers, but said it would have had to happen eventually if the state ever wanted to save the historic building.

"When I think about waiting lists and that sort of thing, yea (the funds) probably would have been well used on those kinds of things," Emler said. "But the other part of it is we have a treasure in the state of Kansas. I know not everybody looks at it that way, but I've visited a lot of other state capitols."

### Restoration Road Map

- September 2000 – State project manager estimates \$108.5 million construction cost. This is later revised in working with Treanor Architects to \$132.5 million.
- September 2001 – Plans revised to include underground parking and a visitor's center, though visitors center funding was not added at this time. Cost revised up to \$144.9 million.
- November 2002 – Capitol Restoration Commission accepts new lower cost estimate of \$135 million.
- December 2005 – Total construction cost estimate increased to \$162 million.
- December 2006 – Costs continue to rise, the new total has now been increased to \$172.5 million.
- December 2007 – Construction crews discover issues with exterior masonry, project additions raise cost estimate to \$211.3 million.
- Early 2011 – Total cost levels out at nearly \$320 million with the addition of a new roof, replacing the Capitol dome, new AC chillers, and finishing the north and south wings.

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FDA. Such laws would not ban chemical abortion, but would ensure that the drugs are administered only in the way that the FDA has deemed safest at this time.

But instead of supporting common-sense regulation of chemical abortion, abortion providers immediately challenge such regulations in court. But federal courts-such as the Fifth and Sixth Circuit Courts of Appeals-are properly applying U.S. Supreme Court precedent, particularly the Court's continued stance that states have an interest in protecting maternal health from the outset of pregnancy, and are concluding that regulating chemical abortion does not impose any kind of "undue burden" on a woman.

As the legislation sessions in 2011, 2012, and 2013 demonstrate, the increasingly litigious nature of the abortion industry is not discouraging the enactment of pro-life legislation. But the reaction from the abortion industry does indicate that we have hit a nerve.

As we move into 2014, states should be encouraged to continue enacting legislation that is aimed at protecting the health of the woman considering abortion, such as regulations of abortion clinics and chemical abortion.

The evidence of abortion's devastating harms to women is overwhelming and supports state legislation aimed at protecting maternal health. Consider this partial list risks associated with abortion:

n Short-term risks include blood loss,

blood clots, incomplete abortion, infections such as pelvic inflammatory disease, cervical lacerations and other injuries to organs.

n Premature birth: At least 130 studies have shown an increased risk of subsequent premature birth and low birth-weight infants after abortion. The increased risk of these devastating complications is estimated to be approximately 37 percent after one abortion, 90 percent after two abortions, and further increased risk for each additional abortion.

n Mental health: A 2011 study in the British Journal of Psychiatry examined 22 studies conducted from 1995 to 2009 and found that women face an 81 percent increased risk of mental health problems following abortion. Women experienced increased risks for anxiety at 34 percent, for depression at 37 percent, for alcohol abuse at 110 percent, and for suicide at 155 percent.

n Maternal mortality: Abortion advocates wrongly assert that abortion is safer than childbirth. Many studies show the opposite, including one that found maternal death to be three times more likely from abortion than from childbirth.

With both the law and the facts on our side, the life-affirming legislative trends of 2011-2013 appear to have staying power, and Big Abortion is on the defense.

Mailee Smith is an attorney with Americans United for Life, [www.aul.org](http://www.aul.org).

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## How to strengthen your faith in 2014

by **John Potter | Military Chaplain**

It is that time of year when everyone starts to think about new year resolutions. Do something different this year. Instead of focusing on your diet or exercise plan, take time to consider your spiritual condition and how it can improve.

Here is a list of challenging ways to strengthen your faith in 2014.

First, read your Bible on a daily basis. This may seem daunting to many, but it is a worthy practice. Take an honest look at your schedule to determine the best time and place to read scripture. It is okay to block out the time on your calendar. You can even set an appointment reminder on your computer or phone. Try to eliminate potential distractions and interruptions on the front end. Once you find the right time and place, stick to your plan. Feed your faith. Make time to hear the message of Jesus. Allow it to sustain and encourage you in all things. Remember that reading the Bible is a valuable practice. Every time you do so, you are making time to meet with God. That is no trivial event. Each meeting changes us, develops strength in tough times, and allows believers to grow in the example of Christ.

Second, keep a prayer journal. As you pray for people, life events, and direction, write what you pray for. How many prayer lists did you throw in the trash this year? Too often we turn prayer lists into a "one and done" event with no follow through. Carry these prayer needs over into the next week or next month. We need to provide greater support to our brothers and sisters by pray-

ing them through the tough times of life. Prayer needs to be more consistent in our lives. A prayer journal helps us make the practice more constant and genuine. It is okay to track prayer requests and organize them as you see fit. This allows us to be more intentional in our petitions to God. A prayer journal also allows you to see the progress and changes that take place over time. Odds are that you will discover being transformed as well.

Third, discover your spiritual gifts. We all have different gifts and abilities. 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 shares, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." God has made us all unique, but we are called to use our talents and abilities to glorify God. Discover how God has gifted you. Take a spiritual gift inventory. There are plenty of surveys, tests, assessments, and analysis guides online or at your local Christian bookstore. Remember that there are no wrong answers. Each survey is a way to discover what characteristics and traits God has implanted in you for service. Once you have completed the survey, pray for God to reveal the best way to use your gifts and talents for the body of Christ. Seek wisdom and opportunities to use the gifts that you have received from God.

As we prepare for 2014, remember to include God in your personal improvement plan. These simple steps can strengthen your faith and build the spiritual muscle God wants you to have for the year ahead.



## Need a New Perspective for the New Year?

Too many live without knowing the full purpose and plan God has for their lives. Before you finish school, before you go on with your career, take time to discover God's most cherished hopes and dreams and make them your own.

Perspectives on the World Christian Movement (Perspectives) – a three credit-hour course offered in hundreds of locations around the world – was developed to teach God's missionary heart to Christians. Its target audience today is not only college students, but also Christians of any location, vocation and age.

It is noted in the Perspectives instructor guide that "Many [people] don't know what to do with their lives. They are somehow bewildered about God's will. They struggle in making life decisions, unfamiliar with criteria other than their own self-interest. They grope for meaning in the daily hum-drum, having no larger context than their own diary. They want to serve in a cause, but have no agenda, only dozens of disconnected opportunities and priorities."

Take advantage of the rich, God-grounded heritage of the Perspectives course, and fuel your life by seeing how you fit into God's perfect, eternal and astoundingly significant purposes. Beginning this January the spring class

of Perspectives will start, and you can come the first 2 nights for free, and bring a friend along.

Perspectives classes in Topeka will be held at Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd., in the Connection Cafe. Class begins January 21, 2014 and ends May 13, 2014. Each Tuesday night at 6:30-9:30pm, a different experienced and dynamic speaker will lead class members on a journey to the heart of God. Each week they will explore exciting articles that provide a wealth of knowledge and experience that will supplement the speaker's lesson. Cost covers materials and speakers and is a one-time fee that allows you to attend the class again if you like, for free.

You can register now, online, at [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org). There you can

also find information about discounts, scholarships. You will also find more detailed information about the Topeka class and learn about the impact Perspectives is having on the world.

For more information about Topeka classes, call Local Coordinator Amanda Tucker at 785-234-1550.

**i moreinformation**

**PERSPECTIVES SPRING CLASSES – Jan. 21-May 13, Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. A New Speaker every week for 15 weeks. Register at [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org) >Find a class**

## Work Ethic in Today's Culture

Work ethic today in our culture has somehow become a thing that a lot of people don't want to talk about. As LIFE Founder Orrin Woodward wrote in his blog, at the 2013 Teen Choice Awards, Ashton Kutcher was talking about work ethic. The people in the audience seemed to be interested in what he was speaking about, but you could tell it wasn't something that our young folks normally think of. Even in to my generation, it's becoming unpopular to be excited about working hard and doing something productive with your time. We are becoming more and more dependent on our government, our families and friends, and our banks (we can borrow money and rob Peter to pay Paul, etc.), but the fact of the matter is we were all designed to work and do work for the glory of God. We always have been; perhaps some of us have forgotten that or didn't know it in the first place.

Through the years, people have become less dependent on the work THEY do and more dependent on the work someone ELSE does. Whether someone is dependent on their parents, their aunts and uncles, their friends and neighbors, or the government (which is becoming increasingly popular,) it affects society. Lack of work ethic is slowing things down. A recent article in the Washington Post shows government subsidies. 49.1% of people in the first quarter of 2011 were dependent on the government in some way.

Well, somebody had to work in order to make those services available for everyone else. About half of our culture is working harder than the other half. I believe part of the reason for this is because for some reason people have come to believe work is an ugly thing and someone else should do it. In some cases, people may be arrogant and feel they are "above" certain types of jobs, and would rather be unemployed than humble themselves to take a less impressive job.

The bottom line is this: we are all supposed to work and bring glory to God.



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# A Gift for the New Year

by **Jessica S. Hosman**

My past Thanksgiving was spent with individuals who are poor in Africa and my Christmas with those who are homeless in the States. On both holidays, I was blessed by the gratitude and love that surrounded me from those who had far less than me.

And then I went home... and had a hard time not weeping over the abundance that laid in wait to be opened under my family's Christmas tree. While each gift was opened and received with gratitude, I struggled. For five weeks my toddler son and I spent time on a continent that has water and electricity as a rare luxury. For most of our stay, we had no access to toilets and ate the same foods nearly every day. My son had one toy that he contently played with day in and day out without complaint – even after it broke.

It might sound ludicrous to some, but since our return I have had challenges joyfully embracing all of the luxuries that our Western culture has to offer. I have had challenges listening to people complain about little things so foreign to most of our world. I've had challenges seeing people receive a plethora of gifts during the Christmas season and still walk through life empty and void, wanting more than what they've already received.

I watched for weeks as numerous children and adults with virtually nothing other than the clothes we would consider rags on their backs smiled victoriously and praised Jesus for the riches they possessed. Riches that many would not be able to see. But joy and happiness are truly not about our possessions, comforts or stuff. It's about knowing and trusting in the One who daily gives us breath and supplies for all of our needs – even when that provision does not look the way we expect.

The months of December and January are times of celebration as we embrace Christmas and embark on a new year, but they can also be hard. It can be hard when we are away from our families or realize that we don't have the finances to purchase everything we might like. It can be difficult when family gathers and some members are no longer with us. Sometimes our spirits mourn rather than rejoice. But I assure you – regardless of what challenges or loss you might be facing – there is still reason to celebrate each new day God gives.

Living in a place where the only One I could really turn to and depend upon was God, I learned much about dependence upon Him – even in immense challenges – and daily gratitude for the blessings which do exist, even when they are hard to see.

While the gift of Jesus Christ might sound cliché to some – it really is the greatest gift we could receive – both at Christmas and throughout the year. It's the gift that assures that we don't have to walk through any of the hardships of life alone; the gift that removes our burdens and dries our tears when we only ask. While we might not have all of the riches of this world, when we have Him we are rich indeed because of the joy He births within our hearts. I might not have the ability to purchase that gift for you and wrap it up in a pretty bow, but thankfully it's one that's already been given. It's in front of you now, just waiting to be opened. It's a gift filled with joy, hope, peace and life. May that gift – and all it contains – be yours throughout the New Year ahead.



Jessica Hosman

## KS school district faces lawsuit after banning 'See You at the Pole' fliers

by **Jessica Martinez**

A federal lawsuit accusing the Bonner Springs, Kan. School District of violating a student's First Amendment rights has been filed by the Alliance Defending Freedom organization after the student was prohibited from distributing fliers with biblical verses throughout the school.

According to ADF, a legal organization that advocates for Christian rights, a seventh-grader at Robert E. Clark Middle School posted the fliers to announce the school's upcoming "See You at the Pole" day, an event when students across the country gather around their school's flagpole before the beginning of classes to pray for the school, students, staff and the nation.

"Public schools should encourage, not shut down, the free exchange of ideas," said Matt Sharp, a legal counsel for ADF, in a statement. "The law on this is extremely clear: school policies cannot target religious speech for

exclusion. The First Amendment protects freedom of speech for all students, regardless of their religious or political beliefs."

The incident came to ADF's attention after the student was confronted by a school counselor who said the fliers were illegal and a violation of the separation of church and state.

In the lawsuit, ADF contends the school's double standard in allowing secular materials to be displayed, such as a hand-made poster with an image of a

tombstone and the words "Here lies k-state... I am glad you are gone forever because you try to be as good as KU but you are not," and other posters including one referencing rap artist Lil' Wayne.

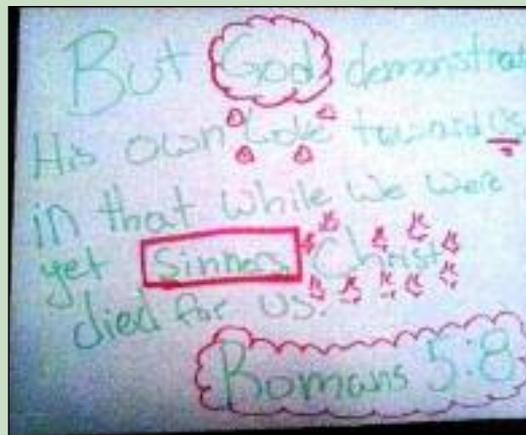
The organization also notes that the student's posting of the fliers did not "interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activity within the school."

Superintendent Dan Brungardt said they have a policy that prohibits the distribution of religious materials because "different entities request to distribute

information to students constantly," and if school officials approved each request, their educational environment would be disrupted.

However, Jeremy Tedesco, a senior legal counsel with ADF, says that marginalizing faith-based students "removes an important influence for good from the school community."

He also added, "We hope the school district will revise its policy so that students can exercise their constitutionally protected freedoms."



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# opinion

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## A GOOD NAME: WITNESS PROTECTION OR AUTHENTICITY

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HAKIM  
HAZIM  
Freedom Squared

viewpoint

We believe everyone reading this article should engage in some self-examination and answer this question:

In a world of broken relationships and trust deficits, when people hear or see your name, does it bring rest or more uncertainty? This will prick the conscience for some and for others it will drive them to engage in active deception. As Christians we prize our reputations, maybe even idolize them. In truth we need to rethink things, because there is a chasm between the world we seek to win and the way we portray ourselves.

We live in a world filled with transactional relationships bereft of truth. In this world, names are associated with achievement and socioeconomic status, not nec-

essarily character. Typical connections lack authenticity, accountability and most importantly love. In reality, and according to civil and criminal jurisprudence, a person's name does not mean much until it is written down on a contract and bound to an agreement that has the force of law behind it.

As Christians we find ourselves in such a setting and often feel powerless to overcome the pervasive cynicism in our culture. We pride ourselves on character and so our attacks against the world are often character based. Why then should we be surprised when they respond in kind.

Skeptics are fueled by our hypocrisy and self-righteousness that gives rise to a witness protection approach to reaching them. Witness

protection means the lengths Christians go to in order to protect our reputations and manage other people's perceptions. God is not pleased with this deception. We should simply be truthful witnesses endeavoring to be more like Christ before Him and the world. We are broken and imperfect; yet, striving. This is the truth and truthfulness is part of having a good name and the only road to bolstering one.

Sadly, the self-deception of believers is not confined to a mild flexion of the

**"A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold."**

PROVERBS 22:1

## Time for a New Start



CLINT  
DECKER  
President and  
Evangelist with  
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Clay Center, Kansas – As a sunrise means the start of a new day, so January means the start of a new year. Our world is filled with examples of new starts. The toss of a coin on a football field is the start of a new game, the exchange of vows in a wedding ceremony is the start of a new life-long relationship and the first day on a job is the start of new opportunities. Examples of new starts are all around us. They can teach us a few things.

First, they teach us about perseverance. Life can make us weary. It can make us feel like giving up and saying to ourselves, "I can't do this anymore." However, January can be a new start. Will you give up or accept that last year is gone and renew your commitment to give your best and keep pressing onward?

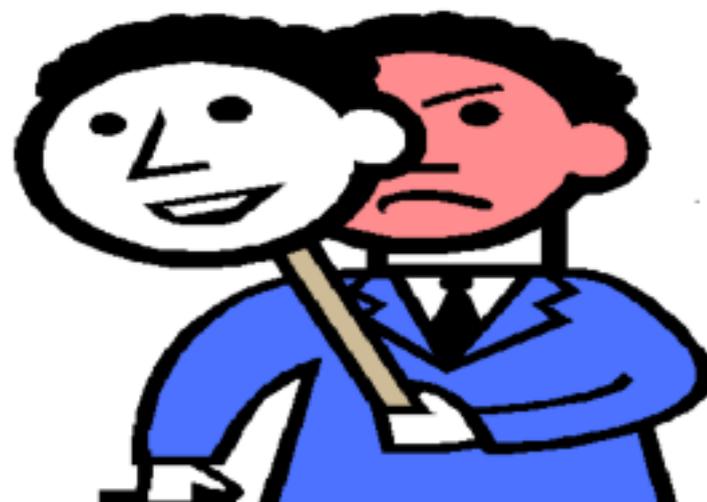
Second, a new start teaches us about

opportunity. January shouts saying, "Hey, it is a new year what are you going to do with it?" We may have opportunities to begin a new career, help someone who is in need or fulfill a lifelong dream. Will we allow them to come and go or will we rise up, seize these opportunities and do our best with the chances we have been given?

Third, a new start teaches us about the grace of God. As New Year's Day symbolizes the occasion to commence a better year, so the grace of God is the chance to inaugurate the start of a new and redeemed life.

As we have done nothing to cause the rising of the morning sun, so we have done nothing to earn this grace of God and the redemption it provides. What is this amazing grace? It is an expression of God's love shown through the death and resurrection of His Son whom provided the forgiveness of sins our hearts desperately need.

The Scriptures say, "Let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Today, draw near to God and seek His grace that His love may wash you clean and place within you a new heart and mind. Indeed, may His love be your hope for today and this new year.



truth used to mask our weaknesses from others. The more sinister beast of "relativity" often devours the authenticity of those claiming the name of Christ. We use the failures of prominent church leaders, and the atrocities of those on the religious fringe to situate ourselves comfortably in the fat part of the bell curve of faith.

In our ease, we forget the true power of Christianity. It's about us. People don't make decisions of faith based on the failures of the preacher on TV with his too white smile and slicked back hair. They don't turn their heart from God based on a news story about an abortion clinic bombing, or the infidelity of a church leader.

They weigh the value of Christ by what they see in the Christian next door. Once we embrace this truth authenticity takes on new meaning.

For too long our message to not bring reproach on the name of the Lord has been synonymous with making the church look bad. There needs to be a distinction that is clear to believers and unbelievers alike. God loves His church, but He does not support many of the things we do in His name. They are simply our endeavors with a forged signature. Perhaps that is the core of the problem.

Dan Jackson contributed to this opinion piece.

## LET THE DREAM LIVE



PATRICIA  
SMITH  
Chairman, Black  
Americans for Life

viewpoint

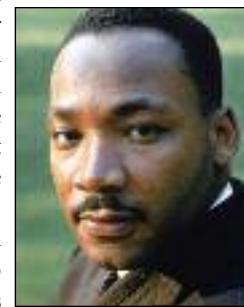
In his immortal speech "I Have a Dream", Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. paints a disturbing scene of a nation that had compromised its fidelity to the Declaration of Independence; and therefore, to its citizens by not honoring this fact: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..." This nation's injustice was that she discriminated against a segment of the population simply because of the color of their skin through laws, court decisions and fostering an atmosphere of hostility. To remedy this, Dr. King righteously admonished her leaders to live up to their calling and to judge based on the content of a person's character, not the color of his or her skin. This would be the path to fulfilling the dream for every American citizen.

Fast-forward five years after Dr. King's death, and a more egregious act of

infidelity took place: The rullings of Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. The Roe decision ruled that abortions were lawful under the US Constitution up to the point at which the fetus becomes able to survive outside the womb, and Doe v. Bolton essentially legalized abortion up to and including birth. As a result of these two abominable decisions, the United States, once again by rejecting parts of the Declaration of Independence, has broken her covenant with another segment of the population: unborn children.

She has ignored the reality that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life. Although these two decisions

took place after the death of King, he must have seen precursors to them as can be sensed in this quote: "The Negro cannot win as long as he is willing to sacrifice the lives of his children for comfort and



■ Please see next page



**LARRY P. ARNN**  
PRESIDENT,  
HILLSDALE COLLEGE

## viewpoint

There is a proper way to educate and there is a proper way to govern, and they are both known. Today we do these things in a different way, which presents a serious and perhaps fatal problem for our country. But repair is possible.

Take education first. The word “education” comes from a Latin word meaning “to lead forth.” And if you think about it, “forth” is a value-laden term. Which way is forth? The Bible tells us to “raise up a child in the way he should go.” But which way should he go? How does one come to know the answer to that? After almost 14 years as a college president I’m an expert on young people between 18 and 22, and I can tell you that if you ask a young person today which way is the right way to go, more often than not he or she will answer: “It depends on which way you want to go.” Young people today give that answer because they’ve been taught to give that answer. But it’s the wrong answer, and the activity of getting from there to the right answer—the activity of coming to know which way is the right way—is education. Thus “to lead forth.”

### Two Ways of Education

At Hillsdale College students read a lot of old books, including Plato’s Republic. In the Republic they read the story of Gyges’ ring—a ring that makes the wearer of it invisible. One of Socrates’ interlocutors in the Republic, a young man named Glaucon, raises the question: Why would a man in possession of such a ring not use it to do and obtain whatever he wishes? Why would he not use the ring’s powers, for instance, to become a tyrant? In response, Socrates turns the discussion to another question: What is the right way for a man to live? What is just by nature and what is unjust?

These Socratic questions were once at the center or core of education, and they remain at the center or core of education at Hillsdale College. But in American education as a whole, these questions have been abandoned.

Let me give you two examples of how the new way of education differs from the old. One concerns the use of the word I just used—“core.” Here at Hillsdale we have a core curriculum—a thing most American colleges and universities have watered down or done away with—which is a core

## A Rebirth of Liberty and Learning

group of courses that all students, regardless of their major, are required to take. A true core, as I’ve described, has a unifying principle, such as the idea that there is a right way to live that one can come to know. Compare that to the use of the same word in describing the latest bright idea of the education establishment—the so-called Common Core—which is an attempt by bureaucrats and politicians to impose national standards on American schools. When one looks into Common Core, it becomes clear that it has no unifying principle in the sense I have described. And it has destructive effects. But the point I want to make here is that its only stated object is career preparation.

Bereft of the kind of questions posed by Socrates in the Republic—or the kind of questions raised in the Bible, or in the plays of Shakespeare—modern education treats students chiefly as factors of production, as people to be trained for productive jobs. And although we all wish productive jobs for our children, as parents we know that they are not chiefly job seekers or factors of production. After all, how many of us, if we were given the choice of our children earning a lot of money and being bad, or struggling economically and being good, would choose the former?

My second example of the turn taken by modern education goes to the heart of the problem. Here is a passage from the Teacher’s Guide for Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition, published in 1991 by the College Board—the influential organization that, among other things, administers the SAT exam. It is written by an English professor from Agnes Scott College in Georgia.

... AP teachers are implementing the best of the new pedagogies that have influenced leading institutions of higher learning. Perhaps most importantly, as Arthur Applebee explains, “objectivity” and “factuality” have lost their preeminence. Instruction has become “less a matter of transmittal of an objective and culturally sanctioned body of knowledge,” and more a matter of helping individuals learn to construct their own realities. This moves English courses away from the concept of subject matter to be memorized and toward “a body of knowledge, skills, and strategies that must be constructed by the learner out of experiences and interactions within the social context of the classroom.” Emphasis is on the processes of language and thought, “processes that are shaped by a given cultural community and which also help students become part of the cultural community.” **Contemporary educators no doubt hope students will shape values and**

**ethical systems as they engage in these interactions, acquiring principles that will help them live in a mad, mad world** (emphases added).

Could the difference be more stark between the older and newer ways of education? Between leading students toward an understanding of the right way to live in a comprehensible world, and telling them they must shape their own values and make their own reality in a world gone mad? And by the way, think of the definition of “reality”; then think of making one’s own reality. Do you see that it destroys the meaning of the word to use it that way?

### Two Ways of Governing

The difference between the old and the new way of governing is directly connected to this turn in education. One way to see the difference is to see that laws in America used to be simple and beautiful. They were written with care, and citizens could read them quickly and understand their meaning. Of the four organic laws that founded America—the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, the Northwest Ordinance, and the Constitution of the United States—none of them was more than 4,500 words long.

The Northwest Ordinance, adopted in 1787 and passed again in 1789, contains the following beautiful sentence: “Religion, morality, and knowledge, being necessary for good government and the happiness of mankind, the means of education shall forever be encouraged.” Accordingly, Congress proceeded to give 1/36 of the land in the vast Northwest Territory—including Michigan and four other states—as an endowment, controlled by the states, to support education in each township. One of the finest laws written subsequently was the Homestead Act of 1862, by which ten percent of U.S. land—over 270 million acres—passed into the hands of individual citizens. The Homestead Act was 1,320 words in length.

Compare the Northwest Ordinance and the Homestead Act—perfect examples of the older, constitutional way of governing—with the new bureaucratic way of imposing central control through rules and processes that no one can understand. Compare them, for instance, to the Affordable Care Act, which when it was passed in 2010—and this does not include the countless rules and regulations it has generated over the past three years—ran to 363,086 words. This law—and in the true sense of the word it wasn’t a law at all, but something different—was not readable or comprehensible to any member of

Congress who voted for it or to the citizens whose lives it was aimed at manipulating in a detailed and intrusive way. Could anything be uglier? And is it surprising, being governed in this way, that the richest nation in human history is going broke?

Let me mention two characteristics and dangers of the new way of governing. First, if you look at the size of the federal budget, you see that in economic terms the government is beginning to rival in size the rest of the country. Less and less do we have a large and thriving private sector—which is where the Constitution placed sovereignty—in control of a limited government that owes its authority to the governed.

That the Constitution placed sovereignty in the people, outside the government, means that the only way the people can maintain their sovereignty—the only way they can control the government—is through elections of representatives. But as the government becomes almost as big, in economic terms, as those who elect it, the government itself—with its clients and friends—becomes increasingly influential in the electoral process, while people who make their living independent of the government become less influential. This trend could prove fatal to our country, because at

some point if it continues—and we can already see the beginnings with attempts to regulate political speech—the idea of free elections will become problematic.

My final point is that this new way of governing actively opposes America’s founding principles. Consider an example from the College’s recent history:

What could more directly contradict America’s bedrock principle of human equality than the attempt by bureaucrats at the Department of Education to force Hillsdale, whose charter prohibited racial discrimination long before the Civil War, to count its students by the color of their skin?

James Madison is known as the Father of the Constitution, and when he suggested in the Federalist Papers that the Constitution receives its authority from the principles of the Declaration of Independence, he was expressing what was then the common view. Here is the famous statement of those principles:

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are*

*Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed,—That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of those ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government . . .*

Compare that confident statement of principles to this passage from President Obama’s 2006 book *The Audacity of Hope*:

*Implicit in [the Constitution’s] structure, in the very idea of ordered liberty, was a rejection of absolute truth, the infallibility of any idea or ideology or theology or “ism,” any tyrannical consistency that might lock future generations into a single, unalterable course . . . (emphasis added).*

How did Barack Obama come to believe something so foreign to America’s heritage as the idea that in the name of liberty we must reject absolute truths—which necessarily includes rejecting those truths I just quoted from the Declaration? And how is it—because this is a bipartisan problem—that not once in the course of two long presidential campaigns did an opponent of Barack Obama think to point out his unequivocal disagreement with the principles we celebrate as a nation on the Fourth of July?

Do you recall what I said about the connection between the new way of education and the new way of governing? Given what is now taught in our schools, is it any wonder that our leaders today behave like wearers of Gyges’ ring who have not given thought to the questions raised by Socrates in the Republic, or to the connection between the principles of the Declaration of Independence and civil and religious liberty?

The means of repairing both education and government today is the activity that takes place at Hillsdale College. Through its undergraduate and graduate programs, its Kirby Center in Washington, D.C., its extensive online learning program, its charter school initiative, its multiple outreach activities, and its publications such as *Imprimis*, Hillsdale seeks to radiate that activity to every corner of the nation in every possible way. This is the work needed to save our country, and it is the purpose of Hillsdale’s “Rebirth of Liberty and Learning Campaign.”

“this new way of governing actively opposes America’s founding principles.”

### ■ CONTINUED from previous page

safety. How can the ‘Dream’ survive if we murder the children? Every aborted baby is like a slave in the womb of his or her mother. The mother decides his or her fate.”

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, over 54 million unborn children have been aborted since 1973. Of that number, about 16 million were black babies. The Kansas Department of Health notes that approximately 1,708 blacks were aborted in the year of 2012. And in a poll conducted by the Alan Guttmacher Institute of 1,200 women, and of the reasons provided to them as a part of the poll, the two most common selections were

“Having a baby would dramatically change my life” (74 percent) and “I can’t afford a baby now” (73 percent). The woman’s health was noted by only 13 percent of the women, while the baby’s health was indicated by 12 percent. Only 14 percent said a husband or partner wanted them to have an abortion. These figures are a stark representation of both women and men who have stopped dreaming and have given up on life.

At Black Americans for Life, we pursue the mandate to keep the dream alive by heeding Dr. King’s admonition through being a voice for the unborn. Our vision is to end abortion and restore the family and the Biblical institution of

marriage to a place of dignity and respect in this culture. We endeavor to accomplish this by prayer, educating the community, and supporting the local church. Our three areas of focus are life-saving the lives of the unborn and valuing every person from conception to natural death; moral purity—calling those who are not married to a life of chastity, and marriage-supporting and affirming Biblical marriage. So stand with us as we encourage every United States citizen to let the ‘Dream’ live.

Patricia Smith is Chairman, Black Americans for Life. [www.ba4l.org](http://www.ba4l.org)  
816-353-4113 (MO Right to Life/Black Americans for Life)

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# 2013 Cultural Winners and Losers

by **Brent Bozell**

Let's assess the winners and losers in American culture for 2013. Our first obvious winner is "Duck Dynasty" and its Phil Robertson. He's a winner for standing by his Christian principles after some offensive remarks about homosexuality.

A&E suspended him and put out the usual statement that

they are "champions" of the gay agenda -- and proceeded to start running "Duck Dynasty" marathons. Mark Steyn put it just right: The gay-left blacklists insist "espousing conventional Christian morality, even off air, is incompatible with American celebrity." Robertson has successfully shattered intolerance of the anti-Christian left.

Winner: Universal Pictures, for "Despicable Me 2." This cartoon feature came in third at the box office (\$367 million) in 2013, beaten only by two other much-anticipated sequels, "Iron Man 3" and the second "Hunger Games" film. But in December, it shattered records for DVD sales of an animated picture, grossing an amazing \$80 million in its first week of release. The previous record was held by ... the first "Despicable Me." There were three animated family films in the top 10 hits, with G-rated "Monsters University" in fifth (\$263 million) and "Frozen" in 10th (\$204 million after five weeks and climbing).

Loser: Universal Pictures, for



Bozell

"Kick-Ass 2." The ultraviolent first installment, which features the 12-year-old "Hit Girl implausibly killing tons of villains at a time," grossed \$48 million at the box office, a figure that shouldn't inspire a sequel. The second edition grossed only \$28 million. Entertainment Weekly found the immoral thrill of actress Chloe Grace Moretz killing and swearing like a sailor had vanished. At 16, she "can't manufacture the same that's-so-wrong jolt she managed the first time around. Back then, it was hilariously taboo to see a little girl spout arias of profanity." Boston Globe film critic Ty Burr nailed it: "Kick-Ass 2 is a special kind of crap: the kind smart people make for audiences they think are stupid."

Winner: Rockstar Games, the makers of the video game "Grand Theft Auto 5," which smashed six world sales records, including the highest revenue generated by an entertainment product in 24 hours and the fastest entertainment property to gross a billion dollars. It sold over 11 million copies in its first 24 hours and hit a billion in sales within three days.

Loser: "Grand Theft Auto 5" is a perfect example of the amoral and ultraviolent products that are never, ever advertised as such. Chris Suellentrop of The New York Times, fan of the game, explains that the latest version is "still an action game about hoodlums and thieves; we start with an extended bout of cop killing and proceed to a series of increasingly ambitious heists." There are three villains you can choose to become, like "Trevor, an oddly lovable psychopathic

meth dealer and gun runner." This is not "Breaking Bad," a series aimed at an adult audience. This is a game bought by children.

Winner: Melissa McCarthy. This comic actress led the year's highest-grossing R-rated movie, "The Heat" (alongside Sandra Bullock), bringing in almost \$160 million, and "Identity Thief," which grossed over \$134 million. It is unfortunate that her humor needs to be laced with so many profanities (they counted 269 in "The Heat") the ratings cops felt forced to give it an R.

Loser: Miley Cyrus. The former star of Disney's "Hannah Montana" turned 20 and became the star of a series of MTV-promoted outrages. Her antics are a grotesque perversion of her former innocence. She is disgusting.

Speaking of losers, Cher told USA today she would have supported Cyrus if she'd come out naked and performed well, but "It just wasn't done well. She can't dance, her body looked like hell, the song wasn't great." She seemed to miss the point. Cyrus went viral precisely because her performance was an ugly train wreck.

Loser: "The Fifth Estate." Disney executives bit on this picture glorifying leftist WikiLeaks creep Julian Assange. It cost \$28 million to make and grossed only \$3.2 million. How bad was it? Its opening grossed only \$1.7 million from 1,769 theaters -- the worst opening of the year for a movie showing in more than 1,500 theaters. Maybe this will save us from Hollywood following its "progressive" heart and making an Edward Snowden-glorifying "The Fifth Estate 2."

Loser: Robert Reich. He's no Al Gore or Michael Moore in the documentary sweepstakes. His socialist lecture/film "Inequality for All" grossed only \$1.19 million, despite Reich calling it an "Inconvenient Truth" for the economy" and touting that it won an award at a film festival in Traverse City, Mich. Reich told The Boston Globe: "This is the last hurrah. If this doesn't educate the public, I give up."

Was that a threat or a promise?

## 2013 Timeline By Kristin Chapman

Jan. 1: Congress approves a fiscal cliff deal, with President Obama signing the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 into law the next day.

Jan. 4: The Church of England says gay priests in civil partnerships can become bishops if they remain celibate.

Jan. 8: An Open Doors report states that during 2012, Christians in North Korea suffered the most persecution in the world for the 11th straight year.

Jan. 14: Lance Armstrong, during an Oprah Winfrey interview, admits to doping.

Jan. 20: President Obama takes the oath of office for his second term.

Jan. 24: North Korea warns it will conduct a third nuclear test and aim more rocket launches at the United States.

Jan. 24: The U.S. military lifts its ban on women serving in front-line combat.

Feb. 1: The Dow closes above 14,000 for the first time since October 2007.

Feb. 10: The arrest of four Christian foreigners for proselytizing in Benghazi marks the beginning of another wave of oppression and violence against Christians in Libya.

Feb. 12: North Korea conducts a third nuclear test.

Feb. 15: A meteorite explodes over Russia, raining down fireballs and causing a shock wave that damages buildings and injures more than 1,000 people.

Feb. 24: Argo wins the best picture award at the Oscars.

Feb. 28: Pope Benedict XVI resigns, marking the first time a pope has resigned since Gregory XII in 1415.

March 6: Arkansas lawmakers, overriding Gov. Mike Beebe's veto, pass a law prohibiting most abortions after 12 weeks' gestation. (A judge later issues an injunction against the law.) A federal judge rules Idaho's fetal pain law unconstitutional.

March 7: The UN approves new sanctions against North Korea, which once again threatens to attack the United States.

March 11: A state judge blocks New York City from instituting a ban on selling large sugary drinks.

March 13: The papal conclave elects Argentina's Jorge Bergoglio as the new pope. Pope Francis is the first Latin American pope.

March 20-22: President Obama makes his first presidential visit to Israel.

March 22: North Dakota lawmakers become the first in the nation to approve a personhood amendment. The state's voters will have their say in November 2014.

March 26: North Dakota Gov. Jack Dalrymple signs into law a measure that bans abortions once a fetal heartbeat is "detectable." (A judge later delays the law from taking effect.)

April 10: Uruguay approves a bill allowing same-sex marriage.

April 15: Two pressure-cooker bombs explode near the finish line during the Boston Marathon, killing three and injuring more than 170. A massive manhunt over the following four days ends with one bomber, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, dying in a police shootout and his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, captured after a city-wide lockdown.

April 25: The White House issues a letter concluding that the Syrian government has used chemical weapons at least twice during the nation's civil war.

May 2: North Korea sentences American missionary Kenneth Bae to 15 years of hard labor.

May 2: Rhode Island legalizes same-sex marriage.

May 7: Delaware legalizes same-sex marriage.

May 8: Whistleblower Gregory Hicks, former deputy chief of mission in Libya, tells a House committee there was never any doubt that the 2012 Benghazi attack was a terrorist act, and that all available military resources were not sent to assist the besieged consulate.

May 12: Lawmakers call for an investigation into the IRS after learning the agency flagged groups with "tea party" or "patriot" in their names for special review. The scandal extends to include other conservative groups.

May 13: After 10 days of deliberation, a jury finds Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell guilty of murder. His sentence: life in prison.

May 13: The Associated Press reveals that the Department of Justice secretly obtained two months' worth of AP reporters' and editors' telephone records.

May 14: The Romeikes, a German homeschooling family, lose their appeal for asylum in the United States.

May 14: Minnesota legalizes same-sex marriage.

May 15: In a study published in Nature, Oregon Health and Science University researchers describe the first creation of human embryonic stem cells by cloning.

May 23: Delegates at the Boy Scouts of America's national meeting pass a resolution to allow homosexual boys to participate, although homosexual adults are banned from leadership.

May 30: Nigeria passes a law outlawing same-sex marriage.

June 6: The Obama administration acknowledges an NSA program that tracks the telephone records of Americans.

June 17: The Supreme Court strikes down an Arizona law requiring proof of citizenship when registering to vote in federal elections.

June 19: Exodus International announces it will close after nearly 40 years of operation.

June 25: Gun manufacturer Smith & Wesson, reporting record sales for its fourth quarter and full fiscal year, says it can't meet demand.

June 26: The Supreme Court rules part of the federal Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional.

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June 30: Ohio Gov. John Kasich signs into law a bill eliminating state funding for Planned Parenthood and requiring abortion providers to perform ultrasounds on women seeking abortions.

June 30: Russian President Vladimir Putin signs a law banning the "propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations."

July 2: The Obama administration says it will postpone until January 2015 the requirement that companies with more than 50 employees provide health insurance to workers.

July 3: The Egyptian military removes President Mohamed Morsi from power.

July 3: The North Carolina Senate bans taxpayer funding for abortion centers.

July 13: A jury finds George Zimmerman not guilty in the death of Trayvon Martin.

July 17: Great Britain legalizes same-sex marriage.

July 18: Texas Gov. Rick Perry signs a bill banning abortions after 20 weeks.

July 18: The city of Detroit files for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.

July 19: A district judge grants Hobby Lobby a preliminary injunction against the Obamacare contraceptive mandate.

Aug. 4: The United States raises the terrorism threat level and closes embassies and consulates.

Aug. 14: The California Supreme Court rejects an appeal by Proposition 8 supporters to revive the 2008 measure, thereby ending the final legal challenge to same-sex marriage in the state.

Aug. 15: The death toll soars above 600 after Egyptian security forces, armored vehicles, and bulldozers raze two encampments where Mohamed Morsi supporters were protesting his removal from power.

Aug. 18: For the first time in 1,600 years, priests do not hold Sunday Mass in the Virgin Mary and Priest Ibram monastery near Minya, Egypt. Muslim Brotherhood supporters torched it.

Aug. 19: New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie signs legislation banning gay conversion therapy for minors.

Aug. 22: The New Mexico Supreme Court rules against Christian photographer Elaine Huguenin, who declined to photograph a lesbian commitment ceremony.

Aug. 29: The IRS says it will treat same-sex couples with marriage licenses as married for tax purposes.

Aug. 29: A California court upholds the state's ban on reparative therapy for minors.

Sept 2: Fox Sports abruptly fires broadcaster Craig James, who had opposed same-sex marriage when running for the U.S. Senate in 2012.

Sept. 4: The Obama administration says the Department of Veterans Affairs will begin providing spousal benefits to same-sex couples.

Sept. 12: NASA says Voyager-1 has become the first man-made object to leave the solar system.

Sept. 16: Gunman Aaron Alexis kills 12 people at the Washington Navy Yard.

Sept. 19: A judge sentences Floyd Corkins II to 25 years in prison for an attempted mass shooting last year at the Family Research Council.

Sept. 22: As Islamic militants continue a four-day massacre at the upscale Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, that ends with 72 people dead, two suicide bombers kill more than 80 and injure nearly 150 as worshippers leave services at All Saints Church in Peshawar, Pakistan.

Oct. 1: A partial government shutdown begins after Congress fails to reach a spending agreement.

Oct. 1: The U.S. government launches Obamacare, which quickly experiences technical difficulties.

Oct. 13: Thousands of veterans and their supporters converge on national monuments across Washington to protest federal officials closing the sites during the government shutdown.

Oct. 17: The government shutdown ends after Congress approves a bipartisan deal.

Oct. 21: New Jersey legalizes same-sex marriage.

Oct. 23: German Chancellor Angela Merkel calls Barack Obama after learning the National Security Agency tapped her phone. Further investigation reveals the NSA spied on other world leaders.

Nov. 3: North Korean leader Kim Jong-un orders the public executions of 80 people for minor offenses such as possessing Bibles.

Nov. 4: Iranian officials transfer American Iranian pastor Saeed Abedini to the violent Rajai Shahr prison.

Nov. 8: Typhoon Haiyan strikes the Philippines, flattening entire towns and leaving at least 5,500 dead.

Nov. 15: China announces that couples will now be allowed two children if one parent is an only child, and says it will also abolish its labor camp system.

Nov. 19: The U.S. Supreme Court votes 5-4 to allow Texas' new abortion restrictions to stand while litigation continues in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Nov. 26: The U.S. Supreme Court agrees to hear a challenge to Obamacare's contraceptive mandate.

Dec. 1: A New York commuter train derails, killing four.

Dec. 7: North Korea releases American tourist Merrill Newman after detaining him since October.

Dec. 8: At least 400,000 Ukrainians protest in Kiev against their government's surrender to Russian pressure to back away from European involvement.

Dec. 10: Bipartisan negotiators from the House and Senate reach a two-year fiscal deal that, if passed, will avert a January government shutdown.

Dec. 11: India's Supreme Court upholds a law, previously overturned by a lower court, that makes homosexual activity illegal.

# JONATHAN CAHN'S UNAPOLOGETIC PROPHETIC MESSAGE TO AMERICA

by Althea Thompson

Messianic rabbi Jonathan Cahn's keynote address at the January Presidential Inaugural Breakfast went viral on YouTube shortly after its posting.

The video has garnered over 100,000 views, gaining worldwide attention for its bold outcry for America to return to God.

Though its controversial message initially received some suppression on the Internet, its popularity continued to grow. Many have called it "the most important and powerful clip on YouTube ever."

In the video, Cahn, author of the New York Times best-seller *The Harbinger*, addressed a host of senators and members of Congress at the historic Marriot Wardman Park, one of Washington, D.C.'s most famous landmarks. He unapologetically stated that his message would not be politically correct, nor political, but biblical.

"We must sound the alarm that must be sounded," Cahn stated in his keynote address at the interdenominational, bipartisan event. "We must address what must be addressed, and so the message now will not be politically correct. Nor will it be political. It will be biblical. It will be true. And wherever it falls, let it fall. "I will not hold back," he continued. "And if I offend you, I apologize that I cannot apologize for offending you. Without truth there is no love. On a day that so embodies the future course of this nation, it's critical that we both pray and speak the truth."

Cahn passionately detailed the prophetic parallels between ancient Israel and the modern-day decline of morality in America.

"As the people of ancient Israel, in the midst of their blessings, committed a fatal error, so have we," he continued. "We too, as a nation, have turned from God. We too, as a nation, have removed Him

from our lives. Step by step we too have ruled Him out of our culture, out of our government, out of our economy. We

2001 terrorist attacks—including the economic collapse—and Israel's history after it turned away from God.



Messianic rabbi Jonathan Cahn (Sean Roberts)

too have ruled Him out of the instruction and lives of our children. We too have made God a stranger. And as we have driven God from our national life, we have brought in other gods and idols to replace Him—gods of sensuality, violence, wealth, carnality, sexual promiscuity. And as did Israel, so too we have abandoned the ways of God and the laws of God for the ways of immorality."

The *Harbinger* has garnered national attention for its documentation of parallels between what has happened in the United States since the

Told in fictional narrative, the book unfolds how nine signs concealed in recent events reveal God's progressive judgment.

The *Harbinger*, published on Jan. 3, 2012 by Frontline/Charisma House, has sold more than 1 million units and charted for 56 weeks on the New York Times Best Sellers list and 55 weeks on USA Today's Top 150 Books.

Go to youtube and search for: The Presidential Inaugural Prayer Breakfast Guest Speaker Rabbi Jonathan Cahn

*The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

**Psalms 122:11**

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## My broken cup: Finding hope, heal-

**Beatrice Fedor** | LifeNews.com

December 20 was the 13th anniversary of my second abortion. January is the the 20th anniversary of my first abortion.

This morning, my two-year-old son broke my "Mom" coffee cup. It reminds me that abortion broke my mother's heart all those years ago. Two little shards broke off from the cup, just where I

put my lips; a reminder of all the kisses I never gave my two children lost to abortion.

Rest in peace Alicia and Gabriel, you will never be forgotten. Mom loves you and fights the scourge of abortion in your memory now.

My cup has been broken, but it is filled with blessings. I am reconciled with God and with myself, I have been married eight years to a wonderful man and last month, I gave birth to our

fourth child (I'm nursing her while writing this post).

I don't want to throw my Mom cup away. It is broken but it wasn't shattered in a thousand pieces. It is possible to mend it, just like my broken heart was mended. I wish all women who had an abortion could feel that hope, that as long as they are beating, our hearts can be mended and filled anew with the blessings of motherhood.

*LifeNews Note: Béatrice Fedor*

*is a pro-woman, anti-abortion, anti-violence advocate. The mother of three was raised in a culturally Catholic family in France; embraced liberal feminism, atheism and humanism. She has served as a trade union leader, taught a creative writing class and authored an unpublished book of poetry. The scar of her abortions moved her to search for God, and by His Grace, she has found peace and healing. She joined the Silent No More Awareness Campaign in 2008.*



## Duggars to receive Students for Life's Defender of Life award

LiveActionNews - Students for Life of America has announced that Jim Bob and Michelle Duggar have been chosen as recipients of their 2013 Defender of Life award. Famous for their TLC television show 19 Kids and Counting, the Duggar family is a bold witness to life in America, where the average fertility rate is around 2.06 (slightly below replacement level, meaning that women are not having enough children just to replace themselves and their partner).

The Duggars have been personally open to life, welcoming 19 children and 3 grandchildren into the world since their marriage. They have also witnessed to their pro-life convictions in politics. Jim Bob

served as a state representative in Arkansas for four years, and the Duggars have spent much of 2013 rallying their community to support current pro-life legislation, Amendment 1, in their state.

The Duggar family has been criticized for every facet of its public, pro-life position. Jim Bob and Michelle have been mocked by abortion advocates for having as many children as they do, even though abortion advocates claim to stand on a woman's right to "choose" the size of her family (this apparently does not apply when a woman chooses to have more than average).

Pro-abortion organizations have even petitioned TLC to take 19 Kids and

Counting off the air due to Jim Bob's outspoken and convicting views on abortion, which are uncomfortable to many abortion advocates. Jim Bob had the audacity to draw a logical comparison between the abortion holocaust and the Jewish holocaust — two mass killings in which innocent people were targeted because they were viewed as unfit or unwanted by other humans who had more power over their own lives than they did.

Students for Life consistently honors true pro-life heroes with the Defender of Life award. In the past, it has been given to outspoken abortion abolitionists, including Priests for Life founder Father Frank Pavone and Chai Ling, founder of All Girls Allowed, an organization which works to

raise awareness of and ultimately put an end to the destructive one-child policy in China.

The Duggar's witness to the preciousness of human life, even in the face of discrimination and disagreement among opponents, places them in league with some of the most effective defenders of life in America today. Jim Bob and Michelle will be present at the upcoming Students for Life of America conference in Washington, DC this January to accept the award.

Lauren has worked for great organizations such as Texas Right to Life and Students for Life of America. She is a graduate of Ave Maria University, where she studied Classics and Theology. Her husband and children are the greatest blessings in her life.

## Nursing student witnesses abortion, rethinks position

A student nurse began having doubts about her position after witnessing an abortion. Author Jeff Lane Hensley quotes her in his book "The Zero People."

"I was for abortion, I thought it was a woman's right to terminate pregnancy she did not want. Now I'm not so sure. I am a student nurse nearing the end of my OB-GYN rotation at a major metropolitan hospital and teaching center. It wasn't until I saw what abortion really involves that I changed my mind. After the first week in the abortion clinic several people in my clinical group were shaky about their previously positive feelings about abortion. This new attitude resulted from our actually seeing a Prostaglandin abortion, one similar in nature to the widely used saline abortion. This method is being used for terminations of pregnancies of sixteen weeks and over."

A prostaglandin abortion is done by inducing labor before viability. The contractions that a woman goes through are very strong. They are painful for the mother. Babies aborted with this method are often delivered with bruises over their entire bodies.

A saline abortion is performed by injecting a caustic saline solution into the amniotic sac around the baby. It poisons the baby, who dies slowly over the course of several hours. Then labor is induced. These methods of abortion are not used as often today because they are considered dangerous to the mother and also cause many live births.

Abortions after 16 weeks are now usually done by D&E, where the baby is dismembered with forceps in utero, or by injecting the poison digoxin, which poisons the child.

Back to the student nurse's testimony: "I used to find rationales, the fetus isn't real. Abdomens aren't really very swollen. It isn't 'alive.' No more excuses... I am a member of the health profession and members of my class are now ambivalent about abortion. I now know a great deal more about what is involved in the issue. Women should perceive fully what abortion is; how destructive an act it is both for themselves and their unborn child. Whatever psychological coping mechanisms are employed during the process, the sight of a fetus in a hospital bedpan remains the final statement."



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## Pro-Life Students Brave Cold Temperatures to Pray to End Abortion

Braving sub-freezing temperatures and a wind chill hovering around -2° F, dozens of high school students from across Kansas sang hymns and knelt in prayer for an end to abortion outside of the South Wind Women's Center abortion clinic in Wichita, Kansas this morning.

The students were joined by Congressman Tim Huelskamp, who knelt on the icy sidewalk with them in prayer.

A smaller group of abortion supporters gathered across the clinic's driveway and shouted, blew whistles, and shook noisemakers in an effort to drown out the prayers and hymns put forth by the pro-life throng. The contrast between the chaos that the abortion supporters attempted to create and the prayerful demeanor of



the pro-life students was remarkable.

"It was an honor to join these young people on the street this morning and was impressed with their prayerful attitude and willingness to bear the bitterly cold temperatures," said Troy Newman, President of Operation Rescue. "It was very encouraging to the

students and to local activists to see a U.S. Congressman as concerned about the lives of innocent children that are brutally cut short at abortion clinics like this. We applaud Congressman Huelskamp for his commitment to the pro-life cause."

Several news reporters and cameramen covered the event, which was organized by students from St. John's Catholic High School in Beloit, Kansas, who traveled 2½ hours to Wichita to rally and pray at the abortion clinic. High school students in states such as Nebraska, South Carolina, and Colorado are also participating in a similar Catholic School for Life rallies at abortion clinics in their home communities.

## TEEN PREGNANCY DROPS AS PLANNED PARENTHOOD VANISHES

New study reveals abstinence more popular without abortion industry influence

Communities looking to reduce their teen pregnancy rates perhaps should consider one move before all the others: closing down any Planned Parenthood business.

That's because a new study of one region of the country shows that as Planned Parenthood

operations shut down and moved out, the teen pregnancy rate plunged by almost half.

The study comes from the pro-life American Life League, but it uses government figures to reach its conclusions. It analyzed one section of the nation – the Texas Panhandle region – where over the course of several years 19 Planned Parenthood businesses closed or left.

The result? Teen pregnancies dropped from 43.6 per 1,000 girls to 24.1 among a stable population of about 13,000 teen girls aged 13-17.

"People don't realize that Planned Parenthood must work hard to replace



to zero. In the same period, the teen pregnancy rate dropped almost in half, from 43.76 per 1,000 to 24.1 per 1,000. ... Those aren't our numbers; those are government numbers."

On the topic of community outcomes, it reports that Planned Parenthood offers numerous suggestions to reduce the number of teen pregnancies, none of which involves abstinence. Instead, it suggests "sex education" that begins in kindergarten.

"While many things factor into the teen pregnancy rate, the fact that the TPR continually declined as Planned Parenthood facilities closed – and reached its lowest point in recorded history two years after disaffiliation of the last two remaining facilities – was a significant confirmation that Planned Parenthood's presence and its 'evidence based' sex education programs are not a necessary component to reducing teen pregnancy," the report said.

The report noted that the closures happened because of "education and activism against Planned Parenthood."

the 43 percent of its customers it loses each year," said Rita Diller, national director of ALL's STOPP International project. "It normally does this by promoting sexual promiscuity to teens. This study suggests that when Planned Parenthood leaves, teens are more likely to embrace chastity."

She continued: "We know that the pro-abortion first-response will be 'consider the source.' But American Life League is not the source; the source is the officials records of 16 counties within the Texas panhandle. From 1994 through 2010, Planned Parenthood facilities in these counties went from 19

## U.S. Abortions on the Decline, CDC says

(WNS)- From 2001 to 2010, the number of reported legal abortions in the United States fell by 9 percent. The number of teenagers getting abortions dropped most significantly, probably due in part to the overall drop in teenage pregnancies. For that 10-year period, the abortion rate among teenagers fell about 30 percent. The number of abortions in New York City alone remains incredibly high: 83,750 in 2010. That amounts to 694 abortions for every 1,000 live births. Other city health reports have shown that almost 40 percent of pregnancies in New York end in abortion. Most shocking in the CDC's New York numbers: 82 percent of abortions in the city were performed on African-American or Hispanic women.

## MARCH FOR LIFE IS JANUARY 22 IN D.C.

They come by bus, plane, subway and train. They come to voice their belief that abortion is wrong. They come to participate in the national March for Life.

The March for Life, a peaceful prayerful event, will be held this Jan. 22 in Washington DC. It is the historic anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion on demand across America.

The march was started as a grassroots movement by thirty pro-life leaders gathered in the home of Nellie Rose. It has grown to be the largest pro-life event in the world. The march proves that one person can make a difference.

The March for Life Rally is Noon to 1 p.m. on the National Mall. The March begins immediately after the Rally and follows a route up Constitution Avenue to the Supreme Court Building on Capitol Hill. The banners seen at the rally and march are carried by all denominations, eth-

nicities, and ages, reflecting the solidarity of the church on this life issue.

Other activities include the Nellie Gray 5K, the Rose Dinner, youth rallies, exhibits and March for Life Law Conference. Many state pro-life organizations and denominations host seminars, lobbying efforts and youth conferences concurrently at various locations.

The youth rally is an opportunity for young people to hear first hand of the leaders of the pro-life movement, many who are young themselves. Emma Widaman who attended last year said, "It helped me realize that my passion to become a doctor and pro-life speaker is truly possible."

Hearing their stories inspires one to take action in their local communities, churches, and friends.

The march will be streamed live at [www.marchforlife.org](http://www.marchforlife.org) and shown on C-Span, and EWTN (385 on TWCable, plus look for it on Comcast, DirecTV and Dish).

## Christian Neighbor Center

(also known as Christian Street Witness, Inc.)

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*"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36 (NIV)*

**Our Mission:** to witness the Good News of Jesus Christ, to feed and clothe the hungry, to teach the Bible and Christian conduct, to help mankind by establishing rehabilitation projects, and by engaging in business to support the above-mentioned goals.

*The Christian Neighbor Center offers a safe place for Christians to become acquainted with "street people" and the difficulties they face. This in turn provides the opportunity for Christians to be a living witness to people in crisis.*

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### How you can partner with us & God in this ministry:

#### Daily needs:

- clean clothing items
- non-perishable food items
- paper plates & napkins
- coffee & filters
- plastic utensils
- dish soap, aluminum foil
- cleaning items, toilet paper
- 40 gallon trash bags
- stamps

#### Reconstruction needs:

- 30 double-pane windows
- bathroom remodel
- kitchen remodel & plumbing
- new exit doors
- new carpet for Chapel
- sidewalk replacement
- driveway repair
- new furnace
- central air installation



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and ICPC  
adoptions.**

**Samantha R. Harrington  
ATTORNEY AT LAW**

2708 NW Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66617

Phone: 785-234-0600  
email: [srharrington1@aol.com](mailto:srharrington1@aol.com)

*The Area's Most Complete guide to the Events and Concerts You Want to See!*

# the events calendar

**FREE LISTINGS! E-mail your events to: [Voice@cox.net](mailto:Voice@cox.net); mail to Metro Voice, P.O. 5724, Topeka, KS 66605; or fax to 785-235-3340**

## CONCERTS

**ONE EVENT - LEELAND** - Jan. 5, Capitol Plaza Hotel, For info call: 800-579-7937

**THE WRIGHTS** - Jan. 6, 10:30am, New Hope UMC. For info: 289-8905

**THE WRIGHTS** - Jan. 13, 10:45am, Lakeview Nazarene. For info: 289-8905

**TOPEKA JAZZ WORKSHOP PRESENTS** The Joe Cartwright Quartet - Jan. 19, 3pm-5pm, Downtown Ramada Inn Ballroom, 420 SE 6th St. Joe Cartwright, a popular KC jazz pianist, brings his quartet of "Duck" Warner on vocals and valve trombone, Tommy Ruskin on drums, and Gerald Spaitis on bass. Admission by season membership only. Regularly priced at \$145/membership; now only \$100 for this concert plus the remaining 3 concerts in February, March and April.

**THE WRIGHTS** - Jan. 20, 6pm, Lakeview Nazarene. For info: 289-8905

**ELVIS LIVES** - Jan. 23, 7:30pm-10pm, Topeka Performing Arts Center, 214 SE 8th. The Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Event. \$45, \$35. Elvis Lives is an unforgettable multi-media and live musical journey across Elvis' life. His iconic style, embraced by many of today's artists, continues to intrigue audiences of all generations. Featuring finalists from Elvis Presley Enterprises' worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest, as well as a tribute to Ann-Margret.

**THE ROADSHOW TOUR W/ THIRD DAY, SKILLET** - Jan. 25, 6pm, Intrust Bank Arena, Wichita, KS. Also Jamie Grace, Andy Mineo, Royal Tailor, We As Human, Soulfire Revolution and The Neverclaim.

**WINTER JAM TOUR SPECTACULAR**. Jan. 31. Sprint Center, 1407 Grand Blvd., KCMO. \$10 at the door. 816-949-7100

## SPECIAL CHURCH EVENTS

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

**PANCAKE FEED** - Jan. 4, 7-11am, Seaman Cong. Church, 2036 NW Taylor. Sausage, milk, juice & coffee also available. \$5. For info 354-8777.

**EPIPHANY CELEBRATION!** - Jan. 5, 4pm. Fellowship Hall at Kansas Avenue United Methodist Church, 1029 N Kansas Ave, A moving reenactment of the wise men's

journey at the manger, music, and readings. A number of beautiful Nativities on display & an all-chocolate buffet.

**LIFEFEET POTLUCK LUNCHEON WITH PETER WHITE-BIRD** - Jan. 9, 10-12:30, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. A celebration of senior adults at Covenant Baptist Church for the purpose of fellowship, fun & entertainment, learning opportunities, serving the body of Christ, ministering to others. (a love offering will be taken) For info or transportation needs: 273-2811.

## SEMINARS & CONFERENCES

**RECORD KEEPING WORKSHOP** - Jan. 30, 11:30am-1pm, Avondale East NET Center, 455 SE Golf Park Blvd. Record Keeping and General Business Practices for Small Businesses and Non-Profits, hosted by Kurt Guth, American Tax Service. He will discuss the importance of good record keeping for a business or non-profit. Learn tax tips to give owners and directors an edge at tax filing time and stay in compliance with good accounting principles and the IRS. FREE to CRC members, \$10 for non-members. Bring Your Own Lunch. RSVP to Leah at [crinfo@crnet.org](mailto:crinfo@crnet.org)

**ARISE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE W/ KATHY GRAY** - Jan. 30, 7pm - Feb. 2, 12:30pm. World Revival Church, 9900 View High Dr., KCMO 64134. Join Pastor Kathy Gray and guest worship leader Catherine Mullins for a powerful women's weekend of LIFE! 816-763-0708.

**AWAKENING FREEDOM TOUR** - Feb. 8, 9-11:30am, Lenexa Baptist Church, 15320 W. 87th St. Parkway, Lenexa, KS. Neil Mammen, Gov. Brownback, and Donna Lippoldt will speak on "40 Days Toward a More Godly Nation," "Kansas' Spiritual Heritage," and "The Key to Equipping & Mobilizing Believers." No charge but you must register at [culturefield.com](http://culturefield.com).

## FAMILY-FRIENDLY EVENTS

**NOTO MARKET ON FIRST FRIDAYS** - NOTO arts district. Enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and flea market items.

**KANSAS AVENUE MARKET** - 10-5 Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays; also 2nd Sat. of each month, 10am-3pm; and during First Friday Art Walk, 628 S Kansas Ave. Multiple vendors, entertainment, refreshments.

**2ND ANNUAL JUMPSTART YOUR PRAISE** - Jan. 4, 10am-1pm, Faith Temple Church Inc. Multipurpose building 1162 SW Lincoln. Fitness Instructor Evelyn Rivera will host a Women in Worship low impact workout; Leanna Finney, NP will share helpful health tips; fol-

lowed by Health & Wellness Checks. Free/Donations accepted. 969-0491. Sponsored by Daddy's Girls Inc.

**BLEEDING KANSAS CHARACTERS** - Jan. 5, 2pm, Constitution Hall, 319 Elmore, Leocompton, KS. 1850s Kansas Territorial Town Hall meeting reenactment by the Leocompton Reenactors. Cost: \$3 Adults, \$1 Students. [www.leocomptonkansas.com](http://www.leocomptonkansas.com)

**PROTECTING TOPEKA'S RIVERS AND STREAMS** - Jan. 7, 11:30am-1pm,

Topeka Public Library, 1515 SW 10th. Don Rankin, utilities superintendent for the City of Topeka, will discuss. An optional lunch available for \$8.25 at 11:30am. Free and open to the public.

**TOPEKA FARM SHOW** - Jan. 7-9, Kansas Expo Centre. Free adm.

**PRCA Championship Rodeo** - Jan. 10 & 11, 7:30pm, Landon Arena.

**PANCAKE FEED** - Jan. 11, 7:30am, Auburn Civic Center, 1020 N Washington, Auburn, KS. A fundraising event for service projects of the Auburn Lions Club. \$5 for adults; \$3 for children.

**PRAYER ON THE HILL** - Jan 12-13. Worship and prayer starts Sun. evening at 5pm at Higher Ground Ministries, 813 S. Kansas Ave., and continues through the night until 8am. At that time it moves to the Old Supreme Court Room, on the 3rd floor of the Kansas Capitol and will continue non-stop during the day as legislators meet. There will be a prayer walk around the building at 10am, and Gov. Brownback will speak at noon. For info: [www.TopekaORT.org](http://www.TopekaORT.org) or 221-2788

**PUBLIC SKATING** - Jan.3 &4, 12:30pm, Kansas Expo Centre. For info: 235-1986

**MONSTER X TOUR** - Jan. 17 & 18, 7:30pm, Landon Arena. Featuring Bigfoot, the Original Monster Truck!

**GUN AND KNIFE SHOW** - Jan. 18-19, KS Expo Centre

**41ST ANNIVERSARY OF ROE VS WADE RALLY**. Jan. 22. South Capitol Steps, Topeka, KS. 913-642-LIFE (5433).

**41ST ANNUAL NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE**. Jan. 22. Washington, DC. Join us and thousands of others from across the nation for this huge pro-life gathering in the nation's capital. [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org).

**ADOPTION, FOSTER-PARENTING & ORPHAN CARE INFORMATIONAL MEETING** - Jan. 23, 6pm, Lifeline Children's Services of Kansas, 4745 NW Hunter's Ridge Circle, Suite C. James 1:27 calls for us to care for the orphan. How are you involved with living out His calling? Come learn how God can use your gifts and talents with several different ministries Lifeline Children's Services has been blessed with. This information meeting will cover adoption, orphan care ministry and Safe Families for Children. We will also have a family who will give their adoption testimony and will be open for questions from you. For info: 785-783-4577

## Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce



Promoting and Supporting:

- Christian Businesses & Organizations
- Excellence in Products & Services
- Christian Values and Ideals

Topeka area business people, united by their faith in Jesus Christ, making a positive impact in our community, through networking and community service

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

- **Monthly C5Alive POWER Luncheons** - (Second Thurs. of each month; great food & speakers!) Open to the public.
  - Jan. 9, 11:30-1, Aldersgate Village. Special Speaker
  - Feb. 13, 11:30-1, Valentine Luncheon - Details to follow!
- **Semi-Annual C5 Christian Expos** - Held in Spring & Fall
- **C5 Easter Parade & Family Fun Fair** - April 19! Parade & booth space available - email [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org) for details
- **C5 Directory of Christian Businesses & Organizations.**
- **Referrals & other events** are also part of C5 membership



Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/C5Alive](http://facebook.com/C5Alive)

For info: [www.C5Alive.org](http://www.C5Alive.org) or or [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org)

**LIFE Fest**  
Seniors Ministering to Seniors

**Thursday, January 9, 2014**  
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Potluck Luncheon**

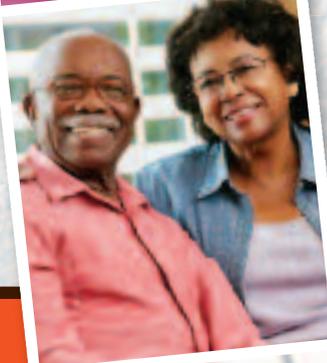
**Peter Whitebird will perform**  
(a love offering will be taken)

**Invite your friends and neighbors!**  
Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th Street  
785-273-2811

Purpose: To establish a celebration of senior adults at Covenant Baptist Church for the purpose of fellowship, fun and entertainment, learning opportunities, serving the body of Christ, ministering to others.

If transportation is needed, call 785-273-2811 before noon on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014

\*LifeFest usually takes place on the first Thursday of each month. Feb. 6, 2014, our speaker will be Kay Ireland with Topeka Rescue Mission.



## Every relationship has its own story. What do you want yours to be?

Join us to learn tools to help you communicate, solve problems and strengthen your current or future romantic relationship.

**For more information call 785-233-6300 or visit [www.KansasLoveLetters.com](http://www.KansasLoveLetters.com).**

Hearing impaired: TTY/TDD: 7-1-1

Relationship Tips: Text LOVE to 72727



Begin your journey to a healthy marriage or relationship today. Free relationship education workshops are forming in Topeka now. Singles and engaged, committed or married couples of all faiths are welcome.

A project of Catholic Charities of Kansas. Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance. Grant # 90FM0042-01-01.



**FOSTER/ADOPTIVE PARENT PS-MAPP CLASS** – Jan. 23, 6-9pm, 627 SW Topeka Blvd. Learn how to become an adoptive/foster parent by taking FREE PS-MAPP classes. Call for reservations 1-800-279-9914.

**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** - Jan. 24 - Fans Rule World Tour, Landon Arena

**PUBLIC SKATING** – Jan.25 & 26, 12:30pm, Kansas Expocentre. For info: 235-1986

**AD ASTRA LABS ART & TECHNOLOGY SWAP MEET FUNDRAISER** – Jan. 25, 9am, Central Park Community Center, 1534 SW Clay St. Ad Astra Labs, a Topeka non-profit dedicated to making and learning, is hosting this event to aid in raising funds to open a community workshop. Table space is limited, but everyone is welcome to bring items to swap and sell. Individuals who want to reserve space should visit [www.adastralabs.org/swap/](http://www.adastralabs.org/swap/). Admission is free. For info: Jared Starkey, 783-5863

**KANSAS DAY AT THE MUSEUM** – Jan. 29, 9-3, Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW 6th Avenue. Hands-on activities! Performances! Demonstrations! For info: 272-8681

**THE COVER OF LIFE** – Jan. 31 – Feb. 9, Helen Hocker Theater, 700 SW Zoo Pkwy. A powerful drama by RT Robinson about the struggle for self worth. \$13. For times and info: 368-0191

**DISNEY LIVE! MICKEY'S MUSIC FESTIVAL** - Feb. 1, 1pm & 4pm, Landon Arena. Disney hits are remixed to the hottest sounds of today!

**KANSAS FOR LIFE ANNUAL "VALENTINE" BANQUET**. Feb. 13. Ritz Charles, OPKS. [www.kfl.org](http://www.kfl.org). 923-642-5433.

**FAMILY-FRIENDLY DESTINATIONS**

**BROWN V. BOARD NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE** – Daily, 9am-5pm, 1515 SE Monroe. Located in the former all-black Monroe School. Free admission. For info: 354-4273 or [www.nps.gov/bvrb/](http://www.nps.gov/bvrb/).

**CEDAR CREST**, official residence of the KS Governor – Mon., 1pm-3pm, with tours on the half hour, 1 SW Cedar Crest Rd. Free adm. For info: 296-3636.

**COMBAT AIR MUSEUM** – Mon.-Sat., 9:30am-4:30pm; Sun. noon-4:30pm, Hanger 602, Forbes Field. For info: 862-3303 or [combatairmuseum.org](http://combatairmuseum.org).

**CURTIS HOUSE MUSEUM** – Every Sat., 11am-3pm; by appointment other times, 1101 SW Topeka Blvd. Former mansion of Charles Curtis, 31st Vice President of the

US, and the only one of American Indian heritage. Cost \$5. For info: 357-1371 or 597-5380.

**CONSTITUTION HALL** – Wed.-Sat., 9am-5pm; Sun., 1-5pm, National Landmark, Kansas State Historic Site, Civil War History: Famous Leocompton Constitution, 319 Elmore, Leocompton. For info: 887-6520 or [consthall@kshs.org](mailto:consthall@kshs.org); or [kshs.org/constitutionhall](http://kshs.org/constitutionhall).

**GREAT OVERLAND STATION** – Railroad museum, education center, veterans memorial and more. 701 N. Kansas Avenue. Tue-Sat 10am-4pm; Sun 1-4pm. Closed on Sundays in Jan. & Feb. Adm: \$4 adults, \$3 seniors, \$2 children age 3-12. For info: 232-5533 or [greatoverlandstation.com](http://greatoverlandstation.com).

**HISTORIC RITCHIE HOUSE** – Tour the oldest remaining home in Topeka (built 1856-57). 1116 Madison. Admission free. 10am-2pm; weaving demonstrations, games, food & more.

**HOLLEY MILITARY MUSEUM** – Downtown Ramada Inn. Featuring 5 galleries, named after world leaders. Featuring World War II artifacts, Air Force One exhibit, Kansas War Heroes, Space, Vietnam & more. Cost: Free. 10am-8pm daily.

**KANSAS NATIONAL GUARD MUSEUM** – Forbes Field. For hours & info: 862-1020.

**KANSAS MUSEUM OF HISTORY** - 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuesday - Saturday, 1 - 5 p.m. Sunday. 6425 SW 6th Avenue. 785-272-8681, [kshs.org/museum](http://kshs.org/museum)

**KANSAS STATE CAPITOL** – Mon.-Fri., 8am-5pm, SW 10th & Jackson St. Tours provided. For info: 296-3966 or [www.kshs.org/capitol](http://www.kshs.org/capitol).

**OLD PRAIRIE TOWN** – 1st & Clay. Open Mon.-Sat., 10am-4pm; Sun. 12-4pm. Daily guided tours: M-F 10am, 12 & 2pm; Sat. & Sun. 12 & 2pm. 368-2441.

**ROEBKE HOUSE MUSEUM** – 216 New York, Holton. For info: 364-4991.

**TERRITORIAL CAPITAL MUSEUM** – Wed.-Sat., 11am-4pm; Sun., 1-5pm, National Register Site, 3 floors of Civil War and Victorian Artifacts, President Eisenhower's parents' marriage site. 640 E. Woodson Ave., Leocompton. For info: 887-6148 or [lanemuseum@aol.com](mailto:lanemuseum@aol.com) or [leocomptonkansan.com](http://leocomptonkansan.com).

**TOPEKA/SHAWNEE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** – 1515 SW 10th St. Mon.-Fri., 9am-9pm, Sat., 9am-6pm, Sun., 12-9pm. For info: 580-4400.

**TOPEKA ZOO** – Gage Blvd. between 6th & 10th St. Zoo hours 9am-5pm. Birthday Parties available -- choose from two separate party packages; parties last two

hours. For info: 368-9180 or [topekazoo.com](http://topekazoo.com).

**FINE ART**

**FIRST FRIDAY ART WALK** – 1st Friday of every month at various Topeka galleries. Downtown businesses open late, including Hazel Hill, Kansas Avenue Market & The Merchant. For info: [artsconnecttopeka.org](http://artsconnecttopeka.org).

**"ART WALK AT THE T.V. UP/DOWN GALLERY!"** – First Friday of every month, TV Up Down Gallery, 909 ½ S. Kansas Ave. "Art, Music, and More!"

**BEACH MUSEUM OF ART** – 701 Beach Lane, Kansas State University, Manhattan. For info: 532-7718.

**BEAUCHAMP'S ART GALLERY** – 3113 SW Huntoon. For info: Bob Swain, 233-0300 or [beauchampsart@cox.net](mailto:beauchampsart@cox.net).

**THE ECLECTIC: ECLECTIC ART SHOWROOM & STUDIOS** – 900 N. Kansas in the NOTO Arts District.

**MULVANE ART MUSEUM** – at Washburn University. Free admission, open to the public. For info: 670-1124.

**MANHATTAN ARTS CENTER** – 1520 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan. 785-537-4420. Gallery Hours: M - F 10am-5pm, Sat 1-4pm.

**SIGNS OF LIFE GALLERY** – 722 Massachusetts St., Lawrence. 830-8030 or [SignsofLifeGallery.com](http://SignsofLifeGallery.com).

**SOUTHWIND GALLERY** – 3074 SW 29th Street, Topeka. Kansas 150 Art Exhibit – 150 original paintings and fine art photography. KTWU Lights-Camera Auction Reception, featuring "Master's Paintings." 273-5994

**STRECKER-NELSON GALLERY** – 406 1/2 Poyntz, Manhattan. For info: 537-2099.

**THE UPSTAGE GALLERY** – 720 SW Jackson (Historic Jayhawk Theatre). Open for 1st Fri. Artwalk 5-8pm.

**TOPEKA ART GUILD & GALLERY** – Wed.-Sat., 11am-5pm, Fairlawn Plaza. 273-7646 or [topekaartguild.org](http://topekaartguild.org).

**MEETINGS & CLASSES**

**C5 Alive POWER LUNCHEON** – Jan. 9, 11:30am-1pm, at Aldersgate Village, 7220 SW Asbury Dr. Cost: \$10 for C5 members & first-time guests who RSVP, \$12 at the door, \$15 for non-members & other guests. As always, there will be a great speaker and door prizes! Open to the public – come find out more about Capital City Christian Chamber of Commerce (C5) & network/fellowship with others. RSVPs & info: [info@C5Alive.org](mailto:info@C5Alive.org).

**FAITH BIBLE INSTITUTE CLASSES** - Jan. 19 to May 19, offered locally at North Rock Baptist Temple, 232 NE Laurent St. in Topeka. College level, layman's Bible classes meet once per week, Mon. eve Sat. at 10:00am. For info call Jim Deines at 230-4197, or go to [faithbibleinstitute.com](http://faithbibleinstitute.com).

**TUMI 1ST QUARTER CLASSES** – Jan. 18 - Mar. 22; Module 1: Conversion and Calling – once/week, Tue or Thur evenings; Module 10: God the Son - Sat morn; also held in Spanish; Intensive Workshop Course: God the Son - Mar. 21-22, open to everyone. The Urban Ministry Institute of Topeka - Seminary level courses for the cost of books. For info contact Mary Flin at 431-6000 or [maryflin@hotmail.com](mailto:maryflin@hotmail.com)

**PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD CHRISTIAN MOVEMENT** – Jan 21-May 13, Topeka Spring Class: Tuesdays, 6:30-9:30pm, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW Topeka Blvd. A New Speaker every week for 15 weeks. College credit option. Register today at [www.perspectives.org](http://www.perspectives.org) >Find a class – Topeka.

**BIBLE STUDY ON THE BOOK OF ESTHER** - 6pm Sunday evenings, Cornerstone Community Church, 7620 SW 21st. For info: 478-2929

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

**FAMILY EXPERIENCE (FX)** – Every Sun., 6:01pm, Fairlawn Church of Nazarene, 730 Fairlawn Rd. A time of high intensity, action packed, skit mania, worship music all centered around the word of God for 45 minutes. A free family worship event. For info: Emily Moore, 272-6322 or [fxthelawn@gmail.com](mailto:fxthelawn@gmail.com).

**LADIES' SMALL GROUP** – Every Sun., 6pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Studying the book of Esther, using the DVD series "It's Tough Being a Woman" by Beth Moore. All welcome. Info: 286-0467.

**CHRISTIANS FOR LIFE** – 2nd Mon., 7pm-prayer, 8pm-short business meeting, Community Church, 1819 SW 21st. A pro-life educational ministry. 286-3432.

**THE FORCE (Students Taking Action)** – 1st Mon. & 3rd Tue., 6:30-8pm, Safe Streets, 2209 SW 29th St. A group that's committed to being alcohol & drug free. Associate with like-minded peers, plan activities & get involved in the community. All youth ages 12-18 are invited. For info: 266-4606.

**HEARTLAND HEALTHY NEIGHBORHOODS** – 2nd Mon., 11:45am-1pm. Promoting neighborhood well-being by mobilizing people, ideas & resources. 233-1365.

**POINT MAN AND HOME FRONT OF SHAWNEE CO** - 1st, 3rd & 5th Tues. of each month, 6-8pm, Topeka Bible Church, 1101 SW Mulvane, Pottluck dinner begins at 6:10 PM. A Bible study and support group for military & veterans and their wives, moms and sisters. Interested in joining or volunteering? Contact David or Jacque Ankenman at 249-8359 or 221-1739.

**TOPEKA LINCOLN CLUB** – 1st Tue. of month, 7pm, Topeka Public Library. Discussing our greatest President, Abraham Lincoln, and his times. The public is welcome. For info, contact Kirk Nystrom 235-6977.

**CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA (CWA)** – 3rd Tue., 10am-12noon, Northland Christian Church, 3102 NW

Topeka Blvd. 224-7126 or [cwatopeka@giantcomm.net](mailto:cwatopeka@giantcomm.net).

**NAMI TOPEKA** – Every 2nd Tue., 6:45pm, lower level of Valeo, 330 SW Oakley. If door is locked, call 608-1317 to get in. The 1st hour is often a discussion of an important topic or video. The 2nd hour is usually a support talk time, with separate consumer & family groups. For info: 608-1317.

**OUR LADY OF THE FAITHFUL** – Every 1st Tues., 6:30pm Mass followed by Dinner, Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church. A Catholic group for those in their 20-30s. For info: Michelle Ann 580-3071 or [ourladyofthefairful@gmail.com](mailto:ourladyofthefairful@gmail.com). All events are also posted on Facebook at "OurLadylOfTheFaithful."

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

**O.W.L.S. (Older Wise Loving Saints)** - meets the second Tuesday of the month. Location varies and can be found at [www.faithfamilylife.com](http://www.faithfamilylife.com)

**S.W.A.G. (Spiritual Warriors Anointed by God)** youth group – Wed at 7:00 p.m. 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

**AWANA** – Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist Church, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 272-0443.

**AWANA** – Every Wed., 6:30pm, Bethel Baptist Church, 4011 N. Kansas Ave. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 286-0467.

**AWANA** – Every Wed., 6:30-8pm, Auburn Christian Church. Bible based program for children & youth ages 3-HS. For info: 256-2515.

**MACHINE EMBROIDERY CLUB** – 1st Wed., 9am-2:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th Street (south doors). To teach each other, enjoy fellowship & complete projects. Call Anne 271-1567.

**SAFE STREETS MEETING** – 1st Wed., 11:45am, Golf Park Blvd, 2 blocks west of Adams. Info: 266-4606.

**STUDENT IMPACT** – Every Wed., 6-8pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Youth games, teaching, worship, small groups. For info: 272-0443.

**TGIW: "TEACHING GOD'S INFINITE WISDOM" MEN'S STUDY** – Every Wed., 6:15am, Backyard Burgers in Lawrence. Affiliated with CharacterCounts.com. David Scheib, 865-5258 or [dvscheib@sunflower.com](mailto:dvscheib@sunflower.com).

**BIBLE STUDY** - every Thur. 1pm-3pm in the Prayer Rm at Faith Family Life Centre, 3710 NW Topeka Blvd.

**BIBLES AND BOOTS:** Chapter of Cowboys for Christ Fellowship – 3rd Thurs., 7:30pm, Wamego. Call for location. All welcome, no membership dues, livestock ownership not required. Fellowship & fun! Doug Palmer, Pres. 410-9097, or Dave Boyd, V.P. 364-2779.

**CHRISTIAN CHALLENGE** – Every Thurs. 7-9pm, First Southern Baptist, 1912 SW Gage Blvd. Worship for college students.

**FULL GOSPEL BUSINESSMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** – 3rd Thurs., 6pm meal, 7pm meeting, Coyote Canyon,

Huntoon & Wanamaker. Kirk Nystrom, 235-6977.

**IMOM** – 1st & 3rd Thurs., 9-11:30am, Topeka Bible Church Fellowship Hall, 1135 SW College. For all moms, helping them to be intentional! For info: 234-5545.

**NAMI WASHBURN** – 4th Thurs., 6-8pm, Spirit Building Room, University United Methodist Church, 1621 SW College Ave. NAMI is a student-run, student-led organization that provides mental health support, education, & advocacy in the Washburn University setting. A support group is also available during this time.

**OPERATION BACKPACK** – 1st Thurs., 6pm, Lyman Learning Center, Lyman and N. Kansas Ave. Volunteers gather to assemble Weekend Snack Sacks for low-income students. Sponsored by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

**SINGLES BIBLE STUDY** – 2nd & 4th Thurs., 7pm, Heartland Worship Center Church of God, 1401 NW Harrison. For info: 232-5503.

**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. For info: 233-5762 or [tgstopeka.org](mailto:tgstopeka.org).

**AGLOW INTERNATIONAL TOPEKA** – A Kingdom focused ministry for men & women. Meeting once a month at the Ramada Inn, 420 E 6th Street. Call 230-4441 or email [topekaaglow@hotmail.com](mailto:topekaaglow@hotmail.com) for dates/times.

**KINGDOM ADVISORS BREAKFAST STUDY MEETING** – Every 2nd Fri., 7:15am, Perkins Restaurant, 1720 SW Wanamaker Rd. Financial Planners, Accountants, Attorney's & Insurance Agents invited to attend. [kingdomadvisors.org](mailto:kingdomadvisors.org) or Jim Hanna, 357-6278, ext.19.

**TOPEKA (Downtown) OPTIMIST CLUB** – Every Fri., noon, Top of the Tower. Serving the youth of Topeka. Anyone welcome. 272-1099 or [fostrm60@yahoo.com](mailto:fostrm60@yahoo.com).

**VIP LUNCHEON FOR SENIORS** – Every Fri., Noon, North Topeka Baptist Church, 123 NW Gordon. FREE lunch with Christian fellowship, devotions & entertainment provided by Topeka North Outreach. For info: 286-1370.

**A GOOD YARN CLUB** – 2nd & 4th Sat., 9-11am, Wanamaker Rd Baptist Church, 2700 SW Wanamaker. Doing Good for Others: Knitting & Crocheting for Local Charities, free yarn, needles, hooks & patterns. All are welcome. Info: Debby, 215-4889, [ddhenrikson@cox.net](mailto:ddhenrikson@cox.net)

**BIBLE QUIZZING** – 1st Sat. Learn God's Word & have fun doing it with area Christian youth ages 9-19. New teams forming now for this year's season of quizzing. YFC/YEA style quizzing & rules. For info: 913-593-6427 or [biblequizzing.org](http://biblequizzing.org).

**MONTHLY SCORE MEETING** – 1st Sat., 8-9:30am, Comfort Suites, 6213 SW 10th. Small business owners are invited to attend monthly Breakfast Roundtable discussions with members of SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives). For info: 234-3049.

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**FREE ENGLISH CLASSES** – Every Sat. 9-10:30am, Central Congregational Church, 1248 SW Buchanan. For info: 235-2376.

**RUSSIAN HOUSE OF PRAYER** – Every Sat., 4pm, Williamstown Assembly of God, 1225 Oak St., Perry/Williamstown. For info: 597-5228.

**SINGLES PLAY CARDS** – 1st Sat., 6pm, St. Peter's UMC, NW 35th & Hwy 75; 3rd Sat., 6pm, Countryside UMC, 3221 SW Burlingame Rd. Christian singles 18 & over. Bring a snack or 2-liter soda & join the fun.

**UPPER ROOM COMMUNITY** – held at the Capitol Building every second Saturday of the month at 10am.

**SUPPORT GROUPS**

**ABORTION RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUPS** – A 12-step Restoring Joy recovery journey for women. Providing services for women & men who suffer from Post-Abortion Syndrome. For info: Kay Lyn, 272-6212.

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUPS** – for friends & families of alcoholics. For info: 357-8725.

**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: Hunter Ruch, Topeka Bible Church, 234-5545 or hruch@topekabiblechurch.org.

**ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUPS** – Monthly support group meetings for caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. For info: Alzheimer's Association, Heart of America Chapter, 271-1844 or email cindy.miller@alz.org.

**"BETRAYED HEART"** support group/Bible study – For women whose husbands struggle with pornography addictions or have had affairs. Videos & workbook will give you hope for your marriage & emotional healing. For info: Jane Goble, 478-9605.

**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.

**FRIENDS WITH M.S.** – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. (Enter East door). A Multiple Sclerosis support group. Donna, 266-7383.

**BOUNCE BACK SELF-HELP** – 3rd Mon., 6:30pm, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 2021 SW 29th St. For those living with multiple sclerosis. For info: 273-0799.

**INCARCERATED PERSONS & FAMILIES** – 1st Mon., 6:30-7:30pm, YMCA, 421 Van Buren. 286-2329.

**THE COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS BEREAVED PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP** – Most Pure Heart of Mary, 17th & Stone. Memorial Candle Lighting, candles provided, please bring framed picture of memorial item of your child. Fellowship and refreshments following. 272-4895

**OVERCOMERS OUTREACH** – Every Mon., 7-8:30pm, Wanamaker Woods Church, 3501 SW Wanamaker Rd. A bridge between traditional church and traditional 12 step meetings. Contact info: Bill at 409-9111 or wwc-overcomers@gmail.com.

**GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS** – Sponsored by Heartland Hospice for those dealing with death or major loss: 1st Mon., 6:30pm, Heartland Hospice of Topeka, 2231 SW Wanamaker Rd., Suite 202.

1st & 3rd Thurs., 3pm, Brewster Place, 1209 SW 29th St., penthouse of indep. living high-rise apts.

3rd Thurs., 11am, Widow's/Widowers' Luncheon, Paisano's Ristorante, Fleming Place, SW 10th & Gage Blvd., Dutch treat luncheon to meet new friends who have sat where you are sitting. For reservations (required) or info: 271-6500.

**OVEREATERS / UNDEREATERS ANONYMOUS:**

MON., 7pm – Westminster Presbyterian, south door, upstairs in Library; 233-6724.

WED., 7pm – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 6, 2nd floor; 234-8020.

SAT. - 9am – St. Francis Hospital meeting room 8, 2nd floor; 862-2326.

For info: 357-8774; sunflowerintergroup.aa.org.

**CHRIST-CENTERED SUPPORT GROUP** – "Strong Tower" 12 step recovery program – Tue., 7pm, 1331 SW Harrison. Currently discussing the book "Living Free in Christ." For info: Tony, 620-366-1427.

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

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

**"HEALING AFTER THE SUICIDE OF A LOVED ONE"** ("HEAL") – or Survivors of Suicide" (SOS). 1st & 3rd Tue., 7-8:30pm, Pozee Education Center of Stormont Vail Hospital, 1505 SW 8th St. Serving anyone who has lost a loved one by suicide.

**PRISON OUTREACH MINISTRY** – Every Tue., 7-9pm, Topeka Women's Prison, 815 Rice Rd. Reaching out to those who can't come in, finding freedom behind bars, inspiring inmates to seek salvation during a difficult time. Providing support & guidance through the Holy Spirit to offer strength. Director: Don Garner. 286-0489 or faithfamilylifeministries@gmail.com.

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

**JAYHAWK AREA AGENCY ON AGING** – 4th Wed., 1pm, Rosehill Place Clubhouse. Monthly support group for caregivers of seniors. For info: 235-1367 ext.30.

**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** – locations and times:

**TUE.** – 7-8:30pm, Covenant Baptist Church, 5440 SW 37th St. Cost \$15. Scholarships available. Choose from DivorceCare, Single & Parenting, or DivorceCare for Kids. For info: 273-2811.

**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. For info: 266-7550 or walnutviewcc@att.net. Website: divorcecare.org. Contact: Tony Thornton, Pastor.

**PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP** – 1st Thurs., 7pm, 2nd floor conf. room of the cancer unit at St Francis Hospital. For info: 266-9533.

**NICOTINE ANONYMOUS** – Every Fri., 6:30pm, Town & Country Christian Church Renaissance Room, 4925 SW 29th St., use west door cross red foot bridge. A fellowship of men & women helping each other to live free of nicotine. No dues or fees. The only requirement for membership is the desire to be free of nicotine. For info: John, 402-321-486 or Laboomaha@att.net.

**CELEBRATE RECOVERY** – Every Fri., 6pm, 1912 Gage Blvd. A Christ centered program, based on 8 principles found in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Applying these Biblical principles, become free from addictive & dysfunctional behaviors. 272-7980 or crtopeka.org.

**COVENANT KEEPERS** – 3rd Sat. Group for people who

want to see their marriage saved when their spouse wants out. For info: 816-453-0884 or 816-966-0927.

**WIDOWED PERSONS SERVICE:** monthly brunches – 3rd

Sat., 11am-12:30pm, First UMC. Bring a covered dish, rolls, salad, dessert, fruit or cheese. 357-7290.



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# entertainment

**MOVIES, BOOKS, MUSIC & MORE!**

## MORE TO 'MARY POPPINS' THAN CHEERY DISPOSITION

### moviereview

 by **Christa Bannister**

After seeing the first trailer for Disney's Saving Mr. Banks several months ago, I thought, "Oh, that'll be a cute movie about creative differences." By pitting a headstrong writer against the person - namely one Walt Disney - hoping to make her novel accessible for the masses, Saving Mr. Banks would basically serve as a family-friendly version of the art vs. commerce debate, right?

No doubt, much of Saving Mr. Banks highlights the considerable gulf between varying visions for a big-screen Mary Poppins adaptation. What I wasn't prepared for, however, was the total gut punch explanation of why Mary, a fictional character, was so important to her creator P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson, Nanny McPhee Returns) and ultimately worth protecting in the first place. Note: You'd be wise to have a good stash of Kleenex nearby.

As it turns out, there's far more to Mary Poppins than the endlessly cheery songs she belts out. She was also an all-too-real reminder of Travers' troubled childhood and having to deal with grim, unsettling realities that forced her to grow up much too fast.

In a series of beautifully rendered



flashbacks, we're introduced to young Ginty (newcomer Annie Rose Buckley), which is the nickname her beloved father, Robert Goff Travers (Colin Farrell, Total Recall) gave her.

Ginty is clearly the one joy in Mr. Travers' disappointing life, but as much as he'd like to, he simply can't stop drinking. Naturally, this makes holding a job and paying the bills rather difficult, and the family is forced to move from Australian city to city more often than they would like, especially given the condition of Ginty's emotionally frail mother, Margaret (Ruth Wilson, The Lone

Ranger). After all, starting over again wasn't really starting over again, it was just more of the same.

Although he's typically known for playing much rougher, tougher characters, Farrell lends a surprising warmth and pathos to his role. As flawed as he is, we totally understand why Ginty unconditionally loves him, and these scenes are easily some of the film's best moments from an emotional standpoint.

Back to that first story; you know, the one I'd been expecting. It's Thompson who winds up stealing this show. If it wasn't for her decidedly sharp edges as a

woman who isn't easily seduced by the Disney machine, thinks California has an inordinately funny smell and hates Jell-O, the movie might not be palatable. In a twist from one of Mary's songs, it's the sugar in this film - not the medicine - that wouldn't go down without Thompson's performance.

Not surprisingly, the story also serves as a nice bit of positive propaganda for the Disney behemoth, but if one checks his/her cynicism at the door, there's still a thoroughly likeable story that emerges as Walt (Tom Hanks) attempts to make good on a 20-year promise. This man who is used to getting whatever he wants told his daughters he would make sure that Mary Poppins—and that umbrella of hers—would one day grace the big screen.

The journey to the premiere is a rather uphill battle. But as Travers' book sales have dwindled and she faces losing her lovely London home, she finally meets with the very man she'd been turning her nose up at for two decades. Flying to Los Angeles, a funny exercise all its own given Travers' rather brusque demeanor, she has a lengthy list of requirements before even considering signing the rights to Poppins over. In addition to having full script approval, a writer's dream that rarely comes true, Travers also insisted the movie couldn't be a musical or feature any animated

### film411

**STARS:** Emma Thompson, Tom Hanks, Annie Rose Ginty, Colin Farrell, Ruth Wilson, Paul Giamatti, B.J. Novak, Jason Schwartzman  
**RATING:** PG-13  
**DIRECTOR:** John Lee Hancock

characters.

Anyone who's seen the 1964 film knows how that ended up, but Travers does put up a pretty good fight. After some careful persuasion, she eventually comes around on the music and reluctantly sits down with the intrepid songwriting team (B.J. Novak and Jason Schwartzman, who are clearly having fun) and screenwriter Don DaGradi (Bradley Whitford, The Cabin in the Woods). While their collective visions couldn't be more different (and this plays out rather humorously again and again), they find common ground in wanting to make a film that's worthy of the story.

And that's precisely what happens with Saving Mr. Banks, too. While probably scrubbed clean of too much controversy and carefully edited to serve Disney's legacy, there's still plenty that's praiseworthy about this film. The underlying message of unconditional love for the undeserving—the very portrait of grace that's at the center of every Christian's story—is alone a theme worth celebrating again and again.

## A look at the best, worst family movies of 2013

 by **Marie Asner**

It is that time of the year when film critics go through their notes and look for the best and worst films of the past year. 2013 was a year of book adaptations, more than I've seen for a long time (referencing "Captain Phillips" with Tom Hanks or "Lone Survivor" with Mark Wahlberg.) Animated films were not in abundance and those that were have quality animation, so you don't need 3 D to see them in a theater.

Listed below are my choices for best films of the year, listed in alphabetical order, and followed by the worst films.

### BEST FILMS

**ALL IS LOST** (rated R for perilous scenes and profanity)---Robert Redford is alone on a breaking-up sailboat with the elements against him. This is a one-man film with startling photography. Reference to prayer.

**CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS: 2** (animated) (PG)---a continuation of the story of a boy who invents a food-making machine.

**DESPICABLE ME: 2** (animated) (PG)---another continuing story of Gru, who thinks he has no time for children, but guess again. Steve Carell is the voice of Gru.



**FROZEN** (animated) (PG)---Disney's entry into the animation field with an adaptation of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Snow Queen" about a girl who can freeze things with her hands. Pretty fair music score.

**GRAVITY** (PG 13)---Sandra Bullock and George Clooney star as two astronauts who are in peril from debris by the space station. How to return home? Is that even a possibility? Great photography and a reference to prayer.

**SAVING MR. BANKS** (PG-13)---Based on the true story of Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) who wants to turn the "Mary Poppins" books into a movie, but is thwarted for many years by the author, P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson). The reasons gradually come out.

**THE BOOK THIEF** (PG 13)---adapted from a novel, the story is about hiding a young Jew from the Nazi's during WWII and the love of books.

**THE BUTLER** (PG 13)---Forrest Whitaker and Oprah Winfrey star in a film adaptation of the book written by a former White House butler. Tells what happens behind the scenes.

**THE HOBBIT: DESOLATION OF SMAUG** (PG 13)---So you think you have seen dragons? Wait until you have seen Smaug (voiced by Benedict Cumberbatch of PBS "Sherlock Holmes" fame) as the hobbits



**"2013 was a year of book adaptations, more than I've seen for a long time (referencing "Captain Phillips" with Tom Hanks or "Lone Survivor" with Mark Wahlberg.)"**

and dwarves try to retrieve stolen treasure from the creature. Good special effects.

**THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE** (PG 13)---for readers of this series, the second film is better than the first, with depth of story (fighting for food for their area of the country) and Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) as their leader.

### ALSO RAN:

**GREAT EXPECTATIONS** (PG 13)---an adaptation of the Charles Dickens novel with Helena Bonham Carter as one of the stars.

**IN A WORLD** (rated R for language)---Written and starring actress Lake Bell, this movie tells what it is like to be a voice-over person in the film industry. She must compete against her father.

**MANDELA** (rated R for violence and language)---A biopic of Nelson Mandela starring Idris Elba as



Mandela. The story is about his younger years.

**STAR TREK: INTO DARKNESS** (PG 13)---For "Star Trek" fans (and you know who you are) this last film, starring Chris Pine as Captain James T. Kirk, takes the audience into hither and yon.

**THE WAY WAY BACK** (PG 13)---with Toni Collette as the clueless mother and Steve Carell playing a bully, this film shows a summer of growing up for Toni's son.

\*For adult viewing, with profanity and adult themes, here are four films that are sure to come up at Oscar nomination time.

(Adult) **CAPTAIN PHILLIPS** (R)---starring Tom Hanks, this is based on the true adventures of Phillips as his boat was hijacked by Somali pirates and what happened when the U. S. Navy gets involved.

(Adult) **LONE SURVIVOR** (R)---Mark Wahlberg gives a good performance in the true story of what happened on a secret mission by a Seal team in Afghanistan. If you have served in the military, you will understand.

(Adult) **NEBRASKA** (R)---Bruce Dern usually played a villain, but here he plays a going-into-senility man who thinks he won in the lottery and wants to go to Nebraska and collect his money. This is an



Alexander Payne film, shot in black and white, with terrific photography and wry humor.

(Adult) **12 YEARS A SLAVE** (R)---based on a true story of the 19th century, when a free black man was kidnapped into slavery and had to prove he was free. Stars Chiwetel Ejiofor.



### WORST FAMILY FILMS OF 2013

\*Now for the Worst Films of the Year. Actually most films have some redeeming quality (not counting the multitude of horror films about teens lost in the woods that come out the last two weeks in October), I have included three films I was disappointed in.

**AFTER EARTH** (PG 13)---Will Smith stars with his son, Jaden Smith in a science fiction film that promises a story but doesn't give one.

**AUSTENLAND** (rated PG 13)---Keri Russell stars in a film about a woman who cleans out her bank account to spend a week at a Jane Austen retreat in which visitors dress like period characters. That was a good premise, but the raunchy material provided by the script was tasteless.

**FREE BIRDS** (animated) (PG)---What could have been a clever story of time travel and the first turkeys at Thanksgiving fell flat.



# Warm your 'receivers' this winter



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## musicscene

Happy New Year! Depending on the weather this month and those to come, you may need to wear ear muffs to keep your "receivers" warm and safe from frostbite!

If so, I would love to recommend some nice ear drum friendly headphones to go on underneath!

There is some great music coming out this month!

And we aren't talking the unknown or just up-and-coming artists, either... read on!

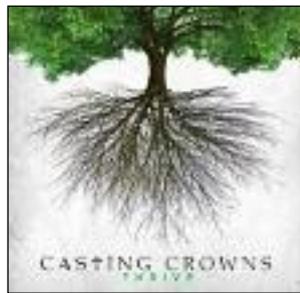
January 7 sees such artists as Colton Dixon (A Messenger: Expanded Edition), David Thulin (The



Reconstruction V2.1), and Red Roots (Triplcity) all releasing new material. Switchfoot will be presenting their latest release, Fading West, which will also coincide with their movie of the same name.

Christian hard-rockers Nine Lashes will also be releasing their newest album, From Water to War, January 21. Based on their sneak single, "Break the World," this disc should be a radio staple for some time to come; some heavy tones, but with melodic vocals and edgy guitars.

And last, but nowhere near least among the thirty-some releases coming out this month, is Casting Crowns latest offering, Thrive, on January



28. Kirk Cameron's "Unstoppable" will also be released on DVD on the 28th.

Other releases will include iWorship Now/Next 2014 (Integrity Music), Roy Tosh - Revert (January 7, 2014); Elevation Worship - Only King Forever, Keno Camp - Riot, Shout Praises Kids - We Belong To Jesus (January 14, 2014); Doug Anderson - Drive, HeeSun Lee - Stereo Types, Hoskins Family - A Gathering, J. Moss - The Very Best Of..., Jake Hamilton - Beautiful Rider, Kye Kye - Fantasize,



Number One Gun - This Is All We Know, Papa San - One Blood, Saving Grace - The Urgency (January 21, 2014); and 25 Essential Worship Songs (Benson Records), Dave Barnes - Golden Days, Israel & New Breed - Playlist: Best Of..., Jamie-Grace - Ready to Fly, Latice Crawford - Latice Crawford (January 28, 2014).

# EXAMINE THE SPIRITUAL WORLD OF THE HOBBIT

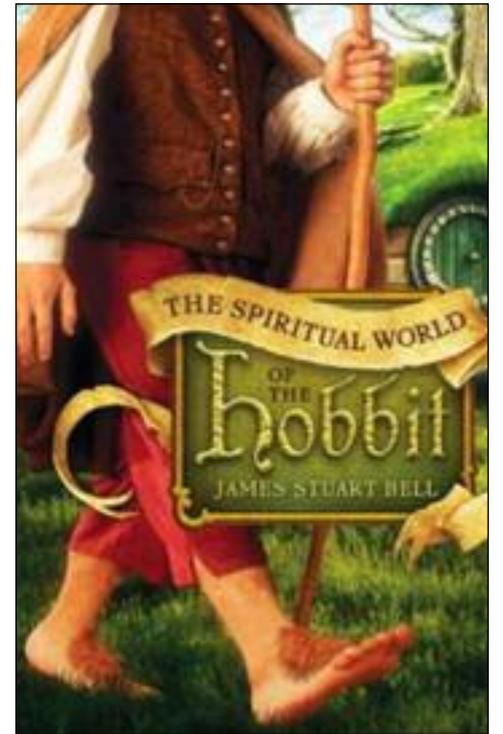
by Glenn McCarty

Millions of fans worldwide made the latest offering in Peter Jackson's epic trilogy interpretation of J.R.R. Tolkien's fantasy adventure The Hobbit the number one movie. While it's for others to decide whether Jackson's film is a worthy interpretation, one thing is clear: readers have been finding inspiration, imagination, and even spiritual nourishment in the pages of Tolkien's classic since it was first published in 1937. Presumably released to coincide with the second installment in Jackson's trilogy, James Stuart Bell's The Spiritual World of the Hobbit serves as a nice one-stop volume for those seeking a bit of knowledge, light literary criticism, and some enlightened thoughts on how Christians can gain spiritual encouragement from the example of Bilbo Baggins' quest.

It should probably be noted up front that how you respond to Bell's book will depend largely on your familiarity with and love for Tolkien's work. Those with a great deal of both might find Bell's book either a repeat of what's already known, or,

the greatest adventures ever told." And that, regardless of your perspective, seems like a worthy endeavor. People have been doing that ever since the first fireside hunting tale was told.

After an opening section introducing



worse, an infringement on deeply held beliefs about The Hobbit. However, those with a cursory knowledge of The Hobbit - perhaps those picking up Tolkien's book for the first time, or those looking to after seeing the first movie - this book is an acceptable companion to a first read. Bell speaks in generalities, and does quite a bit of interpreting the story elements from a Christian perspective.

Again, for that reason, this book might prove to be polarizing; readers who are generally miffed by the thought of others "finding" spiritual meaning in works of fantasy or speculative literature will likely be equally miffed by this book. Stories aren't obligated to explain themselves, and someone who tries will likely be delving too deeply into material that wasn't meant to be mined that way. Yes, yes, that is true. And, indeed, in some ways, Bell uses the Hobbit as a pastor might for a sermon illustration, drawing inspirational guidance from Bilbo's character traits, conflict, and eventual resolution. For that reason, this book's goal is accurately described as helping the reader "find wisdom and inspiration in one of

readers to the world of Middle-Earth through details from Tolkien's other works, Bell dives into the plot of The Hobbit. In this way, he moves through the story in a linear fashion, mixing plot description with interpretation. For example, Bell describes Bilbo Baggins - the story's heroic hobbit - before the quest begins as not being "drafted by chance or by mistake into the battle between good and evil; rather, his inclusion was the result of a divine call." He then ties this into the words of the apostle Paul in the book of Ephesians 1:3-5, writing that "[God] chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight."

In this way, The Spiritual World of the Hobbit meets its goal: a devotional/inspiration book for Hobbit readers. And, with duck hunters, football fans, and dozens of other niche groups having devotional books which appeal to their particular interests, why not Tolkien-lovers? With the cold winter days upon us, this book might just find its place next to the fireplace.

# Kansas Reclaims Control of Testing, Drops Common Core Assessments

Recently, Kansas decided to drop the Common Core-aligned Smarter Balanced tests in favor of having the University of Kansas craft the assessments that Kansas students will take beginning in the 2015-2016 school year.

After hours of in-depth discussion, the Kansas State Board of Education voted 8-2 to walk away from a years-long effort that Kansas played a lead role in—the Smarter Balanced state consortium that is developing Common Core tests with a

federal Race to the Top Grant.

The key concern for board members was that the Smarter Balanced tests—once they are finished and ready for schools in 2015—will be more expensive than commissioning the assessments from [the University of Kansas]....

By choosing KU [assessments] over Smarter Balanced, the Kansas State Board of Education expects to save money though either option means an increase compared to the state's current math and

reading tests. It also will retain greater control over the design and content of the tests than Smarter Balanced would have allowed.

Common Core national standards were adopted by 45 states in 2009 after the federal government incentivized states using a combination of carrots and sticks—including \$4.35 billion in Race to the Top (RTTT) competitive grants and No Child Left Behind waivers. But many states, including Kansas, are beginning to have second thoughts.

The Huffington Post reports that 17 additional states are pushing back against Common Core:

In critically reconsidering their agreements to abide by [Common Core State Standards] and its related RTTT high-stakes assessment and data collection requirements, it seems that a number of 9[Common Core] states are attempting to do exactly that—reinforcing the right of states to listen to the concerns of their citizens and subsequently adjust their own education systems.

For 30 years, Kansas has relied on the University of Kansas to prepare tests for its students. KU said it can prepare tests with nearly all the same features of the Common Core-aligned tests—except their tests won't cost an estimated \$1 million more per year, and, most importantly, educational decision making for Kansas students will stay in Kansas.

As the 2014-2015 deadline for adoption looms near, states still have time to reject Common Core and reclaim their educational decision-making authority.

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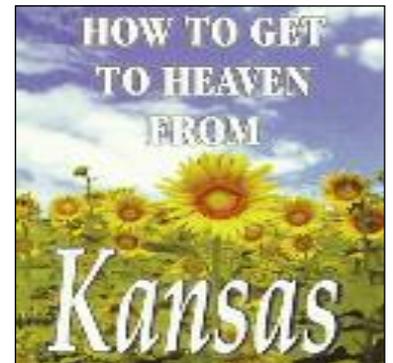
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**NOTO MARKET FIRST FRIDAY** -Jan. 3 & Feb. 7. NOTO arts district. Enjoy arts, antiques, fine crafts, and flea market items. Entertainment and food & beverage options are also available.

**PANCAKE FEED** - Jan. 4, 7-11am, Seaman Cong. Church, 2036 NW Taylor. Sausage, milk, juice & coffee also available. \$5. For info 354-8777.

**EPIPHANY CELEBRATION!** - Jan. 5, 4pm. Fellowship Hall at Kansas Avenue United Methodist Church, 1029 N Kansas Ave, A moving reenactment of the wise men's arrival at the manger, music, and readings. A number of beautiful Nativities on display and an all-chocolate buffet.

**ADOPTION, FOSTER-PARENTING INFO MEETING** - Jan. 23, 6pm, Lifeline Children's Services, 4745 NW Hunter's Ridge Circle, Suite C. Come learn how God can use your gifts and talents with several different ministries Lifeline Children's Services has been blessed with. This information meeting will cover adoption, orphan care ministry and Safe Families for Children. We will also have a family who will give their adoption testimony and will be open for questions from you. For info: 785-783-4577



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

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

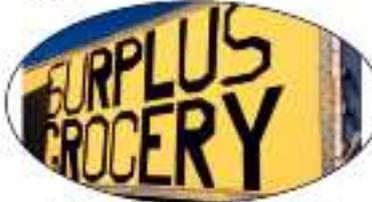
2. Realize Jesus paid the penalty. Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection provided a way for you to go to heaven and restore your relationship with God. "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." (Rom. 5:8). Since Jesus, God's Son, was the 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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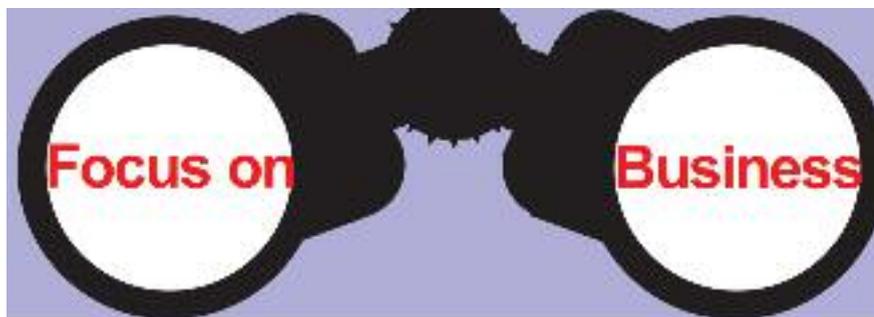
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"It's like having your own IT department in your home!" Driggers said.

The Basic plan (\$9.99/month) provides a monitoring program installed on your computer that will run 24/7/365 and monitor 247 different aspects of your computer system. Monthly reports will be sent via e-mail explaining any errors and repairs that have been found and fixed. This plan includes free in-store diagnostics and

estimates if you need to bring your computer in (\$40.00 savings).

The Silver Level (\$24.99/month) includes everything on the basic plan, plus it includes Antivirus/Spyware software installed on your PC. Free virus removal is included - if you get a virus it will be

remotely removed for you. If that doesn't work, you can bring your computer to the store and it will be removed at no charge. You also get Unlimited Remote Support with this plan - if you have any problem on your computer, the Computer Store will remotely log

in and repair the problem for FREE.

The Gold Level plan (\$59.99/month) will provide everything in the Basic and Silver tier plus unlimited in-store service, including fixing or replacing any software and hardware problems without any charges. This level also provides software problem support and offsite data backups - your data will be transferred to their off-site backup server, so when a disaster happens they will have a safe copy for you!

Driggers said they started offering the new service in January, and it has been very well received.

The Computer Store is located at 21st and Gage in Seabrook Center. You can reach them by phone at 785-267-3223, or visit their website online at [www.thecomputerstoreks.com](http://www.thecomputerstoreks.com).



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**Three "Audiences" Crucial to Success**

How do you turn your customers - whether they are patrons, employees, managers, partners, media, investors or any other stakeholders - into raving fans evangelizing your product, service or even yourself to others?

Having engaged listeners in diverse businesses spanning entertainment, new media, sports, publishing and education, and energized them into passionate advocates of my very different offerings, I have identified the three "audiences" crucial to creating my exponential business success which I want to share with you.

**The first "audience" is you to you.**

You are your first litmus test. Are you genuinely and authentically "sold" on your offering? Are you demonstrating your congruence - that your heart, tongue, feet and wallet all going in the same direction? If that does not shine through from the outset, it will be a tough slog trying to move anyone else to action. Be warned - you can't fake it to make it.

A childhood friend of mine, George E. Marcus, who is now Professor of Political Science at Williams College and has extensively studied and written about the latest research in neuroscience, shared with me that the initial communication between a teller and their "audience" begins before the first word is spoken,

and individuals who ignore this basic truth tend to fail. That's because the brain functions as a constant surveillance system telling us as soon as we set eyes on another person, whether that individual is friend or foe, authentic or fake, trustworthy or dangerous. If we sense the other person is not authentic or distracted, we'll automatically put up our defenses, either by tuning out entirely or listening with suspicion. You must establish and bring this authenticity into the room with you.

Don't leave your authenticity at the door! Whether you're a CEO, sales person, volunteer organizer or small business owner, your listeners will never fully connect to you, buy into your proposition, or join your parade unless they feel your belief in the offering.

With your authenticity in place, you're ready to convince your second "audience."

**The second "audience" is you to them**

How do you get and hold your customers' attention, whether one or many, in a noisy world? You will never succeed in moving "audiences" without first capturing their attention. You must disrupt the cacophony of noise running rampant in everyone's heads and redirect

their attention before you ignite their intention to buy your product, give you a raise, join your company or invest in your proposition.

After 533 interviews and six years on television I finally learned that the key to successfully capture attention is by first focusing on the "what's in it for them?" Don't focus just on features, but the benefits to your customers/audiences and the emotional reward that it offers. The key is that this engagement must be an experience where your customer not just listens, but participates in the process. You must make it a dialog, not a monolog.

**The third "audience" is them to them**

With the third and final customers, you must surrender control, giving your viral advocates the tools they need to share their experiences you created for them with others exponentially creating more and more raving fans. It is essential that you surrender control over your offering or the way it's told. It's their voice and their authenticity that must pay their experience with you and your product forward. This powerful "word of mouth" is what ignites audiences into evangelizing products and services in the most elegant, economic and effective fashion.

Why? Because the product or service then owns the audiences' hearts, not just their wallets. This explains the phenomena that leaves many business folks scratching their heads - which is that the products with the best physical attributes doesn't always win. The product or service that owns their "audiences" emotions usually triumphs.

Peter Guber is CEO at Mandalay Entertainment, owner of the Golden State Warriors and Los Angeles Dodgers, and a #1 NYT Bestselling Author. You can follow him at Linked In.



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# sports

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## Unpackin' It - Colt McCoy's Faith

Sports Spectrum's Bryce Johnson interviews backup quarterback for the San Francisco 49ers, Colt McCoy. Drafted by the Cleveland Browns in 2010, McCoy was traded last April to the 49ers. He has also co-authored a new book called, *The Real Win: A Man's Quest for Authentic Success*. Listen as Colt McCoy candidly unpacks his life.

**BRYCE JOHNSON:** I'm sure San Francisco is a little bit different than Cleveland, huh?

**COLT MCCOY:** Yeah, a little bit different. The weather is different, the climate is different. I enjoyed my time in Cleveland, there in Ohio, but God has new plans for me now, and I'm really enjoying getting to know my new teammates and my new coaches, and it's a new place. So there are lots of positives going on right now.

**BRYCE JOHNSON:** I saw on Twitter that you preached about leaving a legacy. I'm curious what were your main points in that sermon you spoke on?

**COLT MCCOY:** Yeah, I was fortunate enough Matt Carter—he's the pastor here at Austin Stone (Community Church)...we wrote the book together (*The Real Win*)...he's an unbelievable guy, unbelievable preacher, and he's done so much for me, and he asked me to come and do a sermon on legacy. The first thing that came to my mind was what I think about when I think about legacy—that every man is going to leave one, and my point is if we all know that we're going to leave a legacy, what kind of legacy are we leaving and what kind of legacy would our friends that we're around every day say that we're leaving? What kind of legacy would my wife say that I'm leaving? When I thought of it, you know I'm kind of young in life—I still consider myself young—I'm 25, but I know each and every day that I'm building a legacy. What am I building? What am I leaving to the people I'm around? A lot of time when we think about legacy, we think about what we're doing in life, how we're going to set up our business, how we're going to have a successful golf game, you know, have a big fat 401-K.

We've got a lot of these things, these roaming material things on our minds, but at the end of the day is that really going to matter? At the end of the day what is going to really matter is what you've done in this life for Jesus.

**BRYCE JOHNSON:** Amen!

**COLT MCCOY:** That's really the point I wanted to get across in that mes-

many ups and downs and bumps along the way, but you know it's a challenge every day. I still try to make myself enjoy football. I loved playing it at a very young age, and now that it's your work, and it's your business, and it's your career, sometimes that kind of gets washed up. Sometimes you make it more than what it really is, and for me I just try to enjoy it every day. I work hard, I compete, I'm a very competitive person, but I still love the game, and I'm going to keep playing



sage, so I think it went well.

**BRYCE JOHNSON:** Has being an NFL quarterback been everything that you thought it would be?

**COLT MCCOY:** Man, there are so

it as long as I can because God has blessed me to be able to do it. You asked me if it's everything I thought it would be. There's probably a lot more than I could never imagine, but it's been good.

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## FROM THE CHEAP SEATS

by Rob Mooney

Another year gone and another one beginning. I enjoy this time of the year because it's a time to reflect back over the past year and evaluate yourself. Many questions loom. Did I accomplish everything I wanted to? Did I treat people the way I should? Did I draw closer to God? Do you realize that if you're farther away from God right now than you have been in the past, you're backsliding? We should always strive to have a closer walk with God.

From a sports perspective, this past year was very productive. Let's run through a few things that stick out in my mind.

- The Kansas City Royals finished with a winning record for the first time in how long? It was fun to see the Royals compete all the way to the end of the season. With the transactions they've made already this offseason, I believe they are better now than they were when the season ended. 2014 should be an exciting time for the Royals and their playoff-starved fan base.

- What can you say about the Kansas City Chiefs? Going from 2-14 and the number one pick in the draft to 11-5 and a playoff berth, what an accomplishment. After starting the season on a 9-0 run, they fell back to reality and went 2-5 over the last half of the season. The thing that scares me about them, however, is the fact that they are 1-5 against playoff teams. You never know, anything can happen. They've already exceeded everyone's expectations.

- Talk about exceeding expectations, what about those Shockers from Wichita State? Going to the Final Four. Getting off to a 13-0 start this season.

Wow. Now they're about to start Missouri Valley play, I don't expect them to lose more than three games before the tournament starts. It should be fun to watch how far they can go.

- Kansas State won a bowl game for the first time in 11 years, easily defeating Michigan 31-14. It's hard to believe that the Wildcats were on a 5 bowl game losing streak before taking care of business against the Wolverines. Bill Snyder is one of the top college coaches in the nation, possibly of all time. After losing their opener to North Dakota State, who thought that they would finish the way they did. Snyder always gets the most out of his players.

- We can't leave the Jayhawks out. Going to the Elite Eight and losing to eventual champion Michigan is a good season. Most schools would love to accomplish that. Tack on their 9th consecutive Big 12 Championship. What a year. They seem poised to be overrun this year in Big 12 play, but until they lose, the championship goes through Lawrence. Talking about getting the most out of his players, Bill Self is one of the best. Don't be surprised if the 'Hawks make a deep run in the tournament this year.

I hope that everyone has a good, productive 2014 and everyone loses all that weight they want to. Just remember, as you're crowding your way to a treadmill at your local gym for the next two months, the gym will become less crowded in a couple of months after people begin dropping their new year's resolutions. Don't give up. If you need to lose weight, stick with it. Make 2014 a productive year.

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# The Surrendered Life

by Patrick Morley

Adrian Rogers, a famous twentieth-century Baptist pastor, once went on a missions trip to Romania. Over the course of two weeks, he bonded with his interpreter but hadn't learned much about his thoughts. So toward the end of the trip he asked, "Tell me, what do you think of American Christians?"

"I don't want to talk about it," came the strange reply. This, of course, only made Dr. Rogers more curious, so he began to press him for an answer.

Finally the interpreter capitulated. "Well, okay then, but you're not going



Morley

to like my answer. I don't think you Americans understand what Christianity is all about. Back in the 1960s you started to use the word 'commitment' to describe your relationship with Christ. However, any time a word comes into usage, another word goes into disuse."

He continued, "Until the 1960s, you Americans talked about 'surrender' to Christ. Surrender means giving up control, turning over all to the Master, Jesus. By changing to the word 'commitment,' your relationship with Christ has become something you do; therefore you are able to keep control. Surrender means giving up all

rights to oneself. You Americans don't like to do that, so instead you make a commitment."

Have you truly surrendered, not just committed, your life to Jesus Christ? Maybe you have "prayed a sinner's prayer"; maybe not. Maybe you surrendered in the past, but you have taken back control of your life. In any case, be sure to settle this issue before you set down this book.

The great irony of surrender is that it leads not to defeat but victory. You can surrender, or re-surrender, your life by humbly telling God in your own words that you desire to yield control of your life to Him in repentance and faith. Or, if you wish, you can pray this prayer:

Lord Jesus, I need You in my life right now more than I ever have. I have

very little joy, peace, and passion in my life. I confess that I have been trying to have the best of both worlds, that I have been double minded, and that I have been seeking the God I have wanted and not the God who is. I am so sorry, and I repent. Please forgive me. Thank You for loving me so much that You would die for all my sins so that I can have eternal life. By faith I receive (or renew) my salvation and I surrender my life to You. Take control of my life. Make me into the kind of man I've been reading about in this book. I pray this in Your name, Jesus, and for Your glory. Amen.

If you've just surrendered or re-surrendered your life, congratulations. The surrendered life is the foundation under everything we've been discussing in this book. Be sure to tell someone

what you've done. If someone gave you this book, let him or her know. Tell your spouse, your pastor, your small group--anyone who will listen. The feedback you receive will strengthen your faith.

Let me add one suggestion. Because I am a rebel, as most men are, I realize that I must each day come humbly to the foot of the cross in a spirit of repentance and faith, once again making a full, total, and complete surrender of my life to the lordship of Jesus. Let me encourage you also to practice daily surrender.

Learn more about *How God Makes Men* and Pat's other books, weekly video Bible study, articles, daily devotionals, radio program, books, and e-books at [PatrickMorley.com](http://PatrickMorley.com). You can follow him on Facebook at [Facebook.com/PatrickMorleyAuthor](http://Facebook.com/PatrickMorleyAuthor) and on Twitter @patrickmorley. His ministry websites are [ManInTheMirror.org](http://ManInTheMirror.org) and [AreaDirectors.org](http://AreaDirectors.org).

The great irony of surrender is that it leads not to defeat but victory.

# Oh, the things Dads wear...

Carey Casey | Fathers.com

You'd do just about anything for your kids... But would you wear anything?

The other day in our offices, I was talking with another dad on our staff, just catching up on things, when I noticed his socks. They were on the wild side, and didn't really match the rest of

his clothes that day.

Then I took a closer look. Oh, they're Superman socks. What? What's the story there?

Well, it turns out he has a young son who's really into Superman and Batman, and his dad was wearing those socks simply because he knew it would amuse his son. It was one more way to

connect.

Another dad I know is big into cycling, and he found a jersey with his daughter's first name on it. Sometimes when he's gearing up for a ride, he'll come downstairs with that jersey on, and she'll smile. Or when he's wearing a different jersey, sometimes she'll say, "You need to wear my shirt."

Maybe you do something similar. You have matching T-shirts from a place you visited with your son. Or maybe a necktie or coffee mug or golf towel that your daughter gave you as a gift. A baseball jersey, golf shirt or even the same WATCH D.O.G.S. T-shirt you wore when you volunteered at the school.

I would urge you to keep wearing and using those things—even if they clash with your outfit or seem a little silly. More than looking a certain way, it's a small way of sending some valuable messages to your child...

Like: "I'm tracking with you. I'm noticing who you are and what you like."

It also communicates, "You're special to me. I enjoy being your dad and letting people know that I am your dad. We have a strong connection that I'm proud of."

And even if your child isn't there to see you wearing or using that item, it's still a great reminder for you about what's important and how much you're devoted to your kids.



Casey

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Wed. 6:15 pm: Children/Youth/  
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Worship Sun. 8:00, 9:30 & 11am  
[www.northlandcctopeka.org](http://www.northlandcctopeka.org)

- 5. FAIRLAWN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE**  
"Connecting to Christ, Church and Community"  
730 SW Fairlawn Rd., Topeka, KS  
(785)272-6322 • [www.TheLawn.org](http://www.TheLawn.org)  
Gary Miller, Pastor  
Sunday Worship 9:15 am & 10:50 am  
Sunday Youth Group 10:50am  
Adult & Children's Sun. School 9:15 & 10:50am  
Sun. Eve Youth Activities 6pm
- 6. FIRST SOUTHERN BAPTIST**  
1912 SW Gage, Topeka, KS  
272-0443 [www.fsbctopeka.org](http://www.fsbctopeka.org)  
Sunday Services:  
8:30 AM Traditional Worship  
9:45 AM Bible study—all ages  
11 AM Contemporary Worship
- 7. TOPEKA BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Finding NEW LIFE in CHRIST"  
Sunday Worship 9:15 & 10:45am, 6pm  
~ Sunday School for all ages ~  
4500 SW Gage Blvd., Topeka  
785-862-0988  
[www.topekabaptist.org](http://www.topekabaptist.org)
- 8. WANAMAKER ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH**  
"Being and making disciples of Jesus Christ by the power of the Gospel, to the glory of God"  
2700 SW Wanamaker Rd., Topeka  
(785) 272-9323 [www.wrbctopeka.com](http://www.wrbctopeka.com)  
Traditional Sunday Worship 10:30am & 6pm  
Sunday School 9am • Wed. Prayer 7pm
- 9. GRACE COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
310 E 8th St (E. US 56 Hwy)  
Overbrook, KS; 785-665-7117  
Elvin Dillard, Senior Pastor  
Sunday School 9 am; Worship 10 am  
[www.gccinoverbrook.com](http://www.gccinoverbrook.com)  
office@gccinoverbrook.com

- 10. LORD'S HOUSE CHURCH**  
300 SW Roosevelt, Topeka KS 66606  
Pastor Marilyn Hahn McGinnis  
10 a.m. Sunday (Non-traditional Service)  
See "About Us" at our website  
[www.kawriverkeruv.com](http://www.kawriverkeruv.com)  
Questions? [kawriverlordshouse@att.net](mailto:kawriverlordshouse@att.net)
- 12. BUCK CREEK COUNTRY CHURCH**  
Meeting at Buck Creek School House  
5 mi. east of Perry on Hwy 24, 13th & Phillips Rd.  
Childrens Sunday School - 8:30 a.m.  
Worship Service - 9:00 a.m.  
Contacts: Logan Barnett 785-597-5498,  
Scott Bond 423-0406, Jack Snavelly 760-3513
- 13. WANAMAKER WOODS NAZARENE**  
Serving Christ - Loving People  
3501 SW Wanamaker Rd  
[www.wwnaz.org](http://www.wwnaz.org)  
273-2248 • Dr. L.D. Holmes, Sr. Pastor  
Adult & Kids Alive Worship Sun. 9 & 11 am  
Sunday School 10 am, all ages  
11am worship Osage City campus  
6pm Sun. Small Groups 6:30 P Teens  
Wed. 6:30 Teens, Discovery & small groups  
~ Youth & Children's Programs ~  
Upward Sports: Seasonal Soccer,  
Basketball, Cheerleading  
~ Nursery care at all services ~
- 14. FAMILY LIFE CHURCH - Nazarene**  
Sundays - 10:00 am  
1211 NW 46th ST  
Nursery/Children's Church/Small Groups  
Church office phone: 785 286-1889  
We are moving forward in God's Word...  
with His passion...in our community!
- 16. HOUSE OF THE LORD CHURCH**  
A Spirit-filled, Word-centered church  
2531 SE Wittenberg Rd., Topeka  
Sunday Worship 11am & 6pm  
Wed. Prayer & Praise 7pm  
785-266-LOVE (5683)  
J. Michael Borjon, Pastor



- 17. HIGHLAND HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
Sunday Services: 8:30 and 10:00 AM  
785-379-5642  
Jars of Clay Children's Center now open  
Taking registrations: 785-379-9098  
2930 SE Tecumseh Road  
Tecumseh, Kansas 66542
- 18. SOUTHWEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
5747 SW Huntoon • 785-272-0564  
Contemporary Service 9:30 am  
Traditional Service 10:45 am  
Youth Group (Teens) 3 pm Sunday  
Wed. Prayer & Bible Study 6:30 pm
- 19. SEAMAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**  
Independent Christ-Centered Bible Church  
2036 NW Taylor, Topeka, KS  
354-8777 • [www.seamanchurch.com](http://www.seamanchurch.com)  
Adult Sunday School - Sun. 9:30am  
Sunday Worship: 10:30am  
Children's Sunday School: 10:30am  
Youth group 1st & 3rd Sundays 4-6pm  
Pastor Jack Belland
- 20. HERITAGE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor Dale Stockburger  
801 NE Poplar St.,  
Topeka, KS 66616  
785-506-4594  
Sunday Mornings: 10 am Worship  
and Junior Church for the kids
- 21. HARVEST FAMILY FELLOWSHIP**  
Meets at Hillcrest Community Ctr  
1800 SE 21st Street • 785-220-5418  
Pastor Rey Rodriguez  
Sun. Worship 10 am  
[www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com](http://www.topekaharvest.vpweb.com)
- 22. NEW CITY LIFE CHURCH**  
5221 SW West Drive  
Topeka, Kansas 66606  
Sunday Services - 10:00 am  
Pastor Kathy Jimerson
- 23. EAST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
4425 S.E. 29th St., 379-9933.  
Sunday Worship 10:45am & 6:00pm  
AWANA Sunday at 5:45 p.m.  
See our website for info on our  
Student Ministries & Kid City  
[www.esbcks.org](http://www.esbcks.org)

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## 2014 RETIREMENT REVIEW



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

### viewpoint

2013 will be a memory. We'll all be one year older, one year wiser . . . and one year closer to retirement. Did you achieve your 2013 retirement goals?

Looking back, this was a great year for

accomplishing retirement planning goals. Americans paid off \$1.5 trillion in debt, which is the first step in laying a foundation for retirement investing. And for those who are already investing, the average 401(k) balance was at record-setting high of \$81,000 by the first quarter of 2013.

The stock market continued to set records for the rest of the year and was up 25 percent by early December. For an average 401(k) with a balance of \$81,000 invested in



mutual funds that just kept pace with market performance, that's an increase of \$22,000!

But we all know that retirement investing isn't about a single year's performance. A new year is on the way, and while we hope for another great year for our investments, it may not turn out that way. It's best to focus on the things we can control so we can make the most of our retirement plans.

Here are a few things you can start thinking about now that will make 2014—and each following year—a success.

#### SET A GOAL

Nearly half of all workers age 45 and older have never tried to calculate how much savings they will need to have a comfortable retirement. And many Americans haven't saved nearly enough to support themselves in retirement. These two facts together make it clear that saving for retirement without a specific goal will likely lead to disappointing results.

An experienced financial advisor can help you determine your retirement savings needs and show you how to reach that goal with a plan you can have confidence in. And, if you're just beginning to invest for retirement, it doesn't take a lot of money to get started. There's no reason to put it off!

#### INVEST 15 PERCENT

Most people start retirement investing through their employer plan—a 401(k) for most of us. I recommend investing enough in your 401(k) to receive your full employer match, which is usually 3–6% of your salary.

To have a secure retirement, however, you'll need to invest 15 percent of your income. That's where a Roth IRA comes in. You can invest up to \$5,500 per year (\$6,500 if you are 50 or older) in a Roth IRA. For most people, investing in these two accounts will more than meet their 15 percent goal.

#### BE CONSISTENT

One of the toughest challenges of retirement investing is remaining consistent. It's especially difficult when the stock market freaks you out so much that you can't stand the thought of sinking another dollar into your mutual funds.

But consistently investing the same amount each month actually helps reduce your risk by lowering the average cost of the mutual fund shares you invest in. That makes it easier for your retirement fund to rebound from hard times in the market.

Set up an automatic draft to remove the temptation to skip investing "just for this month." You'll find that your budget works just fine without that money.

#### GET PROFESSIONAL INVESTING ADVICE

An experienced financial advisor can help you put all these tips to work so you can make even more progress toward your retirement goals in 2014.

Work with a professional who will give you advice you can trust as you make your investment decisions.

## Charitable giving strategies, tax law



**CONNIE HOUGLAND**  
Vice President/  
Ministry Services at  
National Christian  
Foundation Heartland

### viewpoint

When the calendar rolls over to a new year, one of the last things we may want to think about is charitable giving. We are just coming off the season of giving, so our giving pool may very well be completely tapped out.

But what if we had more capacity than we realized when it came to charitable giving or Kingdom investing?

In our experience, we have found a couple of key ideas to gain more capacity for giving in a tax-wise manner: 1) plan to give and 2) think beyond the checkbook when it comes to giving.

What does it look like to plan to give?

Make giving a family affair and establish family giving goals. Discuss what kind of impact you want to have as a family. It may or may not be a specific dollar amount goal. Maybe it's a goal to pick a cause your family is passionate about, and then serve together as a family with an organization that is making a difference in that cause. Whatever your goals may be, put them down in writing to intentionally remind and re-inspire you to act on those goals together.

Establish a charitable savings account. By setting aside dollars specifically for giving, you are able to participate in more giving opportunities.

A donor advised fund or giving fund is an affordable option that allows you to earmark dollars for giving, gain a current year tax deduction, and grow those dollars in a tax-exempt manner for future giving.

Second, it means looking beyond the checkbook when it comes to giving?

Consider the statistics: 80 to 85 percent of giving is in the form of cash. We hear about a need, our heart gets tugged, and we jump right to our checkbook to give. The flip side, however, is that the wealth of the world is in our stuff. 91 percent of our wealth is in what we own – our portfolios, our businesses, our real estate, our cars, boats, RVs, etc.

Giving from your wealth – your assets – is a very tax-wise move. In essence, you can grow your giving capacity by turning tax

dollars into giving dollars. When you give an appreciated asset, you don't pay capital gains on the portion you give and you get a fair-market deduction for the value of the asset you gift. Those tax savings are now freed up for giving.

The possibilities are almost endless when we begin to think about things like publicly-traded stock, closely-held business, business inventory, real estate, investment property, cars, boats, etc.

The new year represents a great opportunity to write your family giving goals, make a list of all that God has entrusted you with and consider how He might have you invest in the Kingdom and change the world!

National Christian Foundation Heartland is located at: 706 N. Lindenwood Drive, Olathe, KS 66062. 913-538-7835, [www.nationalchristian.com/heartland](http://www.nationalchristian.com/heartland)



**HOURS:**  
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*"30 years Experience"*

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

## Are you a faithful steward of your finances?

When it comes to planning for your financial goals, you want an advisor who understands and supports your Christian world view.

I can help. As a Christian advisor, I offer financial planning and advice based on biblical principles of stewardship. I'll help you plan for your goals in a way that's consistent with your Christian faith.



**Jim Hanna, CFP®, MBA**  
Financial Advisor  
Qualified Kingdom Advisor  
601 S. Kansas Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603  
**785.357.6278**  
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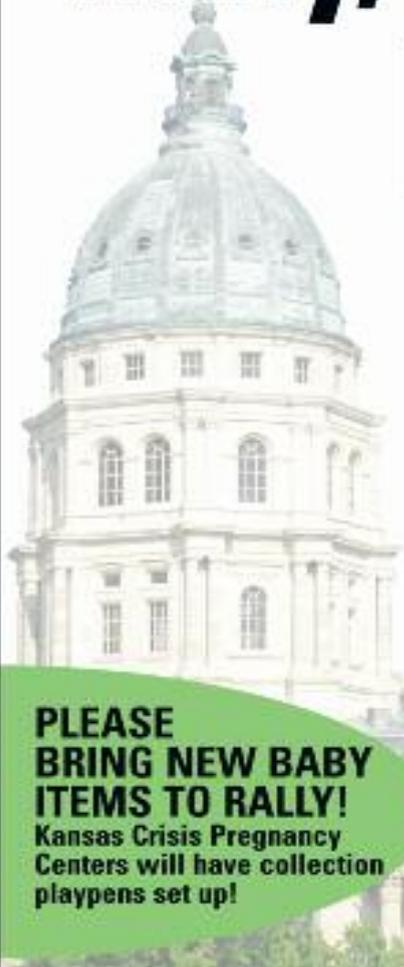
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IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE

# Rally, Learn, Pray and MARCH for LIFE!

**Kansans  
for Life**

State affiliate of National Right to Life Committee



**TOPEKA • Wednesday, Jan. 22, 2014**  
**Join the daylong events at the State Capitol!**

- Hear from Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback and U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp!
- March at 11:30 to S. Capitol
- Rally at NOON!
- Workshops
- Lobbying 8:30 to Noon
- Tours of the Capitol
- Worship

**Reg. starts at 8:30 a.m.**  
**Rally Day Tips**

- Visit your state representative and senator at the Capitol and tell them why you are pro-life!
- Take a free tour of the Kansas State Capitol!
- Bring pro-life signs, banners and spirit!
- Wear very warm clothes (hats, scarves, gloves, heavy socks) and comfy shoes!

**PLEASE BRING NEW BABY ITEMS TO RALLY!**  
Kansas Crisis Pregnancy Centers will have collection playpens set up!

**For more details call or visit:  
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## MaidPro Provides Great House Cleaning Services With Affordable Prices

Generally, the most hectic times in our lives tend to revolve around holidays. Guests come and go and entertaining more often leaves us with more mess. Yet, in spite of the mess, house cleaning gets put on the back burner because of all the important commitments we have, which brings on added stress!

"Relax! Leave the house cleaning to us," says Casey Worcester, owner of Maidpro professional cleaning services. "We provide high quality, reliable service at a reasonable rate. Maidpro in effect, lets customers buy themselves that extra time they'd like to spend with family and friends."

"Because we provide high quality, reliable service at a reasonable rate, our clients are very loyal. Once they experience our work, most become repeat customers."

"MaidPro aims to be the premiere maid and house cleaning service in Topeka. Whether a homeowner wants weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or a one-time cleaning service, we'll design our maid service around their needs. We clean homes in-and-around the Lawrence and Topeka areas. We also offer light commercial cleaning for smaller offices."

"Our bonded and insured maids are professionally trained in residential



house cleaning... particularly in kitchens, bathrooms, floors, and dusting. Our '49-point Checklist' makes sure that everything is cleaned right, on time, every time."

A few jobs from MaidPro's 49-Point Check List include:

- ✓ All floors vacuumed or mopped
- ✓ All areas are dusted and/or cleaned on top, on front and underneath. (All items are removed, cleaned and replaced.)
- ✓ All baseboards and blinds, lamps and ceiling fans are dusted.
- ✓ All trash is emptied.
- ✓ Inside of microwave cleaned.
- ✓ All sinks, tubs, and toilets cleaned and disinfected.

"What makes MaidPro the best? We listen to our customers and we provide the special services that are most valuable to them," says Casey. "We have 4 boys so my wife is particular about the cleanliness of our bathrooms. Other people have different areas of concern. That's why our slogan is—'Because Your Standards Aren't Standard.' With every cleaning we leave a customer comment card. Customers are encouraged to leave us feedback on-line, to let us know 'how we're doing.' Customers may also call our office with any feedback they have."

"We complete 95% of all cleanings with

only one service provider. That means there are less people in the home, and clients can get to know their cleaner and get personalized service from them."

"We are so confident about our cleaning services, we guarantee them. If a customer is not satisfied with our cleaning in a certain area of their home or office, they can simply call us within 24 hours and we will re-clean the area to their satisfaction at no additional charge."

"Because we know our customers are busy people, we use an extremely accurate software program that allows us to give a cost estimate over the phone. Many cleaning services make appointments to stop by and estimate the size and cost, etc. We feel this takes up that precious time our customers value, and we're in the business of saving people time and money."

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