

# TAKE TWO: GIVE ONE TO A FRIEND

## — KANSAS — FAITH AND FAMILY

MEMBER



MEMBER



\_\_\_ PUBLISHED THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH \_\_\_

VOLUME 25 NO. 5

MARCH 2026

“HE WHO COVERS OVER AN OFFENSE PROMOTES LOVE, BUT WHOEVER REPEATS THE MATTER SEPARATES CLOSE FRIENDS.” PROVERBS 17:9

## Faith in the Fire: Kansas and Oklahoma Churches Respond as Wildfires Sweep the Plains



*Wildfire in Ashland on Feb. 18, 2026 (Courtesy: Ashland Fire Department)*

*By Faith BroKar, Kansas Faith and Family*

As powerful winds and dry conditions fueled multiple wildfires across southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle this week, thousands of acres of prairie have burned, ranchers have rushed to move livestock, and firefighters have worked around the clock to contain rapidly moving grass fires.

The largest blaze, known as the Ranger Road Fire, began in Beaver County, Oklahoma, before pushing north into southern Kansas. As of Feb. 19, the fire had burned more than 283,000 acres and was only partially contained, according to state emergency management officials. Several smaller fires remain active across the region.

Evacuations were issued

in portions of southwest Kansas and the Oklahoma Panhandle as wind gusts exceeding 60 miles per hour, low humidity, and dry winter grasses created dangerous fire conditions. Fire officials report multiple structures have been damaged and several firefighters have been injured while battling the blazes.

For many Plains families, the fires are more than just headlines — they threaten pastureland, fencing, and livestock that represent livelihoods built over generations.

Agricultural experts say grass fires can devastate grazing land in a matter of hours. Ranchers in affected counties have worked quickly to relocate cattle and protect equipment while monitoring shifting wind directions.

Local officials continue urging residents to avoid outdoor burning and to remain prepared should conditions worsen.

**A Christian Response**

### to Disaster

While much of the immediate response has focused on firefighting and emergency management, churches in wildfire-affected regions often play a significant role during times of crisis.

In previous wildfire disasters across the country,

congregations have opened their buildings as shelters, provided meals to evacuees and first responders, and organized supply drives for displaced families.

Pastor Alan Cross of Petaluma Valley Baptist Church in California told Baptist Press during a previous wildfire emergency,

“The official city-run shelters quickly overflowed so the city asked churches if they would help.” He added, “We didn’t have a plan... but we couldn’t comprehend not welcoming people fleeing for their lives,” explaining his church’s decision to open



*A wildfire torches a house off Highway 160. (Courtesy: Comanche County Emergency Management)*

# Understanding Predestination: A Biblical Doctrine That Has Shaped Christian Thought

Few doctrines have generated as much discussion among Christians as predestination. For some, it is a source of deep comfort. For others, it raises difficult questions about free will and God's justice. Regardless of perspective, predestination is a biblical concept that has shaped Christian theology for centuries.

What Is Predestination?

The word "predestination" comes from passages in the New Testament that speak of God choosing or appointing people beforehand. One of the clearest texts is found in Ephesians 1:4–5:

*"He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world... having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself."*

Similarly, Romans 8:29–30 describes those whom God "foreknew" as those He also "predestined" to be conformed to the image of His Son.

At its simplest, predestination refers to the belief that God, in His sovereignty, has determined certain outcomes — particularly concerning salvation — before they occur in history.

## Different Christian Understandings

While nearly all Christian traditions affirm that God is sovereign, believers differ on how predestination works.

### Reformed (Calvinist) View

Rooted in the teachings of John Calvin and later Reformed theology, this perspective emphasizes that

salvation is entirely a work of God's grace. According to this view:

- God sovereignly chooses individuals for salvation.
- Human beings, affected by sin, cannot initiate their own salvation.

- God's choice is based on His mercy, not human merit.

For many in the Reformed tradition, predestination highlights God's glory and grace.

### Arminian View

Named after theologian Jacobus Arminius, this perspective affirms that:

- God desires all to be saved.

- God's foreknowledge includes knowing who will freely respond to His grace.

- Human beings have genuine responsibility in responding to the gospel.

In this understanding, predestination is tied to God's foreknowledge rather than an unconditional choice.

### Why the Doctrine Matters

Though debated, predestination touches on key questions:

- How sovereign is God?
- How responsible are humans?
- What is the nature of grace?

For many believers, the doctrine offers reassurance that salvation is secure — grounded in God's eternal purpose rather than human performance. Others emphasize that Scripture also calls all people to repent and believe, highlighting both divine sovereignty and human responsibility.

A Historical Conversation

Throughout church history, Christian thinkers have wrestled with these tensions. From Augustine in the early church to Reformers in the 16th century and theologians today, predestination remains an important — though sometimes complex — part of Christian doctrine.

Yet despite differences, orthodox Christian traditions agree on central truths:

- Salvation comes through Jesus Christ alone.
- Grace is necessary.
- Faith is essential.

- God is both just and merciful.

### A Call to Humility

Because predestination involves deep mysteries about God's eternal purposes, many pastors encourage believers to approach the topic with humility. Scripture affirms both God's sovereignty and human responsibility — truths that Christians continue to study and proclaim.

While Christians may not agree on every detail, the shared hope remains the same: salvation through Christ, offered by grace, received by faith.



PUBLISHED THE LAST THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH  
WWW.KANSASFAITHANDFAMILY.ORG

221 E 6th Street

Jason and Faith BroKar, Owner and Publisher  
London BroKar, Sales/Marketing

Kinsley, Kansas 67547

Cell 620-233-0657

Email: editor@kansasfaithandfamily.org

### MISSION STATEMENT

*Kansas Faith and Family* is a monthly newspaper dedicated to sharing the Word of God and news and information that honors Christian beliefs and family traditions and values that are the cornerstone of our nation. The Publisher will not knowingly endorse nor condemn any individual denominational beliefs.

### CONTENT

Press releases are welcome and encouraged from all local, regional and national Christian organizations as well as non-Christian organizations with founding beliefs in the value of the family. The Publisher reserves the right to edit or reject any submitted item that is questionable when viewed from the Christian/family perspective.

### DISTRIBUTION

The publication will be distributed freely to any Christian Church in the trade area. The publication date is the last Thursday of the month (holidays may require exceptions). Free copies are also available various outlets with public access. Paid annual subscriptions by mail are available for \$25 for 12 months.

### ENDORSEMENT/ADVERTISING

*Kansas Faith and Family* receives no financial support from any individual or denominational sources. The only income comes from paid subscribers and advertising. The Publisher reserves the right to refuse or edit any advertising that is questionable when viewed from the Christian/family perspective.

A Word  
From  
The  
Publisher



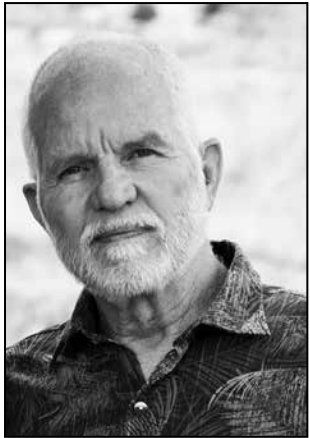
Thank you for welcoming us as the new owners of *Southwest Kansas Faith and Family*. We are honored to step into this role and excited to continue the publication's tradition of uplifting stories rooted in faith and community. With this transition, we've also embraced a new name—*Kansas Faith and Family*—reflecting our commitment to serving readers across the entire state.

This new season brings fresh opportunities, expanded coverage, and a renewed mission to highlight the people, ministries, and testimonies that inspire us all. We cannot thank you enough for your support, prayers, and encouragement as we begin this journey. We look forward to growing with you and bringing meaningful, faith-filled content to Kansas for years to come.

*Faith BroKar*

**KANSAS FAITH AND FAMILY**

## Please Listen Up Girls and Boys



By Carl D. Everhart

Please listen up girls and boys, if you're hungry to grow closer to the Lord, these words will speak to you.

Maybe you don't have parents who advise you to do this, or don't do that, but you have a Heavenly Father Who always has your back and will never leave you or turn against you. Everyday Satan casts a vote for you, Jesus casts a vote for you, and you get to cast the deciding vote. God desires you to live your life for Him, whole-heartedly, not lukewarm. If you have the desire to live your life

for Him, in His will, then you must first learn what His will is. He knows life today is not always easy, and you certainly don't need me to remind you of that.

Maybe Satan has already tempted you with situations your parents have never experienced. But that doesn't mean they don't understand the difficulties you face from day to day. Because of your free will, as you mature, you'll get to make more and more of the choice's life sends your way. Unfortunately, you will not be free from the consequences of those choices. In fact, you'll be faced with many decisions that will have an impact on the rest of your life, positively or negatively.

The fear of the Lord brings wisdom that will lead to making decisions you'll never regret. This kind of fear is founded on deep respect and great appreciation for the high price Jesus paid for your

sins, and the fear of Him requiring you to pay for your sins, if you fail to ask Him to pay for them instead. I'm not saying to live in fear, I'm saying that, if you listen to it and let it, fear can be your friend, like telling you to move away from the edge of the Grand Canyon. Having no fear or reverence for the Lord is a sure-fire way to get to Hell. I don't know about you, but that makes me shake in my boots.

Regardless of your age, there are few things that will have a greater impact on your life than hanging out with the wrong crowd. The best friend you can have is one who will take you closer to the Lord. Your second-best friend may be the one you take closer to the Lord. My point is for you to pick your friends and not let them pick you. Be prepared for the world to openly discriminate against you, because you believe every relationship should be in

accordance with Biblical standards, this includes not dating anyone who's not equally yoked with you. Many around you may even become violent, because they don't want to be reminded that their behavior is an abomination to the Lord. Just remember that while you are not required to attend every argument you're invited to, you are required to love everyone. Remember also that every God-fearing, born-again, child of God is a little girl or a little boy, regardless of age.

Girls, maybe you're tired of someone telling you that many of the boys you'll meet are just out to take advantage of you, however, some aren't. The sooner you learn that there are some things you should be afraid of, like rattlesnakes, and what may happen if you're reclining in the back seat of a parked car, with a really cute boy, on a dark deserted back road, the sooner you'll avoid a bad decision. Don't let any

boy steal one of the most precious gifts you can give to your husband on your wedding night, your virginity. Any boy claiming to love you will honor you with the patience needed to sanctify your marriage. I know boys, and some of them will try everything in their power to defile you, one way or another.

Boys, girls can also defile you, and you'll be held just as accountable for it. While you may think it will be easy to walk away from a new life you have helped create, you will also regret it - forever. While it was Eve who plucked the fruit from the forbidden tree,

the responsibility for that sin was placed squarely on Adam. Also, peer pressure is a real thing, and, if you let it, it can force you to do things you will regret for the rest of your life.

Waiting on God's plan for your life is well worth the wait.

Dear Heavenly Father, may these words find the young heart that wants to do Your Will as they strengthen their faith and trust in Your Word. Amen.

To read more from this Prodigal son, lay pastor, apologist, and sinner (saved by grace), search: everhartandsoul.com (then select "Blog").

*Order Early*  
*To Get The perfect*  
*Prom Corsage or Boutonniere*  
**FLOWERS**  
*by Irene*

*Owners: Sandy & Kyle Krout and Mike & Marsha Weber*  
 Phone 620-227-2451  
 509 N. 2nd, Ste. 4 Dodge City

# WE HAVE A WEBSITE!

**Kansas Faith and Family**  
**is now online!**

**Visit our new website at**  
**[www.kansasfaithandfamily.org](http://www.kansasfaithandfamily.org)**  
**or scan the QR Code**



**PARKER · HASKINS**  
*Insurance Incorporated*

**Central & Comanche**  
**Dodge City, KS 67801**

**620-225-2888 800 779-0753**

**[www.parkerhaskins.com](http://www.parkerhaskins.com)**



## If God Is Sovereign, Why Bother to Share Your Faith?

By Timothy Z. Witmer

God did not teach us the reality of His rule in order to give us an excuse for neglecting His orders. — J.I. Packer

The sovereignty of God in the matter of salvation is controversial to many, but the Scriptures are clear that the identity of those who will be saved is ultimately God's choice. This is offensive to many because, they say, "it is not fair." The Bible refers to those who are chosen by God as His "elect." His sovereignty in election is seen throughout Scripture. Of all who were alive in the ancient world at the time, God chose Abram, through whom He would establish a nation to worship and glorify Him. From all the nations of the earth, God chose Israel to be His people. Here is the rationale:

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand

and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations. (Deut. 7:7-9)

Notice the emphasis that the ground of God's choice was nothing about the people in particular but rather all about His sovereign love exercised in His plan and purpose.

When we look in the New Testament, we have the same language applied to those who have come to faith in Christ. In his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul writes:

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, to the

praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. (Eph. 1:3-6, emphasis added)

The origin of our salvation, and every blessing that comes with it, is in God's choice. This choice could not have ultimately been ours because it was "before the foundation of the world." In case we have any doubt about what he intends by this language, Paul adds, "In love he predestined us for adoption" and that this is "according to the purpose of his will." Our salvation finds its origin in God. R.C. Sproul observes: "The redemption of His people, the salvation of His church, my eternal salvation, these actions are not a postscript to the Divine activity. Instead, from the very foundation of the world, God had a sovereign plan to save a significant portion of the human race, and He moves heaven and earth to bring it to pass."<sup>1</sup>

Specifically, bringing all these blessings to pass required the mission of Jesus to come into the world and pay the penalty for the sins of the elect. This is why we are reminded that these

blessings are "in Christ," that God chose us "in him," that we are predestined to adoption "through Jesus Christ," and that all are "in the Beloved."

Paul doesn't end there. He reemphasizes God's sovereign grace in our salvation by adding, "In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:11-12). Again, the emphasis is on His purpose and His will.

Similarly, John focuses on this in the prologue to his gospel. After observing that many did not welcome Jesus, he adds, "But to all who

did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13). John notes that there are those who do "receive" and "believe," but that the ultimate determining factor is not their will but God's. Here we see that balance between human responsibility and God's sovereignty, but there is no doubt that the preeminent component is the will of God.

In His remarkable nighttime conversation with the inquiring Nicodemus, Jesus declares, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3). Interestingly, the very familiar

language of being "born again" is the translation of the Greek words "born from above."<sup>2</sup> Leon Morris describes the contrast between human birth and the new life in Christ: "The new birth is always sheer miracle. All human initiative is ruled out. Men are born 'of God': They can be born in no other way."<sup>3</sup> Similarly, you can hear the divine initiative in these words of Jesus: "All that the Father gives me will come to me" (John 6:37); "no one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him" (John 6:44). As both contexts reveal, this does not dismiss the human response of faith but rather focuses on the divine origin of salvation.

*Continued on page 10*

**ONE STOP** to handle your insurance...  
auto, home, life, farm, business

**Troy McCain**  
106 W. Frontview  
Ste. 6  
Dodge City, Ks. 67801  
620-371-6646  
TMcCain@  
shelterinsurance.com

**KEEP IT SIMPLE**

**SHELTER INSURANCE**

**We're your Shield. We're your Shelter.**  
ShelterInsurance.com

**IT'S YOUR Lucky Day TO SAVE**

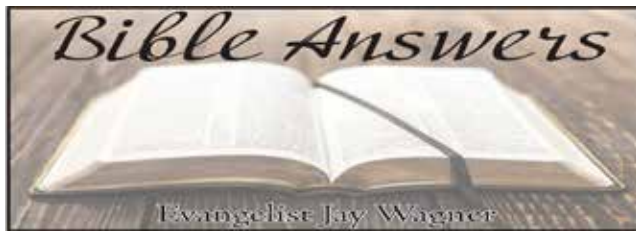
**BUY ONE, GET ONE 50% OFF**

Offer valid on the purchase of 2 select Miracle-Ear hearing aids. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Does not apply to prior purchases. See store for details. EXPIRES 3/31/2026

**Miracle-Ear®**

**Call us today to schedule your FREE Hearing Test!**

<b>Garden City</b> 1135 College Dr., Suite M 620-271-0013	<b>Dodge City</b> 2010 Central 620-225-0522	<b>Liberal</b> 150 Plaza Drive, Suite 103 620-604-9377
---	---	--



*Q: I notice that you use Evangelist as your title rather than the title Reverend that most preachers seem to use. Is there a reason for that, or is it just personal preference?*

**A:** When a man or woman accepts ordination, they enter into a covenant with the body that ordains them, and that covenant includes following certain rules and basic doctrines. The body that ordained me is a small group of Full Gospel churches in north Texas with the mother church in Fort Worth. That body ordains to one or more of the five offices listed in Ephesians 4:11: "And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers." I was originally ordained as an evangelist and a few years later added ordination as a pastor. I use the title of Evangelist for two reasons: first, it is the office that I've held longest and, second, I am not currently pastoring a church and, therefore, do not see myself as operating in the office of Pastor. While I am also not as active in the office of Evangelist as I might prefer right now, I know that I am doing everything that God is asking of me at this time and waiting expectantly to be asked to do more as God opens the doors.

The second reason that I don't use (nor care to use) the title Reverend comes from the pastor who sponsored my original ordination. The word "reverend" appears only once in the Bible, in Psalm 111:9, which says (in part), "Holy and reverend is His name." If the only Biblical reference to the word "reverend" lists it as a name of God, imagine the amount of ego that I, knowing that and not having received that title from my ordaining body, would need to claim that title for myself. If an ordaining body confers that title with ordination (as, for example, the Assemblies of God, who ordained a friend from high school as a missionary and pastor with the title Reverend), that is their choice and I will not denounce their freedom in Christ to operate as they see fit (unless, of course, they are advocating the approval of behaviors that the Bible clearly says are sins). The body that ordained me is silent on the subject of using the title Reverend, and I know that some of our people, particularly pastors, use it, although I suspect that is generally a matter of fitting in with local ministerial alliances.

While I may disagree with a doctrine or the use of a title, much of our Christian Walk is a mixture of general truths that we all follow and personal revelations or even just preferences that we exercise within our freedom in Christ. I don't use the title Reverend, neither will I accept anyone other than my kids calling me Father (and I prefer Dad in their case anyway). However, if I know that I am talking to a Catholic priest I will call him Father because the Roman Catholic church ordained him with that title (I admittedly kind of choke on calling the Pope "Your Holiness" in light of Isaiah 64:6, "All of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags," which says to me that no man is holy). I may not, as a matter of both ordination title and conscience, not use the title Reverend for myself, but I don't denounce other ministers who do use it.

I welcome reader questions. E-mail your question to answer67547@gmail.com.

## Fires

*Continued from page 1*

its doors.

Similarly, Pastor Doug Crowder of Magalia Pines Baptist Church reflected during wildfire recovery efforts, "God just keeps providing," describing how volunteers and donations sustained their outreach ministry.

In Maui following the Lahaina fires, Pastor Jay Haynes of Kahului Baptist Church told Baptist Press, "We're not going back to normal... There's no way to move forward acting like nothing happened," emphasizing the long-term role churches often serve after the flames are extinguished.

These accounts illustrate how Christian congregations frequently respond during natural disasters — not by speculation, but through service, prayer, and practical support.

While Scripture acknowledges the destructive power of fire, it also speaks repeatedly of God's presence during trials.

Psalm 66:12 reads, "*We went through fire and through water, yet you brought us out into a place of abundance.*" Many pastors have pointed to this

verse as encouragement during the current crisis.

Christian leaders caution against interpreting natural disasters as acts of divine punishment. Instead, they emphasize compassion, service, and prayer.

"In moments like this, our calling is not speculation — it's service," another regional ministry leader said. "We pray, we help our neighbors, and we trust the Lord with what we cannot control."

How Readers Can Help

- Faith communities are encouraging:
- Prayer for firefighters and first responders
- Support for displaced families
- Donations of hay or fencing supplies for impacted ranchers
- Checking on elderly neighbors or those living in rural areas

As fire crews continue their work and weather conditions remain unpredictable, many across the Plains are leaning on both practical preparedness and spiritual resilience. In a region where faith runs deep and community ties run even deeper, the response has reflected a simple but powerful truth: even when the prairie burns, hope remains.

OXYGEN / RESPIRATORY SERVICES / MEDICAL EQUIPMENT  
24 HOUR SERVICE / 7 DAYS A WEEK



John Martin, Owner

213 N. Main, Ulysses, Ks. 67880  
620-356-1373 620-356-1474 (F)

201 W. Kansas  
Garden City, Ks. 67846  
620-272-2660  
620-272-2659

PHONE  
FAX

2130 N. Kansas Ave  
Liberal Ks. 67901  
620-626-7779  
620-626-7728

## Ziegler Funeral Chapel

Family Owned & Operated

**620-225-0518**

www.zieglerfuneralchapel.com

1901 N. 14th Ave. 102 N. Main  
Dodge City, KS 67801 Cimarron, KS 67835

# JOHN'S

## BODY SHOP INC.

- TOWING SERVICE -  
DAMAGE FREE WHEEL LIFT



KCC AUTHORITIES  
FOR 24-HR SERVICE:

**620-225-5731**



110 W. BEESON DODGE CITY

Step into history at the  
**Stanton County Museum**  
104 East Highland Ave. Johnson, KS  
Hours: Mon-Fri 10:30 - 5:00  
Check our website for special weekend hours and events  
www.scmuse.org Phone 620-492-1526

# Pate Agency LP

The Crop Insurance Specialists




**Mike Horton,**  
Agent  
Johnson, Ks  
620-492-2665

"Quality Creates It's Own Demand"

Attend the Church  
of Your Choice

A Message Brought to You by  
Kansas Faith and Family

## A Disciple's Journey: The Call.

*By Micah Powell, Grace Community Church, Great Bend*

In The Pilgrim's Progress, a man named Christian sets off from the City of Destruction with a burden on his back and a Book in his hand. He doesn't have all the answers, but he does have a call. That's how every journey with God begins—not with certainty, but with a call.

In Genesis 12, God calls a man named Abram to leave everything familiar and follow Him into the unknown. There were no travel plans. No safety nets. No Google Maps. Just the word of God and a promise. That moment in history was not just the beginning of Abram's personal story—it was the beginning of a journey that would eventually lead to Jesus Christ and the invitation for all of us to walk by faith. So what does that mean for us today?

### 1. God's Call Interrupts Our Comfort

Genesis 12:1 opens with a divine interruption: "Go

from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you." That might sound noble, but it was risky. Abram was 75 years old. He had roots, wealth, and relationships. Yet God tells him to uproot it all and follow Him to an unnamed place.

This is how God often works. He doesn't give us the whole picture—He gives us Himself. And He calls us to trust Him enough to leave behind whatever is keeping us from fully following. That might be old habits. It might be comfort. It might be control.

God does not reveal the goal to us, but leads us step by step through His Word.

### 2. God's Call Anchors Us in His Promise

When God calls us, He doesn't just ask us to leave something. He gives us a new purpose. In Genesis 12:2-3, God tells Abram:

"I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing... and in

you all the families of the Earth shall be blessed."

That promise wasn't just for Abram—it was for the world. Through Abram's family, Jesus would one day come. God's plan wasn't just to bless one man, but to bring salvation to all nations. That means your calling, if you're in Christ, is bigger than you. You're blessed to be a blessing.

"It is not God's will to bless Abram and his posterity for their selfish enjoyment but for the blessing of the whole world."

### 3. A Disciple Responds in Obedience

Verse 4 says, "So Abram went, as the Lord had told him." That's what faith looks like in motion. Not perfect understanding. Not bulletproof plans. Just simple obedience.

And this wasn't a private act. Abram took his wife, his nephew, and his entire household. His faith moved his family. He traveled into unknown lands, surrounded by pagan altars—and what did he do?

He built his own altar and worshiped the one true God.

That's the heartbeat of a disciple. You obey, even when the path is unclear. You worship, even when the world doesn't. You move forward because the One who called you is faithful.

"Only he who believes is obedient, and only he who is obedient believes." – Dietrich Bonhoeffer

So let me ask: Is God calling you to take a step of faith? Maybe it's joining a local church. Maybe it's walking away from sin. Maybe it's simply saying, "Lord, I trust You, even if I don't understand everything."

Your first steps may be small: praying daily,

sharing your story with a friend, and making worship a priority. But small steps in obedience lead to a lifetime of transformation.

Of course, none of us walks this path perfectly. Abram didn't. We don't. That's why the good news is so necessary. Jesus walked the road of obedience perfectly. He left heaven, entered our broken world, and obeyed the Father to the cross. And because of His perfect life and sacrificial death, we can be forgiven, made new, and called into a new life of faith.

So the invitation isn't to fix yourself up and then follow Jesus. It's to follow Him now, just as you are, and trust Him to lead, change, and use you.

In The Lord of the Rings, Frodo is asked to carry a burden he doesn't fully understand. "I will take the Ring," he says, "though I do not know the way." That's the heart of a disciple. Not full knowledge. Just faithful obedience.

Friend, the journey of discipleship starts with a call. God still speaks. And if you're reading this, it may be that He's speaking to you. Don't wait for every question to be answered. Take the step. The One who calls you is faithful, and He will lead you all the way home.

*\*This article was initially preached at Grace Community Church on June 1, 2025, by Pastor Micah Powell and subsequently published as an article.\**

**GENERAL  
PEST  
CONTROL**

*We take care of what bugs you*

**RELIABLE PEST & TERMITE CONTROL**

•Cimarron •Coldwater •Dodge City •Garden City  
•Greensburg •Kinsley •Liberal •Meade •Sublette •Ulysses

**(620) 275-9411 Toll Free**



**FAITH AND  
FAMILY**

IS MADE POSSIBLE

BY THE ADVERTISERS

AND DISTRIBUTORS

**PLEASE SUPPORT THEM**  
**AND LET THEM KNOW THAT**  
**YOU APPRECIATE THEIR**  
**SUPPORT**

## Kansas Church Serving Rural Communities through Revitalization as Multiplication

**With a heart for rural churches in small communities, Valley Community Church is helping surrounding congregations thrive.**

Walking into the small Assemblies of God church in Larned, Kansas, Ryan Webster could not have imagined the ministry influence that was about to unfold in rural communities across the state.

A fourth-generation AG adherent, Webster felt called into the ministry at just 15 years old. After graduating from Evangel University, he worked as a professional counselor for four years before following the Lord's leading into full-time pulpit ministry. In 2000, Webster and his wife took their first pastoral position as youth ministers and served faithfully for over three years. However, the couple quickly began to feel that their next role would be as senior pastors.

After prayerfully searching for a church, the Websters became aware of Valley Community Church, formerly Larned Assembly of God, a congregation that needed revitalization in the small town of Larned. With a small 2,000-square-foot building and regular attendance of about 20, the Websters began to seek God's will concerning the church. While the pair had always had a heart for church planting, they had not given much thought to revitalization. Yet, in obedience, the Websters accepted the position.

"I told God I would give the church at least 20 years, the best years of

my life, but that I wanted to be able to raise my kids in this church," says Webster. "God honored that and all three of my kids grew up at Valley Community Church."

In 2011, eight years into his pastorate, Webster began driving in a 60-mile radius around Larned, praying for the small communities and dreaming what God might be able to do in them. As a photography hobbyist, Webster also began taking photographs of the water towers or grain elevators that bore the names of the communities through which he drove.

"I took the photos back to the church, hung them on the wall, and we began praying over the smaller communities that surrounded us," he says. "I believe that is when God birthed the vision for our church to do what He has been empowering us to do."

In November of 2017, the church started a capital campaign to build a new facility that would accommodate the church's growth. Yet in the middle of the COVID pandemic, many things were put on hold regarding the construction. Webster describes that season as a "holding pattern" from the Holy Spirit.

Assemblies of God Kansas Ministry Network Superintendent Nathan Sheridan says, "Ryan has walked through seasons of leadership that could have

crippled many others. Instead of breaking, he chose to become tender before the Lord. That tenderness produced humility, openness, and a steady strength that God is now using far beyond his local context."

As he managed rising construction prices to the tune of an extra \$1 million and delayed advancement, he was "shocked" when he felt God asking him if he was willing to plant a new church while building the new facility.

Though uncertain, yet completely reliant on the Lord, Webster said, "I am willing."

Not long after, Webster was contacted by a church in a rural community 20 miles west of Larned

whose population was only 220 people. The church had broken away from its former denomination and was seeking spiritual covering and family. Though its weekly attendance was less than 15 people, it was the last remaining church in the community, and they knew that God was calling them forward to greater things.

Through prayer, conversations, and theological dialogue, the church officially asked to become an AG campus of the church.

On September 3rd, of 2023, Valley Community Church launched its first multisite campus. One week later, on September 10th, the church held its first service in the newly



finished building.

This year, Webster was again asked to take on another church as a third campus in the same scenario. Just 60 miles away in a rural community, a newer church plant without senior leadership has officially found spiritual family with Valley Community Church.

"Last week, I had an-

other call about adding a fourth church to our campus. Our goal is to continue looking out for communities smaller than Larned, helping revitalize rural churches that are in need of support to continue reaching their community," says Webster.

*Continued on page 11*

### "Welcome to the Neighborhood"

*Located in the Cedar Ridge Subdivision of Cimarron, The Shepherd's Center offers the same loving and attentive care which we have provided for more than 20 years.*



- 2 Neighborhoods
- Private rooms with or without private showers
- Individualized dining options
- Secure patio areas with walking paths
- Homelike resident centered care
- Inviting living, dining & kitchen areas



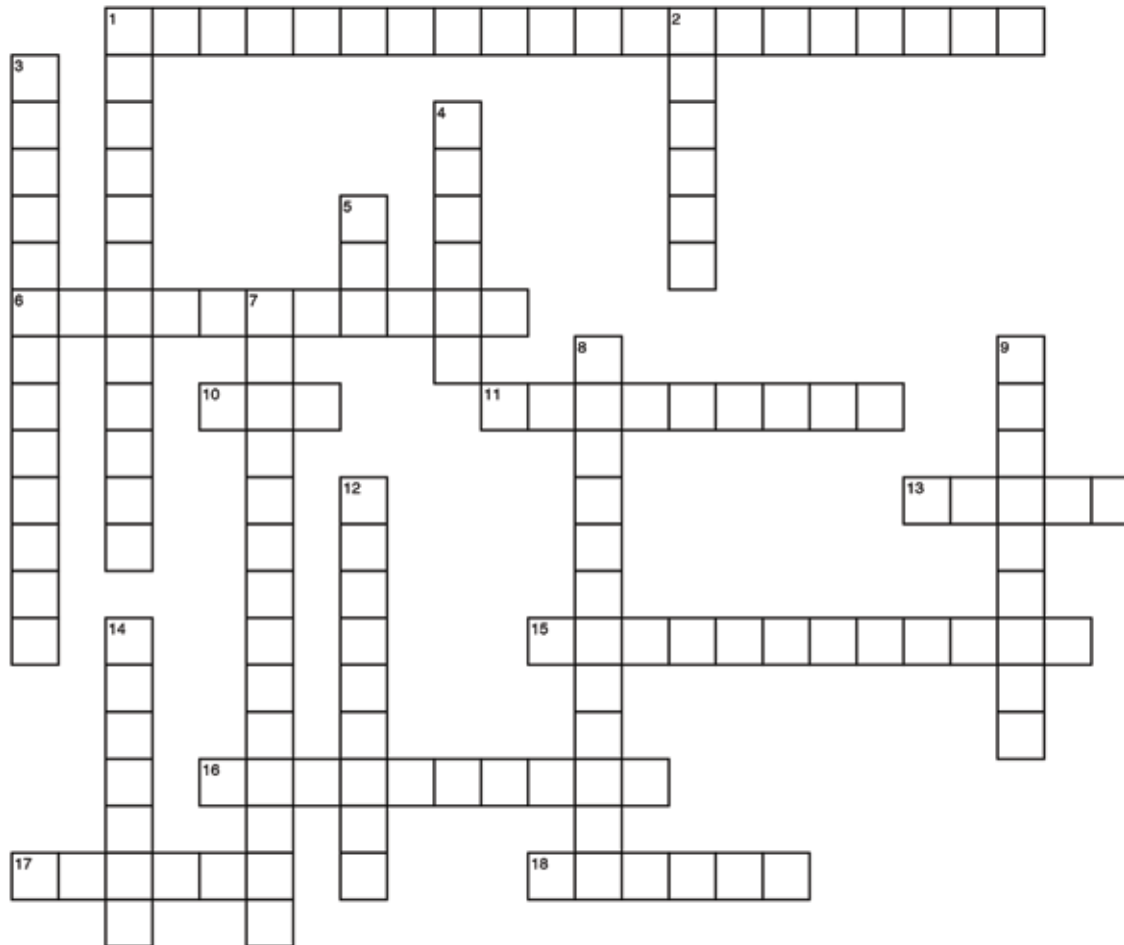


For Residential Information and Availability, Please Contact  
**The Shepherd's Center Nursing Home**  
 Phone 620-855-3498  
 101 Cedar Ridge Cimarron, KS 67835

# A Little Bit of Laughter and Fun

*Proverbs 17:22 – “Laughter is like taking a good medicine.”*

## BORN BLIND



From "The Bible Puzzle Book - A to Z Edition" by Mary Welsh

### ACROSS

- 1 The one God listens to (5 wds)
- 6 What the Pharisees did to the man who was healed (2 wds)
- 10 "I was blind but now I \_\_\_\_"
- 11 What the disciples wanted to know (2 wds)
- 13 The man was blind from \_\_\_\_
- 15 What the healed man told the Pharisees (4 wds)
- 16 After washing (3 wds)
- 17 Anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah was \_\_\_\_ of the synagogue (2 wds)
- 18 Previous occupation of the blind man

### DOWN

- 1 Where the man went to wash (3 wds)
- 2 This word means "sent"
- 3 "\_\_\_\_, when no one can work" (3 wds)
- 4 The parents were \_\_\_\_ of the Jewish leaders
- 5 Jesus put it on the man's eyes
- 7 They were sent for (3 wds)
- 8 What the healed man told Jesus (3 wds)
- 9 The man told them what happened
- 12 They asked if it was the same man
- 14 Day the healing took place

**Answers in next  
month's issue**

## Mikey's Funnies

One day on the way home from church a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives within us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl. "If God is bigger than us and he lives in us, wouldn't He show through?"

---

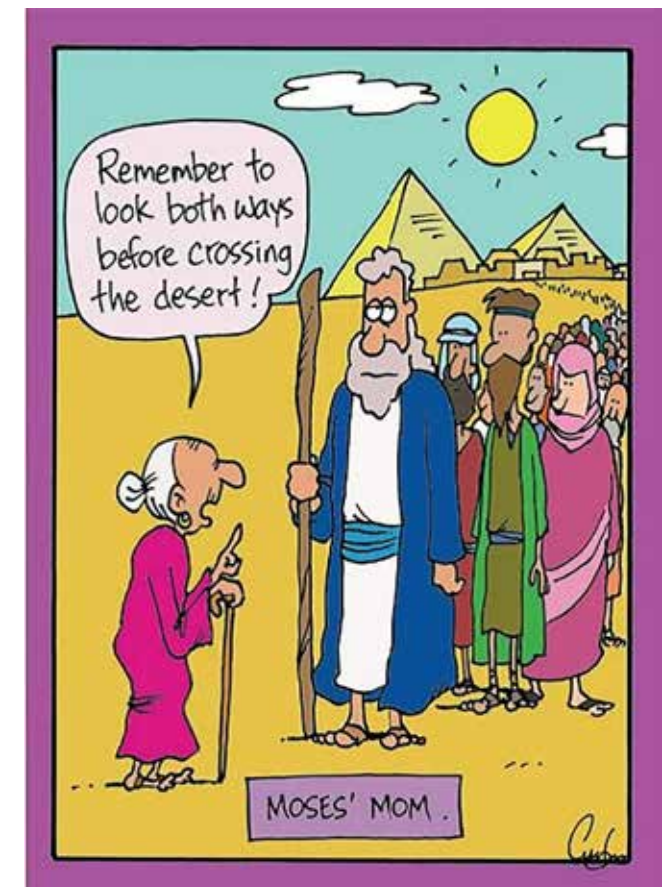
The word "trousers" is an uncommon noun because it is singular at the top and plural at the bottom.

---

When the new patient was settled comfortably on the couch, the psychiatrist began his therapy session.

"I'm not aware of your problem," the doctor said. "So perhaps, you should start at the very beginning."

"Of course," replied the patient. "In the beginning, I created the Heavens and the Earth..."





## Faith

*Continued from page 4*

Paul reminds his readers that faith itself is a gift from God. Returning to Paul's letter to the Ephesians, he tells his readers: "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8-9). Even the faith that saves is "the gift of God." This is what grace is all about. Our salvation from start to finish is God's gift to sinners. The Puritan Samuel Bolton writes:

This leaves no room for human boasting. If there was anything of man's bringing, which was not of God's bestowing, though it were never so small, it would overturn the nature of grace, and make that of works which is of grace.<sup>4</sup>

If there were one iota of human merit or effort in our salvation, there would always be "room for boasting." But salvation is not merely a change of attitude or a change in the way we think; it is a total transformation, beginning with the heart.

When it comes to the decision to believe, the Scriptures teach that, yes, humans choose, but the divine choice comes first. People choose, but God chooses first. In the words of Jesus, "You did not choose me,\* but I chose you\* and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide" (John 15:16, emphasis added).

After clearly articulating the doctrine of election in Romans, Paul anticipates objections to the preeminence of God's choice:

You will say to me then,

'Why does he still find fault? For who can resist his will?' But who are you, O man, to answer back to God? Will what is molded say to its molder, 'Why have you made me like this?' Has the potter no right over the clay, to make out of the same lump one vessel for honorable use and another for dishonorable use? (Rom. 9:19-21).

He writes, "So then he has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whom-ever he wills" (Rom. 9:18). Do you hear what Paul is saying with regard to the matter of salvation? "God is God and I'm not."

So What's the Problem?

The argument goes that if God has ordained the number of those who will be saved, then why bother to share the gospel? The extreme expression of this view would go so far as to say that we shouldn't even bother to send missionaries to the "lost." If they are elect, God will save them without your help, thank you very much. There is no need for missionaries, preachers, or evangelists, according to this viewpoint. This is an unfortunate and inaccurate mischaracterization.

If the end or goal is the salvation of the elect, the means ordained to bring them to that end is the preaching of the good news of Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life, died for sin, and rose from the dead.

We must reiterate the biblical emphasis on human responsibility. Whenever one speaks of the sovereignty of God, as we have seen several times, it is important to be reminded of the Bible's emphasis on human responsibility. Being a sovereignist is not to embrace a "let go and let God" attitude toward life but rather to live

one's life in faith and obedience. Though Paul was completely secure in Christ and convinced of God's promise to bring him to his heavenly home, he was also convinced of his own responsibility to follow in faith. After assuring the Philippians of their security in Christ, he goes on to remind them to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Phil. 2:12-13). He is saying that our salvation is a wonderful gift that is to be put to good use. We are called to yield to the Lord and walk in His ways through the power He provides. Paul describes his own attitude with the words of the runner moving toward the finish line: "press on," "straining forward," and "I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:12-14). The Bible teaches God's sovereignty and human responsibility. J.I. Packer relates Charles Spurgeon's words on the

topic:

C.H. Spurgeon was once asked if he could reconcile these two truths to each other. "I wouldn't try," he replied; "I never reconcile friends." Friends?—yes, friends. This is the point we have to grasp. In the Bible, divine sovereignty and human responsibility are not enemies. They are not uneasy neighbors; they are not in an endless state of cold war with each other. They are friends, and they work together.<sup>5</sup>

Therefore, the answer to the question "Why bother to share your faith?" is the same as it was for the question "Why bother to pray?" God has ordained not only the end but the means to that end. He has ordained not only who will be saved but how they will be saved. If the end or goal is the salvation of the elect, the means ordained to bring them to that end is the preaching of the good news of Jesus Christ, who lived a perfect life, died for sin, and rose from the dead.

Paul describes it this way: "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!" (Rom. 10:13-15).


This is the divine dynamic that the Lord has designed to occur in the salvation of the elect. He has entrusted the precious gospel of salvation to fallen yet redeemed people. This is truly an amazing privilege and responsibility for Christians. As we will see next, the sovereignty

of God in salvation should motivate us to embrace this task.

Since God Is Sovereign, Share Your Faith Fervently

Since we know that there will be those who will respond to the gospel, we should be the most zealous in proclaiming the good news. I think you would agree that Paul was a sovereignist, one who believed in the absolute sovereignty of God in all things, including salvation. Believing these truths didn't cause him to shrink from gospel preaching because God would save His elect. No, the man who most clearly articulated this truth was arguably the most passionate and effective missionary in the history of the church. Why? Because

*Continued on page 11*



**The Bank  
of Ashland**  
A Branch of Bank of Protection

Member F.D.I.C.  
722 Main P.O. Box 157  
Ashland, Kansas 67831  
Phone 620-635-2218  
www.bankofprotection.com



Ag Insurance Specialists  
**MAP INC.**  
Midwest Ag Professionals

**Multi-Peril Crop Insurance  
Hail Insurance  
Livestock Insurance  
Farm and Ranch Insurance  
GPS Mapping**

**Call Today!  
1-877-299-MAPS**

www.midwestagprofessionals.com  
Jetmore, Kansas

# Faith

*Continued from page 10*

he knew that God's elect were out there and would respond to the good news. He is known to us through the narrative of his gospel exploits throughout the Mediterranean world.

Luke, the chronicler of Paul's ministry in the book of Acts, gives an important note after the remarkable response of the whole city of Pisidian Antioch to the gospel. He tells us that "as many as were appointed to eternal life believed" (Acts 13:48). The analysis of their success did not focus on their human effort. Luke doesn't write, "Paul was really on fire today!" Their proclamation of the gospel was made effective when joined with the transforming power of the Spirit in the hearts of the elect, who were among the listeners.

The greatest evangelists in history were sovereign-tists who believed that the

Lord would use their proclamation of the gospel to bring people to faith in Jesus. This includes John Calvin, who was one of the most prolific church planters in history. John Starke reinforces this point:

By 1555, Calvin and his Geneva supporters had planted five churches in France. Four years later, they had planted 100 churches in France. By 1562, Calvin's Geneva, with the help of some of their sister cities, had planted more than 2,000 churches in France. Calvin was the leading church planter in Europe. He led the way in every part of the process: he trained, assessed, sent, counseled, corresponded with, and prayed for the missionaries and church planters he sent.<sup>6</sup>

Calvin himself contradicted the caricatures that suggest that those who believe in election should merely sit on the sidelines and let God save whom He will save. No, he knew that God would use the faithful scattering

# Valley

*Continued from page 7*

He continues, "There are opportunities out there that people may not truly understand. We aren't out to 'take over' churches, we want as many rural communities as possible to have healthy, life giving churches."

There have been an additional seven offers presented to Webster for revitalization opportunities in recent years.

For Webster, building healthy churches also means building up healthy leaders. He and his team have created a culture of investing in the next generation which has resulted in every single pastor within their church growing from the pew into the pulpit. "We can't do this without a team," Webster says, "and

of the seed of the gospel to bring about a great harvest.

we want to be intentional in building that team."

"The Lord is entrusting him with opportunities that only Heaven could orchestrate" Sheridan says. "As a Network, we have been praying for the bold vision of planting 15 churches in 5 years. I assumed it would happen in the traditional way. But God had other plans."

Sheridan added, "I honor Pastor Ryan Webster. His faithfulness has strengthened our Network. His resilience has encouraged our pastors. And his obedience is helping reshape the spiritual landscape of western Kansas."

Reflecting on the past 22 years of blessing, Webster is thankful that God has grown Valley Community Church into a vibrant hub of ministry and the launching point of a growing multisite movement that is breathing new life into rural communities.

*Worry will not get you anywhere, but prayer and faith in the Lord can help you at any time.*

**ELIJAH NOTES**

Phone: (620) 624-3859

*Scantlin's*  
**Furniture & Carpet Inc.**

MATT GRAHAM  
KURT SALLEY  
MIKE BECKETT  
scantlinsfurniture@gmail.com

211 S. Washington Liberal, Kansas 67901

(620)-624-1683  
(800)-886-1683  
F(620)-620-9510

**CHRYSLER**  
**CORNER**  
Liberal, KS

406 E. PANCAKE  
P.O. BOX 1295  
LIBERAL, KS 67901

PARTS@CHRYSLERCORNER.NET  
WWW.CHRYSLERCORNERCHRYSLERDODGEJEEP.COM

**MYRIAD**  
**Machine Company**  
Inc.

Offering Quality Repair & Production Services:

- ✓ Farm & Ranch
- ✓ Oilfield
- ✓ Meat Processing
- CNC Mill & Lathe Production
- Drivelines Built & Repaired
- Gear Box & Pump Repair
- Hydraulic Cylinder Repair
- Line Boring Work - Metalizing

5 S. Countrv Estates Road at 6-Points, Liberal, KS

**620-624-2962 or 1-800-446-2962**

**Large Variety of**

- \*Chocolates
- \*Snack Baskets
- \*Candy Bouquets
- \*Vera Bradley
- \*Tyler Candles
- \*Wax Melts
- \*Laundry Detergent

Spend \$125 on flowers or home decor and get a Vera Bradley plush thro for \$20

**Flower BASKET**

13 E. 2nd Liberal, Ks.  
620-624-7049  
www.flowerbasketliberal.com

**Deanne Smith, LNHA**  
Administrator

2160 Zinnia Ln.  
Liberal, Ks.67901

Phone  
(620)624-3831

Fax  
(620)624-2429  
dsmith74@good-sam.com  
good-sam.com

**Good Samaritan Society**  
LIBERAL

*In Christ's Love, Everyone Is Someone*

**AMERICAN TITLE & ABSTRACT SPECIALISTS**

217 N. Kansas Ave. Liberal, Ks. 67901

- \*CLOSINGS
- \*TITLE INSURANCE
- \*DOCUMENT FILING
- \*DEED PREPARATION
- \*CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

**Bonded & Licensed**

**Renee' Haralson**  
President  
620.624.9111  
888.310.9111  
620.624.6610 (fax)  
AmTitles.com  
renee@AmTitles.com

## A new kidney and a Super Bowl trophy

An Army veteran watches his son coach the Seahawks to the NFL title. An organ donation from a fellow church member made it possible.



By Calvin Cockrell, *The Christian Chronicle*

In five months, Hugh Macdonald went from needing a kidney to holding the Lombardi Trophy with his son.

The father of Seattle Seahawks head coach Mike Macdonald — whose team defeated the New England Patriots in Super Bowl LX on Feb. 8 — developed kidney disease after battling hypertension for years.

The diagnosis came as a surprise to the 76-year-old Army veteran, a 1971

graduate of West Point, after a nephrologist had assured him not to worry about his kidneys.

But in summer 2024 — three years after retiring from a successful civilian career in tech sales and consulting — Macdonald got the terrible news. The doctor told him to start preparing for dialysis and a kidney transplant.

It was “just like a two-by-four hit me in the side of the head,” said Macdonald, a longtime member of the Northlake Church of Christ in Tucker, Ga.

As he waited nearly another year for treatments to begin, Sabrina, Macdonald’s wife of 18 years, watched his health continue to decline.

“I just kept thinking, well, how sick does he have to be?” recalled Sabrina, a former investment manager and graduate of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tenn.

As Hugh began searching for a kidney donor, a friend he’d met as an Army engineer officer, retired Army Col. Richard Donohue, told him about DOVE. The organization helps find donors for veterans in need of kidney transplants and facilitate the donation process.

At the same time, a neighbor and friend, Lynn Walker Gendusa, wrote about Hugh in a column that appeared in several Georgia news outlets.

The Seahawks also published a story about him on their website. In it, Hugh’s

son, Mike, noted his father’s selflessness and humility.

“My dad is just such a steadying force,” Mike said. “Talk about high character, high integrity, a right and wrong way to go about things.”

Because of Hugh’s character, he made clear to Gendusa and the Seahawks — and *The Christian Chronicle* — that he wanted to use his connections to help his fellow veterans, not himself.

“There’s a bunch of guys out there, a bunch of ladies and guys who are veterans, who have a higher probability of kidney disease ... that need donors,” he said.

### Finding a match

By summer 2025, Hugh hadn’t gotten a match. However, the Macdonalds knew two Northlake church members were beginning the testing process.

One of them, Samantha Harris, a 40-year-old nurse, also served with Sa-

brina on the board of the Decatur Church of Christ Senior Housing nonprofit, which operates two affordable senior housing communities in the Atlanta area. The Northlake church was known as the Decatur Church of Christ before it moved to its current location.

Still, the Macdonalds tried not to get their hopes up. Several potential donors, including family members, had already been disqualified.

But Harris kept pushing through the “very intensive” process, as Sabrina described it.

“Every time something came back — like if a piece of the lab work wasn’t quite where it needed to be — she would say, ‘Well, you know, the lab must have made a mistake. We’ll do that one again,’” Sabrina recalled, her voice breaking with emotion.

At the end of September, Harris and Hugh were approved for the transplant surgery, which was quickly scheduled for a couple weeks later.

After the operation, Hugh’s improvement was stark and immediate,

*Continued on page 13*

**Jose Lara** - Agent

1014 N Kansas Ave  
 Liberal, KS 67901-2645  
 J.Lara@ShelterInsurance.com  
 ShelterInsurance.com/JLara  
 P 620-624-6011  
 F 620-624-2240



**SHELTER INSURANCE**

AUTO • HOME • LIFE

**Minneola Pharmacy**  
*Your Professional Partner in Wellness.* A division of Coast Health Services

**Delivery - Mail Out - Gift Items**

**620-885-4544**

Monday – Friday: 9:00 - 5:30 PM Saturday: 9:00 - 2:00 PM  
 131 S. Main Minneola, KS 678



**RMLLO FARM**

26947 ROAD F  
 SATANTA, KS 67870  
 620.649.2318

<p><b>RON OLIVER</b>                  620.649.1957                  4rmllo8@pld.com</p>	<p><b>BRENT HOWIE</b>                  620.544.6426                  brent67h@hotmail.com</p>
---	---

# Trophy

*Continued from page 12*

though for several months his travel was limited mostly to home and the transplant clinic.

“Incrementally from one week to the next, you could see he was feeling better and better,” Sabrina said. “And after about two months, he was just bursting with how well he felt compared to how he had felt before.”

Holding the Lombardi The Macdonalds were anticipating Hugh’s three-month milestone in early January, when he got the all-clear to travel domestically.

The next day, the Macdonalds traveled out of state for a memorial service for Hugh’s brother-in-law, Bill Limbacher.

And just a week later, they flew to Seattle for the Seahawks’ first playoff game on Jan. 17. The Macdonalds hadn’t planned it that way — at the time of the surgery, they didn’t even know the team would make it to the playoffs in just Mike’s second year as head coach.

“The timing was incredible,” Hugh noted.

In a few more weeks, Hugh and Sabrina cheered on Mike and his Seahawks from a suite with the coach’s family at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, Calif., as Seattle conquered the Patriots 29-13. Hugh got to hold the Vince Lombardi Trophy, the Super Bowl champions’ award, with his son.

Hugh is “over the moon” with pride for Mike — even as a Massachusetts native who used to cheer

for the Patriots.

“I mean, how blessed can you be?” Hugh remarked. “I’m just walking around with a smile on my face all the time. ... It is such a juxtaposition against what it was like a year ago.”

Sabrina brags on her stepson, too, whom she describes as “a replica of his father in all the best ways.”

Hugh is also proud of his son’s faith — and that of his two daughters: Kate Reinmiller, who leads sales for an AI company, and Maggie Newell, a stunt actor and director who’s worked on “The Last of Us.”

After his Super Bowl win, Mike told reporters, “I believe God called me to be a coach, and I listened to him. And I thank him.”

### Thanking God — and ‘Sam’

Hugh said his own faith

helped sustain him through his health crisis.

“It’s a foundation — you just rely on it,” he said. “You just fall back on your faith. You really do. And I always said (to God), ‘Hey, you know, whatever you have planned is OK with me.’”

Hugh’s brothers and sisters in Christ at Northlake were invaluable too, he emphasized.

“It’s been months and months and months of prayers and reaching out and asking how you’re doing and being very, very supportive — just incredible, incredible people,” he said.

And the Macdonalds have grown close to Hugh’s donor, Samantha Harris, and her husband, Ben.

“I’ll talk till I’m blue in my face about how sweet this lady is. ... She’s got a

heart of gold,” Hugh said.

He named his kidney “Sam” in her honor. “We talk about Sam every once in a while, how Sam’s doing,” Hugh added with a laugh.

Sabrina expressed her appreciation for Samantha, too.

“With God’s help, she saved my husband’s life,” Sabrina said. “She and her husband are part of our family now.”

Hugh and Sabrina both describe his experience as

a miracle.

“The whole process of being able to keep people alive and then to transplant — I mean, that’s a miracle,” Hugh said. “So, you know, all of a sudden, your faith is strengthened, because these are miracles out here.”

Sabrina added, “You hear a lot of times words like ‘amazing’ and ‘miracle’ thrown around willy-nilly, and this has really been a miracle to witness up close and personal.”

**ADVERTISE IN**

**KANSAS FAITH AND FAMILY**

- ✓ Reach 1,000s of customers statewide with one ad.
- ✓ Build brand recognition beyond your local market.
- ✓ Cost-effective advertising across Kansas.
- ✓ One message. Statewide exposure.

**PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!**

620-233-0657

editor@kansasfaithandfamily.org

**L. R. LEE CONTRACTING**

- Roofs
- Repairs
- Remodeling
- Additions
- Acoustical Ceilings
- Metal Studs

*Over 30 years serving the local area.*

**Toll Free 866-354-6683**  
**Local 620-227-6683**  
 PO Box 997 • Dodge City, KS  
**Leon R. Lee - Owner**

L.R. Lee CONTRACTING  
 www.lrlcecontracting.com

## 2 women, 2 years, 25 countries with IMB Explorer program



*Italy is home to many beautiful scenes like this one in Cinque Terre but few follow Jesus as their Savior. Italy is considered to be 0.54% evangelical.*

By Mark Maynard, Baptist Press

Ava Taylor\* spent the past two years traveling across Europe as part of the International Mission Board's Project 3000 Explorer initiative, seeking out unreached people groups and sharing the Gospel. The project's goal is to ensure every people group has access to the message of Christ.

Over the next five years, the IMB plans to send 300 missionary explorers to research each remaining people group with no known Gospel presence.

Taylor, 30, partnered with a 47-year-old woman during the two-year assignment, which took them to 25 European countries.

Taylor, a Kentucky Baptist, said she had always been interested in missions because her parents were faithful in serving their church. However, she said she did not fully commit to that calling until she was 18 and "truly became a follower of Christ and decided I would go where He sends me."

Her first mission trip was to Italy, and she said "my heart was just torn for

the lost. There is such vast lostness in Europe. I knew that's where God was calling me."

Taylor began exploring IMB opportunities, including serving as a Journeyman in Italy. She attended an interview conference she described as similar to a job fair, designed to guide applicants through the process.

"That's where I first heard about Project 3000. I love to travel and my heart was for the unreached. ... Hearing what they were doing piqued my interest. I applied for both that and the other job and talked to supervisors. I prayed a lot about it and thought while I was young and able, why not do Project 3000?"

It took some extra training, both mental and physical, and classes on mapping and other means of survival in Virginia before she went to her assignment and met with her partner.

For security reasons, Taylor cannot disclose all the locations she and her partner visited, but she

said they traveled to "22 or 23 different countries between them." At times they worked with national partners and often relied on Google Translate to overcome language barriers. "Some were Italian or their own language but not so much English," she said.

They also encountered people deeply rooted in their own religious traditions. Some were Muslim, some Catholic, and few were open to hearing or accepting the Gospel.

"In my two years, sharing with as many people as I could, none of them came to Christ," she said. "We had some interested, but nobody was ready to take that step. A lot of my job was equipping local churches on how to go about evangelism. We know we are leaving behind tools for churches to do this themselves."

Although she found it disappointing that no one made a profession of faith during that time, Taylor

said she believes seeds were planted and she continues to pray that, in the days, weeks, months or even years ahead, many will come to faith after hearing about the one true God.

Research played a critical role in locating unreached people groups, she said. "There is a lot of research beforehand," Taylor said. "Thank goodness for the internet, it was really helpful. We also have a system in the IMB where we think they are. We'd go to cafes, cultural centers and try to find any churches and just start asking around."

Taylor said the experience taught her many personal lessons.

"It teaches you a lot about yourself," she said. "Like, how do I react under pressure. Is it always godly? No. 1, what does abiding in Christ really look like? My relationship (with Christ) deepened so much in this experience. My partner came off the field a little early and I had my own [translator]. It did get lonely. There is a lack of community with this job. You're not able to go to church — or not in your language — or you're

*Continued on page 15*

"We Pledge to You...Service & Fair Prices"

**NORRIS**  
Burdett, Ks

620-804-0387  
Propane Gas Co.

\*Residential  
\*Commercial  
\*Farm/  
Irrigation  
\*Oil Lease

Proudly Serving: \*Pawnee \*Edwards \*Hodgeman  
\*Finney \*Ford \*Gray \*Kearny \*Stevens Counties

**Serving Southwest Kansas  
For 40 Years**

**Palace**  
COMPUTER CENTER

1816 Palace Drive  
Garden City, Ks. 67846

620-275-7154  
www.palacecomputers.com



### THE CARE YOU NEED, THE RESPECT YOU DESERVE

At Homestead, our team helps seniors remain independent while providing quality care in a friendly environment.

**CALL 620-647-4296 TO SCHEDULE A TOUR**

HomesteadofGardenCity.com  
2414 N Henderson Dr. Garden City, KS 67846



# Program

*Continued from page 14*

looking for your people group. Am I really abiding? I have a dependence on God I didn't have before."

She enjoyed working with her partner, despite the age difference.

"She's quite a bit older, the exception to the rule," Taylor said. "We hit it off. You spend 24/7 together. You wake up and you're there with that person. We became very fast friends. It did help that she was a little older with a little more life experience," Taylor said.

Taylor's parents, while strong believers, were concerned about their daughter's safety.

"My dad was not super thrilled," she said. "He was a little concerned about me being over there, two single females traveling Europe. They totally understand the work and are super proud."

Taylor continues to work with the IMB as a recruiter and mobilizer.

Looking ahead, she said she is considering a return to Europe but is uncertain about her next step. "I'm really close to my family as well," she said. "Am I really being called overseas

long-term? I'm trying to figure that out."

Even so, Taylor said her time overseas has only strengthened her burden for people around the world who have never heard the Gospel.

She understands that her mission overseas would not have been possible without the generous giving by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program.

"I cannot say 'thank you' enough to Southern Baptist churches that give to the Cooperative Program because it truly does go straight to your missionaries and it helps us," she said.

"It supports us and gives us the freedom to go out and share the Gospel on a daily basis without having to worry about raising support ... it truly helps and it is such a blessing to everyone. I cannot say 'thank you' enough."

You can listen to an interview with Ava Taylor on the Kentucky Today Podcast.

*\*Name changed for security reasons.*

**BEHLEN**

**MID-AMERICA MILLWRIGHT SERVICE, INC.**

**Grain Handling Facilities Are Our Business**

Design and Installation of New Grain Handling Facilities and Expansions, Service & Repair For Existing On-The-Farm, Commercial Elevators & Feedmills, Turn-Key Construction on Metal Buildings and Grain Tanks.

**620-275-6796**

**Metal Fabrication Shop**  
**24 HOUR SERVICE**  
**Complete Parts Department**

2720 N. 11th • P.O. Box 2243 • Garden City, KS 67846

1983-2012  
**29**  
YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

**"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven."**

**Matthew 10:32**

Have you hugged  
your spouse  
today?

**THE TUNNEL**

**ULTIMATE WASH      FREE VACUUMS**  
**1314 EAST KANSAS AVENUE**  
(NEXT TO WALGREENS)  
**GARDEN CITY, KANSAS 67846**

**THE CAR WASH**

ATTENDANTS GIVE YOUR VEHICLE SPECIAL ATTENTION  
**3202 EAST KANSAS AVENUE**  
(IN FRONT OF HOME DEPOT)  
**GARDEN CITY, KANSAS 67846**

**CLOSED EASTER, THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS**      **PHONE 620-805-6997**

# Lifeway Research finds fewer than 1 in 3 churchgoers read the Bible daily

By Aaron Earls

Most churchgoers place a high value on the Bible, but only about a third commit to reading it every day.

The Lifeway Research State of Discipleship study found Bible engagement to be one among eight signposts measuring distinct characteristics for believers progressing in their spiritual maturity. On a scale of 0 to 100, the average churchgoer scores 69.8 on Bible engagement, placing it fifth among the signposts.

Among U.S. Protestant churchgoers, most say they read Scripture regularly, but just 31 percent say Bible reading is a daily habit.

“Protestant churchgoers overall report they are engaging the Bible, but on any specific question, as many as 1 in 5 say they are not following Jesus Christ in that way,” said

Scott McConnell, executive director of Lifeway Research. “This reflects an overall pattern in assessments of churchgoers where the direction is often good but far from the standard seen in Scripture.”

Bible reading levels According to the State of Discipleship study, around 3 in 5 Americans who attend religious services at least once a month (61 percent) regularly read the Bible, including 31 percent who read every day and 30 percent who do so a few times a week. Some engage once a week (14 percent) or a few times a month (11 percent). Few say they read Scripture only once a month (5 percent), while 1 in 10 (9 percent) do so rarely or never.

Reading frequencies have remained mostly steady since 2019, when Lifeway Research found

59 percent were regular Bible readers. Personal Bible engagement has increased, however, since previous studies. In 2012, 46 percent regularly read the Bible, including 19 percent who did so every day. Five years earlier, in 2007, only 36 percent of churchgoers were regular Bible readers, with just 16 percent who read daily.

“The portion of churchgoers reading the Bible a few times a week or more on their own has leveled off recently after rising dramatically since 2007, but the churchgoer population was also changing during this period,” said McConnell, “A lower percentage of Americans attend a Protestant church

once a month today than when this series of studies began. Clearly, the remnant of Americans attending church each month are more willing to regularly read the Bible on their own than when churches were more populated.”

A recent Lifeway Research study found 9 in 10 Americans have read at least some of the Bible, but just 22 percent have finished the book at least once. Churchgoers were more likely than others to have read larger percentages of the Bible. Even among those who attend church services more than once a week, around 3 in 5 (59 percent) say they’ve read the entire Bible at least once.

While the State of Discipleship found Bible engagement to be a positive factor for adults’ spiritual growth, previous Lifeway Research studies have shown the importance of Bible reading for the next generation. The biggest predictor of whether a child becomes a faithful believer as a young adult is whether or not they regularly read the Bible growing up.

Additionally, while 66 percent of churchgoing teenagers stop attending when they become young adults, those who spend time regularly reading the Bible are 1.23 times less likely to drop out compared to those who do not spend personal time in

Scripture.

Skipping Scripture

When U.S. Protestant churchgoers miss time in their Bible, many say it has a negative impact, but not everyone feels the absence in the same way.

Three in 5 (62 percent) say they desperately miss the time with God if they go several days without reading the Bible, while 21 percent are unsure and 17 percent disagree. Similarly, 3 in 5 (58 percent) say they find themselves unfulfilled if they go several days without reading their Bible, while 21 percent aren’t sure and 21 percent disagree.

Yet even among those

*Continued on page 17*

## T-N-T Designs

Digital Printing/  
Screen printing  
on T-Shirts

Machine Embroidery  
Personalized Gifts!

We can help you...  
Whatever your design needs!

Troy & Tammie Winfrey  
(620) 563-6106

NEW Address  
409 Grand Ave., Plains, Ks.  
www.tntstitch.com  
tammie@tntstitch.com



Craig Richards



Grant Huck



**RICHARDS**  
FINANCIAL SERVICES, INC.

### Investment Management

- IRA
- Roth IRA
- Trust
- Joint
- 529
- UTMA
- Personal
- Corporate

### Small Business Retirement Plans

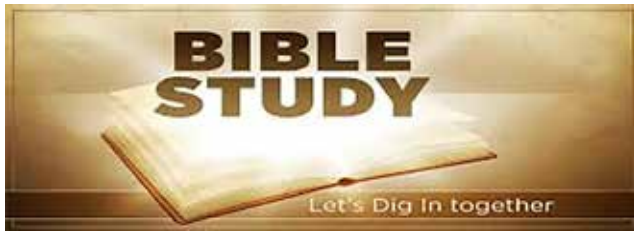
- Sep
- Simple Plans
- 403(b) Plans
- 401(k) Plans
- Individual 401(k)

(620) 872-5949

106 E. 6th Street, Scott City, KS 67871

www.richards-financial.com

S&A Financial Services, Inc. is a Registered Investment Advisor, doing business as "Richards Financial Services." Content presented is for informational purposes only and should not be considered as investment advice or as an offer or solicitation for the sale or purchase of any specific securities, investments, or investment strategies. Always consult with your tax advisor or attorney regarding your specific situation.



## Resting in God's Sovereignty

### Scripture Focus: Psalm 46:1-3

*"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be removed..."*

#### Introduction

Life often feels uncertain. Storms come unexpectedly — whether personal trials, national events, or quiet struggles of the heart. Psalm 46 reminds us that our stability does not come from circumstances, but from the unchanging character of God.

#### 1. God Is Our Refuge

A refuge is a place of safety. In ancient times, it meant fortified walls or natural strongholds. Spiritually, it means that when fear rises, we run toward God — not away from Him.

Ask yourself:

Where do I turn first when anxiety comes?

Do I treat prayer as a last resort or a first response?

#### 2. God Is Our Strength

The Psalm does not say we are strong. It says God is our strength. This means we do not face hardship alone. His strength is not merely emotional encouragement — it is sustaining power.

The Apostle Paul echoed this truth in 2 Corinthians 12:9:

*"My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."*

Our weakness becomes the stage on which God displays His faithfulness.

#### 3. A Present Help

Notice the phrase: very present help. God is not distant. He is not watching from afar. He is near, active, and attentive.

Even when "the mountains fall into the heart of the sea," the Psalmist declares confidence, not panic. Why? Because God's presence outweighs the chaos.

#### Application

##### This week:

- Begin each day acknowledging God as your refuge.
- Memorize Psalm 46:1.
- When fear surfaces, pause and pray before reacting.
- Faith grows when we practice trusting the Lord in small moments before the larger trials come.

#### Closing Thought

Circumstances change. Headlines shift. Seasons pass. But the believer's confidence remains steady because it rests not on the world, but on the One who holds it.

## Daily

*Continued from page 16*

who say they notice when they aren't engaged with the Bible, that sentiment isn't always strong. Three in 10 (30 percent) strongly agree they desperately miss personal time with God when they go several days without reading the Bible, and 26 percent strongly agree they find themselves unfulfilled in that situation.

"Most of those engaging the Bible regularly are doing so because they enjoy what the practice brings to their lives," McConnell said. "Movement toward more Bible engagement requires intentionality, but movement away from this devotion can start out as a slow drift. However, a moment of reflection among those who have experienced the value of engaging the Bible reminds them of what they are missing."

Compared to 2019, churchgoers have similar overall attitudes. Seven years ago, almost 3 in 5 (58 percent) said they desperately missed the time with God when they went several days without reading the Bible, while 22 percent weren't sure and 20 percent disagreed. At that time, however, 33 percent strongly agreed and 25 percent somewhat agreed.

Attitudes toward the Bible

As expected, U.S. Protestant churchgoers hold Scripture in high regard, but not always in the highest regard.

Around 3 in 4 (74 percent) say the Bible has authority over every area of

their lives, with 15 percent unsure and 11 percent disagreeing. However, only 40 percent strongly agree, leaving 3 in 5 with at least some doubts about the authority of Scripture.

Similarly, more than 7 in 10 (72 percent) find themselves thinking about biblical truths throughout the day, while 19 percent aren't sure and 10 percent disagree. Yet just 31 percent strongly agree that's regularly the case for them. Those percentages are similar to 2019, when 69 percent agreed, 20 percent weren't sure and 12 percent disagreed.

"The Bible can't have

full authority in someone's life if they don't know what it says or aren't considering what it says about the specific things they are facing in life," said McConnell. "The Bible makes the appeal, 'be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God' (Romans 12:2b, CSB)."

#### Methodology

The online survey of 2,130 Protestant churchgoers was conducted March 19–26, 2025, using a national pre-recruited panel. Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Protes-

tant/non-denominational and attend religious services at least once a month. Respondents could complete the survey in English or Spanish. Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, education, and denominational affiliation. The completed sample is 2,130 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error from the panel does not exceed plus or minus 2.21 percent. This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

# Mishler's

## Service Center, Inc.

Serving The Ashland Area Since 1964



**PLUMBING**

**AIR CONDITIONING**

**ELECTRIC**

**HEATING**

**620-635-2529**

**118 E. 8<sup>th</sup> Ashland, Ks.**

# D & B Pharmacy & Gifts

Open 9 to 5 Monday thru Friday

Prescriptions filled while you wait

\*Gifts For All Ages \*Digital Photo Kiosk

\*Russell Stover Candies \*Holiday Decorations

\*Watches \*Pharmacy \*Photo Frames

\*Hallmark and Leanin' Tree Cards

**620-635-2322 721 Main Ashland, KS**

# FIRST-PERSON: From Creator to Christ: The Eternal Word of God

By Malcolm B. Yarnell  
III, Baptist Press

The Bible begins its enlightening discourse with the foundational claim that God created everything by breathing and speaking. Reflecting on this creative activity, orthodox Christians conclude the Lord God made the heavens and the earth by His Spirit and by His Word. God “created” (Genesis 1:1) while His Spirit was “hovering” over the nothingness (v. 2) and His Word “said” things with power (v. 3).

Every time “the Lord God” spoke His Word during those first six days, that which was previously nothing became something (Gen. 2:4). God repeatedly said, “Let there be,” with perfect authority. And whatsoever He spoke about, that thing came into being (1:3, 6, 9, etc). At the same time, God’s eternal Spirit executed the perfect will He was proclaiming (v.2). The one Lord God thereby brought every creaturely reality, including the space which marks the world’s physical extension and the time which marks its progress, into existence.

Afterwards, God revealed further truths about His Word through the prophets. Calling Israel to find comfort in the Lord, the prophet Isaiah reminded them of God’s power amidst their frailty. “All humanity,” He said, is like the grass which “withers” and like the flowers which

“fade” (Isaiah 40:6-7). But by contrast, while the world begins and ends, “the Word of our God remains forever” (v. 8). He also disclosed that God sends His Word into the world to engage it intimately with His power and authority. The Lord God is above and beyond our conceptual capabilities (55:8-9), so His Word comes to us like “rain and snow.” The Word descends from above, as an act of utter grace, to give life to the earth and its inhabitants (v. 10). From these Old Testament passages, we come to realize three profound truths about the Word of God: The Word is eternal. The Word creates all things. And the Word sustains life.

We then hear further stunning news: The eternal Word is more intimately

involved in human life than through original creation and continuing sustenance. God continued speaking through the prophet, “My word that comes from my mouth will not return to me empty, but it will accomplish what I please and will prosper in what I send it to do” (v. 11). Yet more truth about the Word of God is hereby revealed: The Word comes from God and is sent into the world. The Word is distinct from God. The Word exercises personal agency. And the Word successfully accomplishes the will of God.

Isaiah also revealed how God would redeem His people through the suffering of his elect “Servant” (Isa. 52:13-53:12). However, the connection of this Servant with the eternal Word, and with the pow-

erful “Son of Man,” who would reign over the universe forever from the divine throne (Dan. 7:13-14), was not yet clearly perceived. Even the immediate disciples of Jesus did not understand the world-altering truth about the Word and the Servant until after Jesus conquered death, reconstituting our humanity through His resurrection. Nevertheless, the facts of the New Testament’s eter-

nal Gospel – that the Word of God is both God and with God, that He became a human being to redeem humanity by His death and resurrection, and that He reigns forever – were already revealed to the Old Testament prophets.

According to the New Testament, this Word, the only begotten Son of God, is Jesus the Christ, the Son of Man and suffering Servant (Matthew 16:16;

Mark 14:61-63; 15:28, 39; John 1:1, 18). This One, who is truly God and truly man, recapitulated or perfected our humanity, working our salvation through His atoning death and victorious resurrection for us (Matthew 16:21; Ephesians 1:10; Hebrews 2:9-10). The risen Lord explained this transformative truth about Himself

*Continued on page 23*

## Pet Haven Crematory

Helping ease the pain after the loss of a pet.



Cremation prices range from \$75-\$175

Including a complimentary urn

Pickup service available in most areas

**620-338-1103**

[www.pethavencrematory.com](http://www.pethavencrematory.com)

# SOUTHWEST TOWING

1309 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave

\*Dodge City \*620-225-3105

625 N. Industrial Dr.

\*Garden City \*620-275-6828

**SERVING WESTERN KANSAS WITH 2 LOCATIONS**

Your #1 Source For All Towing  
& Recovery Needs  
**1-800-476-8163**



\*Light Duty \*Medium Duty \*Heavy Duty  
\*Air Cushion Recovery \*Local and Long  
Distance Towing \*Equipment Hauling  
\*Motor Homes and  
Motor Coach Transporting  
\*Jump Starts \*Winch Outs \*Unlocks

\*Dealer Wholesale Accounts  
\*24 Hour Emergency Service

\*Most Roadside Assistance Programs  
\*Clean, Professional, Trained Drivers



**CELEBRATING 31 YEARS SERVICE IN 2025**



**24 HOUR SERVICE**

Dodge City

Garden City

620-225-3105

620-275-6828

**1-800-476-8163**



## Selling the End of Time

By Van Yandell

Matthew 24: 36 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Unless one is living on a desert island and hasn't seen another human in many years, the obvious capitalizing of certain conditions and concepts is drowning us every day of our lives.

Cancer is big business, body fat is big business. Sex, power, prestige, personal appearance and hygiene make many feel less than adequate in today's world; thus the selling of products.

Videos, articles, books, movies and TV shows are profiting from "End of Time" scenarios. Many are pre-occupied with the foreknowledge of how the world will end and what will become of us when it happens.

As the leading scripture

indicates, only God knows when and exactly how the end will come. Speculations have been made by the thousands and few, if any, of those coincide with scriptural teachings.

Jesus said in Matthew 24: 9 "then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

Old Testament writers indicate times of great distress that correspond to Jesus' statement. Zephaniah 1: 14-18, Joel 2: 1-2 and Daniel 9: 24-27 tell us of times that will be terrible to all mankind left on earth.

This time of tribulation has likely been considered in the present many times in history. During wars, famines, epidemics, political coups and uprisings; millions have been killed, homes burned, rapes and torturing leading many to believe they were experiencing the tribulation.

The Biblical signs of the end times are ever present somewhere in the world and it is understandable why so many may have had such a thought.

There is a sequence of events that will take place. First, the return of Christ to take up His church (those true believer-followers of Him) 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18.

Second, the tribulation (in which thousands will die, and the earth mostly destroyed) will take place for 3 1/2 years with a subsequent 3 1/2 years many call The Great Tribulation.

And thirdly, Christ's return at which time the prophecy in Philippians 2: 10-11 will be fulfilled. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. And that every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."

Then Christ will establish His 1000-year millennial reign on earth. This listing is debatable and many have other opinions. Students of the Bible and those curious are encouraged to read the scriptures and determine their own thoughts.

Sources of similar information vary in these events.

Whereas 1 Thessalonians 4: 16-17 indicate the Lord will "descend" from Heaven to take up the believers but will return with them to Heaven. This considered, He will return to the earth after the tribulation.

Some listings of the events elaborate into more than the four I have stated. These are only an outline and a listing of the major occurrences.

Attempting not to sound convinced of any certainty of the order, scriptural references of those end time events seem to be happening before us in our current existence.

The Apostle Paul wrote 2 Timothy over 1900 years ago. 2 Timothy 3: 1-5 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent (out of self-control), fierce, despisers of those that are

good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.

Does this description fit our world in this twenty-first century? It certainly does and one doesn't have look very far to see it! Perhaps in the mirror would be a good place to start.

Paul's description of mankind in the above scripture is only a beginning of the scriptural prophecies; the world conditions and the human attitudes and actions that will be manifested in the end.

Is this dire warning and description of future events something for us to dread and have great fear? For some "yes!" For the believer-follower of Christ Jesus there is great anticipation.

Romans 10: 9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth (say it, mean it, believe it) the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou

shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

The plan of salvation for individuals is a series of actions and understandings. First, we must realize all are sinners (Romans 3: 23). No human is exempt. We do things, think things and say things not in accordance with the teachings of God in the Holy Bible.

We must confess the fact we are a sinner and in need of redemption (1 John 1: 9). Thirdly is repentance: this is an intention and a vow to redirect our lives into accordance with God's teachings (Acts 3: 19 and John 3).

Belief in the Lord Jesus, crucified for the remission of sin and resurrected is absolutely essential and finally a prayer asking Him to come into our heart and lives and save our soul.

Anyone reading this can be saved; it's up to you. To believe is to be convinced

*Continued on page 23*



# Wilson

## TRAILER SALES

# 1-800-279-9875

SINCE 1890...A GOOD NAME TO HAVE BEHIND YOU!

2730 East Trail Street      22080 Hwy. 34

DODGE CITY, KS      FORT MORGAN, CO

\*Hot Spring Spas

\*Artesian Spas

\*Custom Pools



\*BioGuard Chemicals

\*Pentair Pool Products



1601 W. Frontview 620-227-6867



940 Stonecreek Dr. 620-275-0707

Dodge City  
 Garden City  
 OPEN 9 A.M. - 5:30 P.M. Mon. - Sat.  
[www.austinpoolskansas.com](http://www.austinpoolskansas.com)

## Missions is multi-generational at this Missouri church



*A team of multiple generations from Second Baptist Church, Springfield, Missouri prepares to serve during a visit to Toronto where they engaged in conversations and shared their beliefs.*

By Chris Doyle

A common desire among Southern Baptist churches is to incorporate unity among the congregation's different generations.

Second Baptist Church in Springfield has made "multi-generational" an emphasis in its pursuit of mission work, and the result has been a success.

"It's difficult to engage cross-generationally, but

when you put believers of varying ages alongside each other with a common cause and a common love for Christ, it becomes beautiful," said Rob Brewer, Second Baptist's missions pastor. "We're not doing this in silos. The youth minister isn't running his own missions thing; the missions minister isn't just leading a group of adults. We're doing this together."

Brightyn Stange and Dawson Blaine of Second Baptist Springfield pray with a man they met while doing mission work in Toronto. Photo Provided

Brewer makes this a priority whenever inquiring about Second Baptist doing a mission project. "Can you host multiple age groups?" is the first question asked to potential missions partners.

Whether they are serving in a community center in Munich, a church-planting effort in St. Louis or a disaster-relief hub in Toronto, Second Baptist seeks mission work where an 80-year-old could stand beside a college sophomore and a high school freshman, handing out water bottles and sharing the Gospel.

Lead pastor John Birchett has seen many members from Second Baptist commit to serving in missions.

"It's important for me that we not simply be a financial resource to our mission field," Birchett said, "but to really engage our

people to live at a missional level."

In 2025, the church sponsored two trips to serve in Toronto.

"Toronto is one of the only locations where you can work with the North American Mission Board, Send Relief and the International Mission Board, all three in one place," said student pastor Josh Phillips.

The Canadian city offers a setting to introduce both students and adults to what NAMB does with church planting, what Send Relief does with meeting human needs and how the IMB is reaching different people groups in a major international metropolis with the Gospel.

"It's exciting to be able to introduce all this great work to our church members," Phillips said.

Another team from Second Baptist recently went to Munich, Germany. The team featured a mixture of

*Continued on page 21*

## Bible Trivia

1. Finish this proverb: "Where there is no vision, ..."

### Answer

...the people perish."

## Housing Authority of Dodge City

### Elderly & Family Housing

1 to 4 Bedroom & Studio Apartments

Scheduled Transportation  
Rent Based on Your Income  
Office Hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 am - 5pm



#### NORTH OFFICE

407 E. Bend St.  
Dodge City

620-225-1965

#### SOUTH OFFICE

401 Longbranch Rd  
Dodge City

620-225-1584

*"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven."*

*Matthew 10:32*



## MEDICAL HEIGHTS DENTAL CENTER

### KELLY S. HENRICHS, DDS

\* Maria Ocon, RDH \* Rebecca Ballard, RDH  
\* Kaycie Bogner, RDH \* Deena Hamilton, RDH

620-225-6555

"Comprehensive Family Dentistry from Infants to Adults"

We Accept Mastercard, Visa and Discover

\*100 W. Ross Blvd. \*Building 2 \*Suite C \*Dodge City, Ks.

# Missions

*Continued from page 20*

college students and retirees. The church sent a similar crew to serve in Northern Africa.

When the teams return to Springfield, the impact is palpable, Brewer said. Church hallways buzz, and hugs and handshakes are exchanged among different age groups. That natural cross-pollination — “the natural pathway” Brewer called it — is exactly what the leadership at Second Baptist hoped to foster.

These short-term mission projects also meet another goal of the church’s leadership. Second Baptist is seeing members commit to serving long term. Brewer said one young woman from their church recently went through training to become an IMB missionary.

“She is actually another great story of someone we took on one of our Germany mission trips,” Brewer said. “She went and served there, fell in love with the country and served a second time with us on a short-term trip. When she returned, she met

with us as a staff and said, ‘I feel led to go.’ She’s going to be working with one of the teams that we send our teams to, so it’s just another great picture of what this all can look like.”

Second Baptist has connections with 27 IMB missionaries whom they are praying for and supporting, and the church is currently doing mission projects with nine of these missionaries (two in Frankfurt, three in Munich, two in Northern Africa and Middle East and two in Toronto).

When asked what encouragement they would share with churches that want to do more mission work, Second Baptist leadership gave five tips:

Find leaders with a mission heartbeat. Consider people who have walked on the mission field themselves.

Make partnership criteria explicit. Can they host multiple generations?

Build a pipeline that starts in grade school and ends in lifelong service. Children and students can do mission projects, even locally. Aspire to send members to serve full-time.

Invest in preparation. Applications, interviews and vision trips keep the focus sharp.

Encourage cross-generational teamwork. Let retirees mentor college students. Let youth invite older adults to worship.

Birchett also commended the IMB, and specifically IMB President Paul Chitwood, for the growth of missions involvement at Second Baptist.

“Under Dr. Chitwood’s leadership, the willingness of missionaries to build deep ties with local churches here in the United States is significant,” Birchett said. “(The IMB) desires that as much as we desire it.”

Second Baptist Springfield continues to live out its motto, “Kingdom First, Second Strong,” not through grand statements but through everyday moments: an 80-year-old praying over a college student’s final exam, a teenager sharing a meal with a missionary on the field, a pastor watching his congregation become a team that travels the globe together.

# “How to Find God”

## And Eternal Life

How do I find God is perhaps the most excellent question one could ask. Jesus said that finding God “can be likened to a “Fine Pearl” which a man found, then went and sold all he had to buy (Matt 13:46).

Jesus is the Son of God, “For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life,” (John 3:16).

Jesus also said, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me,” (John 14:5-7).

The way to God is through belief and faith in Jesus.


Jesus already knows all about you, including your every thought and desire. According to scripture, He is the one who placed the desire in your heart to find Him.

Jesus said “...the one who comes to Me I will most certainly not cast out I

will never, no never, reject one of them who comes to Me,” (John 6:37).

God provided a plan of salvation so simple that a child can understand. You can know with certainty that He will welcome you into His Kingdom of everlasting life.

When invited, Jesus will enter into your heart, the very center of your being. There He remains to guide, protect, and help in all areas of your life; He abides in us, we are His temple. (The temple not made with hands)



**Phillips Chiropractic Physical Therapy Center**

# Non-Surgical

## Back Pain Relief

**DRX9000™**  
True Spinal Decompression™

**Jammie D. Phillips, DC**

**Angela D. Harp, DC**

**2015 Readers Choice Awards**

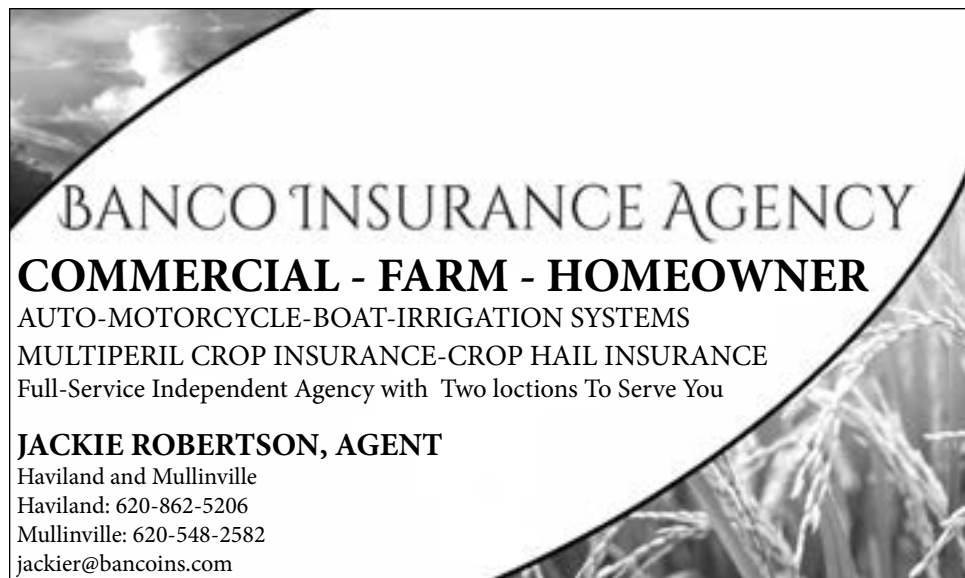
Clinically proven to be effective in treating many disabling back pain conditions including:

- Herniated/Bulging Discs
- Facet Syndrome
- Degenerative Discs
- Sciatica

Appointments Limited! Call Today & Schedule Your Consultation

2200 Summerlon Circle Ste. D, Dodge City, KS 67801

**620.225.4139**  
www.phillipstherapy.net



# BANCO INSURANCE AGENCY

## COMMERCIAL - FARM - HOMEOWNER

AUTO-MOTORCYCLE-BOAT-IRRIGATION SYSTEMS  
MULTIPERIL CROP INSURANCE-CROP HAIL INSURANCE  
Full-Service Independent Agency with Two Locations To Serve You

**JACKIE ROBERTSON, AGENT**  
Haviland and Mullinville  
Haviland: 620-862-5206  
Mullinville: 620-548-2582  
jackier@bancoins.com



# ARROWHEAD WEST Inc.

## Openings for Full & Part Time Community Living Instructors

Assist adults with disabilities with daily living skills in home setting.

EOE Apply online at [arrowheadwest.org](http://arrowheadwest.org)  
or 1100 E Wyatt Earp Blvd, Dodge City

## 2026: A Real or Fake Election? – Part 1

*Dr. Rodney Crowell*

Recently Michael Cloud (R-TX) posted a picture on X of the voting panel every member of the U.S. House of Representatives uses to register their votes in Congress. He explained that before the correct vote button could be pushed, their Photo I.D. card must be inserted into a slot just to the right, or else no vote choice could be made. Cloud then noted how hypocritical it was last month when nearly every Democrat House member used their Photo ID to vote against the SAVE act requiring photo ID for the entire country! Why would the Democrats want to ensure the integrity of THEIR votes but not OURS? Especially when the Pew and Gallup polls show that over 80% of Americans from all demographic sections want photo ID required for elections? And that 65% of all voters want election records available for public inspection, which includes ballot images, cast vote records (CVRs), chain of

custody logs, adjudication logs, tabulation reports, websites accessed and even surveillance video? Why aren't all the Talking Hairdos of the media covering this? Plus, if photo ID were inherently "racist," as Senator Chuck "Shut-down" Schumer claims, Democrats would refuse to use it for their own Congressional votes! But they don't. H-m-m.

The survey results as well as mounting activity from Federal, state and independent watchdog groups, indicates that Americans worry whether the upcoming November midterm elections will be real or fake. Merely saying that "it's already illegal for non-citizens to vote" means nothing if there's no enforcement of it. An example of that from Comanche County made national news recently. Recall that on November 20, 2020, Cybersecurity (CISA) Director Chris Krebs proclaimed that election "the most secure in American history." Krebs rightly was fired

six days later by President Trump, as the following six years revealed a mountain of criminal behavior in the area of election fraud which prosecutors and watchdogs are still digging through. "Such as?" you may say. Glad you asked! Let's form a sample list using just one suspect – Fulton County, Georgia (the Atlanta metroplex). Biden claimed victory in Georgia by a mere 11,779 votes. Keep that in mind as you continue reading.

When the FBI carried out a warranted raid on Fulton's election office to investigate the 2020 election, they found the following: (1) Missing digital ballot images (17,852 to be exact); (2) Duplicate ballots added to make the recount numbers match their alleged totals – what gamblers would call "an ace up the sleeve"! Also, they found (3) Missing vote tabulator tapes containing total votes and total ballots cast per machine (probably ones from Republican precincts!), with data illegally

moved around by memory cards or flash drives; as well as (4) Over 150,000 'Miracle' absentee or mail-in ballots with NO signs of being folded or mailed and identical vote choices! That's Big-Time tampering. In the first two months after November 2020, over 500 sworn affidavits (=legal evidence) and 11,000 incident reports were filed in the swing states (GA, PA, AZ, MI, WI, MN and NV), with the Biden Administration doing NOTHING to prosecute. Instead, they helped the State of Colorado throw former Mesa County clerk Tina Peters in prison for nine years for investigating fraud in her own county – as reprehensible an act as their current efforts to legalize prostitution. (While Trump pardoned Tina after his re-election, Colorado refuses to release her.

Remember the bumper stickers that said, "Don't Californicate Colorado"? Sorry, you Golden Buffaloes, it's already happening to you!

This year, our President has put the prosecution of Election Fraud into high gear, which explains why the Democrats and their sympathetic Federal judges are working overtime to obstruct it. The SAVE Act ("Safeguard American Voter Eligibility") is the tip of the spear. More must be done, and is. Our DOJ (Department of Justice) has sued 22 states for non-compliance with Federal requirements for voter roll registration, sending a stern warning that they must follow NVRA (National Voter Registration Act) rules. The DOJ followed it up with a conference call to all the states. Hopefully, with a cooperative Federal

government this time, truly independent vote watchdog groups like Judicial Watch (it forced removal of 5.8 MILLION illegal or non-existent voters in 11 states!) or True The Vote won't face such an enormous workload. Incidentally, yet another watchdog group, the Michigan Fair Elections Institute discovered that from 2011-2025 nationwide, 28% of the 97 million new voter registrations from residents without valid drivers' licenses did NOT match Social Security data – 60K of them in Michigan alone. Clearly, state Secretaries of State or other election officials aren't doing their jobs and must feel hot Federal breath down their necks.

"But what about the U.S. Constitution in Article 1, Section 4? It says, 'The

*Continued on page 23*

# HILL TOP HOUSE

**Excellent Healthcare...Nutritious Meals**  
**Variety of Activities...Caring Staff**

- Long & Short Term Skilled Nursing Facility
- Assisted Living Apartments

Medicare and Medicaid approved



620-826-3202

505 W. Elm Bucklin, KS

LORD BUT CROSS  
 JESUS GOD GRACE  
 DEMONSTRATES  
 HIS OWN LOVE FOR US  
 ROMANS 5:8

## Long's

is your formal wear headquarters for Southwest Kansas. Stop by and let our professional staff find the perfect look for your special occasion.



Long's

2207 Central Ave. Dodge City, Ks.  
 620-227-2805 1-800-491-2805  
 Mon.-Fri. 10-7 Sat. 10-6 Sun. 1-6

VISA M.C. DISC



## Election

*Continued from page 22*

times, places and manner of holding elections for Senators and Representatives shall be prescribed in each state by the Legislatures thereof – right?” Yes, but read the rest: “... the Congress may at any time by law make or alter such regulations, except as to the places of choosing Senators.” (At that time, U.S. Senators were chosen by each state’s legislatures = “the places.”) Read in context, Congress does in fact have the right to author election laws **OVERRIDING** the authority and practices of the states. It’s about time! Our Founders clearly understood that elections, like citizenship, are too important and too easily manipulated to go unsupervised.

“But the Bible says nothing about voting, right?” True, not as we understand

## End Times

*Continued from page 19*

something is real and true. Are you there yet?

Van Yandell is a retired Industrial Arts teacher, an ordained gospel evangelist and commissioned missionary. His email is vmy3451@gmail.com

it today; however, it says much about how to treat others. In Leviticus chapter 19 – God’s laws meant for His people Israel, yet illustrative of His heart for justice everywhere – the LORD says, “Do not steal. Do not lie. Do not deceive one another. Do not swear falsely by my name...Do not defraud your neighbor or rob him...Do not pervert justice; do not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the great, but judge your neighbor fairly” (verses 10-12, 13, 15). Good rules for a dysfunctional nation to start following!

## Creator

*Continued from page 18*

from holy Scripture to the apostles (Luke 24:25-32, 44-48). He then disseminated the good news to the world through His church’s proclamation. This proclamation focuses on His person as the Word who became flesh and His work to provide us with salvation (John 1:14; Romans 1:1-4; 10:9-10).

It was only after the resurrection, when Jesus explained the mystery of the good news of salvation to His disciples that this revelation became clear to mankind. The mystery of the divine plan worked through the Word, which was previously made known in the Old Testament, thus includes at least seven profound truths:

1. The Word of God is eternal, powerful, and personal.
2. The Word created all

things.

3. The Word sustains all things.

4. The Word came into the world.

5. The Word worked wonders in the world.

6. The Servant suffered vicariously for our sins and conquered death.

7. The Son of Man reigns over everything forever from the divine throne.

There is so much more which needs to be said about the Word of God. We will learn together of how the Word is the eternal Son of God the Father. And of how He is our Creator and Providential Lord with the Father and the Spirit. How He created us in His image and continues to love us despite our sin. How He remains the electing God even as becomes the Elect One, the

Son of Man, Jesus Christ. How He walked before us to blaze the trail into life through His atonement on the cross and His resurrection from death. How He is the One who now confers grace by calling sinners to believe in Him, to be born again, and to become His disciples. How He is our predecessor, guide, and intercessor through this life. How He will ensure that we come through every danger, even death itself, into the very throne room of God. And we will finally learn together how, on the “day of the Lord,” before His glorious throne, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that “Jesus Christ is Lord” (Amos 5:18-24; Philippians 2:11; 1 Thessalonians 5:2).



### Grace Community Church



500 W. Ross Blvd.  
Dodge City, KS

(620) 225-5033

Pastor Kirk Larson  
Associate Nathan Davis  
www.graceccdodge.org  
graceccdodge@gmail.com

We welcome you  
to come and  
discover God’s  
Grace.

#### SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. Biblical Training for all ages  
10:30 a.m. Morning Worship  
(Nursery and Children’s Church available)  
5:00-6:30 p.m. High School Youth

#### WEDNESDAY

6:30 p.m. Prayer meeting  
6:30-8:00 p.m. Middle School Youth group  
7:00 p.m. Bible Study

He who has  
the Son, has life.  
1 John 5:12



### FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

of Dodge City

#### SUNDAY SERVICES

8:15 AM 9:30 AM 11:00 AM

Nursery and childcare available during 9:30 and 11 services

Or Join us **ONLINE** Every Sunday  
anytime after 8:15 a.m.

For **UP TO DATE** Changes

check our Website [www.fccdc.com](http://www.fccdc.com)  
or our Facebook page

#### LIFE GROUPS

**ADULTS** | MEET WEEKLY

Contact the office for more information

**LOVE GOD. LOVE OTHERS.  
SERVE THE WORLD.**

711 5th Ave • Dodge City • KS 67801  
620.227.8686 • [fccdc.com](http://fccdc.com)

### Bucklin Bible Fellowship Church

204 South Main St. Bucklin, KS  
620-826-3564



Reaching People with God’s love through His word

Sunday School (adults & children).....9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship Service.....10:45 a.m.

## Nancy Guthrie, Be Prayerful, Be Alert



*Dr. Glenn Mollette*

By the time you read this there will hopefully be good news about Nancy Guthrie. Our nation has prayed for her, her famous daughter, Savannah, and her family.

The abduction of this

beautiful, charming 84-year-old woman is alarming and very concerning to us all. Nancy Guthrie is known as a sweet, beautiful church going lady. Millions of us have been introduced to her via national television. We feel like we

know her and Savannah as they have been welcomed into our homes via television for many years.

We have asked the question "Why would someone do this to such a wonderful elderly lady?" The best answer seems to be for money. Savannah Guthrie makes millions each year as anchor of the Today show. She would appear to be a deep well for cash. Sadly, it might not necessarily be for cash. People seemingly kidnap and kill others for no apparent reason. Some people kill others simply because they want to kill someone. Yes, it's a horrific thought, but we know it's true.

Nancy Guthrie's kidnapping is a frightening reminder that no one is ever beyond becoming a victim of a crime. Just because you are good and kind does not make you immune

from being the target of evil. Evil doesn't care who you are, how religious you are or how nice you are to others. An evil person will rob, hurt and kill even the very best of people. This crime reminds us that you are never totally safe, wherever you may live. You may live in a small town, a rural community or in a gated, security filled place but evil people plot, scheme and look for a way. We can never be too careful.

Lights are important around your home. Bad people don't like the light. An evil person loves darkness more than light. The lighter the better. A barking, biting dog makes intruders think twice. A barking dog is like a big alarm going off. Bad people don't like alarms. Be safe entering your home late in the evening. This

is where light and a dog help. A handgun in your pocket also helps. Have the handgun in your hand and the safety off. If someone comes at you from out the bushes then protect yourself. If someone is waiting on you in your house and have your gun in hand, you can defend yourself against the evil perpetrator. Security cameras can be great for catching people later but they may not prevent anyone from attacking you.

An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

We all hope and pray this happens to no one, but it does. It happened to Nancy Guthrie and none of us are immune.

In 2024 533,936 persons were reported missing in the United States. 203,330 were over the age of 18. Be prayerful for Nancy Guthrie and be alert.

Dr. Glenn Mollette is a syndicated columnist read in all fifty states. He is also the author of numerous books and can be heard each weekday morning on XM Radio 131.

### OPPOSING VIEWPOINTS

From day-one, it has been the position of Faith and Family not to endorse nor condemn any denomination. We strive to offer readers a wide variety of Christian views and perspectives and allow each individual to come to your own conclusion. Because news sources and contributors to Faith and Family come from a wide variety of sources, it is possible that some stories, opinions and views may conflict with certain beliefs.

We ENCOURAGE any reader to submit an opposing viewpoint or opinion if any story offends you or conflicts with your beliefs. Please limit such responses to approximately 500 words. You may refer to the offending item and the content with which you do not agree, and express your viewpoint, but please do not attack another individual nor their opinion. You may mail your op-ed opinion to Kansas Faith and Family, 221 E 6th Street, Kinsley, Kansas 67547. Or you may email them to [editor@kansasfaithandfamily.org](mailto:editor@kansasfaithandfamily.org)



**Heritage**  
Real Estate Group, Inc.

Ph. 620-626-6100  
www.hregliberal.com  
2 South Kansas Ave.  
Liberal, KS




Where do you wanna eat?



# I DON'T CARE

## FAMILY RESTAURANT AND SPORTS BAR

NOW OPEN...Serving Full Menu!

We are a family restaurant and sports bar. We offer daily specials. We have the NFL ticket for all games. We have a friendly, hometown atmosphere, awesome staff & cold, cold beer. One of our specialties is Chicken Fried Steak.

1510 W. Spruce, Dodge City, Ks. Ph. 620-371-6061