

Christian Courier

America's Longest Running Christian Newspaper

Vol 40 No 1

January & February 2016



Starbucks

Page 2



Good Friday
City-Wide Service

March 25, 2016
12:15-1:15 PM
The Italian Conference Center
433 E Chicago St., Milwaukee, WI
Prayer of Free Willing

Page 7



Christian Baker
Pays Fine

Page 8



In
Memory

Page 10



Inner
Beauty

Page 14



Community
Events

Page 16



THE DECISION AMERICA TOUR

America is in trouble, and the only answer is found in Jesus Christ. During 2016 I will travel to the capitals of all 50 states to hold prayer rallies for our nation. I will challenge Christians to pray, to boldly live out their faith and stand for biblical values, and to help turn America back to God (2 Chronicles 7:14). I will also share the life-changing message of the Gospel at each stop. Will you stand with me? – Franklin Graham." For details, visit decisionamericatour.com



2016: OUR NATION NEEDS PRAYER

PULSE, a Christian movement based in Minnesota is calling all Americans to gather at the Mall in Washington DC this summer, July 16th, hoping for 1 million or more to attend knowing that America needs prayer. There will be other speakers and musicians. Mark your calendar. Please visit www.pulsemovement.com.



STRENGTHEN YOUR FAITH THIS COMING YEAR

"In God We Still Trust": A 365-Day Devotional by Dr. Richard G. Lee



Dr. Richard G. Lee introduces a glimpse into the lives of people who established and shaped our nation into what it is today. You will discover the godly principles upon which America was founded, and experience the passion and steadfast spirit these heroes possessed for implementing them into the fabric of our very lives.

"Inspired by the truth our nation's motto, I have written this daily devotional. Within these pages you will find inspiration, enlightenment, and encouragement. You will see God's hand in our nation's history and appreciate more fully our country's Christian roots. You will come to believe – as I do – that America is still great and will continue to be great because "In God We Still Trust" – Dr. Richard G. Lee
Thomas Nelson Publishers \$18.99

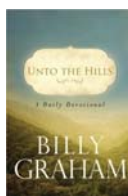
"Joy for the Journey": A morning and evening devotional



Sometimes life's journey can be filled with frustrations instead of fun and blisters instead of bliss. We all need a reminder that our days can be brimming with God's abundant joy. Each morning devotion in "Joy for the Journey" offers inspiration from respected authors such as Lysa TerKeurst, Bob Goff, Sheila Walsh, Jennie Allen, and others. These fellow travelers share their thoughts on such relatable topics as changing your focus, paring down your schedule, choosing a positive attitude, serving others graciously, and finding joy in God's love. Each evening follows with scriptures that reinforce the morning's thoughts and bring the day to the perfect close. Life's journey can challenge your faith and your focus, so begin and end each day of the year with the true joy that can only be found in God's love.

Thomas Nelson Publishers \$19.99

"Unto The Hills": A Daily Devotional by Billy Graham



For peace, for strength, for courage and inspiration, look UNTO THE HILLS.

Day by day, you can join the nation's most beloved spiritual leader for a moment of quiet and reflection – a Scripture, a thought, and a prayer.

The author draws from his lifetime of study and ministry to offer this devotional classic, featuring 365 meditations to calm you and point you toward the One who can always help.

"I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
From whence cometh my help.
My help cometh from the Lord,
Which made heaven and earth."
May God bless and direct you as you read "Unto The Hills"

Thomas Nelson Publishers \$15.99

These devotional books are available while supplies last at a very significant discount to encourage you to strengthen your faith each day throughout the year. Copies are available at ProBuColls Books & Gifts, 9733 W. Greenfield, Milwaukee, 414-344-7300 or pbcbooks@christianproducts.org.

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Change Service Requested

2016 Read through the Bible! Calendar

Complete the Bible in one year with daily scripture readings

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But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned these, and that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.
2 Timothy 3:14-17

This calendar is produced to help you read thru the Bible on a daily basis throughout the year. Scripture quotations are listed on each day. This calendar is published by the Christian Courier Newspaper and is free of charge, while supplies last. (414-344-7300)



Commentary



GIVE STARBUCKS A BREAK!!

by John Fisco

It was interesting to read and hear about some out-spoken "Christians" prior to the Christmas season trashing Starbucks for their lack of the Christmas spirit/decorations. Well, they must have been very shocked to see how wrong they were.

It appeared that Starbucks went all-out for the Christmas spirit this year, yes leaving CHRIST in Christmas. One large item was a candy/ornament filled advent tree with a \$5.00 gift card. Big promotions! Then there is the CHRISTmas blend coffee; the JOY cups with decoration; the CHRISTmas tree in most stores; "Merry Christmas" gift cards available, etc. etc. On an overall percentage of a retailer, they probably had the greatest percentage of CHRISTmas promotions of most retailers. No "holiday" emphasis, but strictly "CHRISTmas. Sure the red cups were plain, but look beyond the cup and you'll see a great CHRISTmas spirit.

Maybe the media and others have had an impact on bringing CHRIST back into CHRISTmas. Do we really hurt any person's feelings with that greeting? Politically correct? Garbage! It is what it is!!! As one person pointed out. Every calendar published has December 25th marked as CHRISTMAS.

No "xmas" or "holiday", etc. Nothing but CHRISTMAS. Great for the calendar publishers, now let's make it a point each year to show our feelings about December 25th that it's truly CHRIST'S birth and that is what it's all about. If someone is opposed to using the term CHRISTmas, pass them by and join those with the real spirit of CHRISTmas. You'll be greatly blessed and bless others. Trust you had a GREAT and BLESSED CHRISTMAS, and now experiencing a SUPER NEW YEAR!

God Bless!!!



Outside of Christ, I am weak; IN CHRIST, I am strong. Outside of Christ, I cannot; IN CHRIST, I am more than able. Outside of Christ, I have been defeated; IN CHRIST, I am already victorious. How meaningful are the words, IN CHRIST. ~ Watchman Nee

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Charismata Enterprises Graphic Design
Bob Conklin Contrib. Reporter
Photographer
Grant Lawson Distribution
Al Reimer Distribution
Karen Scharnick Administrator
American Litho Printer

Published monthly by ProBuColls Association, a nondenominational Christian organization recognized 501(c)(3) with print readership estimated in excess of 20,000 and an on-line readership of 500,000 unique visitors monthly.

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Email:

ChristianCourier@juno.com

Rates available upon request.

All finished artwork & copy due the 20th of each month preceding publication.

ISSN: 0749-1077

The Christian Courier Newspaper Is Looking for Distributors!



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VCY Center for Evangelism and Outreach

10707 W. Capitol Drive
Milwaukee
(414) 463-1770



News & More



A Word from the Heart

by John Duckhorn

I have been reading 1 and 2 kings and also plan to read about the prophets dealing with the decline and fall of Israel and Judah. After Solomon died the northern tribes of Israel appointed their own King who set up two places of idol worship. This was to keep them from going to Jerusalem for feast of the Lord and from becoming more united.

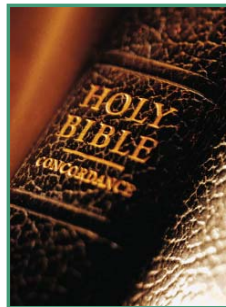
All of the Kings of Israel were considered bad. The tribe of Judah still had Jerusalem for worship and many of their Kings were described as doing "what was right in the eyes of the Lord, as did their father David." King Asa, the great grandson of Solomon, had no use for idols or their worship. Only the fact that he does not remove the high places mars the narrator's assessment of his reign. King Asa of Judah has given me much food for thought. Only two other kings of Judah (Hezekiah and Josiah) receive higher commendation than Asa.

Asa introduced many reforms, such as putting away Sodomites and male prostitutes, removing idols from the Holy place and breaking down altars used for idol worship. He deposed the queen mother because of idolatrous practices and the image she made for Asherah. 1 Kings, 15:12.

Although the King was mostly a zealous reformer, his subjects did not always keep pace with him. 1 kings 15:17. 2 Chronicles 14 and 15 gives us another glance to what might have

happened because of not putting away all of the high places. It does say he put down the high places in Judah. The chronicler said the high places were not removed in Israel. The idols were at one time removed but crept back. His subjects would not be controlled, but found measures of maintaining them in some places, perhaps remote areas.

Asa had two battles against enemies and showed a contradiction in his spiritual attitudes. Early in his reign the Ethiopians advanced upon Judah with an enormous army. Asa was terrified by the battle that awaited and cried out to the Lord, "O Lord our God for we rest in you and in your name we go against this multitude O Lord". Similar words were sung by the five men killed in the Ecuadorian jungle almost 60 years ago. The Ethiopians were overthrown and they could not recover. Years later King Baasha of Israel came up against Judah and built Ramah to isolate Asa and Judah from the people of Israel. This battle produced a far different reaction on the part of Asa. Instead of praying, he turned to the ungodly and dangerous King of Syria for help. He delivered a large amount of the Lord's riches to Ben-Hadad for support. Asa approached by a prophet was rebuked for not having turned to the Lord as he had done against the Ethiopians. He was told his heart



was not loyal to the Lord. Asa was angry and threw the prophet into prison because of those words. Three years later Asa became diseased in his feet (gout?) and his malady was severe. He did not seek the Lord but only the physicians. It is a sad chronicle that as the years rolled on he became less faithful to Jehovah and the law.

There are many spiritual lessons for all of those of us whose hearts are dedicated to the Lord. We need courage to put away idols that have long claimed our time and energy. Are there not idols in our hearts and homes that need drastic demolition? An idol is that which has a place of interest and affection in our life that God alone should have. In his "old age" Asa failed grievously. He broke the covenant made to seek the Lord. (2 Chron. 15:12) The unequal yoke he made with the king of Syria forfeited the help of God despite initial success.

Our fellowship with the Savior is day by day. We can't live on the strength of our past experiences although they do teach us spiritual lessons. To become angry with someone who faithfully corrects us is a clear display of our spiritual condition. All of us should desire to end well in pleasing the Lord.

IRS Proposes Churches, Nonprofits Get Social Security Numbers From Donors

by Leonardo Blair

A security camera hangs near a corner of the U.S. Internal Revenue Service building in Washington, May 27, 2015. Tax return information for about 100,000 U.S. taxpayers was illegally accessed by cyber criminals over the past four months, U.S. IRS Commissioner John Koskinen said on Tuesday, the latest in a series of data thefts that have alarmed American consumers.



The IRS may soon require churches and other nonprofit charities to report the Social Security numbers of their donors contributing at least \$250 annually. The news has raised concerns about security, IRS targeting and government overreach.

A report from FOX News says lawmakers and charities alike are concerned about the impact this proposal from the Obama administration could have on churches and charities if it gets the greenlight.

"There's a big caution here. There's a big yellow light that should be flashing for a couple of reasons," Illinois Republican Rep. Peter Ros-

kam told Fox News. "Number one, the IRS has not demonstrated its capacity to hold this type of information from confidentiality and a security point of view."

The IRS says the Social Security reporting requirement, which would impact only organizations that fall into the 501(c)(3) category, would be optional, but some critics are worried this might become a standard.

"It's the No. 1 regulation that people are commenting upon," said attorney Cleta Mitchell who represents the conservative-leaning group TRUE the VOTE, which says it has already been harassed by the IRS, according to FOX News.

She believes that the IRS cannot be trusted and the request would affect the ability of charities to collect enough money to survive.

"It would have a dramatic effect on donors' decisions on whether or not to contribute," she said. "You'd see a lot of \$249.99 contributions to every charitable organization in America. It's preposterous."

*Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.
1 Thessalonians 5:11*

**I watched them tearing a building down,
A gang of men in a busy town.
With a ho-heave-ho and lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a sidewall fell.
I asked the foreman, "Are these men skilled,
As the men you'd hire if you had to build?"
He gave me a laugh and said, "No indeed!
Just common labor is all I need.
I can easily wreck in a day or two
What builders have taken a year to do."
And I tho't to myself as I went my way,
Which of these two roles have I tried to play?
Am I a builder who works with care,
Measuring life by the rule and square?
Am I shaping my deeds by a well-made plan,
Patiently doing the best I can?
Or am I a wrecker who walks the town,
Content with the labor of tearing down?
— Carmelo Benvenga**



News & More



Same-Sex Marriage Is 'Devastating for American Children,' Says Tony Perkins

by Samuel Smith

WASHINGTON — In his 2016 State of the Family Address, Family Research Council President Tony Perkins argued that President Obama's efforts at strengthening American families have "faded completely."

Perkins, a leading social conservative activist, chastised the president the day before his last State of the Union Address for policies that have negatively impacted the traditional definition of families, and called last June's Supreme Court ruling that legalized same-sex marriage a devastation for children.

"Our blindness to the reality of the disintegration of the family and the dismissal of the role of our churches must also end," Perkins stated at the conservative activist organization's annual address. "The promise of strong efforts these past seven years to restore fatherhood and re-establish family life in our poorest communities has faded completely. Instead, national policies have sown confusion about the very definition of family."

Perkins continued by contending that the Obama administration's advocacy for the legalization of same-sex marriage contradicted his promotion of responsible fatherhood through the creation of the Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

"President Obama has extolled the virtues of fatherhood even as he has fought for same-sex marriage, in essence saying two same-gendered persons can parent as well as a mom and a dad," Perkins asserted. "This contradictory message is more than disappointing — for children throughout the country it is devastating. It reduces mothers and fathers to genderless caregivers."

"Our children deserve better — they deserve a mom and a dad. And we pay a price for this incoherent ideological campaign by havoc in our homes and blood in our streets," Perkins added. "That's why we have to re-empower American parents. The decisions of our courts on contraception for minors, abortion-on-demand, and redefining marriage have gravely weakened the family."

Perkins also called for religious liberty to be restored for business owners and government

officials who wish to act in accordance with their religious beliefs.

As many citizens in the United States feel it violates their faith to participate in same-sex weddings, an Oregon Christian couple who owned a bakery and a Christian grandma florist in Washington who refused to provide their services for same-sex weddings were fined hundreds of thousands of dollars by their respective state governments for following their religious convictions.

Similarly, Kentucky clerk Kim Davis was jailed in 2015 when she refused to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples because she did not want her name on a certificate that authorized a marriage that she believed went against God's definition of marriage. Although she called for the state's former Democratic governor to enact a religious accommodation for Christian clerks like her, it wasn't until late December that new Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin granted her the accommodation she was looking for.

As one of his proposals to restore religious liberty to Americans, Perkins stressed the importance of passing the First Amendment Defense Act, which would provide religious liberty accommodations against discrimination laws for businesses and institutions that act in accordance with their sincerely-held religious beliefs.

"Religious liberty, both at home and abroad, must also be at center stage. The First Amendment Defense Act is a first and vital step," Perkins said. "This measure should not be necessary in a nation governed by constitutional principles. But those principles have been severely weakened, and Congress has the responsibility as a co-equal branch to make the meaning of the First Amendment plain and potent again."

Perkins also chastised liberals who label those who act according to their beliefs as "bigots,"



"haters," and "extremists," stating that name calling is just an attempt to silence all who oppose their agenda.

"But we should take heart even from this. Our opponents seek to limit our freedom of speech because they fear its power," Perkins quipped. "They seek to restrain the expression of our convictions because they are unsure of the truth of theirs. The freedom of expression is the very essence of liberty.

But there can be no liberty at all in America without religious liberty."

Perkins also used his address to point out that the pro-life movement grew greatly in 2015.

After the Center for Medical Progress released a series of undercover videos exposing the sell of aborted baby body parts at Planned Parenthood clinics, many throughout the nation were shocked, and it reinvigorated the pro-life movement in its call for the federal government to strip the nation's largest abortion provider of federal funding.

Last week, Congress passed a spending bill that eliminated most federal funding from Planned Parenthood, making it the first time a bill essentially defunding Planned Parenthood has been sent to the White House.

"Another bright light in 2015 is the way the fight for life intensified as America became a more pro-life nation," Perkins said. "And while the president vetoed a measure last Friday that would have eliminated most federal tax dollars going to Planned Parenthood, rest assured we will not stop until this forced partnership between taxpayers and Planned Parenthood has ended."

Perkins also pointed out that over 280 pro-life bills were enacted at the state level and there are now over 2,500 pregnancy care centers across the nation that inform women about other options besides abortion, such as adoption.

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AMERICA: THE UNITED STATES AND ITS CITIZENS

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests--and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning--and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution--and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"





Family Research Council



Our Stake in the Union by Tony Perkins

When he took office, Barack Obama promised hope. And with his final term almost over, Americans finally have it. For most of the country, the last seven years have been a tragic departure from the values that made America a great nation. But as far as the White House is concerned, that isn't cause for concern -- but celebration. It means that this president has accomplished exactly what he said he set out to do: fundamentally transform America.

The evidence of it is everywhere -- from the danger on our streets to the confusion in our classrooms; from the further fracturing of the family to the misuse of our military. And unfortunately, we'll be spending the better part of a generation trying to repair the damage of the Obama administration. But, as everyone watching this evening's State of the Union knows, there is light at the end of the lawless tunnel. We see it in the fresh face sitting in the Speaker's chair behind President Obama. We see it in the audience, where brave women like Kim Davis and the Little Sisters of the Poor will be sitting -- symbols of defiance in the president's war on religious liberty. And we see it in the speeches of the men and women vying to stand exactly where the president is next year.

Tonight, we remember that for every outrageous ruling on marriage, there were brave county clerks. For each attack on faith and nature's law, there were cities like Houston. And for every atheist suing to take God out of schools, there were godly principals. At last night's State of the Family address at FRC, we paid tribute to them all -- and called on the Church to pray and act for a spiritual, moral, and cultural renewal in our nation. That may not be the message the president brings to the American people tonight, but it's the message our country needs to hear. Surrounded by some of the survivors of the president's last seven years, I laid out our key concerns for the family and our broader culture.

Marriage, religious liberty, human sexuality, the church, race relations, and our core beliefs have all been devastated under this administration. But,

as I told last night's crowd, this past year has shown us that we cannot and will not be permitted to separate ourselves from the social battles that are underway in the nation. As Christians, if we can't live according to our faith -- whether it's in the home, whether it's in the workplace, in the school -- then we really can't be the Americans that we have the right to be.

Our opponents try to limit our freedom of speech because they fear its power. And that power is exactly what Kim Davis, Texas Pastors Hernon Castano and Charles Flowers, and Principal Jason Rowland showed by standing up to the forces of political oppression. Whether they faced lawsuits like Jason, jail time like Kim, government hostility like Hernon and Charles, courage won the day. And as Pastor Castano knows from overturning Houston's bathroom bill, that courage is contagious. Brave Christians are sending a message to the country, he told the Washington Times, that it "should respect the people and the body of Christ."

Sadly, the man standing before a joint session of Congress tonight isn't heeding that message. That's why, I believe, it's time for America's religious leaders to come together and show our political leaders a way forward. If you missed my speech explaining how, watch it below -- and then share it with your family and friends! For more coverage of our State of the Family Address, check out the media buzz in CBN, Breitbart, Associated Press, Christian Post, CNSNews, World magazine, and Washington Examiner.



47 Members of Congress Defend Coach Kennedy's Freedom to Pray After Games

by Samuel Smith

Forty-seven members of Congress have signed onto a joint letter to the Bremerton School District in Washington explaining that Bremerton High football coach Joe Kennedy has the constitutionally guaranteed right to kneel and pray on the 50-yard line after games.

The school district is currently reviewing Kennedy's job status after the Christian coach defied school district orders and continued his tradition of praying at midfield following the conclusion of games.

Although Kennedy never forces students to join in his prayer, many students choose to join him in prayer. The school district has warned Kennedy that he needs to wait until students leave the stadium until he can pray or else that would



violate the Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Washington State Education Superintendent Randy Dorn backed the school district's attempt at censorship in a statement last week saying that, "leading prayer position even if the prayer is voluntary. What's more, the official could open up the district to lawsuits."

In a letter sent Tuesday to Bremerton School District Superintendent Aaron Leavell that was headed by the co-chairs of the Congressional Prayer Caucus, Rep. Randy Forbes, R-Va., and Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., Congress members explained that the school district's position that the coach's prayer violates the Establishment Clause is completely wrong.

"The Establishment Clause exists to ensure that the government cannot affirmatively impose or elevate one religion over another. However, it does not prohibit the government from referencing religion altogether, nor does it require that government officials proactively scrub all references of religion from the public square," the letter asserts. "Rather, the Establishment Clause ensures both that the government does not show preference to a certain religion, and that government does not take away an individual's ability to exercise religion."

The letter cites the recent Supreme Court case *Town of Greece v. Galloway*, where the court ruled that the town did not violate the the Establishment Clause by opening its town meetings with a prayer offered by clergy members because it does not coerce participation by non adherents.

continue reading on page 9



Calendar



January

Middle School Ministry SnoCamp

January 16 - 17

Sponsored by Fox River Christian Church

Middle School students, join us for a weekend of winter fun, spiritual challenge, awesome music, food and much more! Cost is \$170.00 and includes lodging, meals, transportation and activities. Contact Rod Buck at 262-544-6000 for more info.

Upward Basketball 4K-5K Game Day

January 16 from 8am - 2pm

Fox River Muskego Campus
S67W19491 Tans Dr.
Muskego, WI 53150

For more information contact Amy Flury at aflury@foxriver-christian.org

West Suburban Women's Christian Club

January 18 at 9am

Davian's Banquet Hall
N56W16300 Silver Spring Dr.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
The West Suburban Women's Christian Club will be having their January meeting with brunch. Special speaker will be Gina Stanley from Neenah Wisconsin and the topic of her talk will be "Handling Life With Detours". Call 262-251-3841 for reservations.

2016 Winter Adult 4's Volleyball League

January 19 from 8am - 5pm

A place where men and women can come and participate in a competitive league. This will take place at the Muskego Campus, S67S19491 Tans Dr., Muskego, WI 53150. For more info contact Joe James at 262-565-3177 or jJames@foxriver-christian.org

Perspectives on the world Christian movement

January 19 at 6:30pm

Community Church
2005 S. Main Street
West Bend, WI 53090
God has a "world-sized role for every Christian in His global purpose. Perspectives is a 15 week class that lets students find that role. See www.perspectives.org. Attend 2 classes for free. For more information call 262-338-0725

Men's Steak-Out 2016

January 21 at 6:30pm

Spring Creek Church
N35 Capitol Dr.
Pewaukee, WI 53072
Cost \$15.00. Call the church at 262-695-2211 for tickets or for more information.

Marriage Works at Elmbrook Church

January 27 and February 10 at 6:30pm

777 S. Barker Road
Brookfield, WI 53045
Success in almost any area of life required hard work and intentionality. It's true of marriage too...and the benefits are well worth it. Marriage Works is an opportunity to invest in your marriage, together. These interactive workshops are designed to give you hands-on tools, practical suggestions and problem-solving techniques. We'll add some laughter, honest conversations and a lot of hope to each evening! Workshops are free, but registration is recommended. Paid childcare available for children 0-5 years.

February

Awaken Weekend Retreat

February 5-7

Spencer Lake Bible Camp & Conference Center
Sign up now for the Awaken Retreat. The cost is \$100.00. For more information and to register go to www.oakcreekag.org/awaken-retreat. For questions about the retreat, please contact Pastor Shawn Follis at stollis@oakcreekag.org or 414-762-2010

"No Regrets" conference

February 6 from 8am - 4pm

Community Church
200 S. Main Street
West Bend, WI
"No Regrets" conference is a community based outreach program to bring men closer to God and to each other. Teen boys, 12-19 are also encouraged to attend. We are honored to have the 2013 Elmbrook "No Regrets" platform speaker Vince D'Acchioli speak at our host site at Community Church in West Bend. Various sessions will also be live streamed from Elmbrook Church to our location. Cost: \$25.00 includes hot lunch buffet, door prizes and sessions. Please call church office at 262-338-0725 for reservations. Please refer to www.noregretsconference.org for more host sites.

Men's Breakfast

February 6 at 8am

New Testament Church
10201 W. Bradley Road
Milwaukee, WI 53224
Also on March 5. Call 414-365-1690 for more information.

**SPACE RESERVED
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EVENT!**

Valentine's Event "Love & War"

February 12 at 8 pm
February 13 at 7 pm

Oak Creek Assembly of God
7311 S. 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154
This musical review will feature the greatest love songs of the 20th Century & today. The men will sing about love while their wives offer the comedic commentary. Dessert is included (this is not a dinner). An additional opportunity will be provided to donate to the Speed The Light missions program. Cost is \$5.00. Call 414-762-2010 for more information.

Middle School Winter Camp

February 12 - 14

Departing Elmbrook Church on Friday Feb. 12 at 3:30 pm and returning on the 14th at 5 pm
Cost (includes a winter camp t-shirt): \$169.00 through Jan 24 and \$189 after Jan 24. Ask our students...Winter Camp is a weekend like no other. Village Creek Bible Camp is in the foothills of northeast Iowa. Spend an epic weekend hanging with your friends while meeting new ones as you deepen your relationship with God. Think awesome camp food, dodgeball, broomball, bingo, and a whole lot more! We'll save a seat for you on the bus, but get your registration in now. For more information and registration contact Jessie at jkiser@elmbrook.org or 262-786-7051 x342

Annual Without Distraction Relationship Conference & Valentine Dinner Event

February 12 - 14

3132 N. Martin Luther King Dr.
Milwaukee, WI 53212

It is open to both single & married couples and will include various seminars with guest speakers. It will also feature a delicious catered formal Valentine dinner on Saturday evening. Attendees will enjoy music by CD Recording artist Cheryl McCrary & Heirborn Band. There will also be other entertainment. To register in advance please visit www.withoutdistractionrelationship.com

Broomball Blitz

February 13 from 8am - 5pm

The Ponds of Brookfield Ice Arena
Middle School 8 am - 12 pm
and High School 12 pm - 5 pm
Cost \$10.00 per person. Contact Spring Creek Church at 262-695-2211 for more information.

West Suburban Women's Christian Club

February 15 at 9am

Davian's Banquet Hall
N56W16300 Silver Spring Dr.
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
The West Suburban Women's Christian Club will be having their February meeting with brunch. Special speaker will be Anna Marie Tornow from Wisconsin Rapids Wisconsin. The title of her talk will be "Amazing Transformation From Inside Out". Please call 262-251-3841 for reservations.

Fish Sticks

February 19 at 7pm

Eastbrook Church
5385 N. Green Bay Ave
Milwaukee, WI
"Fish Sticks" will be the main event at the Comedy Improvisation night at Eastbrook Church on Friday Feb. 19 at 7 pm. The family entertainment will include improvisation by Fish Sticks with audience participation and if fun for the whole family. An Italian dinner will be available from 5 pm to 6:45. Cost for the dinner is \$5.00 per person. The Comedy Improv show is \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children; \$35.00 max for a family. Tickets are available online and at the door. For more information call 414-228-5220 ext. 119 or visit www.morningstarproductions.org

Girl's Night Out

February 19 at 6:30pm

Fox River Christian Church
S46 W24130 Lawnsdale Rd
Waukesha, WI 53189
Come warm your heart with a variety of soups, warm desserts and girlfriends to enjoy with. All will receive a handmade pottery soup bowl from local "Pepper it Up". Contact Julie Hasler at 262-544-6000 or jhasler@foxriverchristian.org

High School Winter Camp

February 19 - 21

Get away from it all; Hang out with friends, meet new people and have fun in the snow. We're headed to Silver Birch Ranch for snow tubing, broomball on the ice, cross country skiing, ice skating, horseback riding and off-the-wall camp games. You will be miles from your homework...worshipping God, learning from His word and gaining a better understanding of what it means to be a follower of Jesus. Get your registrations in early for this epic weekend! Buses depart Elmbrook Church on Friday Feb. 19 at 3 pm and return Sunday Feb. 21 at 6 pm. Cost is \$165.00 through Jan 31 and \$185.00 after. For more information and registration contact Jessie at jkiser@elmbrook.org or 262-786-7051 x342.

Tim Hawkins Live!

February 20

High Point Church
7702 Old Sauk Road
Madison, WI 53717
Enjoy a whole lot of family fun with popular comedian Tim Hawkins! He will be at High Point Church on Saturday Feb. 20th doing 2 shows. Tickets start at \$25.00 and are on sale now. Please call the church at 608-836-3236 for more information or tickets.

2016 Wisconsin District Marriage Retreat

February 26 & 27

Oak Creek Assembly of God Church
7311 S. 13th Street
Oak Creek, WI 53154
Join us for this wonderful, marriage-building weekend with guest speakers Michael & Amy Smalley. The Smalleys specialize in teaching couples the principles of loving well & loving for a lifetime. Saturday lunch is included. Early registration is \$75.00 per couple through Feb. 12. Registration forms are available at the church or www.oakcreekag.org

Mark Your Calendar

Leadership Luncheons

12 noon - 1:15 p.m.



JERRY MITCHELL ~ Thursday, January 21, 2016
Former Administrator for Milwaukee Public Schools



RON SPEAR ~ Monday, February 15, 2016
President of RWS Development, LLC

Location of the Luncheons: Wisconsin Club, 900 W. Wisconsin Avenue, Milwaukee, WI
\$20 donation - Make reservations by calling (414) 344-7300 or by emailing info@leadershipluncheon.info
Sponsored by ProBuColls Association in cooperation with CBMC

GOOD FRIDAY City-Wide Service March 25, 2016

12:15-1:30 p.m.

Location of the Good Friday Service: Italian Conference Center, 631 E. Chicago Street, Milwaukee, WI
Open to the Public

SPEAKER: Reverend Julius Malone

Sponsored by ProBuColls Association ~ (414) 344-7300

Advertise Your Church Related Events for FREE!

Email your event to: ChristianCourier@juno.com by the 20th of the preceding month.

The listing of these events does not imply endorsement, but are supplied as a benefit to the reader and those churches or ministries listed.



Calendar



Dare To Be: Known February 27 at 6pm

Weatherstone Church
1500 S. West Ln
New Berlin, WI 53146

K-Love welcomes Dare To Be: Known Tour for Women to Milwaukee. A night full of worship and word with Natalie Grant and Charlotte Gambill. Come be inspired, encourage and changes. Presented by Hope For Justice to end human trafficking. For tickets call 1-800-965-9324.

Ice Fishing Contest February 27 from 8am - 12pm

Sponsored by Fox River Christian Church

Join us at Pleasant Lake off of hwy 12 and south of Hwy 20, west of East Troy and north of Elkhorn - (easy access) from 8 am to noon. Lunch will be provided and frilled on the ice. Please bring your own drink. The event is open to friends and family of Fox River Christian Church. Cost \$5. Per person. Registration is required so we know how much food to purchase. Contact Jim Caghey at 262-993-1643 or jcaughey1@wi.rr.com

Leap for Joy February 29 from 6:30pm - 9pm

Mangos

721 S. Cesar Chavez
Milwaukee

A host of local talented musicians will convene for this one time show you won't want to miss. Tickets are \$10.00 and are available at Eventbrite.com. For more information call 414-416-7303. This is a benefit concert for the "The Inner Beauty Center". Silent auction included.

March

2016 Women's Retreat March 5

Sponsored by Fox River Christian Church

Annual Women's Retreat at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake, WI. This year's theme is "Beautifully Restored" with keynote speaker Margo Fieseler. Join us for fun, relaxation and spiritual challenge. Contact ldglass@foxriverchristian.org

Inspire U 2016 March 5 from 8am - 3pm

Elmbrook Church
777 S. Barker Road
Brookfield, WI 53045

We are thrilled to have you join us at Inspire U on March 5. Grab your daughter, sister, and all your girlfriends for this remarkable and inspiring on-day event. Our desire is to see women of all ages become rooted in God's love and purpose for their life and released to be light. Come be part of this empowering day, chock-full of dynamic worship, inspiring stories and over 24 learning labs. For more information please call 262-786-7051

2016 Chillfest March 4 - 6

Camp Forest Springs
Westboro, WI

Sponsored by Spring Creek Church

It's action-packed. It's snow-filled. It's fuel for your faith. Chillfest is an awesome opportunity to connect in a deeper way with the God who created you and seeks to live through you. It is also a time to connect with peers and leaders to develop friendships and to enjoy new experiences together. The wintry environment is a perfect for navigating down snow-covered hills on skis or a snowboard. Maybe a tube run down Bullet or Big Bend is more your speed. Off the hill, you can explore the acre after acre of forest via cross-country skis or snowshoes. After a day in the outdoors, you can grab a gourmet hot chocolate and hang out with friends in front of one of our fireplaces. \$175. Until Jan 13 and \$195. after that. Contact Spring Creek for more info or to register. 262-695-2211

"Rend Collective" As Family We Go Tour

March 18 at 7pm

Weatherstone Church
1500 S. West Lane
New Berlin, WI

\$18.00 - \$40.00 Call church at 262-754-1122 for tickets or more information

Senior Lunch for March

March 18 at 11:30am

Spring Creek Church
N35 W22000 Capitol Dr.
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Senior Lunch for March followed by music by the Florentine Opera Company. Cost is \$12.00 per person. Call the church at 262-695-2211 to register

Sportsman's Breakfast

March 19 at 8am

The Columbian
3245 Lighthouse Lane
West Bend, WI

sponsored by Community Church in West Bend. Our guest speaker will be avid outdoorsman, Randy McPherson with Mathews Bows. Randy is the oldest of seven siblings, one of who is Matt McPherson, who now owns Mathews Archery - the world's largest archery manufacturer and also McPherson guitars. Tickets are \$15.00 which includes a breakfast buffet and a chance to win \$3,500 in door prizes. Tickets must be purchased in advance at www.westbendchurch.org or be picked up at Community Church, 2005 S. Main Street in West Bend, 262-338-0725.

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PSA:

"Annual Without Distraction Relationship Conference & Valentine Dinner Event"



Attend the "Annual 2016 Without Distraction Relationship Conference & Valentine Dinner" event beginning on Fri February 12 through Sunday February 14. It is open to both single & married couples and will include various seminars with guest speakers. It will also feature a delicious gourmet catered formal Valentine dinner on Saturday evening with doors opening at 6:30pm. Attendees will enjoy music by CD Recording Artist Cheryl McCrary & Heirborn Band performing love songs from her new cd & worship. There will also other entertainment, open mic comedy showcase, prizes and more! The event will conclude with a Sunday service beginning at 12:30pm. It will take place at Cosen Generation Outreach Ministry International 3132 N. Martin Luther King (MLK) Drive, Milwaukee WI 53212

To register in advance for the early bird special and for more information please visit www.withoutdistractionrelationship.com, or <https://www.facebook.com/withoutdistraction>

Good Friday City-Wide Service

**FREE and Open to the PUBLIC
All are welcome**

**March 25, 2016
12:15-1:15 PM**

**The Italian Conference Center
631 E Chicago St., Milwaukee, WI
Plenty of Free Parking**

Featured Speaker:

Rev Julius Malone

Senior Pastor at New Testament Church of Milwaukee
Author of "Going Through the Storms of Life"

Sponsored by the Christian Courier Newspaper
For more information, please call 414.344.7300



News & More



8 Characteristics of Evangelistic Pastors

By Chuck Lawless

This week I've been preparing some lectures for my upcoming seminars in the DMin in Church Revitalization and Great Commission Leadership at Southeastern Seminary.

For years, I've kept a running list of characteristics of pastors who lead effective evangelistic churches (that is, churches that are reaching non-believers rather than simply reaching other church members).

Below are eight of those characteristics.

1. They believe the Bible is the Word of God.

Consequently, they accept the truth that people who don't have a personal relationship with Jesus are without hope. The Word drives them to want to reach people.

2. They take the lead in personal evangelism.

They model evangelism, but not because they happen to be the pastor; they do it because Jesus is in their heart and evangelism is in their blood. These leaders would evangelize even if they weren't pastors.

3. They know the church's numbers.

They're not idolatrous of those numbers, but they're certainly aware of them. "A number represents a person" is much more than an adage to them; it's a reflection of their focus on real people who need Jesus.

4. They take personally any lack of evangelistic growth.

That's not to suggest, though, that they believe they can somehow create growth. It's simply that they so long to see lives changed that they want to evaluate why when it doesn't happen.

5. They've led their churches to get ready for growth.

They're not always fully prepared for what God does, but their churches don't take lightly their responsibility to disciple new believers God gives them. They have the "nursery" ready for babes in Christ.

6. They know their community well — and they love that community.

They can usually describe the general demographic makeup of their community, not only because they've studied the data but also because they've walked the streets. They're glad to live where they live, and they hope to stay there awhile.

7. They hold their staff accountable for doing evangelism.

They may not always require written reports, but they're intentional about asking for verbal reports during staff meetings. Typically, they're hesitant to hire anyone who doesn't have a strong evangelism record.

8. Increasingly, they are more committed to church planting.

Because these pastors want to see people saved, they've often joined the forces emphasizing evangelistic church planting today. They aren't worried that everyone comes to their church, and they're willing to send out some of their best to start congregations.

To me, it has been a source of great comfort and strength in the day of battle, just to remember that the secret of steadfastness, and indeed, of victory, is the recognition that "the Lord is at hand."
—Duncan Campbell

Christian Bakers Pay \$135K Fine to Lesbian Couple for Refusing to Make Gay Wedding Cake

by Stoyan Zaimov

An Oregon Christian couple have paid the state-ordered \$135,000 in damages to a lesbian couple for refusing to bake a wedding cake for their same-sex ceremony earlier this year.

The Oregonian reported on Monday that Aaron Klein, the former co-owner of the now defunct Sweet Cakes by Melissa, handed over a check of \$136,927.07 to the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries' Portland office for the damages and accrued interest.

Aaron and Melissa Klein had initially said that they will not be paying the money to Rachel and Laurel Bowman-Cryer, the lesbian couple they refused to bake a cake for in 2013. The Kleins have explained that their objection to participating in same-sex weddings stems from their religious belief that traditional marriage is defined as a union between one man and one woman.

The story stirred great debate in the U.S. over religious freedom issues, and the couple received significant support online — a fundraising campaign raised at least \$515,000 as of late September for their cause.

The Christian couple also received support from notable conservative leaders, including the Rev. Franklin Graham.



"Give me a break. In my opinion, this couple should pay the Kleins \$135,000 for all they've been through," Graham said in a Facebook message in July.

"Even more outrageous is that Avakian has also now ordered the Kleins to 'cease and desist' from speaking publicly about not wanting to bake cakes for same-sex weddings based on their Christian beliefs. This is an outright attack on their #freedomofspeech," he added.

The recent payment, however, does not mean that the Kleins have abandoned their appeal of the order, said attorney Tyler Smith. The lawyer revealed that his clients made the deci-

sion to pay the money now rather than to incur additional interest charges, but said that the Oregon Court of Appeals will be hearing arguments over the case in 2016.

Smith said that the bureau "was attempting to charge interest rates of 9 percent, equating to \$35 a day, and seeking to garnish any assets of the Kleins so they couldn't earn interest on the money that had been donated to them."

"The prudent thing to do, given the generosity of people who have contributed funds, was to take care of it and continue the fight," he added, according to The Oregonian.



Sports



Heisman Winner Derrick Henry: Always Keep God First, Don't Be Afraid to Pray

by Samuel Smith



After winning college football's most prestigious award, University of Alabama running back Derrick Henry praised God and advised aspiring young athletes to keep God first while pursuing their dreams.

The 21-year-old Henry, who set a new Southeastern Conference record for nearly 2,000 rushing yards this season as a junior, fulfilled what he called a "lifelong dream" when he was

named the 2015 winner of the Heisman Trophy in New York City on Saturday.

"First off, I just want to thank God for bringing me here and winning the prestigious award," Henry, who scored 23 touchdowns this season, said during his acceptance speech. "He's been so good to me in my life and I have been honored and blessed with this opportunity. Since I was a kid, it has been my lifelong goal and a dream of mine. I am just so thankful."

After thanking his mother and father, Henry then thanked his grandmother, who he says helped to make him into a man and taught him the importance of keeping God at the center of his life.

"My grandmother, the woman who made me into the man I am today, I want to thank you so much," Henry exclaimed. "Even though you couldn't be here, I feel you in spirit and I love you so much. You made me into who I am today — hard work, dedication and just doing what I wanted to do. You always told me to

keep God first and pray that I always make it far. I just want to thank you and let you know that I love you and that I am praying for you."

After going through his list of acknowledgments, Henry then turned his attention to the children listening to him. "I just want to talk to the kids who are watching this TV and listening to me today. I just want to give you all advice. I am hoping that I am somebody you can idolize yourself behind and look up to because God is everything and always keep God first," Henry urged. "Always pray; don't be afraid to pray. He always hears you cry. If you have dreams, chase them. If you believe it, you can achieve it and God will be there every step of the way. I am a living testament, man."

"Growing up and having this dream, I never thought I would end up here. But God is good, and I get on my hands and knees every night and pray and thank him for everything," Henry shared. "So, keep God first, always pray and always chase your dream."

continued from Coach Kennedy's Freedom to Pray, page 5

"The court rejected the feeble argument that a reasonable observer would believe that the government was favoring Christianity over other religions. The content of what was volunteered was irrelevant, so long as all were welcome," the letter explains. "The crucial principles are no less applicable here."

"The mere act of a single individual kneeling alone after the conclusion of a game to quietly pray coerces no one, even when that individual is a school employee," the letter continues. "That others may choose to join him of their own free will is irrelevant, and an exercise of their own constitutional freedoms."

According to an announcement by the Christian law firm the Liberty Institute on Monday, Kennedy plans to file a lawsuit against the school district because the district has not provided a religious accommodation and continues to threaten to fire Kennedy if he continues with his post-game prayers.

Kennedy, who is a Desert Storm and Desert Shield combat veteran, is now being denied the freedom that he fought so hard to protect, Family Research Council president Tony Perkins argued.

"The Bremerton football coach didn't spend 20 years defending freedom only to have his stolen, but that's exactly what the school district is threatening," Perkins wrote in his Tuesday Washington Update.

Perkins also stated that the school district's actions violate the Constitution and the previous Supreme Court precedents.

"Stop praying or start walking. That's the message from the 'tolerant' Left," Perkins argued. "There's just one problem: the school's decision isn't rooted in the law. Teachers, coaches, administrators — or public employees of any kind — don't lose their religious freedom when they step on school property. Insisting otherwise is a violation of their civil rights."

"In the meantime, Joe may lose his job but not his faith," Perkins added. "No one knows better than this combat veteran: the battles — on the field and off — belong to the Lord."

NFL Rams' Stedman Bailey Praises Jesus' Miracles After Being Shot Twice in Head

by Christine Thomasos



After being shot in the head twice, undergoing six hours of surgery and being placed in a medically induced coma, St. Louis Rams wide receiver Stedman Bailey believes Jesus Christ is working miracles in his life.

Bailey, 25, took to Twitter to glorify God in his first message since being shot in the head on Nov. 24.

"To my entire Rams family, especially my teammates, fans and peers, I thank you so much for your continued prayers and support. My recovery has been nothing short of a miracle (a work of GOD) and I can only give GOD the praise, glory and honor for which he is doing in my life at this time," Bailey wrote on Twitter Friday.

"Christmas is a holiday in which Jesus was born as a gift to the world. But in all honesty, He has given me and my family a gift which is far greater than what any man can give, a restoration of my life and health. I will continue to get better day by day until I'm able to get back on the field and I ask for your continued prayers."



In Memory Of



In Memory of Vic Eliason

From the Publisher:

I recall Vic & Frieda's first visit to Milwaukee and attending the Youth For Christ Rally held at the old Milwaukee Auditorium in Plankinton Hall. Having been involved in Milwaukee Youth For Christ for many years, friends gathered together to see and meet this new couple. Needless to say they were greatly accepted and Vic got to work holding the Bible classes in the different schools. Soon the schools stated the clubs could no longer meet in the school, so Vic and Russ Johnson decided to buy an old school bus and meet right outside of the school. Great idea. How did the students get invited? At the time, Youth For Christ had Bibles made with a red cover. We were told to carry the Bible on top of all other books, and sure enough, everyone asked what that "red" book was. Being told, then invited to attend the Bible class being held.

Vic was also a major part in the Bible Club Quizzing. These events were held between the schools, then by states, and winners gathered at Winona Lake, Indiana for the National Convention. Billy Graham (YFC Ambassador at the time) was always the speaker. A great way to learn scripture.

Then the many talents that Vic had begun to "explode". Radio, music, rallies, etc. and the results of all this is what Milwaukee and many parts of the country are experiencing today. An extremely talented person that would take many shoes to fill, not just one pair as we know it.

Another interesting event took place one year. Many very active people in YFC/WVCY graduated from high school and asked Vic "what do we do now?" Vic suggested VCY alumni. So the dozen or so individuals gathered together many times to discuss this and formed Collegiates for Christ, a division of Youth for Christ. That's when your's truly got involved again and the organization was formed and had an office in the basement of the original VCY headquarters at 26th & State Street in Milwaukee. With VCY and Collegiates growing and little space to expand, it was decided to separate and go individual ways. That happened in 1962 and shortly after, Collegiates For Christ was changed to ProBuColls Association. The expansion was great, everyone grew and this newspaper you are reading then became a part of ProBuColls Association and is now the longest running Christian Newspaper in America.

Memories are great and Vic will long be remembered for his faithfulness to God.

John Fisco, Publisher & Chairman of ProBuColls Association

Dear VCY America family,

It is with great sadness that I write this letter in place of Vic Eliason's usual letter. After battling various forms of cancer and the effects of cancer treatments, Vic passed away on Saturday, December 5th, 2015.

Vic spent 58 of his 79 years serving in full-time ministry, moving to the Milwaukee area in 1959. He led Bible Clubs, Christian Schools, Bookstores, Christian Camps, Radio Stations, Television Stations, Rallies, Singingspirations, Bible Institutes and more. God blessed Vic's faithfulness as his ministry grew from a 30 minute radio program in Milwaukee, to radio stations throughout the Midwest, and now worldwide not just through the internet but even missionary radio stations in Africa that VCY listeners helped establish.

Vic developed a great team of workers that will carry on the mission of reaching people with the Gospel. Vic knew the value of training, mentoring, and guiding the staff and volunteers, so that the ministry could grow and thrive long beyond his years on this earth.

Jim Schneider has been learning and serving for over 30 years at VCY. He has developed into a skilled, knowledgeable leader in broadcasting. The Board of Directors has unanimously approved his selection as the new Executive Director of VCY Ministries. We ask you to join us in supporting and praying for him in this new challenging role.

Sincerely,

Randall G. Melchert

Dr. Randall G. Melchert, O.D.
Chairman, VCY Board of Directors



MAY 14, 1936 TO DECEMBER 5, 2015

In Memory of Art Riemer

Arthur W. Riemer passed away on November 30, 2015 at the age of 90. Art was president of Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Corp. for many years and had a great influence in the Christian Community throughout Wisconsin. Art was chairman of Milwaukee CBMC for many years and also State Chairman. He was a great mentor for many men with Operation Timothy. He also was the chairman of the 1979 Billy Graham Crusade held at County Stadium. Art was a founding board member of Second Harvest food bank and BASICS. Art was also a big encouragement for starting the Christian Courier Newspaper as there was no non-denominational newspaper in southeastern Wisconsin. An interesting note, the newspaper is now the longest running Christian newspaper in America. He was also very active with the Mayor's/Governor's Prayer Breakfasts each year since its inception. Art will definitely be missed.





News & More



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6:00am	Walk in the Word	James MacDonald
6:30am	Truth for Life	Alistair Begg
7:00am	Focus on the Family	Jim Daly
7:30am	Telling the Truth	Stuart, Jill, and Pete Briscoe
8:00am	Turning Point	David Jeremiah
8:30am	Insight for Living	Chuck Swindoll
9:00am	Enjoying Everyday Life	Joyce Meyer



John Hagee



James MacDonald



Alistair Begg



Jim Daly



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In the Kitchen With Diane

Diane Fechter, Author



WINTER FRUIT SALAD

1 can (20 oz.) pineapple chunks

1/2 c. sugar

2 Tbsp. cornstarch

1/3 c. orange juice

1 Tbsp. lemon juice

1 can (11oz.) mandarin oranges, drained OR 3 fresh oranges, peeled and cut in chunks

4 unpeeled apples, chopped

2 bananas, sliced

1/2 c. dried cranberries

Drain pineapple, reserving 3/4 c. juice. In a saucepan, combine sugar and cornstarch. Add pineapple juice, orange juice and lemon juice. Cook and stir over medium heat until thickened and bubbly; cook and stir 1 minute longer. Remove from heat; set aside. In a bowl, combine fruit. Pour warm sauce over fruit, stir to coat. Cover and refrigerate for about 1 hour before serving.

For more recipes and tips see
www.recipesforafulfilledlife.blogspot.com

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Now all who believed were together.
Acts 2:27

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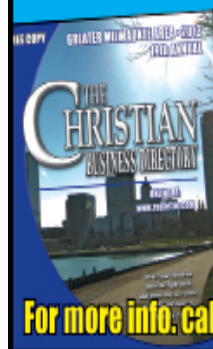
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CHURCH SIGN OF THE MONTH



Texas Chick-fil-A Locations Open Sunday to Deliver Free Food for Tornado Victims

by Samuel Smith

Despite the fact that the Christian fast-food chain Chick-fil-A is notorious for being closed on Sundays, several Texas Chick-fil-A locations operated on Sunday to prepare and distribute free food to victims impacted by the deadly tornadoes that created havoc and destruction throughout the state.

After tornadoes and severe storms swept through the Dallas area over a weekend and killed as many as 11 people and damaged hundreds of buildings, Chick-fil-A employees from a number of stores northeast of Dallas opened the kitchens and volunteered their time to provide free food for first responders and victims of the natural disaster. Volunteers also delivered sandwiches to rescue workers and victims.

According to AL.com, Chick-fil-A's charity work in Texas is not the first time the Christian-based chain has provided for communities and families facing disaster and hardships.

In 2014, a Chick-fil-A location in Alabama distributed over 1,000 chicken sandwiches and biscuits to hundreds of people who were trapped by snow on the highways around Birmingham.

In early December, the owner of a Chick-fil-A in Tennessee teamed up with a local pastor to help purchase a minivan for a mother of two whose car caught on fire in the restaurant parking lot.



The owner of the Chick-fil-A also donated \$500 to the family.

Although Chick-fil-A has a history of providing for those in need, the company's charity efforts are not always welcomed by those who don't agree with the company's biblical Christian view on gay marriage.

In September 2014, a Chick-fil-A restaurant was prohibited from donating up to 200 meals to a local California high school booster club because the school principal did not agree with the chain's owner's views on same-sex marriage.

THANK GOD!

A man had been lost and walking in the desert for about five days. One hot day, he comes to the home of a preacher. Tired and weak, he crawls up to the house and collapses on the doorstep. The preacher takes him in and nurses him back to health.

Feeling better, the man asks the preacher for directions to the nearest town. The preacher tells him the directions, and offers to lend him his horse to make it. The preacher says, "However, there is a special thing about this horse. You have to say 'Thank God' to make it go and 'Amen' to make it stop."

Anxious to get to town, the man says, "Sure, okay," and gets on the horse. He says, "Thank God" and sure enough, the horse starts walking. A bit later he says louder, "Thank God, Thank God," and the horse starts trotting. Feeling really brave, the man says, "Thank God! Thank God! THANK GOD!" and the horse is soon up to a full run!

About then he realizes he's heading for a huge cliff and yells, "Whoa!" But the horse doesn't even slow! It's coming up REAL QUICK and he's doing everything he can to make the horse stop. "Whoa, stop, hold on!" Finally he remembers, "AMEN!!!"

The horse stops a mere two inches from the cliff's edge, almost throwing him over its head. The man, panting and heart racing, wipes the sweat from his face and leans back in the saddle. "Oh!" he said, gasping for air, "Thank God."



News & More



Inner Beauty Center

January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. It is hidden in plain sight. Human trafficker's target one specific group of people... those who are vulnerable. Many factors create this vulnerability. To learn more check out the links listed below. Wisconsin has over 200 documented cases of human trafficking from all 72 of its counties. For the last 11 years the FBI in cooperation with local law enforcement has conducted Operation Cross Country. Milwaukee has tied for 3rd place in the highest number of juveniles recovered during this operation for the last two years with cities such as Detroit & Las Vegas. This year in Wisconsin 9 juveniles & 53 adults recovered and 11 traffickers arrested.

Inner Beauty Center has been operating since 2012. We are a gender specific outreach to women (& girls) who are sexually exploited, many of who are victims of human trafficking. Our purpose is to provide a safe place where women who are sexually exploited can find their value, purpose and inner beauty as they discover who God created and personally formed them to be.

How did Inner Beauty Center start? My husband had pastored a church on 15th & Lincoln for 15 years starting in 2000. For the first 10 -11 years we saw the problem of prostitution in the neighborhood, some even on our front steps. We handled this by calling the police, told them they couldn't be on the church steps & sent them down the streets. Some members of the church actually yelled at and called them "names" until they left.

Everything changed the summer of 2011 when a woman in her mid-20's came into the church asking to speak to the Pastor or his wife. "God



told me that if I came in here you would help me." Her words were the Clarion Call we needed to open our eyes to the mission field that was hidden in plain sight. She was deceived by a "friend" who brought her to Milwaukee under false pretense of finding work. When she walked into the apartment, about 2 blocks from the church, she saw other women being abused. It was then her "friend" made it clear what was expected – work the streets to pay for a place to stay & her drugs (her vulnerability.) Fear filled her eyes that day. She was terrified of her trafficker – he'd beaten many times. She was a woman in desperate need of help. We made arrangements to meet her when she called, took her to a safe place, and contacted her mother who helped her returned home.

We did not understand human trafficking. Over the next year we educated ourselves and hosted an awareness event. From this a core group emerged and Inner Beauty Center was formed. In September of 2012 we opened our doors for the first time. In 2014 we became incorporated and in 2015 we obtained our nonprofit status.

In the last 3 years we have assisted 7 women out of this life style. Six are still out of "the life" and are processing through the things they have suffered. We are a support to many more through the drop in center with a healthy meal, clothing, free professional haircuts, a support group, and more. Through our Bridge to the Future Fund we assist those who are ready to exit "the life" and enter Christ-Centered residential programs for survivors of trafficking. Often these programs are out of the state as there are no residential programs for trafficking victims in Wisconsin. Once in the program women find healing,

new meaning and purpose to their lives. There is nothing more encouraging then to speak to one of the women and hear what God has done in their lives.

When we are out on the streets connecting with the women often they know we are "church ladies" even though we do not tell them. We know the judgement that "the church" has put on those in this lifestyle – we did it for years! Now we build trusting relationships and express the love of Christ in practical ways. This opens the door so we can lead them to Christ.

One of our main goals for 2016 is to expand our hours to 5 days a week to better serve those we connect with. If you would like to know more about Inner Beauty Center please consider attending the Open House at our new facility on January 30th from 9:00am to 1:00pm. For more information and to register go to Eventbrite.com and search for Inner Beauty Center. You can also visit us at www.innerbeautycenter.org. To learn more about human trafficking go to <https://polarisproject.org/> or <http://www.dhs.gov/topic/human-trafficking>.



It was an exciting day at ProBuColls Kid's Day. Pictures show two kids who won the Razor Scooters. Many more prizes next October 29th for Kid's Day 2016.

Community Events!



Hundreds of people gathered on the near south side of Milwaukee Christmas Eve for the distribution of sleeping bags, blankets and coats. This event has been going on for over 14 years and always draws a large crowd.

Picture is of Brad Christianson and his wife of "Mission Possible", part of the sponsoring group. Food was served to all by Feed My Sheep. People lined up for hours for this distribution.



Roman Claas on the left as a volunteer sponsor giving a large box of food during a food distribution last Christmas. Twenty Five former inmates were very happy to receive this great gift, and deeply appreciated.

(414-344-7300 to be involved)



Ministries



MILWAUKEE (AREA 1)

Agape Harvest Fellowship Ministries Church of Engleburg
4620 W North Avenue
Milwaukee 53208
Sunday Worship 10AM
414.449.2390 or AHFM.org

Apostolic Missionary Church
2686 S 12th Street
Milwaukee 53207
Call for times 414.645.7383

Beth Messiah Congregation
9900 W Capitol Drive
Milwaukee 53222
Saturday Worship 10AM
414.464.9782 or BethMessiah.us

Central Assembly of God
5511 W Burling St
Milwaukee 53210
Call for times 414.445.0755

Cornerstone Church Milwaukee
2223 E Kenwood Blvd
Milwaukee, WI 53211
Sunday Worship 10am
414.395.7777 or
cornerstonemilwaukee.com

SOUTH SUBURBS (AREA 2)

Cedar Hills Church
6911 S 20th St
Oak Creek 53154
Sunday School 9:30AM
Worship Service 10:30AM
414.761.1880

Cornerstone Bible Church
11321 St. Martins Rd.
Franklin, WI 53132
Sunday Bible Study 9:30AM
Children's/Jr Church 10:30AM
414. 232.3158 or
www.cbfranklinwi.com

WEST SUBURBS (AREA 3)

Beloit Road Baptist Church
8337 W Beloit Rd
West Allis 53219
Call for times 414.543.0655

Body of Christ Ministries
6610 W. Greenfield Avenue
Located inside of V.E.A. Center
414-587-9899
1340AM Radio: Sundays 6PM
Chl 14 - Sat 1PM, Sun 8AM- 10AM
Sunday Worship: 10AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:45PM
www.KimSargentMinistries.org

Brookfield Christian Reformed
14135 W Burling Rd
Brookfield 53005
Sunday Worship 9:30AM, 6PM
262.784.1125

Calvary Bible Church (see ad)
1459 S 81st Street
West Allis 53214
Call for times 414.778.2253

Divine Shepherd Lutheran
9741 W Beloit Rd
Milwaukee 53227
Sunday Worship 9AM
414.321.0730

Eastbrook Church
5385 N Green Bay Ave
Milwaukee 53209
Saturday 5PM
Sunday Worship 8, 9:30, 11AM
414.228.5220

Ebenezer Ev. Free Church
3102 S 43rd St
Milwaukee 53219
Sunday Worship 9:30AM

Grace Christian Fellowship
9900 W Capitol Drive
Milwaukee 53222
Sunday Worship 10AM
Wednesday 7PM
414.464.9220

Greater St. Lukes
2741 N. 27th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53210
11 am Sunday Worship
9 am Sunday School
414-264-8040

Faith Christian Fellowship
A Family Church
11010 W. St. Martins Road
Franklin 53132
Sunday Worship 10:30AM & 6PM
Wednesday Bible Study 7PM
414.425.5880

Harvest Community Church
6612 S Howell Ave
Oak Creek 53154
Saturday 5:30PM
Worship Service 8:45, 10:30A

Holy Cathedral COGIC
2677 N 40th Street
Milwaukee 53210
Sunday School 10AM
Sunday Worship 8:30, 11AM, 6:45PM
414.447.1966

Hope Lutheran Church
1115 N 35th Street
Milwaukee 53208
Sunday Worship 10:30AM
Sunday Bible Study 9:15AM
414.342.0471

Kingdom of Heaven Christian Min.
9235 W Capitol Dr Lower Level
Milwaukee 53222
Sunday 10AM
414.393.1500

Lakeshore Church
1820 E. North Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-273-2850
Sunday 10:30 am
Friday- Bible Study 4 pm

Jubilee Christian Family Church
3639 W Ryan Road
Franklin 53132
Sunday Worship 10AM
Wednesday Bible Study 7PM
Mon-Fri AM 1340 12:45PM
414.423.0700 or Jubilee-Christian.org

Milwaukee Victory Church
2110 W National Ave
Milwaukee 53204
Sunday Worship 10AM
414.645.7496

New Beginnings Seed Faith M.B.C.
138 W North Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53215
Pastor Annie Smith
Service 1:00 pm.
Sunday School 2:15 pm

New Hope Church
1501 W Lincoln Avenue
Milwaukee 53215
Sunday Worship 10AM & 6PM
Wednesday Bible Study 6PM
414-882-7891

Parklawn Assembly of God
3725 N Sherman Blvd
Milwaukee 53216
Sunday Worship 8, 11AM
414.442.7411

Souls Harbor Baptist Church
3800 S Howell Ave
Milwaukee 53207
Sunday School 10AM
Worship Services 11AM, 1PM
Thursday 7PM
414.342.1234 or SoulsHarborBaptist.org

Trinity Community Church
9450 N 60th Street
Brown Deer 53223
Sunday Worship 10AM
414.354.6620

Word is God Worship Center
3320 W Vliet St
Milwaukee 53208
Sunday Worship 11AM
414.342.1318

Word of Grace Fellowship
4949 West Villard Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53218
Pastor Ernie Oby
Sunday Service: 10:30am
Wednesday Service: 6:30pm
414-464-9643
wordofgrace2@msn.com

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REGIONAL (AREA 4)

Blessed Hope BIC Church
4949 State Highway 38
Franksville, WI 53126
Sunday at 9:00 am
(262) 822-HOPE (4673)
<http://www.blessedhopebic.org>

Covenant Connection Fellowship Church
2841 Emslie Drive
Waukesha, WI 53188
Worship: Sunday at 10am &
Wednesday at 7pm
www.covenant-connection.org

Delavan Christian Reformed Church
850 Oak Street
Sunday Worship 9:30AM 6PM
262.728.6801

Faith Christian Fellowship
1200 Racine St.
Racine 53403
262.637-6220 or RacineFCF.org

Foundational Biblical Baptist Church
6224 22nd Ave.
Kenosha, WI 53143
Sunday School 10am
Morning Service 11am
Main Service 6pm
262-654-4665 www.fbckkenosha.org

Family Chapel
N25 W23050 Paul Road
Pewaukee 53072
Sunday Worship 10AM
FamilyChapel.org

Grace Bible Chapel
3917 59th Street
Kenosha 53144
Sunday Lord's Supper 9AM
Family Bible Hour & Sunday
School 10:30AM
Wednesday Prayer 7PM
262.654.9631 GBC-Kenosha.org

Hillside Community Church
593 W30580 County Rd NN
Mukwonago 53149
Sunday Worship 9AM
Call for Bible Studies
262.363.8025 or Hillsidemuk.org

Lake Country Bible Church
N45W32481 Watertown Plank Rd
Nashotah, WI 53058
Sunday Bible Study 9AM
Worship 10:15AM
262-369-8777 LakeCountryBible.org

Northbrook Church
4014 Hwy 167 West
Richfield 53076
Saturday 5:30PM
Sunday Worship 8AM, 9:30AM,
11AM
262.628.3142

Oconomowoc Faith Bible Fellowship
25 McDowell Court
Oconomowoc 53066
Sunday Lord's Supper 10AM
Family Bible Hour 11AM
262.567.7234

Orchard Hill Assembly of God
N9590 County Rd ES
Mukwonago WI 53149
Sunday Worship, 9:30am
Wednesday, Family Night & Youth
Ministry, 6:30pm
(262) 363-5443
<http://www.orchardhillag.com>

Praise Fellowship Church
W195 59912 Racine Avenue
Muskego, WI 53150
Sunday Worship Service: 9:30 a.m.
Wednesday Service: 6:30 p.m.
www.praise-fellowship.org

Summit Harvest Church
888 Thackerway Trail #209
Oconomowoc 53066
Sunday Worship 10AM
262.560.0765
SummitHarvestChurch.org

Terrace Shores Ev Free Church
W3278 County Road K
Markesan 53946
Sunday Worship 7:45, 9:15,
10:45AM
920.398.2734

Watertown Community Church
106 E Madison St
Watertown 53094
Sunday Worship 10AM
Call for other meetings/studies
920.206.0599 or
WatertownCommunityChurch.org

Zion Christian Assembly
Zion Chapel 319 Cedar Street
Sheboygan Falls, WI 53085
Sunday Lord's Supper 9:30AM
Bible Ministry 11:00AM & 6:30PM
Wednesday 6:30PM
920.458.4137
920.889-7064
believers@ZionChristianAssembly.org

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Area 2 - Southern Milwaukee County
Area 3 - Western Suburbs
Area 4 - Region Beyond Greater Milwaukee



View of the 300 people in attendance at the annual Pastor's Breakfast where each person received a fifty dollar Bible. A Bible received by a Missionary who happened to attend from a foreign country. Next Breakfast is October 18th 2016.



Operation Christmas Child

It was another great year for Operation Christmas Child, as it has been for the past number of years, the percentage of boxes donated have increased each and every year. The total for the upper Midwest area was 787,455. One of the largest packing parties in the country was held in Hartland Wisconsin under the direction of Terry and Dennis Williams. On November 21st, their group packed 9,500 boxes alone. That is humongous! World-wide the total is expected to exceed 11 million. A hearty thanks to all that participated. Needless to say this is really what Christmas is all about-helping others. It is never too early to start planning for next year - praying daily will get you off to a good start.