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## SHVILLE RISTIAN FAMILY E

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Digital Marketing & SEO Services: Bowen Digital Marketing **Social Media:** Dashia Brandon/Administrative Assistant and

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**Circulation and Distribution:** *Nashville Christian Family* is free and available at targeted, high traffic locations throughout the Nashville Metro Area and surrounding counties, Williamson, Wilson, Davidson, Cheatam, Sumner, Rutherford and Maury. Copies are available by subscription, \$100 for one year (12 issues). To subscribe, e-mail publisher@nashchristian.com

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#### **OUR MISSION**



**Nashville Christian Family** ® exists to provide Christians and the community at large with ways to strengthen and grow as a part of the Middle Tennessee Christian Family. This local monthly publication is designed to promote positive living by sharing with readers of all ages relevant and timely news and information related to health, faith, parenting, youth, finances, Christian entertainment, missions, church leaders, and much more GOOD NEWS!

#### From the Publisher

#### October: A Season for Family, Faith, and Togetherness

This is a wonderful month for family activities throughout Middle Tennessee. The weather is often crisp and pleasant, perfect for enjoying the outdoors. From local festivals and pumpkin patches to hayrides, corn mazes, and craft fairs, there are countless opportunities for wholesome fun and lasting memories.



Before the holiday rush sweeps in with its busy schedules and long to-do lists, make it a priority to gather the family together. Sit down, talk through the many options available, and choose at least two events that everyone will enjoy. Put them on the calendar, make your plans, and follow through. These intentional moments of connection often become the most cherished.

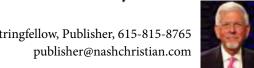
Something as simple as a drive to enjoy God's creation can be unforgettable. When the leaves begin to change into brilliant reds, oranges, and golds, pack a picnic, load up the family, and spend the day exploring His handiwork, Middle Tennessee is blessed with numerous parks that feature picnic areas, hiking trails, and quiet spots for reflection—perfect settings for families to share food, laughter, and conversation away from the noise of daily life.

Stepping away from screens and devices, even for a single day, helps restore perspective and strengthens family bonds. These times of togetherness should be near the top of our list as we prepare for the often hectic holiday season.

As Believers, we know that family is central to God's plan for His children. From the beginning of Scripture, families were established as the foundation of society and the primary place for faith to be nurtured. Throughout the Bible, we see examples of both strong and struggling families, along with God's wisdom for how to cultivate love, respect, and unity in our homes. Taking time to read these passages together can inspire and guide us in making God the center of our family life.

This October, don't just fill your days with activities—fill them with purpose. Embrace the season as an opportunity to celebrate family, appreciate God's creation, and renew your commitment to building a household grounded in His Word. These moments of faith and fellowship will carry far

beyond autumn and into every season of life.



Robert Stringfellow, Publisher, 615-815-8765



#### **ON THE COVER 20**

Faith is the bedrock that formed the journey and transformation of Nashville business woman Eva Angelina Romero. Read her story on page 20.

7, 32

**Money Tips** 

17, 34, 36

**Faith in America** 

#### SPECIAL FEATURES

- **Stronger Schools, Brighter Futures:** The Lasting Impact of 400 Power **HRG Volunteers**
- **12** Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15!
- Are You Aware of the Ms. Molly Foundation?
- 32 Navigating Financial Seasons with a **Faithful Plan**

# **NEXT ISSUE**

**Salvation Army Majors Bill and Stephanie Mockabee Lead the Nashville Area Command** 

## October 2025

#### **DEPARTMENTS**

#### **3 From The Publisher**

October: A Season for Faith, Family and Togetherness

#### 6 Body & Soul

Reflecting on Hickman Sober Fest -A Day of Hope, Healing, and New Beginnings

#### **7 Money Matters**

Foresight, Stewardship, and Balance

#### 8 Secrets From the Sudio

Finding Purpose in Your Pain

#### 10 Mighty Women

Haun's Christian Ministry Degree From Trevecca **Equips Her for Missions** Career in Bulgaria

#### 13 Healthy Living

Restoring Smiles, Restoring Hope: Nashville's Solace Implant Center & **Oral Surgery** 

#### 14 Kid's Korner/Youth News

Bring Your Bible To School

#### **16 Legal Matters**

Real Threat and Mere Shadow

#### 16 Church Leaders

Pastors Are a Gift

#### 17 Faith At Work

We Are Living in **Historical Times** 

#### **23 Parenting Points**

**Building Strong Foundations:** Teaching Children to Defend their Faith

#### 24 Mission Makers

"I Have No Sympathy for a Mother Like That"

#### **26 Constitutional Corner**

**Constitution Questions** and Answers

#### **28 Senior Scene**

Three Essentials for Satisfaction in Retirement

#### 29 City Scene

New Murfreesboro Housing Development: Fox Camp Retreat

#### **30** Parent with Purpose

How's the (Home) School Year Going? 3 Questions To Ask

#### **30 Encouraging Word**

Dr. Ming Wang Calls for Reuniting Our Nation and Finding Common Ground

#### 34 Encouraging Word

America's New Appetite for Faith: Christian Media is Trending

#### **36 Teachable Moments**

Charlie Kirk: Three Thoughts From an Alternate Point of View

#### 37 Monthly Spiritual Goal

#### 37 God's Plan for Salvation and Eternal Life with Him

#### **38 About our Advertisers**

#### **CONTENTS**

VOLUME 16, NUMBER 5







## Medicare Open Enrollment

October 15th through December 7th

(Effective coverage date 1-1-26)



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### Ben Davis, CSA

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"helping you know which way to go"

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#### Stronger Schools, Brighter Futures: The Lasting Impact of 400 Power HRG Volunteers

Nearly 400 Power Home Remodeling Group (Power HRG) volunteers rolled up their sleeves in Nashville to transform three local schools. Together with Hands On powered by United Way of Greater Nashville, the team brought new life to classrooms, playgrounds, and common spaces, showing students their community is rooting for them as they kick off the new school year. Through this project, Power HRG invested hundreds of hours of service and more than \$22,000 in supplies to enhance learning environments for 922 students.

Based in Chester, Pennsylvania with an office in Nashville, Power HRG brings employees together to give back in the cities where they gather for company events. Hands On coordinated the large-scale day of service, creating high-impact volunteer projects that schools couldn't have managed without support.

#### Cumberland Elementary: Building Joy and Creativity

- 147 volunteers, 367.5 hours, 438 students impacted
- Highlights: pergola, chicken coop, ADA ball pit, 5 reading platforms, 4 murals, playground refresh, 10 sensory boards, and more.
- View photo gallery

"Every touch makes Cumberland a brighter place for our scholars and families."

#### Ida B. Wells Elementary: Welcoming and Safe Spaces

- 112 volunteers, 224 hours, 218 students impacted
- Highlights: new teachers' lounge, refreshed outdoor classroom, 9 murals, 3 stairwells, 13 cafeteria windows, and 2 bike racks.
- View photo gallery

"From the jobs as simple as repainting the stair railings to giving our PBIS store a facelift, every project was appreciated beyond words."

#### Two Rivers Middle School: A Complete Transformation

- 133 volunteers, 266 hours, 266 students impacted
- Highlights: 12 picnic tables, shade sail, lockers, shelves, murals, chalkboards, and an organized library and closet.
- View photo gallery

"There is no way we could have gotten these projects done ourselves. All these good things only came about through the amazing volunteers from Power Home Remodeling."





#### **More Than a Day of Service**

This large-scale project was more than construction and paint—it was an investment in students' futures. When children returned to school, they walked into spaces filled with color, creativity, and care. As one volunteer put it: "This was honestly the highlight of the trip for me. Any time we can get 400+ employees in a community to roll our sleeves up—that's a great day. Thank you so, so much for this opportunity!"

Thank you, Power HRG, for making a powerful difference in Nashville's schools!

For more information on getting your team engaged in a Hands On-led volunteer event, visit handson.unitedwaygreaternashville.org/customprojects.

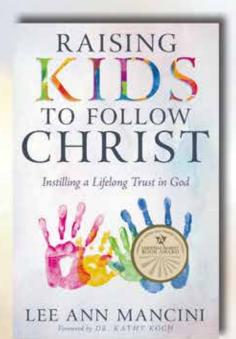
 Kris Wiese, Director Communications, United Way of Greater Nashville www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org

#### 2025 Christian Market Award Book of the Year

#### A Biblical Roadmap to Christian Parenting in Today's Culture

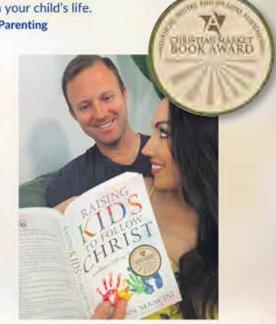
This remarkable book holds the keys to establishing spiritual bedrock in your child's life.

— Dr. Scott Turansky, Cofounder of the National Center for Biblical Parenting



#### What's Inside:

- The Perfect Cornerstone and Foundation
- It's Always the Right Time
- The Divine Parenting Manual \
- Making Obedience Easier Through Discipline
- Continued Character Development for Obedient Heart Transformation
- Building a Strong Christian Foundation
- Practical Methods for Connecting
- Cultivating Trust in God and Parental Guidance
- Helping to Shape a Godly Worldview
- Why do We Believe What We Believe
- Instilling Virtues in Children
- Instilling Fruit of the Spirit
- Have Fun Learning Together



Available Wherever Books Are Sold raisingchristiankids.com

#### MONEY MATTERS

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#### Foresight, Stewardship, and Balance

In our most recent episode of the podcast "Invested in Faith," we explored the profound lessons embedded in Genesis 41. This passage recounts the incredible story of Joseph and his adept management during a time of impending famine in Egypt. Joseph's foresight and ability to navigate crisis stemmed from his dedication to God and a deep understanding of the seasons of life. His journey serves as a powerful template for us as we approach our own financial futures, particularly regarding retirement planning.

Joseph's first step in positioning Egypt to thrive amidst impending famine was his unwavering obedience and honor toward God. In doing so, he received unique wisdom and discernment, enabling him to interpret Pharaoh's dreams and forewarn the nation about the forthcoming years of plenty and scarcity. This same principle can be applied to our financial stewardship today. As investors, it's vital to evaluate how our investment choices align with our faith and values. Are we supporting companies that promote practices consistent with biblical principles, or are we inadvertently aligning ourselves with entities that contradict our beliefs? Considering this, a genuine inquiry into the nature of the companies we invest in becomes essential. Investing isn't just about monetary gain; it's also about honoring the gifts and blessings God has bestowed upon us. When we align our investment strategies with ethical considerations and scriptural truths, we bring intentionality and purpose into our approach, positioning ourselves to make choices that reflect our values.

The second critical step that Joseph took involved an exhaustive assessment of the land. He conducted a thorough inspection tour to gauge the amount of grain needed to sustain Egypt during the forthcoming famine. This process reflects an important lesson for investors: understanding and planning based on future needs. By starting with the end in mind, we can create a robust strategy for retirement that accommodates our desired lifestyle while addressing potential risks. Engaging the expertise of a Certified Financial Planner™ or investment advisor is beneficial at this stage. They can assist in crafting an investment strategy tailored to our long-term goals while helping identify the right amount of risk to assume.

Following his inspections, Joseph took decisive action by allocating grain into storehouses, a proactive measure essential for managing resources effectively during periods of scarcity. This approach mirrors the 'bucket strategy' in retirement income planning. This method involves categorizing assets into distinct "buckets" based on when different funds will be needed. By aligning investments with varying time horizons, retirees can mitigate market volatility and manage the psychological stress associated with withdrawals during retirement.

For example, Bucket One might cover immediate expenses for the first five years, while Bucket Two could cater to needs spanning years six to ten, allowing a buffer for growth without the pressure of immediate withdrawals.

Genesis 41 emphasizes the importance of foresight, strategic allocation, and faithful stewardship. Joseph's actions teach us valuable lessons about preparing for the future while also trusting in God's provisions. Retirement planning invites a delicate balance between diligent preparation and steadfast faith. As we plan for our futures, we should model our strategies not only on sound financial principles but also on the biblical teachings that guide us toward a fruitful and fulfilling life.

By applying the lessons from Joseph's story to our financial planning, we can navigate our own "famine" periods with confidence. Through honoring God, understanding our financial landscape, and implementing wise, strategic decisions, we prepare ourselves to experience abundant blessings, not just for ourselves but also for those we serve and support throughout our lives.

— Michael Wallin, Certified Financial Planner.™ For more information, please see www.panthrex.com.



#### BODY & SOUL

#### Reflecting on Hickman Sober Fest – A Day of Hope, Healing, and New Beginnings

Darrell Waltrip Subaru recently had the honor of having a booth at Hickman Sober Fest in Hickman County — an event dedicated to raising awareness for addiction recovery, suicide prevention, and mental health. It was a powerful and emotional day, filled with stories of resilience, community support, and renewed hope.

"One of the most moving parts of the day was the butterfly release ceremony, where I had the privilege of releasing butterflies on behalf of Darrell Waltrip Subaru to symbolize new beginnings. For many in attendance — survivors of suicide loss, individuals in recovery, and their family members — the butterflies served as a reminder that healing is always possible, and that each day offers a fresh start. It was a quiet, beautiful moment that resonated deeply with everyone present as the butterflies, much like many of us, needed a little encouragement to take flight" -Charlotte Blackwell, Darrell Waltrip Subaru

At Darrell Waltrip Subaru, we believe in supporting more than just drivers — we believe in sup-



porting people, in every stage of life. Events like Sober Fest give us the opportunity to stand along-side our community not just as a dealership, but as a partner in compassion, healing, and hope. We are proud to be part of a movement that prioritizes mental health, recovery resources, and support for those who need it most.

Throughout the day, we had the chance to connect with many amazing individuals and organizations working on the front lines of addiction and mental health recovery. We heard stories from individuals in recovery, with past attempts, and family members who have lost loved ones to addiction or suicide. The sense of unity and strength in the community was undeniable — a reminder that no

one has to face their struggles alone and there are resources out there to help when everything feels bleak.

Whether it was the heartfelt stories shared from the stage, the hugs exchanged between friends and strangers alike, or the peaceful flight of butterflies into the sky, Hickman Sober Fest was a meaningful reminder of how powerful community and connection can be, and you could really feel the love in the air.

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, and every person who showed up to make this event such a success. We're honored to have played a small part in such a big message: hope is real, and help is here.

 Jackson Harris is a seasoned producer and agent with Red Ridge Entertainment. His work often explores themes of faith, resilience, and redemption. Jackson's projects aim to inspire audiences while shedding light on important social issues.

#### SECRETS FROM THE STUDIO

Brought to you by: WHTN/CTN • www.ctntv.org



#### **Finding Purpose in Your Pain**

Pain is one of life's great equalizers. No matter who we are, what we've achieved, or how carefully we plan, each of us will encounter seasons of hurt, loss, and

disappointment. It may come through the death of a loved one, a broken relationship, financial struggles, or a personal failure. While pain can feel like an unwelcome intruder, it can also be a surprising teacher. In fact, some of the most powerful growth in life comes not in spite of pain, but because of it. I've talked with hundreds of Bridges guests over the course of many years and what's been clear is that pain is inevitable in our broken world, but it can also be a great teacher if we dare to trust God in our suffering.

#### **Pain Opens Our Eyes**

When we are comfortable, it's easy to move through life on autopilot. But pain disrupts our routines and forces us to stop. It opens our eyes to what truly matters. Think of how grief deepens our appreciation for the people we love, or how disappointment can reveal that we've been chasing things that never really satisfied us. Pain often pulls back the curtain, exposing what is fleeting and highlighting what is eternal. Instead of asking, "Why me?" consider asking, "What can I learn from this?" That simple shift turns pain from a meaningless experience into a purposeful one.

#### **Pain Shapes Our Character**

Hardship has a refining quality. Just as fire purifies gold, adversity can shape us into stronger, more compassionate people. It builds resilience and helps us discover strengths we didn't know we had. While no one volunteers for suffering, those who embrace its lessons often emerge with deeper wisdom, empathy, and courage.

Character is rarely developed on the mountaintop.

It is formed in the valley, when we have to lean on God, dig deep into our faith, and choose perseverance over despair. Every scar can become a story of survival and strength if we allow it.

#### **Pain Connects Us with** Others

Perhaps one of the most meaningful purposes of pain is how it allows us to connect with others. When you've walked through heartbreak, you are uniquely equipped to comfort someone experiencing the same. Your story, your scars, and your survival can become a lifeline to someone who feels alone.

This is why support groups, testimonies, and honest conversations are so powerful. Pain can create bridges of empathy. What once felt like a private wound can become a shared hope. I've heard this truth echoed consistently in the WHTN studio where we film Bridges.

#### **Pain Points Us Toward God**

In seasons of suffering, we often realize how limited our own strength is. Pain strips away the illusion of control and reminds us of our need for God. Many people testify that the times they felt closest to God were not in ease, but in struggle. God doesn't waste our tears. Scripture reminds us that He is "close to the brokenhearted" (Psalm 34:18). That means your pain is not pointless—it can press you into a deeper reliance on Him, where peace and purpose are found.

#### **Turning Pain into Purpose**

Finding purpose in your pain doesn't mean minimizing it or pretending it doesn't hurt. It means choosing to see beyond the immediate ache and

asking how it might be used for growth, connection, or ministry. It's about allowing your hardship to shape you rather than define you.

#### Here are a few ways to begin:

1. Reflect honestly. Write down what you're feeling and what you're learning

through your experience.

- 2. Seek support. Share your story with trusted friends, a mentor, or a faith community.
- 3. Look for opportunities. Ask how you can use what you've walked through to encourage someone
- 4. Stay open to God. Pray, listen, and trust that He can bring beauty from ashes.

Pain is not the end of your story. It may be the very chapter that leads to your greatest growth and most meaningful impact.

#### **Today's Secret from the Studio**

When you allow God to use your pain, it can become a pathway to purpose.

— Monica Schmelter is a wife, mom, sister, grandma, friend, and TV and podcast host. She's worked for Christian Television Network for 29 years. She says the opportunities to talk with guests has taught her many lessons and made her a more compassionate person. She enjoys sharing the secrets she's learned in the studio with others.



You can watch Bridges on CTN/ ROKU and on demand at bridgeswithmonica.com

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#### Here's what one of our advertisers has to say about their experience with Nashville Christian Family:

"From my first encounter with Robert Stringfellow, I have found him to be a man who is genuine about his H.A.T. (humility, authenticity and truthfulness). He has a deep desire to offer Nashville and the Middle Tennessee area a publication rooted in these qualities for the purpose of encouraging and supporting disciples of Christ on their journey through life. The articles are informative and inspirational. The Apostle Paul writes in 2 Thessalonians 3:13 to "not grow weary in doing good." Robert, through Nashville Christian Family magazine, works tirelessly to "do good" by offering a message of hope in a world that can too often be a very harsh

Mark W. Koch is an author, sought after inspirational speaker and Hollywood film producer. To order a Free Copy of, "The First Hour" for Men 30-Day Journey, Visit www.thefirsthour.com and use promo code NCF

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#### Haun's Christian Ministry Degree From Trevecca Equips Her for Missions Career in Bulgaria

As a missionary in Sofia, Bulgaria, Katie Haun and her husband, Joshua, plant churches on a mission field with unexpected challenges. In an effort to better meet the needs of their ministry building faith communities from the ground up, Haun began her online degree in Christian ministry (CMO) at Trevecca Nazarene University. The CMO program offers a pathway to ordination and scholarships for students like her serving through the Southeast Field of the Church of the Nazarene.



"When we moved to Bulgaria, I felt this strong call to deepen my understanding of ministry. I knew I needed more training to serve effectively in this unique context," Haun said. "My first bachelor's degree is in elementary education and it's really been beneficial to have the Christian ministry aspect come alongside that."

The church they've planted in their home in Sofia now welcomes 30 to 35 people regularly, and more than half of them are children. Haun leads the children's ministry, knowing that while the kids might not always catch the lessons taught in English, she's laying a foundation for understanding the Bible and giving parents an opportunity to listen and learn in the service.

"I love telling Bible stories that we all grew up with, Daniel in the lion's den or Noah's ark, and watching these kids hear them for the first time. Their eyes light up. They're amazed," Haun said. "Meanwhile, their parents are asking questions in church, reading the Bible for themselves and growing in faith in ways they never had the chance to before."

Her daily ministry in Bulgaria deeply shaped her academic journey, and what she learned in her classes was applicable to the mission field. The CMO program covers theology, pastoral care, ethics and other crucial aspects of ministry.

"Everything I was doing in real life connected directly to the coursework. There were certain assignments that I was like, 'I already do this every day," Haun said. "The program really went hand in hand with my everyday life as a missionary, church planter, children's pastor and leader."

Despite being halfway around the world, she remained connected to her cohort and throughout the program. They all became very invested in each other's lives and well-being.

"We journeyed through most of the program together. It was funny, I always turned in assignments early and if I didn't, people would message me to ask if I was okay," Haun laughed. "I always had to clarify, 'I'm not an overachiever, I'm just in a time zone eight hours ahead!"

Some of the classes that impacted her most explored calling and spiritual formation in practical ways–giving her confidence to live out her faith and mission in Bulgaria.



"The Spiritual Formation class was so valuable for me with three kids. Living abroad and working and church planting, there's not always time to sit and have hour-long devotionals," Haun said. "It reminded me that spiritual disciplines look different in different seasons and that's okay."

She was also pushed to identify and embrace her calling early on in the program, and she was able to weave that realization into her various assignments and applications. She noted Dr. Matt Hastings,

who teaches in the program, encouraged her to pray about her calling, figure out how it fit into the opportunities in front of her and step confidently into ministry.

"I wasn't expecting that in the first class, but it shaped how I approached the rest of the program. I had to jump right into it, face it head on and not be timid," Haun said.

That clarity has proven vital in Bulgaria, where Haun and her husband are reaching people unfamiliar with Protestant Christianity.

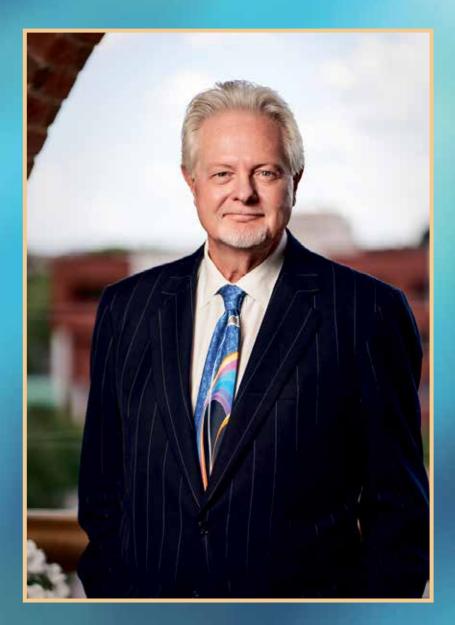
"Everyone here will say they're Christian because they were baptized as babies," Haun said. "But they don't always have a personal relationship with Christ or experience reading Scripture. It's not hostility, they just don't know." Haun has had to figure out how to make faith accessible to those with limited experience with Christianity and English. She had relied on her husband—who received his religion degree in 2010 at Trevecca—to provide the answers locals may be looking for, but her new degree has allowed her to step up and share the gospel with confidence.

"I needed to know how to express these ideas, and not in some highfalutin theology language that's difficult to understand, because it has to be translated and because it is received better when it's presented in a down-to-earth way," Haun said. "I just knew I needed that education piece, that knowledge so I could communicate what I believed clearly with all people."

For now, the Hauns have no set timeline to leave Bulgaria. "We're here as long as the Lord wants us here, and we're working to raise up national leaders to one day shepherd the church independently."

Rebekah Warren, Senior Copywriter
 Office of Marketing and Communications
 Trevecca Nazarene University www.trevecca.edu

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## COMMUNITY PARTNER

#### **Medicare Open Enrollment Begins October 15!**

It's Fall y'all so it's time for Medicare Open enrollment. So, let's take a look at what Medicare Annual Enrollment Period (AEP) is all about. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan or a prescription drug plan (PDP) this is the time of year you get to review how those plans have done for you. You will be receiving from your plan's carrier toward the end of September

a letter called the ANOC letter (annual notice of change). It will tell you what the changes in your plan will be for 2026. Remember to open this letter from your carrier and not put it in file 13!

If you don't do mail, then hop on your computer beginning October 1st; you will be able to log on to Medicare.gov and check out your plan there.

You may also see your plans info in the 2026 Medicare&You that will be mailed to you. It's available on their website but does not have local information on plans/carriers.







The open enrollment signing period is October 15th through December 7th. If you decide to make any changes, your new plan will start January 1, 2026. If you don't make any changes then your current plan will roll into 2026, and you don't have to do anything!

Suggestion – call your Medicare Rep and discuss next year's plan with him or her! Every year we must get recertified with Medicare and the Carriers to be able to offer suggestions as to

what would be the best route for you in 2026. We are blessed to have such a great healthcare system in Middle Tenn and that attracts many companies that want to do business here. Remember this is about your healthcare coverage for next year. It's worth taking a look! And this time next year – we get to do it all over again!



— H. Ben Davis, III CSA SelectPointe, LLC 615-584-4946, ben.davis@selectpointe.com www.selectpointebd.com



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At the heart of Solace's success is Dr. Jaime Romero, a highly regarded oral surgeon often referred to as

Nashville's "Smile Savior." For over 10 consecutive years, Nashville Lifestyles has named Dr. Romero Top Specialist in Oral Surgery, a recognition that reflects not only his surgical skill but also the trust he has earned from patients and peers.

In 2024, Solace was honored as a Nobel Biocare All-on-4° Center of Excellence, one of only a select number of practices nationwide to receive this distinction. This honor underscores the practice's commitment to leading-edge innovation while providing patients with a personalized and compassionate experience.

#### **Wisdom Teeth: More Than Routine**

Though wisdom tooth removal is one of the most common oral surgeries, Solace treats each case with careful attention and precision. Using advanced imaging technology and minimally invasive techniques, the team prioritizes comfort, safety, and a smooth recovery. Families often remark on the calm environment, which helps even the most anxious patients feel reassured—whether it's a teenager undergoing their first surgery or an adult who has delayed treatment for years.

#### **Dental Implants: A New Smile, A New Life**

For patients who have struggled with missing teeth or ill-fitting dentures, dental implants can be life-changing. Solace specializes in implant dentistry, creating restorations that look, feel, and function like natural teeth. The practice's signature All-on-4° dental implant procedure allows patients to receive a full set of fixed teeth in just one day. The result is not only a functional bite but also the restoration of confidence, dignity, and quality of life. Patients often describe the transformation as nothing short of a second chance at living fully.

#### **Community and Compassion**

What sets Solace apart is not only its advanced technology and award-winning recognition—it is the practice's commitment to serving the entire community. With bilingual services and partnerships with local clinics and nonprofits, Solace extends care to patients who are often overlooked by traditional providers.

This commitment is best exemplified in the practice's annual "Smile for Christmas" giveaway, which has provided free, life-changing dental resto-



rations to individuals in need for eight consecutive years. Looking ahead, Solace is preparing to launch Project SHINE in 2025, a nonprofit initiative that will expand access to oral surgery for uninsured and underserved patients across Tennessee.

#### **More Than Medicine**

While Solace Implant Center & Oral Surgery is a state-of-the-art practice, its work extends beyond medicine. Every restored smile is seen as a reflection of grace, healing, and renewal—proof that dentistry can be both a science and a ministry.

#### **Looking Ahead**

As Solace continues to grow, its mission remains clear: to be a place where patients feel safe, understood, and cared for. Whether it's wisdom teeth removal, advanced dental implants, or full-mouth

restoration, Solace offers more than surgical expertise—it offers hope.

For Dr. Romero and his team, the goal is simple but profound: to restore wholeness, one smile at a time.

— Solace Oral Surgery Staff www.solaceoralsurgery.com



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#### KIDS KORNER/YOUTH NEWS

#### **Bring Your Bible to School**

October provides an opportunity for kids to stand firm and be courageous in their schools. Bring Your Bible to School Day (BYB) is an annual celebration started by Focus on the Family. The idea behind the day is to empower kids to live out their faith in school. It's quite simple, only requiring two steps: bring your Bible and share what it means to you.

#### Is this legal?

According to the BYB website, a student does not abandon their constitutional rights when they enter a public school. Students are allowed to share their beliefs about God and the Bible. They can read the Bible and discuss

it during free time. Students can also invite other Christians to join them. As long as a child acts voluntarily and does not disturb classes, then most of the time she has constitutional rights to express her personal, faith-based viewpoint. She also has the religious freedom to pray or read the Bible—as long as these activities are done voluntarily, student-initiated, and not done in a way that interrupts the teaching. If you still have concerns, refer to the legal memo provided on the BYB website.

#### Why is it important?

There are several reasons why this day is important. First, it emphasizes the Christian faith and its foundation, the Bible. Second, it offers your child a chance to solidify and defend their faith. They will learn to verify whether a statement is true by checking it in the Bible. The Bring Your Bible to School



Day website provides possible questions that other students might ask and offers advice on how to handle skepticism. These questions could include: Is the Bible reliable? Or why is Jesus the only way to heaven? Third, the Bible tells us to "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22). This day is an opportunity for kids to be brave and share their faith with those who are unchurched and unreached.

#### We missed it!

Don't worry. Use this time to encourage your child to share their faith. Encourage him to take his Bible to a less intimidating place, such

as church every Sunday. When a Scripture convicts or offers encouragement, suggest that your child highlight it or memorize it. When a difficult conversation about refuting the Bible or Jesus arises, ask questions to guide your child toward the truth, so they can confidently defend God's infallible Word. Brainstorm other places where they could share their faith or bring their Bible, like on the school bus or before or after soccer practice. By next year, your child will have gained the confidence and courage to share their faith during the 2026 Bring Your Bible to School Day.

— Sally Cressman is the author of "The Dance of Easter." Sign up for her email list to receive "Lunch Box Note Cards" or connect with her on Instagram.





"Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." -Jeremiah 3:15





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#### LEGAL MATTERS

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#### **Real Threat and Mere Shadow**

"A page in history," Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes once observed, "is worth a volume of logic." In no area more than religious free speech and debate is this adage more true. In the troubled arena of free speech, and in particular, religious speech, we are witnessing a shifting landscape today in which division over this time-honored exercise of liberty stirs division and sadly too often, violent dissent.



coined the distinction between "real threat and mere shadow". Only when one's words communicate an intention to carry out some act of violence on another is the law permitted to step in and curtail or punish such speech. But when placing restrictions on free speech, even speech which may seem to some to be alarming and offensive, courts must tread lightly. Is the speech a "real threat" or mere shadow?

Rarely in American history has the relationship between free and open debate and violent reaction been more widely discussed and intensely challenged than it is today. The tragic assassination of Charlie Kirk is perhaps the sharpest example of this trend, and its impact on the national conscience has been profound in terms of the duty to protect and defend the right of open and robust religious debate.

The Supreme Court has long recognized the important role that religious speech and exercise has played in our nation's history, even when such speech stirs division. In a case called Lee v. Weisman, the Court addressed whether principals of public middle and high schools in Providence, Rhode Island, could invite members of the clergy to give invocations and benedictions at their schools' graduation ceremonies.

"Our society would be less than true to its heritage if it lacked abiding concern for the values of its young people, and we acknowledge the profound belief of adherents to many faiths that there must be a place in the student's life for precepts of a morality higher even than the law we today enforce. We express no hostility to those aspirations, nor would our oath permit us to do so. A relentless and all-pervasive attempt to exclude religion from every aspect of public life could itself become inconsistent with the Constitution."

When evaluating speech activity in religious liberty cases, the Court has

Once I was asked to defend a street evangelist named Timothy Schuler arrested in Chambersburg, Pennsylvania on a noise ordinance. Tim was blessed with an unusually loud voice, and when he preached on the courthouse square, his unamplified sermons reverberated throughout the downtown area. Several merchants complained to the city that his preaching was disruptive and turned away shoppers from the downtown district. One elderly lady actually testified in court that Rev. Schuler had called her a harlot. When Tim took the stand in his defense he responded: "Well, I was preaching from a verse in the book of Isaiah which reads: "How is the faithful city become a harlot. Full of judgment. Righteousness was lodged in it; but now murderers!" He said, "but I cannot help it if the Holy Spirit spoke to this lady when she heard the word "harlot". The judge laughed out loud, but Tim had made his point. His words, while offensive and even convicting, were nonetheless protected.

To quote from Kirk, when open religious debate is silenced, the violence begins. As Christians, we are commanded to go forth with a message of salvation, and as the Apostle Paul's life bore witness, the gospel message itself can incite violence and hostility. The cases we take on many times are also unpopular, but are necessary if we are to stand fast wherewith Christ has made us free.

— Larry L. Crain, www.crainlaw.legal



#### Church Leaders

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#### **Pastors Are A Gift**

October is Pastor Appreciation month, I encourage you this month to take time to pray over your pastor(s). Not only to continue to lead the church in accordance with God's will, but for strength, emotional wellness, family life, for direction and boldness. Invite them out for coffee or dinner with the family, encourage them by sharing how God is working through

your life, or ask if you can help them in some way.

Being a pastor is no simple task. Their duties involve more than preaching on Sunday mornings (some also preaching on Wednesdays and Saturdays). Pastors counsel members of the congrega-



church administration, perform wedding and funeral services, baby dedications, and provide pastoral care, just to name a few. Pastors are also sacrificial.

tion, oversee

often giving up the majority of their weekends with family, to preach the gospel to the community. God gave us pastors to bring us the Word of God, encourage us in our walk, and teach us how to become disciples.

**Ephesians Chapter** 

4 talks about the unity in the Body of Christ. It begins by speaking about how we should walk in the manner in which we have been called to in Christ. Verses 11-12 states" And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds[a] and teachers,[b] 12 to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ,". By gifting us these shepherds, we gain knowledge of the scriptures so that we will know the Truth and not be deceived by other doctrines.

If we join together to pray, for not only individual pastors, but every pastor that God has given the gift of ministry, can you imagine the impact that could have on the world?

— Katherine Stewart

#### Faith @ Work

#### **We Are Living in Historical Times**

I am writing this on the heels of the senseless and horrific assassination of Charlie Kirk, founder of Turning Point USA. It has sent a wave of disbelief through the Christian community as well as conservative political circles. This man had such a heart for the young unsaved and enjoyed healthy debates during his visits to college campuses.



There continues to be an energetic movement among conservative youth. In fact, this generation has been noted as one of the most conservative in years. It is no wonder that the enemy of our souls would want to shut this down. Turning Point USA stated, "In just the first seven days since Charlie was taken from all of us, Turning Point USA has received more than 54,000 requests from students who want to start or join a chapter." This movement will only grow stronger and larger.

The bigger picture for Christians to recognize is that we are in a battle—whether we realize it or not. Satan is waging war, and he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. We can no longer sit on the sidelines and pretend this doesn't affect us. As Christians, the battle is real—this is a war of good versus evil. Our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the spiritual forces that wage against us in the high places (Ephesians 6:12). People hate in others what they cannot face in themselves. They project the devil outward when they cannot deal with the emptiness inside themselves.

Our best response in these times is to act as Jesus did when His beloved friend John the Baptist was beheaded. Instead of attacking the enemy, He healed the sick, raised the dead, and loved His enemies. We, too, need to dig in and continue to be the light and salt in this world. This is not the time to run for cover in fear or to engage the enemy on their level—we will pray for the lost and speak the truth in love. We will keep the dialogue open. Lost people are still redeemable.

My prayer for you is that we continue the movement that has been started. Charlie was part of a great awakening in our nation. Many Bible scholars have said that we are in the Third Great Awakening. This is truly an exciting time to be alive. The First Great Awakening brought us George Washington. The Second brought us Abraham Lincoln. God is using Charlie Kirk's movement as well as Donald Trump in this Third Great Awakening.

The Great Awakenings refer to a series of religious revivals that changed American culture in a positive and impactful way. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great (Alexis de Tocqueville). Her goodness is rooted in her dependence upon God and His grace He has poured out on this country.

We are living in a wonderful time. Pick up the mantle and continue to speak the truth in love. We will continue to see the outpouring of the goodness of God and continue to see our best days ahead.

God Bless America – God Bless the USA!

— Rhonda Smart rhondalsmart@gmail.com



### **Break Free from the 9-to-5:**

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#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Aleshia Polk, MBA, is the founder of Hustle On Sunday®, a boutique faith-based entrepreneurship consultancy focused on guiding purpose-driven individuals into impactful business ownership.



#### HASSLE FREE ZONE

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#### Are You Aware of the Ms. Molly Foundation?

Did you know that October is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month? Did you know that we donate a portion of every clean, every day, year-round to the Ms. Molly Foundation (a 501(c)3 organization); a foundation started by Molly Maid in 1996 to connect local franchises to local domestic violence shelters?

Domestic violence occurs in every culture, country, community and age group. It affects people from every socioeconomic, educational and religious backgrounds. Children are also affected by domestic violence, even if they are not abused or do not witness it directly.

Once again, this October we are asking our clients and anyone else who would like to contribute, to consider making a tax-deductible donation to the MS Molly Foundation. For each donation of \$25 or more, we will place your name in a drawing for a free Molly Maid housecleaning!! The drawing will take place on Wednesday the 3rd of December! 100% of your financial donation will stay here locally as we support a shelter in Williamson County called Bridges of Williamson County.

We are so proud of what Molly Maid and the Ms. Molly Foundation has achieved over the last 31 years, and we hope that through continued awareness, one day this violence will end. Until then, we appreciate your support!

You can participate by returning your check payable to the Ms. Molly Foundation either with your Home Service Professional or by mail at our address



4606 Hwy 100 Lyles TN 37098 You may also choose to visit our website at www.mollymaid.com and click on the Ms. Molly logo to make your online donation.

If you are concerned that someone close to you is being abused or has been sexually assaulted, you can share this resource and encourage them to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline available 24 hours a day at (800) 799-SAFE.

— Respectfully, Daron and Maricela Farrar and your Molly Maid Team











## What is **FAITH-BASED INVESTING?**

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Eva Angelina Pomero:

Transformed by Faith

**Dramatic.** That's the only word you can use to describe the journey and transformation of Nashville business woman Eva Angelina Romero.

Romero, who is the broker/owner of Century 21 Capital Properties and co-owner with her husband Dr. Jaime Romero of Solace Oral Surgery and Implant Center, has overcome a difficult upbringing and personal trials to become a community leader and personal role model. In everything, Romero said that faith is the bedrock of the transformation she's experienced.

#### **Humble Beginnings**

Born the daughter of Mexican immigrants and raised in Los Angeles, California, she was the first in her family to graduate from high school and attend college. Raised by a single mother of five girls, Eva's early life was marked by hardship, instability, and cycles of abuse.

At just 14-years-old, her mother arranged for her to be married to a man 12 years her senior. By 16, she was a young mother herself, struggling with depression and searching for identity and purpose. After excelling in high school and then college, she first dreamed of being a lawyer—then found a passion for entrepreneurship. Of her journey, Romero said that she's full of gratitude for everything she's accomplished, knowing that her life today is what she once only imagined. "God is super faithful," she said. "A lot of the things I visualized in my mind have become a reality. Years ago, I never thought I was worthy, but God took care of me."

"Sometimes it almost feels like that was another person," she said of her early years. Romero became a teacher in Los Angeles after college, and then saw her marriage begin to deteriorate. Suddenly a single mom, she worked hard to raise her daughter on her own. "I was going through that life change and I knew I was going to leave the relationship. I got into real estate at that time," she said. "In the middle of selling one of my first investments with my ex-husband, the agent helped me navigate the sale. He saw my potential."

She shadowed the agent and helped fill a need he had for a bi-lingual agent. Because of financial struggles, she began real estate work on a part-time basis and began imagining a potential new profession. She ultimately began her career in 2007, just before the stock market crash. While working part-time in California, she also visualized how the new career could affect people's lives. "I was really inspired by the work he [the agent] was doing," Romero said. "It wasn't just sales. He was helping people, especially first-generation owners." That belief in service to others ultimately became the primary component of her professional life years later in Nashville.



Dr. Jaime Romero and his wife Eva Angelina co-own Century 21 Capital Properties based in Nashville.

#### **A Faith Transformation**

While Romero's personal life was changing, so was her spiritual life. Raised Catholic, she always considered faith an integral part of her life; still, she didn't truly experience a relationship with Christ on a personal level. After getting married and having a baby so young, Romero began experiencing depression—and didn't know where to turn. She remembers feeling lost and confused, wondering what her purpose was and where her life was headed. She visited her uncle's Pentecostal church and found hope through its message

of a personal spirituality; she knew that it was what she needed. "I had reached a level of depression that I felt really lost. I was desperate to feel something other than the sadness," she said, "but I knew that there had to be something more."

She still remembers a moment in church when she began to sob and then felt the pain slowly leave her body. She immediately knew that there was something bigger than her pain.

"In 2017, I was born again and baptized," she recalled. "It changed my life, and helped me focus on something other than myself. I knew that something was bigger than me, something was bigger than my pain. I reconnected with God, and have learned so much on this journey."

She began reading Christian books, found a new sense of community, and began rediscovering the Bible. In Scripture, she found the verse that has been guiding her throughout her Christian walk. "Jeremiah 29:11 has always been my verse," she said. "I know that God wants something better for all of us. That knowing it's not just about me, and that there's a greater good even when you go through trials. that knowledge that we're not alone has led me to live with purpose. That purpose, along with my faith, has kept me moving."

#### **Making Nashville Home**

After her divorce, Romero navigated life with her young daughter–struggling, but also learning valuable professional and spiritual lessons–and then met and fell in love with Romero while still living in Los Angeles and he was in school for his oral surgery residency. As a teenager he'd visited Nashville and he still had meaningful memories about his time there. "He said, 'I want you to come see Tennessee," she said. "That was in 2010, and we both fell in love with it. We felt like it was home." Even though they both had to start over with new businesses, they moved to the Nashville area and have never looked back.

She received her Tennessee broker license and began working part-time while they both launched and opened Solace Implant Center and Oral Surgery in 2013. Through those two processes, the Romeros made history–Jaime as the first Latino Oral and Maxillofacial surgeon in Nashville, and Eva as the first Latino franchise owner at Century 21.

At the same time that they were building their professions, they began building and raising their own family. Together they have five children ranging in age from 29 down to 3 ½. "It's such a blessing to have this little one. Sometimes he feels like a grandchild, because I had my first at a young age," Romero laughed.. "But we love having him together and he blesses our lives as all our kids do in different ways."

In Nashville, Romero leans into the purpose she discovered as a new Christian back in California; she believes that there's a bigger purpose in her work, and



The Romero's with their children, ranging in age from 29 to 3 1/2.



she strives to do everything possible to serve her community. She is the founding president of the National Association of Hispanic Real Estate Professionals (NAHREP) Nashville, and serves on the National NAHREP Board of Directors, Greater Nashville REALTORS, the American Red Cross, ELLA, and the TLAF Foundation; she was appointed by Tennessee Governor Bill Lee as a Commissioner for the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA). This year, she was also accepted into two prestigious programs: Stanford University's Latino Business Action Network (LBAN) Executive Program and Leadership Nashville.

She's also currently working on launching her own nonprofit called Project Shine, which will work to provide people with medical resources to improve their daily, everyday lives. "For example, dental service is so expensive and there's a need for that," she said. "We want to be able to provide both preventative and restorative services. When a person can smile confidently, they often have more hope."

As a real estate and investment professional, Romero has a passion for helping people find affordable housing; she especially loves helping Hispanic families and individuals become first-time home owners and investors. She said that the Nashville area—including Franklin, where she's based professionally—is one that gives homeowners affordable opportunities, but there needs to be more. "The real estate market in Nashville provides a lot of opportunities," she said, "but I really believe that everyone has the right to own their own home at some point. We need affordable housing for that."

Romero has recently started a new endeavor that's given her the chance to spotlight the town and area she loves so much; as one of the new hosts of "American Dream Selling Nashville" (which is produced by HGTV and can be watched on a variety of streaming platforms), she features real estate but other local people and organizations that are impressive to her. "It features real estate and lifestyle, but also nonprofits and business owners in Nashville," she said. "It's a great way to tell people about Nashville, and to let them know how great it is."

She's also working on a book that she hopes to release next year which chronicles her journey as a business owner and Christian. It takes readers back to her humble beginnings and traces the challenges she's had along the way. She prays that it—and her entire life story—can encourage others. "I want people to learn from my resilience," she said. "I want people to know that God can give you the power to live the life you desire. You just have to trust him."

— Cheryl Wray cherylswray@gmail.com Author, Freelance <mark>W</mark>riter, Speaker



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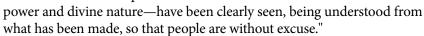
#### PARENT WITH PURPOSE

#### **Building Strong Foundations: Teaching Children to Defend Their Faith**

Picture this: your ten-year-old comes home from school asking, "Mom, my teacher said we evolved from monkeys. Is that true?" This is an opportunity to teach biblical truth, helping your child develop a genuine desire to seek evidence alongside their personal faith experience.

#### **Nature: God's First Textbook**

When you're on a family hike and your sixyear-old marvels at a butterfly, talk about the incredible transformation from caterpillar to butterfly, the precise wing patterns, and the navigation abilities that guide monarch butterflies thousands of miles. Connect it to Romans 1:20: "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal





- Stargazing: Use astronomy apps to explore constellations while discussing Psalm 147:4 ("He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name")
- Garden lessons: Plant seeds together and talk about Jesus' parables while watching growth happen
- Beach trips: Collect shells and discuss the mathematical precision in their spirals, connecting to God as the ultimate mathematician. Research the Fibonacci code together.
- Weather watching: Use thunderstorms to discuss God's power (Psalm 29) and rainbows to remember His promises (Genesis 9:13)

#### **The Four Foundation Questions**

A solid biblical worldview answers life's biggest questions in ways that secular worldviews simply can't match. Here's how to make these concepts accessible for children:

#### Origin: Where Do I Come From?

The Question: "Mommy, where did people come from?" Biblical Answer: "God created the first people, Adam and Eve, in His own image" (Genesis 1:27) Practical Application: Look at family photos and talk about how each person reflects something special about God's character. Create a family tree that goes all the way back to "God created..."

#### Morality: How Do I Determine Good from Evil?

The Question: "Why is it wrong to lie if it doesn't hurt anyone?" Biblical Answer: God's character defines right and wrong (Isaiah 5:20: "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil") Practical Application: When facing moral decisions, ask "What would Jesus do?" but also "What does God's Word say?" Create simple scenarios during family devotions: "What if you found money on the playground?"

#### Purpose: Why Am I Here?

The Question: "What's the point of life anyway?" Biblical Answer: We exist to glorify God and enjoy Him forever (1 Corinthians 10:31: "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God") Practical Application: Help children discover their unique gifts and how God might use them. Maybe your artistic child could create beauty that points others to God, or



your compassionate child could serve those

#### Destiny: What Happens When I Die?

The Question: "Will I see Grandpa again?" Biblical Answer: Those who trust in Jesus have eternal life with God (John 14:2-3: "My Father's house has many rooms... I am going there to prepare a place for you") Practical Application: Create a "Heaven Journal" where family members can write or draw what they're looking forward to about eternity with God.

#### The Truth About Truth

Your child will soon encounter a world that claims "your truth is your truth, and my

truth is my truth." This relativistic thinking sounds tolerant, but it's actually quite dangerous. Help your children understand that absolute truth exists, and it's found in God's Word.

Here's how to prepare them for common relativistic statements they'll encounter, using the brilliant approach from Gregory Koukl's "Tactics":

When someone says: "There is no truth." Your child can respond: "Is that statement true?"

When someone says: "There are no absolutes." Your child can respond: "Are you absolutely sure about that?"

Remember Jesus' example—He answered over 300 questions with questions of His own. This technique helps people think more deeply about their assump-

#### **Building Confidence Through Practice**

Create low-stakes opportunities for your children to practice defending their

- Family devotions: Let older children take turns leading discussions
- Role-playing: Practice conversations they might have with friends
- Research projects: Assign age-appropriate topics they can explore and pres-
- Service opportunities: Show faith in action through community service
- Mentorship: Connect them with mature believers who can answer questions you can't

Remember Proverbs 22:6: "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." You're not just teaching facts—you're building a foundation that will serve them for life.

— Lee Ann Mancini is the author of Raising Kids to Follow Christ, Instilling a Lifelong Trust in God, founder of Raising Christian Kids, adjunct professor at South Florida Bible College & Theological Seminary, and executive producer of the animated series Sea Kids on Right Now Media, Pure Flix, Answers.tv, Minno, and Yippee. Lee Ann is the mother of two adult children and lives with her husband in South Florida, where she passionately pursues her calling to help



parents raise lifelong Christ-followers.

#### MISSION MAKERS

#### "I Have No Sympathy for a Mother Like That"

My credit card offered a mile for every dollar, and I was determined my daughter and I would earn free trips to Hawaii when she graduated from high school. So, I used my credit card for everything, patting myself on the back for outsmarting American Airlines.

After graduation, Mary Susan and I flew to Hawaii, completely free. I wanted her to have the same first-class experience to Hawaii that her father and I enjoyed one time (minus losing my luggage and having to wear clothes for two days with the hotel logo on them because stores were closed for Easter). But first-class was no longer what I remembered. Gone were the recliner sized seats and heated blankets. And where was the chef with the tall white hat, rolling out a Texas-sized prime rib to carve? (Can you believe they ever did that?) Quite the contrary, the seats were average, the service was miniscule, and other than the curtain separating us from the smarter travelers who got the same thing for less, first class was less than notable.

When we reached Dallas, it was quite a trek to our next flight, so we decided to take the subway. But much to my horror, right after my daughter stepped aboard the train, warning bells rang, and the doors closed. I saw my daughter's panicked expression on the other side of the glass, and I immediately realized how difficult it would be to find each other once the train took off. (This was before cell phones.) And even though it was not likely, I suddenly had a terrifying fear I might never see her again. So, just like the mothers who can supernaturally lift a car off their children, I grabbed the doors and pulled until I forced them open. I quickly stepped inside, thankful the nightmare was over.

But it was not over for everyone. My actions caused the train to shut down after only a few yards in the dark tunnel. It was 45 minutes before it started moving again. The car was hot as blazes, people missed flights, several women cried, and another became hysterical from claustrophobia. I created quite a mess, but I knew I would do it all over again if presented with the same risk of losing my daughter – despite the disapproving glares from the other passengers.

Many of the women we serve at Blue Monarch have experienced much worse loss and panic (and judgement), but their nightmares were not over in a matter of minutes. For some, the painful separation from their children has lasted years. Yes, years.

We once had a volunteer who was apparently involved with Blue Monarch for the wrong reasons. She said, "Honestly, I have no sympathy for a mother who mistreats her child." That statement pierced my heart on behalf of the women we serve – and told me she was not a good fit for our ministry. This woman was only looking at circumstances on the surface. But there are hundreds of reasons a mother may lose custody of her children. Perhaps her own parents taught her to use drugs, which numbed the pain of physical and sexual abuse, and now she can't stop. Maybe she was still longing for the nurturing childhood she never had, making it impossible to be a mother herself. There are many reasons, not necessarily good ones, but I don't think any of them are deciding one day to be a bad mom.

Recently, one of our mothers poured out her heart through one of our recovery projects. It was a before-and-after story and the "before" was still fresh in her mind. Alexis reflected on the separation from her daughter and even



The pain of being separated from her daughter is still fresh for Alexis but they are making up for lost time.

her hair." I could totally relate because what mother doesn't forever keep that scent in her head?

Many people assume a mother who has lost custody of her children doesn't feel the loss. She caused it, likely through selfish choices or poor

though they are reunited now, the pain was still

an open wound. She wept and said, "I missed her so much – I would even miss the smell of

Many people assume a mother who has lost custody of her children doesn't feel the loss. She caused it, likely through selfish choices or poor decisions, so it probably doesn't matter to her. But it does. And as the drugs leave her system, the pain is even more intense. The heartache our moms experience during the separation from their children is excruciating. I see it on their faces and in their body language. They try to patiently wait, but they want it right now.

A mother may be allowed visits with her child as we navigate the complicated reunification

process. But she can overreact over the slightest bruise or scratch, just wondering if her child is being mistreated. She feels helpless to protect. She goes

to bed wondering what her child is doing. Is she okay? Is she crying for me? Will she remember me? Will she forgive me? Will this nightmare ever end?



Reflecting on their separation, Alexis said she would even miss the smell of her daughter's hair. Photo courtesy of Blue Monarch

I often think back on that woman's statement: "I have no sympathy for a mother who mistreats her child." But there's one major point she failed to recognize. The mother is a grownup version of that child. The mother (that she judges and loathes) is nothing more than an adult version of that child (for whom she feels compassion and empathy). And if that child doesn't get help, she will eventually become the mom. But when the mom becomes a healthier parent, that

dreadful cycle will stop. So, there IS hope.

Actually, I think Alexis says it best: "I am not my past – I am my daughter's future." And those are the words of a good mom.

Lord, thank you for Blue Monarch, a place where mothers can become healthy parents and children can learn what that means. Amen

 Susan Binkley is the Founder and President of Blue Monarch, a long-term, residential recovery program located in Tennessee. www.bluemonarch.org.
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## RESET YOUR MORNING



#### THE CONSTITUTION CORNER

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#### **Constitutional Questions**

#### 1. Does the Constitution address resistance to governmental tyranny?

The doctrine of resistance to tyrannical rule is as old as the Republic itself. As Gary Humble, of Tennessee Stands, and a candidate for state senator, perhaps put it best: "Many of our Founders and early political thinkers including the writers of the Constitution of the State of Tennessee saw resistance to tyranny as necessary to the preservation of goodness and happiness for everyone." Article I, Section 2 of that constitution says this:

"That government being instituted for the common

benefit, the doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power and oppression is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind." While not expressly recognized in the federal constitution, several states have enshrined the doctrine of resistance to tyranny in their constitutions. Taken together, these provisions serve as a reminder that when government acts arbitrarily and in contravention of the divine, inherent rights of citizens to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, then there is a duty to oppose such tyranny.

2. Does the Constitution grant absolute protection to free speech? I am asked on occasion to debate regarding the level of protection afforded free speech. Some whom I have debated characterize themselves as "absolutists" when it comes to the protection that should be afforded this First Amendment right. They contend that the government has no right to inter-



fere with or to retaliate against one's freedom of expression. Others argue that one's constitutional right of free speech ends where the right of others begin.

The Supreme Court has recognized that the right of free speech must encompass certain rational limitations. But these decisions are not without controversy. For example, in Texas v. Johnson, Gregory Johnson burned an American flag outside the Republican National Convention in protest of Ronald Reagan. He was arrested and charged with violating a Texas statute which prevented the desecration of the flag.

The Supreme Court ultimately held that his "symbolic speech" was protected under the Constitution.

The use of "fighting words" which are meant to incite violence or which produce an imminent threat of "clear and present danger" of bringing about a substantial evil are likewise not protected. The display of obscenity to minors is unprotected. Speech which advocates illegal conduct and is calculated to produce imminent lawless action is not protected.

— Larry L. Crain, www.crainlaw.legal









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#### SENIOR SCENE

#### **Three Essentials for Satisfaction in Retirement**

Retirement is not an ending but a thrilling new chapter for those who are able to transition from a work life profession to a vocational mindset. The reach the goal of preserving the same level of satisfaction and momentum enjoyed during our working years, three pillars must stand firm: financial confidence, active engagement, and spiritual growth. Each pillar supports a life of purpose, joy, and resilience, replacing the long-held routines of a 9-to-5 occupation with a hope filled, service-driven legacy.

#### **Financial Confidence**

At the heart of every stress-free retirement lies unwavering financial confidence and security. This begins with having a income providing assets and/or a diversified portfolio made up of savings, investments, pensions, and annuities, that can

weather market shifts and providing adaquate income. Then we must layer in a comprehensive insurance package to safeguard against catastrophic loss of property, medical emergencies, or chronic health conditions.

Achieving this security, demands disciplined planning: setting realistic income goals, budgets that include adjustments for inflation, and seeking the advice of a trusted Solutionary in financial and retirement planning. Together, this creates contingencies for unexpected expenses, ensuring no surprise bills that will derail our peace of mind.

With these safeguards in place, we have more freedom. Not bound by worry, we can focus on passions and relationships, knowing our resources will sustain us through fluctuating health or economic downturns.

#### **Active Engagement; Vocationally**

Work often supplies a built-in purpose of life, intellectual challenges, and camaraderie. In retirement, these must be deliberately replaced by the choices we make. Mentoring young professionals, volunteering at Church, or coaching youth sports can provide these opportunities, keeping us feeling valued and socially engaged.

Beyond formal service, learning to embrace hobbies and clubs can spark excitement. Book groups, art classes, or travel opportunities offer fresh skills and new friendships. These pursuits sharpen our minds, expand our horizons, and anchor us to a bigger community than ourselves.

Active engagement wards off isolation, combats boredom, and fuels a sense of achievement. Every relationship we nurture and every hour we dedicate to service weaves a tapestry of meaning that mirrors the fulfillment of our career days.

#### **Spiritual Growth Provides Much Needed Hope**

The longer we live, the more we are forced to face our own mortality. In this area of our life, true retirement satisfaction depends on our continued hope for the future, springing from a well-tended spiritual persona. We now have more time to deepen our faith through daily prayer, meditation, scripture study, or communal worship. These sacred practices nourish our soul, cultivate gratitude, and dissolve anxiety about tomorrow.

Fostering spiritual growth also means embracing moral purpose, acts of kindness, forgiveness, and hospitality become prayers in motion. Our faith journey, in retirement, prepares us for life's ultimate transition, be it Heaven



or Hell, instilling each day with the perspective of hope.

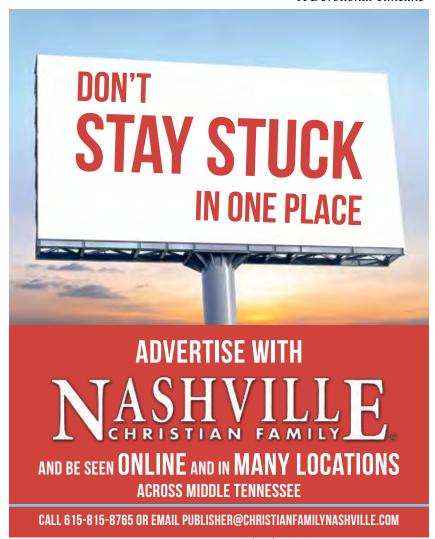
This foundation of faith should have started years earlier, but if not, we still have time to empower us to face uncertainty with courage, to see setbacks as lessons, and to celebrate every sunrise as grace renewed.

Retirement built on financial confidence, active engagement, and spiritual depth is more than a pause from work, it's a springboard to our best years. By securing our finances, dedicating ourselves to service, and cultivating our spirituality, we transform retirement into a season of discovery, legacy, and unshakable joy.

It is never too early to embrace these three pillars. Let them guide our journey from busyness to fulfillment and ensure that the satisfaction we earned at work continues to shine brightly in every sunrise of our retirement.

If this is my last post, I want all to know there was only one purpose for all that I have written; to have made a positive difference in the lives of others.

— Anthony "Tony" Boquet, Certified Professional Business Coach, A Modern Solutionary, the author of "The Bloodline of Wisdom, The Awakening of a Modern Solutionary" and "The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, A Devotional Timeline"



#### CITY SCENE

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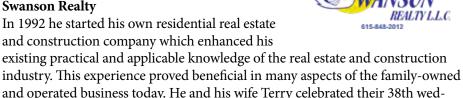
#### **New Murfreesboro Housing Development: Fox Camp Retreat**

#### **Meet the Team**

Murfreesboro.

Joe Swanson Jr., Owner/Principal Broker of **Swanson Realty** 

In 1992 he started his own residential real estate and construction company which enhanced his



ding anniversary this year and have three children and 8 grandchildren living in

At Swanson Realty, we pride ourselves on providing a real estate experience that is as unique as each of our clients. Our mission is to go beyond the standard real estate transaction and deliver a personalized approach that sets us apart. Whether you're embarking on the exciting journey of building a new home, searching for the perfect property, or selling your current residence, we are committed to utilizing our resources and expertise to ensure your experience is exceptional from start to finish.

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#### Joe Swanson III General Contractor, Owner of JMS III Construction

Born and raised in Murfreesboro, TN, Joe 3 started working in the summers with residential framers at the age of 13. Since then, he has built hundreds of residential homes, hundreds of commercial build-outs, and several commercial buildings as a Project Manager. Joe 3 has children, Oliver, Ivy, and Lily.



#### **Brent & Tiffany Williams Owners of Williams Construction**

Williams Construction, LLC is a family-owned business founded by Brent and Tiffany Williams. The Williams are Middle Tennessee natives with a life-long background in the construction industry. Brent has an eye for detail and is dedicated to the creation of his client's dream. Tiffany is a Broker at Swanson Realty, LLC. They have 3 sons who can often be found on the job site with them playing in the dirt and learning the trade of the family business.



Building a home is more than just a project; it's an exciting venture, a journey towards turning your dream residence into a tangible reality. At Williams Construction, LLC, a family-owned business deeply rooted in the heart of Murfreesboro, TN, we have built a steadfast reputation for constructing remarkable custom homes that stand the test of time.

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#### PARENT WITH PURPOSE

### How's the (Home)School Year Going? 3 Questions to Ask

While the start of school can be a crazy time for almost anyone, by October many of us are settling into routines. This makes it a natural time to reflect on what seems to be working and what can use a little attention. Here are three simple starter



questions to ask your child.

What seems important to you at school? The longer I teach, the more interested I get in why kids think they're doing what they're doing. This shows you where their attention is going, and it can also help predict what they're going to retain down the road. Also, listen for "Why do I have to...?" questions. It may not be simply whining about homework. It may be an opportunity to help your student make a connection that makes their day-to-day work more meaningful. Any time you spend here shows your student how their education matters to you.

What's challenging to you at school? Challenges offer us chances to grow, and how we choose to think about and handle them trains us to handle challenges in the future. Listen and ask to understand, not to solve for them. Wherever you can, express confidence in their developing capabilities and in how they are choosing to approach their own challenges. Offer to pray with and for them, then check back a few days or weeks later to see how things are going. No matter what the challenge is, this is a place worth spending time.

Where do you see yourself growing? Over time, education done well should lead to change. Listen for little stories about this. What seemed difficult at first but is starting to seem a bit easier now? What seemed pointless or boring at first but is starting to seem more interesting? What did you learn in the past that you are grateful for now?

Proverbs 13:12 reminds us that a hope deferred makes the heart sick. We can think of hope as a thread connecting the present with the future. Sometimes kids lose hope because they cannot see themselves making progress. They have trouble seeing a connection between their work and results. Older kids sometimes lose hope because they cannot see why their progress matters, or how it's going to help them in the future. In either case, an open-ended question can help start an important conversation.

— A classroom veteran, George Rietz encourages teachers, teaches homeschoolers, and invents new tools to reshape education. Contact him through ExploreMyWriting.com.

#### TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Brought to you by: Wang Vision Institute www.DrMingWang.com



### **Dr. Ming Wang Calls For Reuniting Our Nation And Finding Common Ground**

Dr. Ming Wang, Harvard & MIT (MD, magna cum laude); PhD (laser physics), Director of Wang Vision Institute and the subject of the movie "Sight" (FREE link: sight.drmingwang.com), gave a keynote speech at Marshall County Reagan Day dinner recently entitled "Appreciating freedom in America by finding common ground" in the wake of the recent string of political violence in our nation.

Dr. Wang talked about the state of our nation, the unprecedented division and polarization we are experiencing due to human nature's greed for power, control and money, which has left much of our society's major problems unaddressed (i.e., gun violence, opioid crisis, environmental disasters, poverty, racial tension, education, jobs, economy and healthcare), and how we can truly appreciate the freedom we have in America, by pulling together as a nation and heeding a higher calling of shared humanity which will allow us to reunite and restore as a nation!

Dr. Wang co-founded a non-profit Common Ground Network with Dr. Rice Broocks. They have studied in depth why we need to and how to find common ground and have formulated the "Common ground-seeking STEPS":

- See common ground;
- Trading places;
- Empathy;
- Persevere;
- Seek common ground.

The Common Ground Network has published three books: Sight Bible Study, Common Ground Bible Study and Common Ground Mandate, calling to all Christians to overcome the human nature (for power, control and money) and heed a higher calling from the ultimate common ground seeker Jesus Christ, to love people despite of our differences and to work together to rebuild our nation.



#### About Dr. Ming Wang, MD, PhD

Dr. Ming Wang, Harvard & MIT (MD, magna cum laude); PhD (laser physics), is a world-renowned laser eye surgeon, philanthropist, and a co-founder of the Common Ground Network. As a teenager, Ming fought valiantly to escape China's Cultural Revolution – during which millions of innocent youth were deported to remote areas to face a life sentence of hard labor and poverty. He came to America with only \$50

and earned two doctorate degrees, one in laser physics and one in medicine, and graduated with the highest honors from Harvard Medical School and MIT. The amniotic membrane contact lens, which Dr. Wang has invented (and holds two U.S. patents), has been used by tens of thousands of eye doctors throughout the world in nearly every nation, and millions have had their eyesight restored.

Wang Foundation for Sight Restoration has helped patients from over 40 states in the U.S. and 55 countries, with all sight restoration surgeries performed free-of-charge. Dr. Wang was named the Kiwanis Nashvillian of the Year for his lifelong dedication to help blind orphaned children from around the world.

The film "Sight" (FREE link: sight.drmingwang.com) is based on Dr. Wang's autobiography "From Darkness to Sight" and co-stars Greg Kinnear. To reach Dr. Wang: drwang@wangvisioninstitute.com, www.drmingwang.com

Leona Walthorn

#### Money Matters

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#### **Navigating Financial Seasons with a Faithful Plan**

Genesis 41 tells the story of Joseph, who prepared Egypt for seven years of famine by wisely managing resources during seven years of abundance. His foresight, discipline, and trust in God provide timeless lessons for navigating life's financial seasons. Today, whether facing market downturns, unexpected expenses, or planning for retirement, Joseph's example points to four practical steps we can follow.

#### 1. Have a Plan

Joseph didn't wait for the famine to strike—he created a clear, actionable plan. Grain was collected, stored, and managed with precision. In our financial lives, having a plan brings clarity, purpose, and peace of mind. Whether saving for retirement, education, or unforeseen expenses, a written strategy turns intentions into actionable steps. Without a plan, we risk reacting impulsively during challenging times. With a plan, we gain confidence and direction, knowing our resources are being stewarded wisely.

#### 2. Commit to the Plan Once Agreed Upon

A plan is only effective if we follow it consistently. Joseph's success came from disciplined execution

over the years of plenty. Likewise, committing to a financial plan—whether it involves regular saving, investment contributions, or debt management—is essential. Commitment helps overcome distractions, market fluctuations, or short-term temptations that can derail long-term goals. By staying the course, we allow compounding growth and thoughtful strategies to work over time.

#### 3. Review and Adjust the Plan Periodically

Even Joseph adjusted as circumstances required, monitoring resources to ensure Egypt would endure the famine. Similarly, our financial plans should be reviewed periodically. Life changes—career shifts, family needs, or market fluctuations may require adjustments to ensure goals remain realistic and achievable. Regular reviews allow us to respond proactively, keeping the plan aligned with both our values and evolving financial cir-

#### 4. Include Your Family in the Making of the Plan Joseph's plan affected an entire nation. For us,

involving family in financial planning strengthens understanding, accountability, and shared responsibility. Discussing goals, budgets, and strategies together ensures everyone knows the plan, reduces misunderstandings, and encourages teamwork. Including loved ones also provides an opportunity to instill stewardship principles across generations,

ensuring that God's resources are honored by those we care about most.

Joseph's story reminds us that wise financial planning is both practical and spiritual. By having a plan, committing to it, reviewing it regularly, and including family in the process, we can face seasons of uncertainty with confidence and peace. Life's challenges will come. If you'd like guidance in building a plan that reflects both wisdom and biblical values, we'd be glad to help. Visit PanthRex. com or call 888-302-5559 to start the conversation.

— Michael Wallin, Certified Finan*cial Planner* <sup>™</sup>. *For more information,* please see www.panthrex.com.





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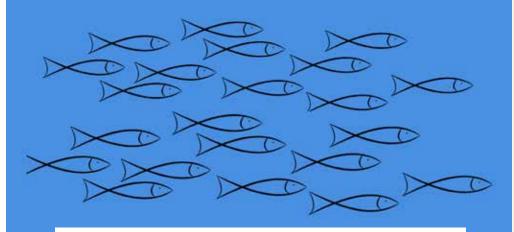








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#### **ENCOURAGING WORD**

#### America's New Appetite for Faith: Christian Media is Trending

America is a country of paradox. On any given weekend, thousands line the beaches of California for mass baptisms, even as courtrooms fill with cases challenging religious liberty. Record numbers of young men are returning to church. Bible sales are booming. Celebrities are openly thanking Jesus on national television while teachers are pressured to keep faith out of classrooms and historians seek to rewrite the nation's founding as irredeemably flawed. The tale of two worldviews—clashing daily in the national conversation.

Yet America is not drifting further into a post-Christian future; we are witnessing signs of spiritual return. Consider the cultural signs: Christian music topping the

Billboard charts, younger generations driving a resurgence of faith in Jesus, "Songs of Faith" celebrated on mainstream TV, and public expressions of Christian belief by celebrities like golfer Scottie Scheffler.

The evidence is everywhere—faith stepping forward. And it's not just anecdotal. A landmark study conducted by the National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) and the Barna Group shows that six in 10 Americans use Christian media, with half using at least one Christian media source weekly. Faith-driven content is anything but fringe—it is embedded in the daily lives of millions.

But not everyone is cheering. Mainstream media coverage doesn't just report on faith—it often ridicules and distorts it. Gwen Stefani faced swift criticism after reposting an interview on faith, not for her personal beliefs, but for how others interpreted them as aligning her with a wider Christian movement. A simple prayer at the 50-yard line became a "threat to democracy" in the press, proof of a cultural narrative that frames believers as dangerous rather than devoted.

The question is not whether faith will shape the next chapter of our national life—but whose faith, and whose narrative, will prevail. In this environment, the role of Christian communicators could not be more vital. Mainstream outlets double down on messaging that many Americans are simply tired of hearing—one that disparages faith and fuels division. We the people are growing weary of that caricature, and the turn toward Christian media shows many are searching for a message that uplifts rather than disparages.

Even as America's values unfold in split screen, the Gospel refuses to fade. The fall of Christianity in America is not just slowing; it is beginning to reverse, stabilizing at 62% after decades of decline. Trust in the church is ticking upward for the first time in years. The renewal is reshaping public life. In the 2024 election cycle, faith leaders didn't just comment; they led. NRB's study with Barna reports sermons heard in church as the top source for voting decisions, cited by 58% of Christian media users.

Americans are begging faith to enter public life. Still, a myth lingers: faith should stay private—barred from public policy and cultural discourse. The data proves otherwise: Seventy three percent say religious nonprofits should speak on issues that matter—majorities even among the unchurched (63%) and non Christians (61%). Two thirds want faith leaders to speak publicly on politics; nearly half wish they'd do it more.



While social media has allowed Christian communicators to amplify the Gospel message, algorithms increasingly trap people inside ideological silos, limiting exposure to diverse perspectives and discouraging civil debate. That leaves Christian communicators with opportunity—and obligation.

How do we steward influence well? How do we break into the mainstream conversation instead of just preaching to the choir? How do we reach those who most need clarity and hope? While mainstream media mocks and minimizes it, spiritual hunger is unmistakably growing. The appetite for faith in public life is stronger than many imagine—stronger, even, than

the headlines would ever acknowledge.

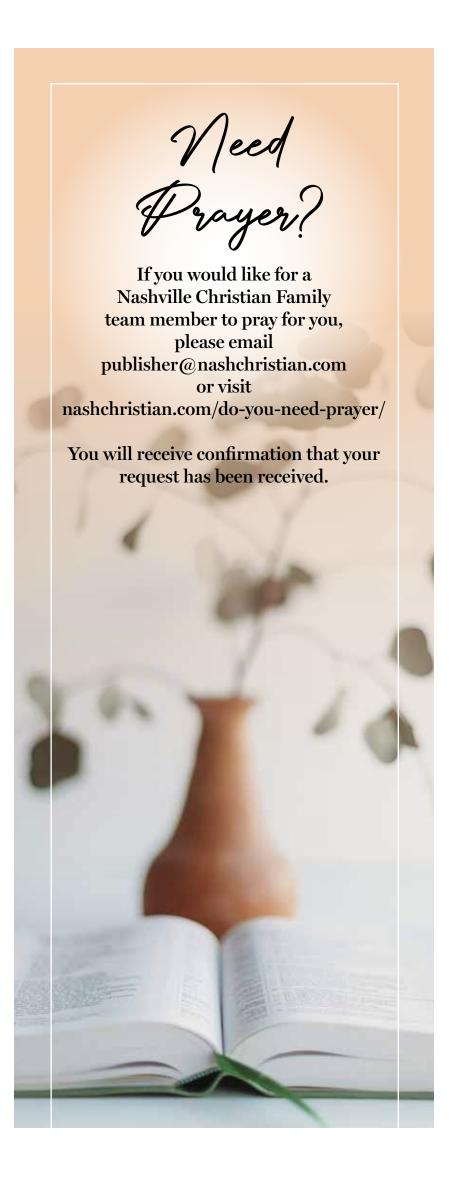
As America approaches her milestone birthday, remember that we can't rewrite history, but we can learn from it—and build better. The microphone is already in the hands of Christian communicators—broadcasters, pastors, writers, and digital creators—whose voices are shaping the conversation today that will define our nation's tomorrow.

The task is clear: steward this influence with courage and conviction. Defend the freedom to speak without fear and without restriction. Offer the only Truth sturdy enough to anchor a nation searching for meaning.

The public isn't shutting faith out but throwing the door wide open—even as others rush to slam it closed. Which story prevails hinges on how boldly and faithfully Christian communicators steward their voice.

— Troy Miller is a senior executive with more than 30 years of management and business experience. Miller has served as president & CEO of National Religious Broadcasters (NRB) since July 2022.







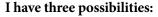
#### TEACHABLE MOMENTS

#### **Charlie Kirk – Three Thoughts from an Alternate Point of View**

While I have my opinions, I try to stay away from the political fray. I'm registered as an independent and try to stay that way. While it has its advantages, it also has disadvantages. For example, I did not know who Charlie Kirk was, and I had never heard of Turning Point, his organization. Seeing all the media publicity, I decided to investigate. So, I studied his website and reviewed his podcasts. I never met him and never heard him speak.

Based on that bit of information, I found him to be an intelligent, charismatic man who had a passion for helping young people for-

mulate healthy values and make good decisions. It looks like he was a bit of a free-thinker as well and believed in conversation with people who held different opinions. With that as background, I am appalled by the celebration of his murder and perplexed at the charge that he was 'hateful and divisive, and therefore it is good that he was murdered." As an objective observer, I'm puzzled by that sheer lack of human decency those positions reveal. Why is that? What explains this rash of contemptable behavior?



**1.** The people who charge someone else as hateful and divisive are merely revealing their own nature. I've been in business for over 40 years. I have interacted with tens of thousands of people in seminars and speaking engagements and have learned a lot. One lesson I have learned is this: When people demean someone else's character, they say more about themselves than they do about the target of their rhetoric.

People project their own character onto others. So, liars think everyone is lying. Thieves expect others to have a larcenous heart; manipulators think everyone is manipulating them. And so it goes. Hateful people charge others with being hateful. I suppose it is a trait of human nature to assume that everyone thinks the way we do. Perhaps psychologists have some insight on that. Regardless, this is one of the lessons I've learned, and I think it applies to some people here. This phenomenon has been around since people have inhabited the planet. You may recall that Jesus said, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, 'Let me take the speck out of your eye,' when all the time there is a plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye.(1)

**2.** Some people just don't think very well (2) and have reacted to spurious internet claims without any due diligence. Stephen King is a great example. Following the murder, he posted that Mr. Kirk "advocated stoning gay people." When he was shown the truth, he apologized for his lapse in judgement and



said, "It won't happen again."
(3) I applaud him recognizing his lapse of judgement. It is what I would expect of an educated and intelligent person.

There is something called "confirmation bias," which basically holds that people search for things that will support their previous agenda, instead of objectively considering some issue. Politics on both sides is rampant with it.

They search for things that can be twisted to support their agenda, whether or not the item actual does. So, they look for things to confirm what they previously believed, without regard to the actual

meaning of the item. The greatest example of this is, of course, the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, who was crucified by a mob of inflamed people because he challenged their beliefs – and this in spite of the miracles and all the people he touched. I'm reminded of a Paul Simon lyric from the song, The Boxer, "A man hears what he wants to hear and disregards the rest."

I suspect that many of those who claim he was hateful are merely hearing what they want to hear, to confirm their previous position, regardless of the veracity of the item. That's a lapse in judgement, and an indication of poor thinking.

**3.** I still remember my high school speech class! We were studying persuasive techniques, and one technique went something like this: "If you can't refute a person's arguments, attack the person." It's the option of last resort for those who are unable to refute someone's positions. We see it all the time in politics.

From what I understand, Mr. Kirk advocated free speech and invited many to debates. Many of those who were unable to refute the strength of his arguments may have defaulted to 'attack the person" as a frustrated last resort. Regardless of the motivation, the callousness of the comments represents a low point in our society. As a country we have developed for 250 years. I would hope we would be better than this.

- 1. "Matthew 7:3-5 (NIV)
- 2. Five Thinking Errors and our Current Mess. By Dave Kahle. https://www.davekahle.com/thinking-errors-rational-thought
- 3. 'Won't happen again;: Stephen King apologizes for claim about Charlie Kirk". as reported in USA Today here: https://www.usatoday.com/story/entertainment/celebrities/2025/09/12/stephen-king-charlie-kirk/86123212007/

— Dave Kahl

#### Spiritual Goal for October

#### **Today Matters!**

"Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?" - Matthew 6:27 (NLT)

Why worry about tomorrow when it hasn't even arrived? Jesus Himself asked this question and left us the answer: Worry adds nothing. It subtracts your peace, clouds your focus, and steals the joy God has for you... today!

Too many people live in the regrets of yesterday or the anxieties of tomorrow. But God's mercy is new each morning. This day, this moment, is a divine gift. Don't waste it scrolling through problems or replaying what-ifs.

Today matters. Hug your children.Love on your spouse. Call that friend. Encourage someone. Take time to laugh. Slow down enough to enjoy the little things.

The enemy loves to use distraction to steal your "today". But you're stronger than that. You're part of the First Hour Army. You rise early, seek His face, and make today count. Not tomorrow. Not next week... Now!

You don't need to carry the weight of the future, Jesus already carried the weight of the world on the cross. All He's asking you to do is walk with Him today.

Live in joy. Walk in peace. And trust Him with the rest. Because today matters.

#### **Prayer For Today**

Heavenly Father, thank You for this day. Help me not to miss the beauty of today by worrying about what's ahead or regretting what's behind. I choose to trust You with tomorrow and live fully in the moment You've given me. Let my words, my actions, and my heart reflect Your love today. In Jesus' name, amen.

May God bless you abundantly!

— Mark K. Koch Prelude Publishing

#### PLAN OF SALVATION

Has something in the magazine or something you have discussed with someone or some thoughts that you have had or something that you have heard, brought you to a point of realizing that you want and need to know Christ in the truest and personal sense?

If so, below is a simple outline for someone of any age who is not a Believer to act on their desire to accept Jesus Christ into their heart as their Savior.

#### **God's Plan of Salvation**

#### God created us to honor and serve Him

Revelation 4:11: "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist[b] and were created

#### Each of us has sinned against God

Romans 3:10: As it is written, "There is none righteous, no, not one" Romans 3:23: For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

#### The penalty for sin is eternal separation from God and Heaven

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

#### Good works cannot ever earn God's forgiveness and Salvation

Titus 3:5: not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us.

#### God loves each of us

John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Jesus Christ died on the cross in our place, paying the penalty for our sin Romans 5:8: But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

#### We each must accept Jesus Christ as our personal Savior

Romans 10:9: that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13: For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

To accept Christ into your heart and life, pray a simple prayer along these lines - "Dear God, I know that I am a sinner and I am sorry for my sins. I know that Jesus died for my sins and the sins of the world. Right now, I ask Jesus into my heart and receive Him as my personal Savior. Forgive me of my sins, thank you for saving me through the blood of Jesus. Please Lord, help me live for you. In Jesus name, amen."

All scriptures are taken from The New King James Version of the Holy Bible. If you do not have your own Bible, email publisher@nashchristian.com and we will make sure you receive one.

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