

July 2026

COMPLIMENTARY

# NASHVILLE

CHRISTIAN FAMILY®

*Faith, Family  
& Freedom  
at 250*

**Prayer,  
Purpose &  
Revival**

## **Shawn Ryan: Faith in the Fire**

*Shawn Ryan Sits Down To Talk About  
His Journey to Faith and Life in Tennessee*

**FREE Good News**



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[NashChristian.com](http://NashChristian.com)

# REVIVAL AT THE RYMAN

REDIGGING  
THE WELLS  
OF REVIVAL

Why believers are  
returning to the Ryman  
in this prophetic moment

26<sup>th</sup>  
JUL  
2026

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THE SACRED  
HISTORY  
OF THE RYMAN

From Union Gospel Tabernacle  
to the Mother Church  
of Country Music

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KENT & CANDY  
CHRISTMAS

The vision, the calling and the heart  
behind Revival at the Ryman

A man and a woman, Kent and Candy, are smiling and standing in front of the Ryman Auditorium. They are both wearing red clothing. The background shows the large brick building of the Ryman Auditorium under a dramatic sunset sky with orange and red clouds. The overall mood is warm and hopeful.

# NASHVILLE CHRISTIAN FAMILY®

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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

### One Nation Under God

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, take a few moments to reflect on how richly God has blessed the United States of America since our Founding Fathers declared independence from England.

Countless sacrifices have been made—and continue to be made—by brave men and women to ensure that our nation remains free, that we can openly worship God, that our democracy endures, and that America continues to stand as the greatest nation on earth.



While our country faces challenges, division, and disagreement on many fronts, the United States remains among the freest and most admired nations in the world. At the same time, let us thank God for the far greater gift of eternal freedom—the forgiveness of our sins and the promise of everlasting life through the ultimate sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His death and resurrection.

Take a few minutes to talk with your children about the freedoms and liberties we are blessed to enjoy as Americans. Emphasize the importance of religious freedom and the right of every citizen to openly worship God—principles that have long served as a cornerstone of our nation.

Given current events in our country and around the world, we should never take for granted the liberties and religious freedoms we have enjoyed for generations. These blessings must be cherished, protected, and passed on to future generations. We are one nation under God. May He, in His mercy and grace, continue to bless America.

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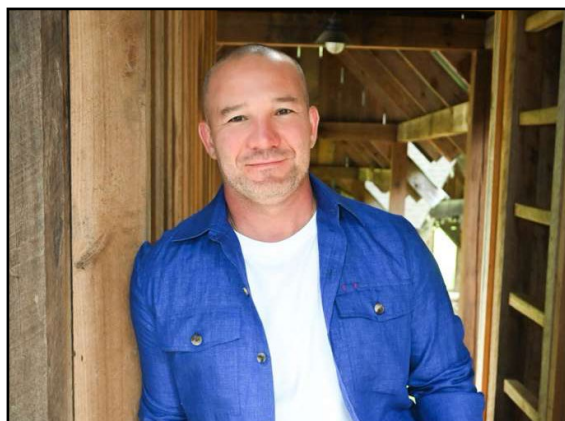
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Former Navy SEAL, CIA contractor, and host of The Shawn Ryan Show, Shawn Ryan shares how his journey to faith has transformed his life, family, and purpose. Now living in Middle Tennessee, he reflects on God's guidance, the importance of bold faith, and why Tennessee has strengthened his walk with Christ. See page 20 to learn more.

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Erica Mitchell is the President and CEO of United Way of Greater Nashville, one of the largest nonprofits in Middle Tennessee. She leads the organization's work in breaking the cycle of poverty, supporting education, expanding community resources, and serving families across the region.

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\*\*\* JULY 2026 \*\*\*

Happy 250th birthday, **America**



Helping you and your community thrive — *together.*

COLOSSIANS 3:23

★ FAITH & FREEDOM

# Your money *has more purpose*

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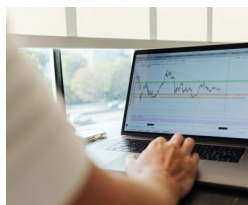
## SPECIAL FEATURE

Brought to you by: Wallin, Hargis, & Colquette  
Wealth Advisors • [www.whcwealth.com](http://www.whcwealth.com)



### Net Worth vs. Annual Earnings – A Biblical Perspective in Q&A Format (with Lessons from Elon Musk’s SpaceX IPO)

**Q: Why is everyone talking about Elon Musk’s net worth after the SpaceX IPO?** The SpaceX IPO made headlines worldwide by boosting Elon Musk’s net worth to over a trillion dollars. This attention-grabbing figure sparked conversations about what net worth really means and how it differs from actual annual income. It also invites us to reflect on what true wealth is, a concept frequently addressed in biblical teachings.



**Q: How much is a trillion dollars, really?** A trillion dollars is one thousand billion dollars—or a million million. To put it in perspective, if you spent \$1 million every single day, it would take you nearly 2,740 years to spend \$1 trillion. This illustrates just how astronomical Musk’s net worth appears on paper, but as the Bible warns in Matthew 6:19, “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.”

**Q: What exactly is net worth?** Net worth is the total value of an individual’s assets (like shares in companies) minus their liabilities (debts and obligations). For Musk, this includes his ownership stakes in companies like SpaceX and Tesla. When SpaceX went public, the market valued Musk’s shares at a much higher rate, causing a dramatic increase in his reported net worth. However, this number is mostly theoretical and can change with the market. It’s not cash Musk can spend unless he sells his shares. As Proverbs 23:5 reminds us: “Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off to the sky.”

**Q: How is annual earnings different from net worth?** Annual earnings are the actual money someone receives in a year—think salary, bonuses, or dividends. Most of Musk’s wealth remains invested in his businesses rather than withdrawn as income.

**Q: Why do people confuse net worth with annual earnings?** The confusion often comes from media coverage that focuses on big changes in net worth after major events like IPOs. This can make it seem like wealthy founders have massive amounts of cash on hand, when in reality, their take-home pay may be much smaller.

**Q: Can Elon Musk spend his net worth?** Not directly. Musk’s net worth is tied up in his business assets. Unless he sells shares (which would likely trigger taxes and other consequences), most of his wealth is not liquid.

**Q: Why does understanding this difference matter for me?** Knowing the difference between net worth and annual earnings helps you interpret financial news accurately, evaluate the true wealth of public figures, and make smarter decisions about your own finances. Net worth can fluctuate and is often not immediately spendable, while annual earnings represent the money you can actually use. As the Bible teaches, wisdom in managing your resources is far more valuable than riches alone. It also reminds us not to covet the blessings God bestows on others.

Call Wallin, Hargis, and Colquette Wealth at 855-378-1806 for personalized guidance and clear answers about your finances.

—Michael Wallin, Certified Financial Planner™  
For more information, please visit [whcwealth.com](http://whcwealth.com)



## BEST BOOKS

### What Do I Do When (Home) School Gets Boring?



Christian parents are asking, “How can I get my child to read God’s Word?” English-speaking parents all over America are asking, “How can I teach my child to relate in this multi-cultural society?” Spanish-speaking parents are asking, “How can my child learn the language necessary to excel in America?” Concerned parents are asking, “How can I get and keep my child interested in reading?” All the while, the government and churches are asking for unity. The answers for all parents, government and churches are The SonShip Series, Bilingual Interactive Children’s Books.

This Series is a collection of nine interactive books, containing more than 200 pages of captivating corresponding pictures and 20 pages of activities to enhance retention. These books will lay a strong foundation for anyone to learn basic English and Spanish simultaneously. The vivid illustrations in this series will captivate young readers. Yet, they are ideal for anyone who wants to begin learning English or Spanish as a second language.

The SonShip Series was created by author Grace Swift to break down communication barriers between English-speaking and Spanish-speaking children. In the late 1990s, Grace searched extensively for children’s Bilingual books for her Bilingual granddaughter, Jessica, but had very little success. Thus, the SonShip Series began and continues to evolve. Plans are also in effect to animate the characters, add music and make videos for children’s television programming.

Through these books, children learn about geography, occupations, colors, numbers, shapes, good manners, family members’ names, animals, and basic conversational and life skills. They even teach how to pray. The simplified version of Grace’s first book, 3Dimensional Prayer, (prayer that effects things on earth, things in heaven and powers of darkness).

Since businesses, government agencies, literature, and correspondence give callers the option to select English or Spanish, we aim to equip our children with proficiency in both languages. We’re preparing our children for a successful future.

After decades of work, team effort, trips to Honduras, and learning computer software design programs, the release date has arrived.

The William County Public Library, Grace’s neighborhood Library, is hosting the Launching of the SonShip Series Bilingual Interactive Books on Saturday, July 18, 2026, 9-11 a.m. Maritza Barron, her Spanish Coordinator, and Author, and Ms. Swift will be available with FREE Sample Copies of some of the books. We will read some books in both languages and host a morning of fun, prizes, and giveaways for our English and Spanish-speaking Community. Visit our website at [www.sonshipseries.com](http://www.sonshipseries.com) or call Grace Swift, 615-266-6268, for more details. Come and join the fun!

—Grace Swift

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



## What the Bible Says About Voting and Electing Our Leaders

Every election season, Christians across America face the same question: Does my vote matter to God? The answer is yes — and Scripture has more to say about it than most people realize. Voting is not just a civic right. For believers, it is a moral responsibility — a chance to be the hands and feet of the values God has written on our hearts. When we step into that voting booth, we are participating in the ordering of society that God ordained. And when we stay home? We are also making a choice — just not the one we were called to make.



**God Established Government — and Calls Us to Engage.** Romans 13:1 is clear: *“Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established.”* God designed government as a structure for human flourishing — to restrain evil, protect the innocent, and allow communities to thrive. But in a constitutional republic, the people are the governing authority. We do not simply submit to leaders — we choose them. That is not just a privilege. It is a stewardship.

**The Righteous Must Show Up.** Proverbs 29:2

may be the most important political verse in the entire Bible: *“When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.”* Everyone suffers when righteous people disengage from the public square. The inverse is equally true: when men and women of faith show up, vote their convictions, and support leaders of character — communities flourish. Families are protected. Children grow up in a culture that reflects the values of their homes.

**Voting Is an Act of Neighbor-Love.** Jesus said the second greatest commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself. Voting is one of the most powerful acts of neighbor-love available to us. The leaders we elect shape schools, courts, hospitals, and families. Every ballot cast is a decision about what kind of world our neighbors will live in. We are not voting for a pastor. We are voting for a leader of character — one who protects religious freedom, defends the innocent, and upholds the constitutional order that allows the Gospel to flourish.

**The Church Has a Role to Play.** Galatians 6:9 reminds us: *“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”* The political process is messy. Can-

didates disappoint. Progress feels slow. But disengagement is not faithfulness — it is abdication. That conviction is what led The 917 Society to launch God and Country — Vote Your Values, a nonpartisan civic engagement initiative deploying beginning this August in six battleground states. Working through local churches, we are equipping congregations with pocket Constitutions, voter registration resources, and the biblical foundation for why civic participation matters. County Outreach Chairs are being recruited now in Georgia, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin, Arizona, and Nevada. If your church wants to be part of it: [godandcountry@917society.org](mailto:godandcountry@917society.org)

Show up. Pray. Vote. And trust that the God who ordains governments is not surprised by any of it.

—Joni Bryan is the Founder and Executive Director of The 917 Society, a Nashville-based nonprofit dedicated to putting a free pocket Constitution in the hands of every 8th grader in America  
[www.917society.org](http://www.917society.org)



## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

Brought to you by: **Trevecca Nazarene University** • [www.trevecca.edu](http://www.trevecca.edu)



## Trevecca's Nursing Program Reaching New Heights with Accreditation Approvals, Pathways and Partnerships



Recent developments to Trevecca's School of Nursing have demonstrated the ongoing success of the program and exciting possibilities for its future.

Trevecca's School of Nursing recently received full approval for its Bachelor of Science in nursing (BSN) program from the Tennessee Board of Nursing (TBON) following the Board's onsite review and approval process. In addition to full approval for the BSN program, Trevecca's Associate of Science in nursing (ASN) program received initial approval from the Tennessee Board of Nursing. The University also received approval to increase cohort sizes in its accelerated ASN-BSN online hybrid extended-track program from 30 to 40 students per cohort.

A new RN-BSN pathway was also created to accommodate licensed RNs who have earned an ASN from any accredited university, not just Trevecca. This hybrid degree increases access to the multiple-entry, multiple-exit accelerated nursing program, providing additional enrollment opportunities for qualified students.

The successful outcome follows a comprehensive evaluation that assessed the University's nursing programs, leadership, curriculum, faculty, clinical partnerships and student support systems. According to the draft survey report, reviewers expressed strong confidence in the program and highlighted positive feedback related to administration, faculty and student preparation.

Trevecca's inaugural graduating nursing cohort achieved a 100 percent ultimate pass rate on the licensing exam for nursing, the NCLEX, surpassing the minimum benchmark established by the Tennessee Board of Nursing.

A new partnership with Nashville State is allowing Trevecca to help expand bachelor's-level nursing education for Middle Tennessee students.

Beginning with the fall 2026 admission cycle, Trevecca will reserve 10 seats in each entering cohort of its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program for qualified Nashville State health science graduates.

The agreement creates a clear, supportive pathway that allows students to transition smoothly from Nashville State's associate-level preparation into Trevecca's bachelor's program in nursing, increasing their access to advanced education and improved career opportunities.

“Trevecca continues to grow our footprint in key areas where leadership and service make a real impact on our community,” Trevecca Provost Dr. Tom Middendorf said. “Nursing is one of those areas, and we are relentlessly pursuing excellence in these initiatives.”

More information on Trevecca's nursing program can be found at [www.trevecca.edu/academics/program/nursing](http://www.trevecca.edu/academics/program/nursing)

—Trevecca Nazarene University Staff Writer

## Discover Tennessee's #1 Family Destination – The Wonders Center & Science Museum

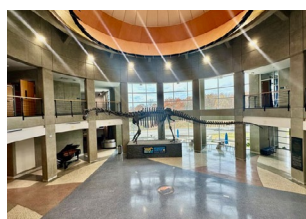
Celebrate America's 250th Birthday all month with special savings in July at The Wonders Center & Science Museum, just 35 minutes west of Williamson County and downtown Nashville! Escape the summer heat and explore Tennessee's largest science museum and the world's largest science museum from a biblical perspective while creating unforgettable family memories.



**Hands-on exhibits help children experience science up close.**

Looking for the perfect place to stay cool while creating unforgettable family memories? From touching a real meteorite and a real dinosaur bone to exploring one of the world's top-ten rated planetariums, The Wonders Center & Science Museum offers an adventure unlike anywhere else in Tennessee. At more than 100,000 square feet, the Wonders Center brings together science, history, and hands-on discovery in a way that captivates visitors of every age. With hundreds of interactive experiences throughout the museum, guests don't just observe science, they experience it.

One of the museum's signature experiences is The Heavens Declare Planetarium, one of the world's top-ten rated planetariums, where breathtaking presentations inspire visitors to marvel at the beauty and order of the universe. As Psalm 19:1 reminds us, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of His hands." Families can also experience the museum's spectacular one-million-volt Tesla Coil demonstration, where electricity comes alive in one of the museum's most exciting and unforgettable live presentations.



**Guests are welcomed into more than 100,000 square feet of discovery.**



**Young explorers dig for dinosaur bones in the Dino Dig.**



**Children explore dinosaurs and interactive exhibits throughout the museum.**

Beyond the planetarium, guests can experience exhibits that bring science to life through hands-on exploration. In the astronomy gallery, visitors can touch an actual meteorite that traveled through space before reaching Earth and view authentic astronaut gear, including gloves and other artifacts donated by astronauts who walked on the moon, offering a fascinating glimpse into the history of space exploration. In paleontology, children and adults alike can touch a real dinosaur bone from a Camarasaurus. Young explorers can head to the Dino Dig area to dig for and identify dinosaur bones just like real paleontologists. Throughout the museum, families can explore towering life-size dinosaurs, authentic fossils, fascinating exhibits in astronomy, biology, anatomy, history, paleontology, examine authentic 1,000-year-old Bible scrolls, meet live reptiles, explore the Wonders of Africa and Alaska, search for their own treasures at the museum's popular 65-foot outdoor gem mining attraction, and experience the incredible NEW Wonders of the Sea exhibit featuring colorful marine life and interac-

tive displays that showcase the beauty and complexity of God's underwater creation.

The Wonders Center offers a full day of air-conditioned fun that combines entertainment with meaningful educational experiences. Whether you're traveling with young children, teenagers, grandparents, or hosting out-of-town guests, there's something designed to inspire curiosity in everyone, all from a biblical perspective.

"Our hope is that every family who visits leaves with a greater sense of wonder, not only about the incredible world around them, but about the Creator who designed it. When science is explored with curiosity and truth, it inspires awe, meaningful conversations, and memories that can last a lifetime."

— David Rives, Founder and President, Wonders Center & Science Museum



### Don't Miss These Family Favorites

- The Heavens Declare Planetarium – One of the World's Top-Ten Rated Planetariums
- One-Million-Volt Tesla Coil Demonstration
- NEW Wonders of the Sea Exhibit
- Touch a Real Meteorite
- View Authentic Astronaut Gear Donated by Apollo Moonwalkers
- Touch a Real Dinosaur Bone
- Dig for and Identify Dinosaur Bones in the Dino Dig
- Wonders of Africa
- Life-Size Dinosaurs & Authentic Fossils
- Authentic 1,000-Year-Old Bible Scrolls
- 65-Foot Outdoor Gem Mining Experience

**Celebrate America's 250th Birthday All July Long.** Celebrate America all month long with a special July offer! Families can receive \$2.50 off each museum admission ticket when purchasing online only using promo code NCFWONDER. This special offer is valid every day throughout July, making it the perfect opportunity to plan a family day trip, homeschool outing, or Sunday excursion. Whether you're exploring the wonders of space, discovering the world of dinosaurs, experiencing live marine life, or enjoying one of the world's premier planetariums, The Wonders Center offers an experience unlike anywhere else in Tennessee. It's more than a museum: it's a place where learning becomes an adventure and families create memories that last a lifetime. This summer, escape the heat and discover why The Wonders Center & Science Museum is Tennessee's #1 family summer destination and part of David Rives Ministries. Plan your visit and purchase your discounted July tickets at [www.wonderscenter.org](http://www.wonderscenter.org). Use promo code NCFWONDER at checkout to save \$2.50 per museum admission ticket on online purchases every day throughout July. Plus, children ages 5 and under always receive FREE museum admission with the purchase of an accompanying adult admission ticket.

To plan your visit or learn more about our events: [wonderscenter.org](http://wonderscenter.org)

To learn more about David Rives Ministries go to: [davidrivesministries.org](http://davidrivesministries.org)

Visit: [wonderscenter.org](http://wonderscenter.org)

Visit: [davidrivesministries.org](http://davidrivesministries.org)



**Our Hours**  
Monday-Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Saturday: Closed  
Sunday: 1 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.



—Christine Johnson is a writer and Director of Public Relations at the Wonders Center & Science Museum.





# Help Kids Succeed in School.

## Join United Way's Stuff the Bus school supply drive!

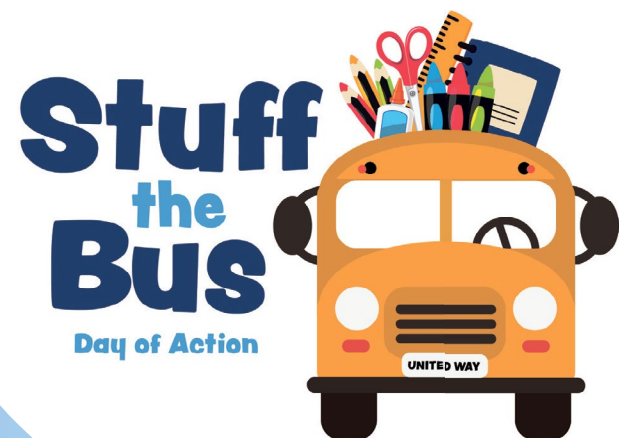
You're invited to join United Way of Greater Nashville for our 18th annual Stuff the Bus Day of Action school supply drive for elementary students in our ten-county service area.

### How You Can Help:

- A. Host a collection drive** in your workplace or community group! Sign up through the QR code and let us know your selected school supply and collection goal. Detailed drop-off information will be sent closer to the July 14 drop-off date.
- B. Make a donation** to purchase supplies using the QR code.
- C. Celebrate your generous spirit!** Because of you, kids in our community will have all the tools to start their year ready to learn.

To learn more, visit: [unitedwaygreaternashville.org/stuff-the-bus](https://unitedwaygreaternashville.org/stuff-the-bus)

LEARN  
MORE



### Why it's important.

The cost of school supplies has increased 24.5% over the past four years (per the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index).

Families struggling to make ends meet often must choose between buying school supplies or putting food on the table. That's why United Way needs community support to make sure students have supplies to start the school year ready to learn.





Scan Here  
For More  
Info & Tickets!

WondersCenter.org

# DISCOVER THE WONDERS OF **GOD'S CREATION**

## AT THE WONDERS CENTER & SCIENCE MUSEUM



INSPIRING EXHIBITS



HANDS-ON DISCOVERY



FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

- Largest Science Museum in Tennessee
- Largest Science Museum in the World That Upholds Biblical Values
- Top 10 Planetarium in the World
- Over 100,000 Square Feet of Discovery

### Tickets

Adults: \$35  
Youth: \$20  
Ages 5 & Under: Free

### Location

The Wonders Center & Science Museum  
855 TN-46, Dickson, TN 37055  
Just 35 minutes from downtown Nashville

### Hours

Monday-Friday: 10am to 4pm  
Sunday: 1pm to 5:30pm  
Saturday: Closed

## SPECIAL FEATURE

### Built on Something Bigger: The Biblical Foundation of Koin Credit Union

When making financial decisions, most of us focus on our immediate needs, feelings, or the convenience of a transaction. We ask questions like, “What is the interest rate?” or “Is there a branch nearby?” While these are practical considerations, they often miss a much larger and more important question: Where does the profit from your financial choices ultimately go?



As Christians, the Bible challenges us to view our finances through a different lens. Making decisions based on biblical principles, even the seemingly small, daily choices about where we bank or borrow, is not only wise but deeply fruitful. Our money is a tool, and how we manage it reflects our convictions around stewardship, wisdom, service, and faithfulness. This is the foundational difference between a traditional bank and a Christian credit union like Koin.

Koin Credit Union was not created to be simply another financial institution that happens to use Christian language. It was built from the ground up on biblical foundations. Its very charter and origin are rooted in a desire to serve the Christian community differently. While standard banks operate primarily to maximize profits for their shareholders, Koin Credit Union exists to serve its members and the Kingdom.

When you choose to partner with Koin Credit Union, you are doing more than just opening an account or securing a loan. You are joining a community that is intentionally designed to help you understand and grow your financial foundation. The goal is to equip you to grow personally, provide for your family, and ultimately help others.

But the impact goes beyond individual members. Because Koin Credit Union operates as a not-for-profit financial cooperative, the resources generated stay within the community specifically with Kingdom driven organizations. By banking with Koin Credit Union, you are indirectly supporting values-aligned work and local ministry partnerships across our region. Your everyday financial choices help fund a bigger purpose, turning routine transactions into opportunities for tangible, local impact.

Over the next three issues, we will look at three distinct reasons why families of faith may want to rethink where they bank, borrow, and build their financial future. This month, we start with the foundation: purpose. When your financial institution shares your values, your money can do more than just sit in an account—it can help build the Kingdom.

If you are ready to align your finances with your faith and partner with an institution that prioritizes Christ-Centered Stewardship over standard profits, we invite you to learn more at [www.koincu.org](http://www.koincu.org). Explore how Koin Credit Union can serve your family and consider becoming a member today.

“At the present time your surplus is available for their need, so that their abundance may in turn meet your need, in order that there may be equality” 2 Corinthians 8:14 (CSB)

—Douglas P. Clinton has been the President and CEO of Koin Credit Union in Brentwood, TN, since 2018. Doug has devoted over 30 years to credit union senior leadership roles. Doug’s expertise is underscored by his Certified Chief Executive designation, which he earned in 2019, and his graduation from the CUNA Management School in Madison, WI, in 2005.



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SCAN HERE

## Century 21 Capital Properties Broker/Owner Eva Romero Announces Candidacy for Tennessee House District 60

After nearly two decades of helping individuals and families achieve the American Dream through real estate, Century 21 Capital Properties Broker/Owner Eva Romero has announced her candidacy for the Tennessee House of Representatives, District 60.



Romero has spent almost 20 years serving Middle Tennessee as a real estate broker and business owner. Three years ago, she expanded her independently owned boutique brokerage by joining the Century 21 network and launching Century 21 Capital Properties, combining the personalized service her clients have always trusted with the global reach and resources of one of the world's most recognized real estate brands.

Today, Romero leads a dedicated team of professionals committed to helping first-time homebuyers, growing families, military veterans, seniors, and investors achieve their real estate goals. Whether buying, selling, or investing, the Century 21 Capital Properties team is ready to provide ex-

pert guidance, trusted advice, and exceptional service throughout every step of the journey.

“Helping families achieve homeownership has been one of the greatest privileges of my career,” Romero said. “It has also given me a front-row seat to the challenges many homeowners face today.”

Those experiences inspired Romero to seek public office.

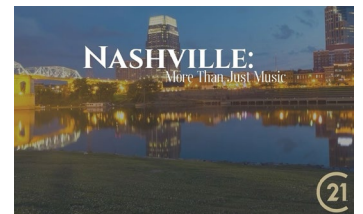
As a candidate for Tennessee House District 60, Romero is focused on protecting homeownership, supporting small businesses, strengthening public safety, and expanding economic opportunity. A cornerstone of her campaign is advocating for policies that help homeowners—particularly those age 65 and older—remain in the homes they worked so hard to earn without being priced out by rising property taxes.

“I believe the American Dream doesn't end when someone buys a home,” Romero said. “We also have a responsibility to protect that dream for future generations and ensure our seniors can age with dignity in the communities they helped build.”

While Romero campaigns for public office, the

mission at Century 21 Capital Properties remains stronger than ever. Backed by an experienced and caring team, the brokerage continues its commitment to helping clients navigate today's real estate market with confidence and integrity.

Whether serving clients through real estate or serving the community through public office, Eva Romero's mission remains the same: opening doors to opportunity, protecting homeownership, and building a stronger Tennessee—one family at a time.



—Eva Angelina Romero,  
Broker/Owner

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## A Winter Storm, a Helping Hand, and the Power of Community: Meet Carolyn

When the winter storm hit Middle Tennessee, it left behind more than snow and ice. For many residents, it brought unexpected damage, overwhelming cleanup, and a deep sense of vulnerability. For one winter storm survivor, that experience became a powerful reminder of what community truly means.



In the aftermath of the storm, fallen and damaged trees created serious challenges on her property. The work required to remove them wasn't something she could take on herself. Like many storm survivors, she found herself facing a situation where help wasn't just welcome—it was necessary. That's when volunteers from Hands On powered by United Way of Greater Nashville showed up.

"They came back to help me," she shared. "And being such kind-hearted souls, they saw another tree and said, 'That one needs to be cut down too.'"

What started as assistance with a single issue quickly turned into something more. Without being asked, the volunteers assessed the situation and took action, ultimately removing two damaged

trees. Their willingness to step in and do more than expected made a lasting impression. Before this experience, Hands On was something she had only heard about. "I'd heard about it," she said, "but I hadn't experienced it personally. Now I have—and it's remarkable."

As a winter storm survivor, the impact went beyond the physical work being done. In a moment of stress and uncertainty, the presence of skilled, compassionate volunteers brought relief, reassurance, and a renewed sense of hope.

What stood out most was the range of skills the volunteers brought with them. Tree removal isn't something everyone can do, and she was quick to acknowledge that it wasn't within her own skill set. But Hands On made it clear that meaningful service doesn't come from one type of volunteer—it comes from many.

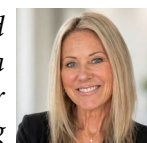
"Hands On has volunteers with all different kinds of skills needed," she said. That diversity of expertise is what allows Hands On to respond effectively during times of crisis, whether it's winter storms, natural disasters, or ongoing community needs. People show up with what they know how to do, and together, they make a real difference.

As someone who volunteers herself, the experience also reinforced her belief in the power of service. "Being a volunteer myself, it's such a wonderful opportunity to use your skills to serve the community," she shared.

Her story is a reminder that recovery after a winter storm doesn't happen alone. It happens through neighbors helping neighbors, through organizations that mobilize quickly, and through volunteers who are willing to step in and say, "How can I help?"

For this survivor, Hands On transformed a difficult moment into a meaningful connection—one rooted in kindness, skill, and collective care. In the wake of the storm, what she remembers most isn't just the trees that were cleared, but the people who showed up when she needed them most. That is the power of being hands-on for the community. If you wish to help, visit our winter storm volunteering page.

—Kris Weise, Director Marketing and Communications and Casar Orta Tavera, Senior Social Media Manager  
[www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org](http://www.unitedwaygreaternashville.org)



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## The Enduring Importance of Evangelism in the Christian Faith

Evangelism has always stood at the center of the Christian faith. Rooted in Jesus' Great Commission, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations"—



it reflects the calling of every believer to share the message of salvation, hope, and transformation. Evangelism is not merely a religious duty; it is an expression of love. As Christians, we believe that the gospel is lifechanging, and sharing it becomes a natural overflow of experiencing God's grace. At its core, evangelism is about connection. It bridges the gap between faith and the world, offering people the opportunity to encounter Christ personally. For many, hearing the gospel, whether through a conversation, a sermon, or a simple act of kindness, becomes the turning point that reshapes their lives. Stories of individuals finding peace, purpose, and healing through the message of Christ highlight the profound impact evangelism can have on others. It brings light into dark places, hope into despair, and direction into confusion.

The impact of evangelism extends beyond individual transformation. Historically, it has shaped communities, inspired movements of compassion,

and fueled global missions. Hospitals, schools, and humanitarian efforts around the world have often been born out of evangelistic passion. When people embrace the gospel, they frequently become agents of change in their families, workplaces, and neighborhoods. Evangelism, therefore, is not only about spiritual renewal but also about cultivating a culture of love, service, and justice.

In today's world, believers have more tools for evangelism than ever before. Traditional methods—such as preaching, personal testimony, and Bible distribution—remain powerful. Yet modern technology has expanded the reach of the gospel dramatically. Social media platforms, podcasts, livestreamed services, and Christian apps allow believers to share their faith across continents in seconds. Creative tools like music, film, and digital art also open doors for conversations about faith in ways that resonate with contemporary audiences. Even simple, tangible items—like tracts, bracelets, or pocket crosses—continue to serve as meaningful reminders of God's love.

The use of small pocket crosses in evangelism has a humble but impactful history. These tiny wooden or metal crosses began gaining popularity in

the mid20th century as Christians sought simple, portable ways to share their faith. Often handcrafted by church groups, prison ministries, or mission organizations, pocket crosses are designed to be given away as tokens of encouragement. Their purpose is not only symbolic but relational: each cross represents a moment of connection, a conversation starter, or a reminder that someone is praying for the recipient. Over time, these crosses have become a cherished evangelistic tool, spreading across countries and cultures as believers carry them in their pockets, purses, and Bibles, ready to offer them whenever the Spirit prompted.

Evangelism remains vital because the message it carries is timeless. In a world searching for meaning, we believe the gospel offers the ultimate answer. Whether through modern technology or a simple pocket cross, the heart of evangelism stays the same: sharing the love of Christ so that others may experience the hope that has transformed countless lives.

—Katherine Stewart - Custom Representative, Swanson Christian Products  
[www.swansoninc.com](http://www.swansoninc.com)



## The Parents' Most Powerful Tool: How Prayer Rewires Your Family's Brain



This is a challenging verse to live by, don't you think so? "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7) That's easier said than done. Or is it?



As believers, we've always known prayer changes things, but did you know it actually changes us? I'll be honest: there was a season in my life when prayer felt like I was going through the motions. I bet you can relate, and so can our kids. But it's more than going through the motions. Research reveals that when we bow our heads and lift our hearts to God, something remarkable happens in our brains. Science is now confirming what Scripture has taught for thousands of years: prayer actually transforms our minds.

In my book *Raising Kids to Follow Christ*, I share Dr. Lisa Miller's findings from her book *The Awakened Brain*. She states, "Dr. Kenneth Kendler and his colleagues at Virginia Commonwealth University found that there is a significant genetic contribution to spirituality. Specifically, our capacity for a personal spiritual life is 29 percent heritable. In other words, when we look at human variance in spirituality, a person's degree of spirituality is determined 29 percent by heredity, and 71 percent by environment." Our DNA is spiritual, and science is catching up to what God has always told us is true!



### Building Pathways to Peace

Think of it this way: every time you or your child prays, you're creating stronger neural pathways that lead to peace rather than panic, gratitude instead of grumbling, and faith over fear. Your brain's fear center, the amygdala, becomes less reactive as you consistently turn to God. I've experienced this myself in situations that once sent me spiraling into worry (a considerable side effect of parenting), now prompt me to pray first. Over time, you'll find yourself responding to life's challenges with greater calm and confidence, not because you've become stronger on your own, but because prayer has literally rewired how your mind processes stress.

Studies show that regular prayer lowers cortisol, our primary stress hormone, and improves cardiovascular health through reduced blood pressure and

slower heart rates. This isn't just spiritual truth—it's measurable, physical evidence that prayer brings healing to both body and soul. Talk about a natural solution to illness!

### Taking Thoughts Captive

Second Corinthians 10:5 instructs us to "take every thought captive to make it obedient to Christ." Prayer is how we practice this divine discipline. When we consistently bring our worries, fears, and negative thinking patterns before the Lord, we're replacing lies with truth, anxiety with trust, and despair with hope.

Neuroscience calls this process "synaptic pruning" in that our brains literally prune away unused negative pathways while strengthening the positive ones we repeatedly use. When you pray Scripture over your circumstances, when you choose to focus on God's faithfulness instead of your fears, you're not just thinking positively—you're participating in the miraculous rewiring of your mind.

Help your children understand that prayer isn't just a religious ritual or wishful thinking. Prayer is God's prescribed method for transforming our minds and renewing our spirits. When we pray, we're cooperating with the Creator who designed both our brains and our souls. We're allowing Him to reshape us from the inside out, creating pathways to peace, patterns of gratitude, and hearts full of compassion.

—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 *Yippeee*





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### Re-Digging the Wells of Revival



Long before the lights, the stage and the crowds, the Ryman Auditorium was born out of revival. In the late 1800s, evangelist Sam Jones preached with fiery conviction up and down the Cumberland River. His preaching shook Nashville to its core. Taverns emptied. Brothels closed. Drunkards sobered up. Hardened hearts melted under the power of the Gospel.

One man in particular was furious. Thomas Ryman, a wealthy riverboat captain and businessman, despised the effect Sam Jones was having on the city's nightlife and river culture. Jones' revival meetings were disrupting business and turning the city upside down. Ryman reportedly attended one of the meetings intending to confront and silence the preacher.

But the Lord had other plans. Revival changed Thomas Ryman. So deeply moved by the preaching and conviction of the Holy Spirit, he vowed to build a place where people could gather to hear the Gospel preached. Seven years later, the Union Gospel Tabernacle opened its doors in 1892. It would later be renamed the Ryman Auditorium in the captain's honor.

Before the Ryman became known for music, it was known for altar calls. Before Broadway became an entertainment district, the fires of revival burned there. The building was birthed from a move of God.

In many ways, the story of the Ryman parallels the story of revival itself. What began as a Gospel tabernacle was eventually overtaken by culture and the spirit of the age.

Just blocks away from the Ryman, Broadway overflows nightly with crowds drinking, partying and searching for fulfillment. Yet many believers are praying that what happened in Acts 2:1-13 will happen again in Nashville — that the fire of the Holy Ghost will fall in such a powerful way that it cannot be contained within four walls.

That is the heart behind Regeneration Nashville's Revival at the Ryman, happening July 26.

This night is about leaning into prayer, repentance, worship and God's plan for the city of Nashville. The same Holy Ghost who filled the Upper Room and moved in the revival meetings of the 1800s — and other revivals throughout the ages — is still moving today. For Regeneration Nashville, this moment carries special significance.

Pastors Kent and Candy Christmas began their ministry in Nashville by faithfully serving in a small warehouse church near Brick Church Pike. What began as Resting Place Church was built through years of prayer, altar ministry, worship, healing and surrender to the presence of God. There was never a pursuit of platform or popularity. The ministry was simply forged in hunger for revival. But in 2020, things changed.

As Pastor Kent's message at The Return in Washington, D.C. spread across the nation during one of the most turbulent seasons in modern history, people everywhere began searching for something real. While much of the world shut down, the ministry continued gathering, praying and preaching. Through online ministry, the message reached far beyond the walls of a single church building and eventually grew into Regeneration Nashville.



People began coming from across the country and around the world — hungry for truth, hungry for the presence of God and hungry for revival. And now, the journey leads to the Ryman.

Just as in the days of Sam Jones, believers are praying that people will leave the bars, wander toward the presence of God, and worship and deliverance will pour into the streets.

Genesis 26 tells us that the wells of fresh water once dug by Abraham were stopped up by the Philistines. But everything changed when Isaac returned to re-dig his father's wells and uncover the places where living water once flowed. Revival is not lost to history. And we believe the wells are about to flow again.

Tickets for Revival at the Ryman are fully reserved, but if you would still like to attend, Regeneration Nashville has secured an overflow venue at the SkyDeck across the street at the Food Hall. The service will be livestreamed there, and the pastors and singers will also be available to pray with attendees and minister to those in the overflow area.

—Burton Gaar

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—Daron and Maricela Farrar, Owners





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# SHAWN RYAN:

## FAITH IN THE FIRE

SHAWN RYAN SITS DOWN TO TALK ABOUT HIS JOURNEY TO FAITH AND LIFE IN TENNESSEE.



Former Navy SEAL and CIA contractor Shawn Ryan has found remarkable success with The Shawn Ryan Show. What began in 2019 as a platform to spotlight veterans and their businesses has grown into something far greater. Since launching the podcast, Shawn has built one of the most influential shows in the country with thought-provoking interviews discussing mental health, faith, government transparency, and much more. Along the way, his personal journey has evolved as well and he has become a believer. While his faith is now stronger than ever, the journey wasn't always easy.



**Ryan's faith journey has become a central part of his life and conversations.**

**What misconceptions about Christianity did you have before becoming a believer?**

Before I became a believer, I thought that you needed to go through some kind of a religious-type hierarchy to be able to speak directly to the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit, Jesus, God... but that's just not true. The only thing that matters is your direct relationship that you build and continue to build with the Father, the Son, the Holy Spirit.

**Looking back, what were some defining moments that led you to Christianity?**

I think the defining moment that led me to Christianity was when I started to realize, through my podcast, just how dark the world actually is. I still continue to be surprised at how dark and how much evil is inside of the world. It got so dark and so bad that nothing really made sense to me and I came to the real-



**Ryan reflects on how faith helped him understand hardship and purpose.**

ization that if things can be this evil, and if evil is this real, then the other side has to be real too.

**How has your faith changed the way you view your past experiences and hardships?**

Well, now I realize that when you're going through those hardships and it feels like the world is about to end—like a major door has closed, or you've burned a bridge, lost a friend, or lost a family member—in those dark times, when you come out of them and look back, the old saying is true: one door closes and another opens. Although we never seem to understand what God's plan is for us in the moment, when we look back and dissect the journey, His answers were definitely a lot better than mine and He's always working on something. It just takes a minute to understand it and to finally see it.

**What areas of your life have seen the greatest transformation since becoming a Christian?**

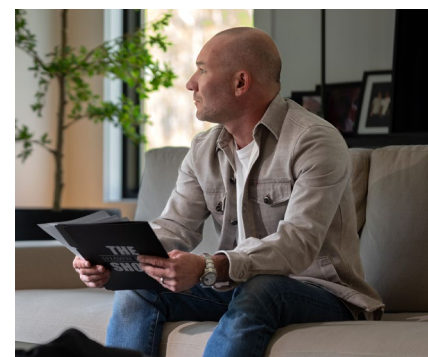


**On The Shawn Ryan Show, Ryan explores topics of faith, truth, and personal transformation.**

It's very much about being a better father and a better husband. It's made me think about the things that really matter in life. It's not possessions, it's not false idols, it's not politicians... the thing that matters most is your relationship with God and Christ, your relationship as the leader of your family. It's how you treat people. It is all of those things. All of those things are better in my life. It has strengthened and deepened my relationships and even helped me discern with who I can trust.

**How do you handle doubt, fear, or uncertainty as a Christian?**

Well, you're not supposed to fear as a Christian, right? But I still do. My fear is for my wife, for my kids. That's what I fear the most. What happens to them if I'm no longer here? That's honestly my biggest fear in life. Who is going to protect my family if I die? If I perish? If I disappear? The only thing you can do is just have faith in God that He will take care of it. You look at your past in life and how you've gotten through everything and realize that God paved the way, and He'll pave the way for your



**Ryan says trust in God helps him face fear and uncertainty.**

family, your wife, and your kids. He'll protect them and everything that is supposed to happen, will happen.

### What does living out your faith look like to you every day?

It means being bold about your faith. It means being loud about your faith. It means not being ashamed of your faith—that's what it means to me, all of those things. And it means thinking about your actions before you actually act on them. 'Is this serving God's kingdom or is it not?'—it's not letting things slide, it's not being over-accepting—it is standing up for what you believe God wants for His kingdom and not wavering.



**Ryan believes living out faith means being bold and unashamed.**

### How has becoming a Christian impacted the way you approach your podcast and conversations with guests?

Ever since I've become a Christian, there are a lot more guests on my show that I'm trying to learn from: Lee Strobel, John Burke, Wes Huff, Father Ripperger, Father Reehil, Father Gadberry, Jeremiah Johnson, Bryce Crawford... a lot of people. Lots of people who have taught me so much from being on the show that I never would have had if I wasn't a Christian. And even with guests who don't share the faith, you can still learn a lot. I try to plant seeds where I can. A recent example: I had two former one-percent biker gang guys on my show. Some of the episodes haven't come out yet. One was a former chapter leader of the Hell's Angels and one was a former chapter leader of the Mongols. Neither one of them really believed in Christ. So, I asked them where they think they're going when they die. They got confused and thought about it. They said they didn't know. One of them is pushing 80 years old. I gave him a book, *Jesus Calling*, and told him he should read it because going to heaven matters, and none of us have unlimited time left. And that really made him think.



**Prayer has become an important part of Ryan's podcast conversations.**

We also pray a lot on the podcast. I would say with a majority of my guests, we either start the podcast with a prayer or end it with a prayer. Prayers on getting the episode to who it needs to go to, especially when we are talking about protecting kids.

### Has moving to Tennessee helped strengthen your faith?

Yes, absolutely Tennessee has helped strengthen my faith. I moved here from Boca Raton, Florida—where Christianity, let's just say, does not run as deep. Moving to Middle Tennessee—the Bible Belt—I've just been completely surrounded with encouragement to dive into scripture and the word. I've been surrounded with some of the best mentors I could have ever imagined. I'm also surrounded with lots of other new believers and when I meet all these different people, it strikes up new super



**Life in Tennessee has surrounded Ryan with faith-filled community and mentorship.**

interesting conversations. I learn from mentors, new believers and we raise questions to one another that we haven't thought of. And I've found that, with a lot of people here, you don't have to be ashamed to ask the tough questions that nobody wants to ask. They are going to answer it and they are going to help you.

### What made Tennessee the perfect place to call home?



**Middle Tennessee has become a place of family, faith, and belonging for Ryan.**

The most genuine people, not only in the country, but the world. Faith in Christ is the center of everything and the family unit is the most important thing to everybody that lives around here. I always say this, but I don't think there's any better place in the world to raise your family than Middle Tennessee. It is safe, it has amazing Christian values, people stand up for what they believe, people help each other. People are humble. People are nice. It's the best place in the world to live.

### What advice do you have for anyone wanting to find their faith?

I would say — if that question is in your head — that's already the first step... That's Jesus tapping on the door. Dive in. Find the people that you can be around where no questions are off limits. You should be able to ask any question,



**Ryan encourages others to ask honest questions and build a personal relationship with Christ.**

at all, about scripture, the bible, God's will, God's kingdom, anything. And if you're with a group of people who get offended about the questions you are asking, then you're in the wrong group and need to find a new one. The other thing I'd say is... Christians can be demanding, they can be extremely critical of how you live your life, they can tell you how you should live your life. But at the beginning of this, I said the only thing that really matters is your relationship between you and Christ. No one else is inserted in between there. That means you don't have to listen to anyone telling you what you have to do or need to do. It's your relationship with Jesus, not theirs. Always remember that...

—Ashley Jenkins

# Unlock Your Perfect Smile



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Hablamos español!



**Lee & Kim Greenwood: Faith, Family, Freedom, and America at 250**



Lee Greenwood and his beautiful wife, Kim, make their home in the lush rolling hills of Tennessee, just outside of Nashville in a house that “blessings built.” Quite literally.

For more than four decades, Lee has been the man, the writer and the voice behind the song “God Bless the USA,” one of the most enduring patriotic songs in America’s history. When he originally wrote it in 1983, little could he have imagined the profound impact it would have on an entire nation over the decades to come. He reflects back: “The words ‘I’m proud to be an American where at least I know I’m free’ came to me in the back of my tour bus while rolling down the highway to our next gig. The song more or less ‘wrote itself’ coming naturally as a reflection of my personal pride to be an American. It wasn’t written as a political song. It wasn’t intended to be a ‘Republican or Democrat’ song. ‘God Bless the USA’ was written as a love song from a native son who felt truly blessed and thankful to have been born in this great land.”

On July 4, 2026, Greenwood’s voice will often be heard as America marks 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. “God Bless the USA” will ring out as the semiquincentennial will be celebrated across the nation with special events—including major commemorations in Washington, DC. It is a once-in-a-generation birthday for the nation

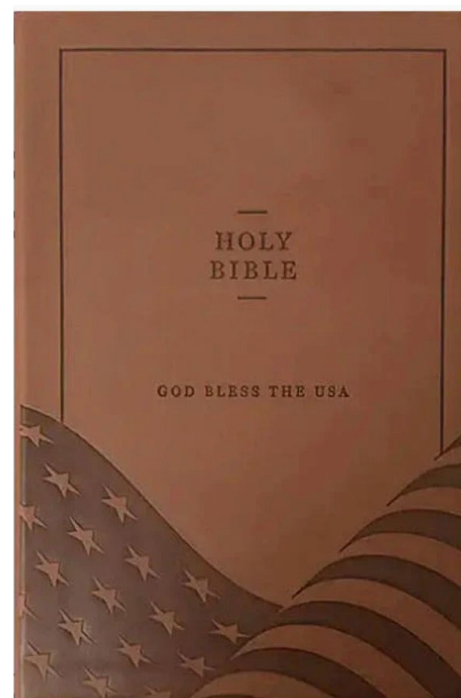
In his personal history, Lee didn’t just don a robe of patriotism in a recording studio. In the 80s, Greenwood became one of country music’s defining male voices, earning major awards from the Academy of Country Music, the

Country Music Association and the Grammys. His hits included “Dixie Road,” “Somebody’s Gonna Love You,” “Going, Going, Gone” and the tender “I.O.U.” Still, history would remember him most for the song he wrote in the back of his tour bus in 1983.

That love of country is also woven into the Greenwood marriage. Kim Payne was Tennessee’s Junior Miss in 1985 and Miss Tennessee USA in 1989, earning degrees in English and Communication from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga before stepping into a lifetime of pageantry, leadership and service. As a performer, she traveled to more than 20 countries and entertained American troops on multiple USO tours. On one of those tours, in the North Atlantic in 1989, she met Lee. Lee and Kim married in 1992 and raised their two sons, Dalton and Parker, in Middle Tennessee.

“Faith and family have always been the anchor for us,” noted Kim, “The song may be what people know, but behind it is a family that has lived with gratitude, has serve God at every opportunity and taught our boys to love this country and never forget the One who blessed it.”

The Greenwoods’ grounding in patriotism and faith is also visible in faith-focused projects, including the God Bless The USA Bible, a King James Version



edition presented with the inclusion in the back of America’s founding documents. Lee has said the project was discussed by him, Kim and his management team as they considered what it means for America’s next generation of leadership—our children—to know the meaning and importance of the Founding Documents and the spiritual connection of The Creator’s importance in the heritage that shaped “one nation under God.”

Notes Lee. “What kind of country do we want to hand to the next generation? What stories will we teach our children to honor? Will we remember the men and women who paid for freedom? Will we pray for leaders, love our neighbors, serve our communities and keep faith

at the center of our national life? Will we pause to remember at this the 250 Birthday of our great nation that the gift of freedom was not free and that is to be cherished, protected, and passed on?”

Added Lee as a personal note to Nashville Christian Family readers in closing: “Between now and our nation’s magnificent milestone on July 4th, I hope every American will take a personal inventory of their blessings and will breathe a prayer to God to continue to bless our great nation. In this changing world of increasing conflict and threats, we must be diligent. In the profound words of one of my heroes, former President Ronald Reagan: ‘All if us as Americans are joined in a common enterprise to write the story of freedom—the greatest adventure mankind has ever known...’

—Jackie Monaghan, Morningstar PR (615) 390-0792  
morningstarpr@comcast.net

## LEGAL MATTERS

Brought to you by: **Larry Crain** • [www.crainlaw.legal](http://www.crainlaw.legal)

### Fundamentals of the Lawyer-Client Relationship

Choosing the right lawyer can be a daunting challenge. Gone are the days of the country lawyer who was expected to be able to handle anything from a simple will to a complex criminal case. The law has become extremely diversified over the last several decades.



In addition, lawyers, like doctors, each have their own bedside manner when it comes to relating with the client. Some of us are more approachable than our fellow colleagues who may possess great talent and skill, but have trouble relating to the client.

The lawyer-client relationship is the cornerstone of legal practice. It is a strictly governed, partnership founded on confidentiality, loyalty, competence, and defined boundaries. Once established, the attorney acts as the client's legal agent, and is bound by strict ethical rules to zealously protect his client's rights and best interests.

**The Core Duties: Confidentiality:** Lawyers are legally barred from disclosing client communications. This ensures clients can speak freely without

fear that private information will be used against them.

**Duty of Loyalty & Conflicts of Interest:** An attorney is required to act solely in the client's best interest. Lawyers cannot represent clients whose interests directly conflict with another client or the attorney's own personal interests.

**Competence & Diligence:** Lawyers are ethically required to only handle legal matters within their legal knowledge, expertise and competence. And they must always pursue client's objectives with reasonable promptness.

**Open Communication:** When a client trusts their lawyer, they are more likely to disclose complete facts—even embarrassing ones—which is essential for building a strong case.

**Allocation of Decision-Making:** The client and the attorney have distinct roles and boundaries regarding how a case is handled. With the advent of the Internet, clients increasingly attempt to conduct their own legal research. This is like self-diagnosing one's illness by consulting non-reliable medical "experts" on-line. While clients dictate the ultimate objectives of the representation, it is their

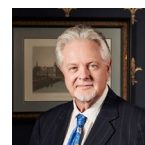
lawyer's role to provide the technical, legal, and tactical means to achieve those goals—such as what witnesses to call or which legal motions to file.

**Formation and Termination Formation:** The relationship often begins with an initial consultation or screening process, but is solidified by an engagement letter or written retainer agreement that outlines the scope of work and fee arrangements.

**Termination:** Clients have the right to fire their lawyer at any time. Attorneys are also permitted—and sometimes required—to withdraw from representation if the client insists on illegal actions, fundamental conflicts arise, or the client fails to meet their contractual obligations.

Knowledge of these basics of the lawyer-client relationship can lead to a lasting relationship built on mutual trust and respect.

—Larry L. Crain, Crain Law Group, PLLC  
[crainlaw.legal](http://crainlaw.legal), 615-376-2600



## HEALTHY LIVING

Brought to you by: **Solace Oral Surgery** • [www.solaceoralsurgery.com](http://www.solaceoralsurgery.com)

### Summer Is the Perfect Time for Wisdom Teeth Removal at Solace Implant Center & Oral Surgery



Summer break is more than a time for vacations and family fun—it's also one of the best opportunities to take care of an important milestone in your teen or young adult's oral health: wisdom teeth removal.

At Solace Implant Center & Oral Surgery, we understand that parents want the very best care for their children. That's why our experienced team is dedicated to making the entire process as comfortable, convenient, and stress-free as possible.

For many families, scheduling wisdom teeth removal during the summer means students have time to recover before returning to school, sports, or college. With fewer academic and extracurricu-

lar commitments, recovery can happen at a comfortable pace, helping patients get back to their normal routines quickly.

Led by nationally recognized oral and maxillofacial surgeon Dr. Jaime Romero, Solace provides advanced surgical care using the latest technology and techniques. Dr. Romero has once again been recognized as a Nashville Lifestyles Top oral Surgeon, reflecting his commitment to clinical excellence and compassionate patient care.

Our team offers convenient consultations and, when clinically appropriate, can often perform same-day wisdom teeth removal, minimizing the need for multiple appointments and making the experience easier for busy families.

Wisdom teeth don't always cause immediate pain, but impacted or improperly positioned teeth can lead to infection, damage to neighboring teeth, crowding, cysts, and other long-term complications. Early evaluation allows families to make informed decisions before problems become more serious.

From your first phone call through recovery, our

caring team is committed to providing personalized attention every step of the way. We know oral surgery can feel overwhelming, especially for parents, so we take the time to answer questions, explain every aspect of treatment, and ensure patients feel confident and comfortable.

At Solace Implant Center & Oral Surgery, our mission goes beyond performing procedures—we strive to provide compassionate care that gives every patient peace of mind. Whether your child needs wisdom teeth removed before heading back to school or you're considering dental implants or another oral surgery procedure, our experienced team is here to help.

This summer, give your family the gift of proactive care and a healthy smile. Schedule a consultation with Solace Implant Center & Oral Surgery and discover why so many patients and referring dentists throughout Middle Tennessee trust Dr. Jaime Romero and our exceptional team for their oral surgery needs.

—Solace Implant Center & Oral Surgery  
Staff Writer – [www.solaceoralsurgery.com](http://www.solaceoralsurgery.com)

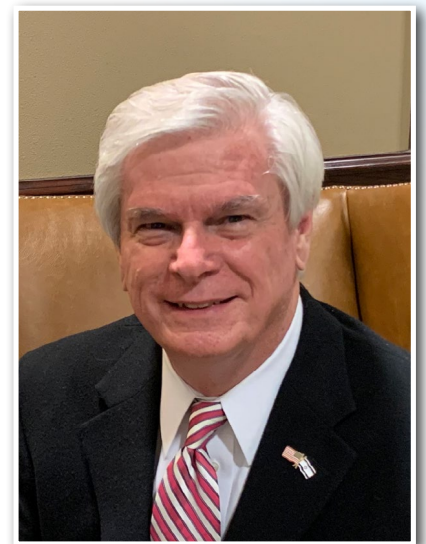


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## PARENT WITH PURPOSE

### Books for Kids about American History

Happy Birthday, America! You look good for a 250-year-old. As we celebrate this momentous date in our history, let's look at a few children's books (both old and new) that mark this special day, as well as others unique to our country's history. So don your red, white, and blue and brush up on your American history by reading some books.



*American, I'm so Glad You Were Born: Celebrating the Country We Love*

By Ainsly Earhardt and Kim Barnes

This beautifully illustrated book celebrates America's rich heritage and traditions. From the founding principles of democracy and equality to the freedoms we cherish—like freedom of speech, religion, and opportunity—this book is a heartfelt reminder of why we're so thankful for the U.S.A.

*Heroes of 1776: The Story of the Declaration of Independence*

By Neil Gorsuch, Janie Nitze, and Chris Ellison

Dive into the stories of ordinary people willing to do extraordinary things, from iconic figures like Thomas Jefferson, George Washington, Ben Franklin, and Paul Revere, to lesser-known revolutionaries such as Caesar Rodney, Thomas Paine, and Mary Katherine Goddard. These great men and women risked all they had—their property, freedom, and ultimately their lives—to secure a better life for their children and grandchildren.

*What is America?*

By Michelle Medlock Adams and Amy Wummer

This board book introduces little ones to the beliefs and ideals that make America unique. Heartfelt and humorous questions ponder all of the things that America might be about—the flag, the Fourth of July, the Statue of Liberty.

*Berenstain Bears: God Bless Our Country*

By Mike Berenstain

Who doesn't love the Berenstain Bears? The Bear family and their Bear Country neighbors celebrate the Fourth of July with a big parade. But not before the cubs get a lesson about the blessings of freedom for their country. It comes with stickers!

*America: A Patriotic Primer*

By Lynne Cheney and Robin Preiss Glasser

This A to Z of America frames the story—and the miracle—of our country.

A is for America,  
the land that we love.

B is for the Birthday  
of this country of ours....

This patriotic primer teaches history by celebrating the diversity, tenacity, and faith of the American people. It's packed with information on each page.

*The Story of Juneteenth*

By Dorena Williamson and Markia Jenai

This little board book by Nashville author Dorena Williamson introduces children to the events of June 19, 1865, when Union General Gordon Granger arrived in Galveston, Texas, to inform the people of Texas that all enslaved people were declared free and the Civil War had ended. The book distills a pivotal moment in U.S. history and creates an opportunity for further conversation between the parent or caregiver and the child.

—Sally Cressman is the author of *The Dance of Easter*. Connect with her through her email list and receive “Biblical Affirmation” cards.



## MIGHTY MEN

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WANG VISION  
CATARACT & LASIK CENTER



### Dr. Ming Wang delivered keynote speech at GMMA International Christian Medical Mission conference



(July 2026) Dr. Ming Wang, Harvard & MIT graduate (MD, magna cum laude) and one of the few laser eye surgeons in the world today who holds a PhD in laser physics, who has performed over 55,000 laser vision procedures (including on over 4,000 doctors), presented a keynote speech and two workshop presentations at 2026 GMMA International Christian Medical Mission conference in Los Angeles, CA. An estimated 800 people attended the annual conference.

Dr. Wang is the subject of the Angel Studios' film

“Sight” (FREE link: [sight.drmingwang.com](http://sight.drmingwang.com)), which has won the Best Picture at ICVM International Christian Film Award. “Sight” is based on Dr. Wang's autobiography “From Darkness to Sight”. Dr. Wang's faith journey is also featured in the award-winning Christina film “God's Not Dead”.

Dr. Wang presented the following at this 800+ attendance annual medical mission conference:

Keynote speech:

“Appreciating Freedom In America By Finding Common Ground”.

Two workshop presentations:

“Faith and medicine: Bridging the gap for a better health”.

“Asking God for wisdom, persevering and trusting God”.

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

As a teenager, Ming fought hardship in his childhood and 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. Dr. Wang has performed over 55,000 laser vision surgeries, including on over 4,000 doctors.

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 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 orphans from around the world.

The film “Sight” (FREE link: [sight.drmingwang.com](http://sight.drmingwang.com)), distributed by Angel Studios, is based on Dr. Wang's autobiography “From Darkness to Sight” and co-stars Terry Chen and Greg Kinnear.

—Leona Walthorn

# What is Faith-Based Investing?

## Faith-Based Investing allows you to:

- ✔ Grow your wealth while honoring biblical values
- ✔ Avoid companies that conflict with your beliefs
- ✔ Invest in companies you are proud to own
- ✔ Make an impact with integrity and invest with purpose

Our commitment, first to our Lord, is that we will not invest a single penny into any company that violates our filters.

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## TEACHABLE MOMENTS

### A People Formed by Truth, Service, and Love

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our great Nation, we are invited to pause and remember the divine foundation upon which America was built. Our Founding Fathers boldly declared that every human being is endowed by God, not government, with three sacred rights: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. These rights endure because truth endures, and truth is not crafted by human hands. It is created by God, revealed to the human heart, and entrusted to every generation to protect.



This is why our judicial system still requires witnesses to swear before God to tell the truth. Our founders understood that truth is not a political instrument, it is a moral obligation. It binds conscience, shapes character, and safeguards freedom. They warned us that government must never become the bastion of truth, because when institutions claim ownership of truth, freedom withers and tyranny grows. Truth belongs to God for the good of His people, formed in conscience, strengthened by faith, and lived out in daily responsibility.

The Law of Applied Truth reminds us that we can only do three things with the truth: Learn it, Profess it, and Live it. We are commissioned to do all three, because society depends on truth to solve its problems. When citizens learn the truth, they grow wise. When they profess the truth, they strengthen others. When they live the truth, they transform their communities. But when truth is neglected, or worse, surrendered to political power, nations falter.

A free nation depends on citizens who seek fairness, not forced equality. Forced equality demands control; fairness demands virtue. And virtue is born from love, Love of God, Love of Neighbor, and Love of Self. These three loves unlock the power of citizenship.

Love of God grounds us in what is right.

Love of Neighbor calls us to serve with humility and compassion.

Love of Self reminds us that dignity is a gift from God, not the government.

A people who embraces these three loves naturally do what Christ taught: do what is right, do it to the best of their ability, and treat others as they themselves wish to be treated. This is the soil in which freedom grows. This is the character that sustains a republic. And this is the spiritual strength that prevents truth from being surrendered to any earthly authority.

As America enters its 250th year, we are called to rise again, not as a divided people, but as a brave people, rooted in truth and guided by faith. If we learn the truth, profess the truth, and live the truth, then America will remain what she was always meant to be: the land of the free, where God-given dreams can still come true.

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, *Solutionary*, author of “The Bloodline of Wisdom, The Awakening of a Modern Solutionary” and “The Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, A Devotional Timeline”



## HASSLE FREE ZONE

Brought to you by: **Molly Maid of South Davidson, Williamson and Maury Counties**



### Expert Tips From Molly Maid

This summer, don't let all your family's activities and time away get the best of your home.

Clean in a pattern: Left to right, top to bottom is the Molly Maid way. Cleaning in a precise, methodical way makes sure you never miss a spot!



Always dust first, vacuum last (except in the bathroom!): In rooms other than the bathroom, dusting first and vacuuming last makes sure you round up all the settled dust. The dust particles in the air after dusting can also irritate allergies. Vacuuming after dusting keeps the risk for allergies to a minimum. In the bathroom, vacuuming or sweeping first avoids a sticky, dirty, mess when gravity pulls your cleaning product to the floor.

Keep, donate, trash: When you're feeling courageous and ready to tackle an organizational project, make three piles — keep, donate, and trash. This process helps you make a conscious decision about which items in your home are absolutely necessary to keep.

Use a microfiber cloth: Microfiber cloths are one of Molly Maid's favorite cleaning tools because of their efficiency in collecting dust. A damp microfiber cloth almost never leaves lint or dust behind like many other dusting cloths.

One room at a time: We know first hand that cleaning the whole house can be a daunting task. Tackle one room at a time, giving yourself a quick break after each accomplished task. This will break down a large undertaking into small, achievable goals.

Apply cleaner to all surfaces first: Applying antibacterial cleaner to all your surfaces at once ensures your cleaning process is sanitary and requires less elbow grease. Most people do not know that cleaning products take at least 30 seconds to kill bacteria completely. Not only will your kitchen and bathroom surfaces be bacteria free, but letting chemical products sit on problem areas for a couple minutes will start to break down the grime before you get to it!

Set a timer: Setting a timer for 20- or 30-minute increments gives you an attainable goal. After each work session, give yourself a five minute break to relax.

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—Daron and Maricela Farrar



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Molly Maid is proud to fund and support the Ms. Molly Foundation, which supports domestic violence agencies and shelters in local communities. We're proud to have raised over \$3 million dollars since 1996.





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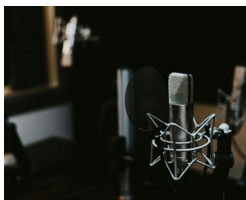


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## Trading Perfection for Trust

I have the privilege of sharing stories, encouragement, and lessons God is teaching me along the way on Bridges (TV show) and Hope for the Journey (podcast). This month, I want to pull back the curtain and share a personal “secret from the studio”—one that has challenged me more than I expected.



**How can I avoid mistakes?** More specifically, it’s about my fear of media, visibility, and getting things wrong in front of other people. For years, I approached media opportunities with a desire to do everything perfectly. Whether it was recording a show, preparing an interview, writing a message, or stepping in front of a camera, I felt the pressure to have every word polished and every detail in place. I convinced myself that if I worked hard enough and prepared long enough that I could avoid mistakes.

**Perfectionism is a Demanding Master.** Perfectionism often appears to be excellence, but at its core it is usually fear: fear of failure, criticism, disappointing others, or not measuring up. Recently, God has been gently revealing that my desire for perfection

was standing in the way of trust. I was focusing so much on getting it right that I wasn’t fully relying on His presence.

As new media opportunities emerged, I found myself facing old anxieties. What if I say the wrong thing? What if people misunderstand me? What if I’m not good enough? Those questions can become loud voices if we allow them.

Yet through prayer, reflection, and countless reminders from Scripture, God kept bringing me back to a simple truth: we are called to obedience and faithfulness – not perfectionism.

**What if I don’t feel ready?** Faithfulness means showing up even when I feel nervous. It means saying yes when God opens a door, even if I don’t feel completely ready. It means trusting that He can work through my imperfections, weaknesses, and humanity far better than I ever could through my own striving.

I’ve learned that people are not looking for perfection nearly as much as they are looking for authenticity. They want to know that hope is real. They want to hear from someone who has wrestled with fear and discovered that God is faithful in the middle of it.

So in this season, I am choosing trust over perfection, obedience over certainty, and faith that God can use an imperfect messenger to share a message of hope. Perhaps you can relate. Maybe there is an opportunity, a calling, a conversation, or a dream that feels intimidating. Maybe fear has been whispering that you need to have everything figured out before you take the next step.

If so, I want to encourage you with the same reminder God has been giving me: You don’t have to carry the weight of perfection. You only need to carry the responsibility of faithfulness. God is fully capable of handling the rest.

**Today’s Secret from the Studio:** We are called to obedience and faithfulness – not perfectionism.

—*Monica Schmelter has worked in Christian media for more than 30 years and is the host of Bridges on Christian Television Network and the podcast Hope for the Journey. Through her media ministry, writing, and speaking, she encourages others to find hope, strength, and purpose through faith in God. You can watch Bridges or listen to Hope for the Journey at [monicaschmelter.com](http://monicaschmelter.com)*



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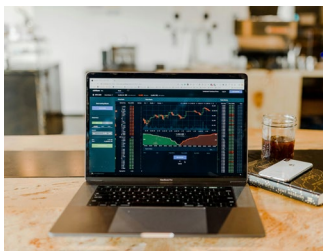
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## Net Worth vs. Annual Earnings: Lessons from Elon Musk's SpaceX IPO

The recent initial public offering (IPO) of SpaceX has made headlines around the world, not only for its impact on the future of space exploration, but also for catapulting Elon Musk's net worth to over a trillion dollars. While this staggering figure has generated amazement and debate, it also exposes a common misunderstanding: the difference between net worth and annual earnings. This distinction is important, especially when interpreting financial news about high-profile individuals.



**Understanding Net Worth.** Net worth refers to the total value of an individual's assets minus their liabilities. For someone like Elon Musk, assets include ownership stakes in companies such as SpaceX and Tesla. When SpaceX went public, the market assigned a value to the shares Musk owns, dramatically increasing his reported net worth. However, this figure is not the same as cash in the bank. Net worth is largely a theoretical number, fluctuating with the market and only partially accessible unless assets are sold.

**Annual Earnings: What It Really Means.** Annual earnings, by contrast, represent the amount of money an individual receives in a given year, generally through salary, bonuses, dividends, or other forms of income. In Musk's case, his reported salary from his companies is about \$54,000 per year. This is a modest income compared to his astronomical net worth. Musk, like many billionaires, opts to reinvest wealth in his ventures rather than draw large salaries. His annual earnings do not reflect the scale of his wealth or the volatility of his net worth.

**Why the Confusion?** The confusion between net worth and annual earnings often arises because both are large figures associated with wealthy individuals. Media coverage tends to spotlight dramatic net worth changes following events like the SpaceX IPO, while overlooking the relatively small salaries that founders and CEOs might actually take home. This can lead to misconceptions about how much money these individuals have available for personal spending or investment.

**The SpaceX IPO: A Case Study.** The SpaceX IPO provides a clear example. Musk's net worth soared because the public markets assigned a new, higher value to his shares. However, unless Musk sells these shares, that wealth remains on paper. If he

were to cash out, he would probably face taxes and other considerations that would reduce the realized amount. Meanwhile, his lifestyle and available cash are determined by his annual earnings and personal liquidity, not the theoretical value of his assets.

**Why It Matters.** Understanding the difference between net worth and annual earnings is key to interpreting financial news, assessing the wealth of public figures, and forming informed decisions about personal finances. Net worth can be volatile and is often illiquid, while annual earnings represent actual income available for use. The story of Elon Musk and SpaceX is a timely reminder to look beyond the headlines and understand the differences behind these financial terms.

If you have questions about how net worth and annual earnings might impact your own financial planning, our team is here to help. Contact us at Wallin, Hargis, and Colquette Wealth at 855-378-1806 for personalized guidance and answers to your financial questions.

—Michael Wallin, Certified Financial Planner™. For more information, please visit [whcwealth.com](http://whcwealth.com) or call 615-236-2220.



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## The Pocket Jesus Phenomenon: A Small Symbol Making a Big Global Impact



You've probably seen them by now. Tucked beside the register at a nail salon, sitting on the counter at a gas station, perched near the checkout lane at the grocery store. Little Jesus figures, about the size of a thumb, showing up in the most ordinary places. If you haven't noticed them yet, you will.

TikTok took the idea and turned it into a global trend because once you saw one, you felt like you were part of that growing community. Part of the appeal is the surprise of it, the way something so small and so specific keeps turning up everywhere you go. People started filming their own finds, passing them to strangers, leaving them behind for someone else to discover.

Some of the stories that circulate around these figures are hard to explain away. One woman got into a car accident, the kind where everything loose inside the car goes flying. Bags, sunglasses, a phone, whatever wasn't strapped down ended up somewhere it wasn't before. The Pocket Jesus didn't move. That's the kind of story that gets passed around, and it doesn't need much help encouraging people to keep little Jesus close (and the real Jesus much closer).

That's part of what makes this more than a trend. Small devotional objects have been around forever, but these figures have found their way into the pockets and dashboards and checkout counters of people who might not have sought them out on their own. The gesture of leaving one somewhere, or pressing one into someone's hand, doesn't require explanation. It just means someone thought to do it.

For the people who make and sell them, and for the churches and organizations that distribute them during outreach or relief efforts, the response has been something they didn't fully see coming. The figures are inexpensive and easy to carry, which turns out to matter. Something you can slip into a card, leave in a waiting room, or hand to a stranger

without making it a whole thing has a reach that bigger gestures don't.

Whether someone keeps one for faith, for comfort, or just because the story about the car accident stuck with them, the result is the same. A small object moving through the world, from hand to hand, doing something.

Critics might dismiss the trend as sentimental or simplistic, but that can miss the deeper truth. The Pocket Jesus phenomenon isn't about the object itself but rather it's about what it represents. In a fractured world, people are hungry for meaning, connection, and reminders of something larger than themselves. These tiny figures offer that in a form that's accessible, portable, and deeply personal.

Ultimately, the phenomenon of the Pocket Jesus shows that even the smallest symbols can spark global movements. In pockets around the world, a quiet revolution of hope is taking place, one tiny figure at a time.

—Katherine Stewart  
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(from left) Jim Daly, Chuck Swindoll, Anne Graham Lotz, Allen Jackson, Alistair Begg, Adrian Rogers, Tony Evans, Charles Stanley, Dave & Anne Wilson, Michael Youssef, Robert Jeffress and many more!

### PART TWO - LONELINESS IS A PAINFUL, SILENT, AND GROWING EPIDEMIC;

however, there are now antidotes which empower healing within loneliness



At this moment, it is 5:30 p.m., Saturday, April 18, 2026. We are about to land in an almost brand new 737 Turbo Jet at Nashville International Airport, returning from our 15th Rotary Club Medical Outreach Service to Guatemala. Several of us abruptly woke up at 2 a.m. to catch the first and only 3 a.m. shuttle to a busy third world country airport as 1000+ people hustled for flights to a myriad of places around the world.

This was my 15th Medical Outreach trip to Guatemala with about 20 medical specialists and volunteers from our Hendersonville Rotary Club, who yearly share their skills providing ophthalmology screenings/treatment, medical physical evaluations/numerous treatments for children and adults with medical problems some unusual and rare diseases. Additionally, there is an anesthesiologist who provided gentle light sleep, for very young children, with serious dental challenges, as they received cutting edge treatments.

This was the first year that I was blessed with another psychologist, Dr. Glenn, who is a pleasant, well-trained and experienced clinical/child psychologist most eager to share in the often-complex treatment protocols for individuals who never had an opportunity to receive any psychological help and now their problems have exponentially mounted and they are in a life and death crisis. This year's Rotary club Medical Outreach Service became a most complex psychological protocol, much like a Mash Unit, we were alone in a third world country with very few options, but with great desire/determination, coupled with years of study and experience, to provide brief, but intensive psychotherapy for four very seriously suicidal patients. Fortunately, we were pleased to assist them through the several hours of treatment which stabilize/resolved the crisis and established a therapy protocol that Guatemala master-levels psychologists were honored to continue the necessary treatments.

The totals Services provided in San Lucas Guatemala, to 1102 patients included 470 medical screening services, 213 dental services, 421 visual treatments, 220 medical pediatric evaluations, and 49 patients treated with counseling/therapy services, though the majority of these patients had significance psychological challenges with trauma (PTSD) and they were so gracious and appreciative for psychological treatment/healing, which



they never had the opportunity to receive till now.

There was also a most unusual consultation to seniors' day program which has shared space with a children's daycare program, in such a way that elderly receive a variety of learning experiences to socially meet their needs as well as help with nutrition, healthy exercises, as well as Tai Chi self-defense, while children receive nutritional nourishment, along with assistance in developmental and social needs, state of the art in education, including special training in basic computer skills beginning at three years old and scheduled medical/dental treatment.

The most unusual connection between "the young and elderly clients", which I have not seen before, is a hour-long play, game, or exercise program twice each day so that seniors connect with the 50+ children of various ages, activities, which brings them together creating cumulative human experiences, which includes intellectual, social, and emotional shared experiences, that provides an unusual form



of love, appreciation and synergy, promoting a very healthy and emotional/supportive relationship for all, without any loneliness! My observation and interactions surprised me as I did not observe any significant cognitive deficit or dementia with any of the seniors, the majority were in their 80s and 90s. In addition, I don't recall observing such a happy group of children! Wouldn't it be great for us to model this ongoing, holistic healthy service, which simultaneously treats loneliness for young and elderly in such a beautiful and effective manner?

As psychologists, we had numerous opportunities to assist several of the children and seniors who were experiencing personal, family, and life challenges and I was very impressive to observe how all the children and seniors interacted so well with each other and how their relationships have empowered all to gently and lovingly improve life for all. There's no doubt that loneliness has been a challenge for all, however, there was no social isolation, or disconnect from others which took place and there was such an energy which connected each person in this inclusive environment. Particularly in my conversations and at times counseling with the seniors, though they had significant losses which included loss of spouses and friends and even children, each of them stated to me that they don't ever miss a day in the program. Many of the children are in the daycare program as long as 10 hours because most have single moms, however, the senior day program begins at 10 a.m., includes lunch and usually finishes up by two or three in the afternoon, but only after they have visited with each other.

One of the greatest ways to manage the isolation, anxiety, and depression of loneliness is to step out of our situation and serve others who are in great need. Ironically, the model of Rotary International throughout the world is "Service Above Self". It may seem counter intuitive, but the more we give to others, in whatever service we provide, the more likely we are to become the recipient of the happiness within the "gifts" we provide.

A final thought...please contact me if you feel inclined to participate in forming a similar senior/children's day program... there is healing for loneliness/isolation which compromises the lives of literally millions.

—To speak with Dr. Tim Lynch, PhD., you can call him at 615-504-4357, or email him at [tdlynch@bellsouth.net](mailto:tdlynch@bellsouth.net) If you want to know more about Dr. Tim check out Psychology Today Practice Directory, or his web: [www.thelynchgroup.net](http://www.thelynchgroup.net)



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# Spiritual Goal for July

## Keep Walking Through the Desert!

*“So let’s not allow ourselves to get fatigued doing good. At the right time we will harvest a good crop if we don’t give up, or quit.”*  
Galatians 6:9 (The Message)

There are seasons in life when it feels like you’re doing everything right... yet nothing seems to be moving. You’re working hard, praying hard, staying faithful, but financially, emotionally, or spiritually, it feels like you’re walking through a desert with no end in sight. But hear this clearly today: The desert is not your destination!

Sometimes God allows us to walk through seasons of lack, not because He has abandoned us, but because He is refining us. In the desert, He teaches dependence. In the waiting, He builds endurance. In the struggle, He strengthens character. What feels like delay is often divine preparation.

Maybe your business is struggling. Maybe finances are tight. Maybe relationships feel strained. Maybe doors you expected to open have remained shut. But do not mistake the desert for defeat. God is doing work beneath the surface that you cannot yet see. The enemy wants exhaustion to convince you to quit one step before a breakthrough. But scripture reminds us that hard work, obedience, faithfulness, and perseverance always produce a harvest... in God’s perfect timing.

Keep walking. Do not stop because the road is hard. Do not lose faith because provision hasn’t arrived yet. Do not allow temporary lack to convince you that God has forgotten you. The same God who holds your right hand is leading you through this valley for a purpose....Your reward is coming... Your breakthrough is forming.. Your harvest is growing underground. Don’t quit in the desert... because the promise is waiting on the other side.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, Thank You that even when I walk through seasons of lack, uncertainty, and struggle, You have never left my side. Thank You for holding my right hand and guiding every step I take. Give me the strength to keep moving forward when I feel tired, discouraged, or tempted to quit.

Help me trust that You are refining me, strengthening me, and preparing me for what You have ahead. I believe Your promises are true, and I know that in Your perfect timing, my harvest will come. Teach me endurance. Build my faith. Help me stay obedient through every desert season, knowing You are working behind the scenes for my good. In Jesus’ name, Amen. May God Bless your day abundantly!

—Mark W. Koch

## 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 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.*

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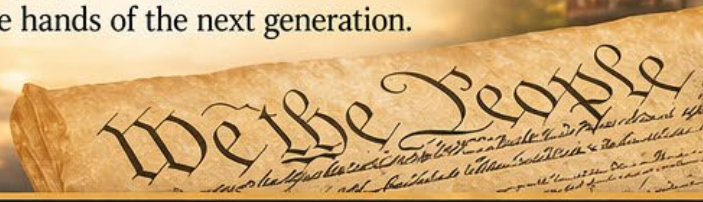
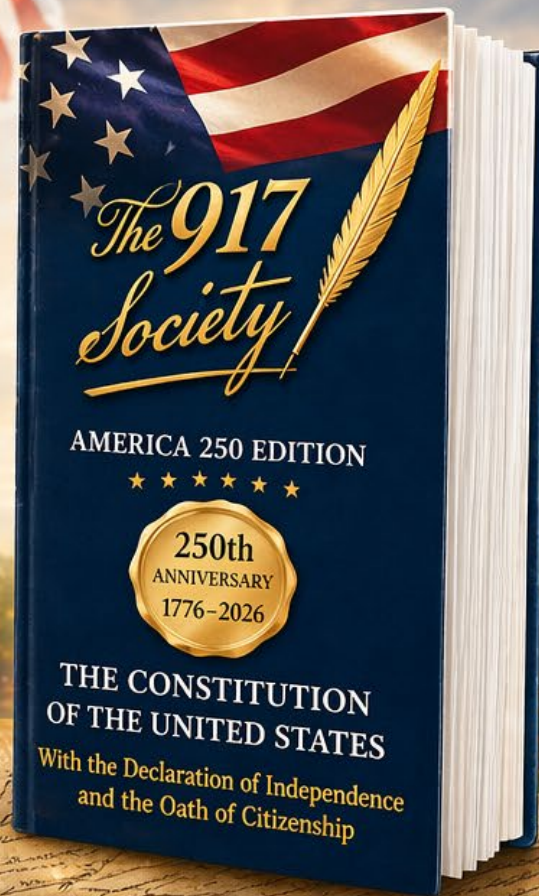
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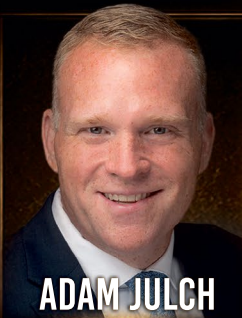
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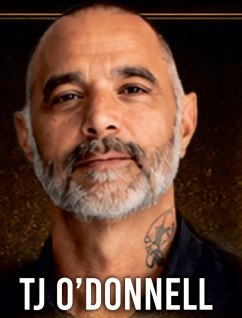
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