

Kingdom Chronicle

WHY DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN PROPHECY?

(And what does this mean to me?)

BY ALEX MCFARLAND

Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

It has been estimated that just over 26% of the entire Bible is devoted to prophecy. Over 1,800 verses in the Old and New Testaments contain predictions about future events. Some have come to pass already (like Jeremiah 24:6, stating that the Jews would be “planted in the land of their fathers” in the last days).

Other prophecies are, apparently, materializing before our very eyes (such as latter-day Israel rebuilding the ancient cities, *c.f.* Isaiah 61:4; Israel turning the desert into a blossoming garden, *c.f.* Isaiah 51:3; and travel and technology increasing dramatically, *c.f.* Daniel 12:4).

The Bible prophecies Jesus Christ will literally return to earth one day. In light of Scripture’s seamless track record of prophetic accuracy, this fact is astounding. The Bible clues us in on some of the indicators that Christ’s return is near: Predicted are wars, godlessness, violence, immorality, unspeakable sexual sin, and persecution of those who affirm morals and righteousness (Matthew 24:5-8; I Timothy 4:1; II Timothy 3:1-19; II Thess. 2:3-10; *et al*).

The prophetic accuracy of the Bible points to its divine origin. The complete trustworthiness of its content is referenced in Acts 3:21, as the apostle Peter states that, “God has spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.”

Prophecy in our times; prophecy and you

As I write this article, Hamas has viciously attacked the nation of Israel. Nearly 1,000 Israelis have died, and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has stated that Israel is formally at war—the first time since 1973.

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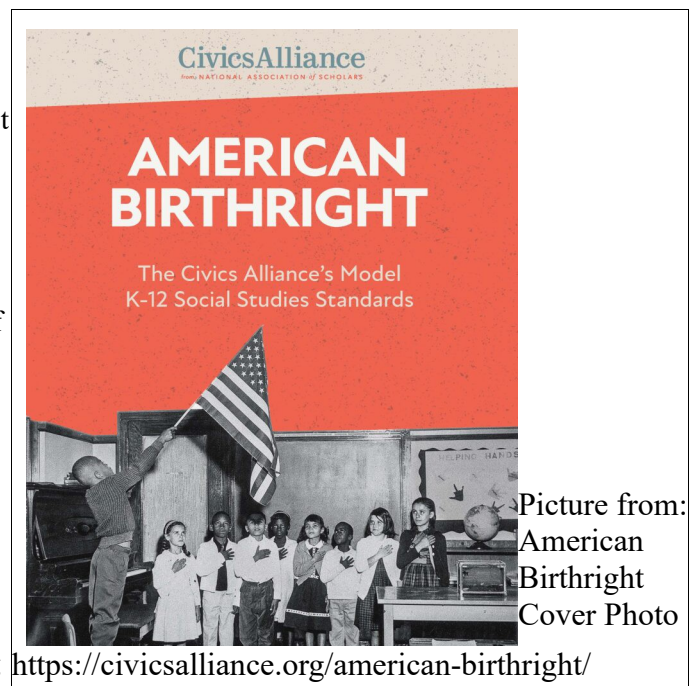
American Birthright

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Tensions ran high again at the school board meeting on October 11 in Woodland Park as the community is divided over the conservative school board. One of the many controversial changes the current board introduced only this past January as the first district in the country is the American Birthright Social Studies Standards. Social studies or civics standards lay out what Colorado students are supposed to know and what Colorado schools are supposed to teach. However, under Colorado law, school districts have broad discretion to set their own curriculum. The controversy surrounding American Birthright, voted down only last year by the Colorado State Board of Education as the basis for a new state wide standard, has become a focal point in the lead-up to the impending elections and is a topic at many school boards around the state. On October 25, an effort to adopt American Birthright in Garfield County failed. The debate over American Birthright has become emblematic of broader ideological divisions within the community, with passionate supporters and critics on both sides.

Colorado’s Social Studies Standards, the current Colorado social studies standards, were developed by a committee of teachers, community members, and other experts and only received a D rating from the Fordham Institute, a conservative think tank.



Picture from:
American
Birthright
Cover Photo

<https://civicsalliance.org/american-birthright/>

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American Birthright

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Critics say many graduates of the Colorado standards lack basic understanding about American governance. Colorado is currently updating its civics standards to comply with a bipartisan 2021 law that called for improvements in this area, as well as teaching students how to engage with public officials and in public process. The endeavor is part of a broader social studies standards update occurring amid the national debate about the teaching of history, gender, and race. As of today, 18 states have already adopted legislation restricting the teaching of critical race theory or regulating teachings on race and sexism among 44 states discussing the issue on a legislative level. Despite Republicans making a number of changes to the current standards, such as emphasizing the dangers of socialism as part of the teaching standards on genocide, Democrats do hold the majority of the Colorado board and have rejected many amendments proposed by the Republican members.

What Is American Birthright?

The American Birthright Social Studies Standards are a set of educational standards designed by the Civics Alliance, a coalition formed in opposition to the nation wide push for a “new civics” which is more centered on global citizenship and activism rather than on understanding American ideals and responsibilities. The goal of the Civics Alliance is to reshape the way students learn about American history, government, and civic engagement. Proponents argue that the curriculum places a stronger emphasis on America's founding principles and exceptionalism, seeking to foster a sense of pride and patriotism among students. The standards prioritize the study of the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, and historical figures such as George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. They aim to instill a deep appreciation for American values and history, focusing on the nation's foundational documents and promoting civic responsibility. “American Birthright teaches about the expansion of American liberty to include all Americans, the contributions that Americans from every walk of life have made to our shared history of liberty, and America’s championship of liberty throughout the world,” the website says. In developing American Birthright, the Civics Alliance drew heavily from Massachusetts’ and Florida’s social studies standards that get much higher marks than the current Colorado standards. Colorado Republican board member Joyce Rankin conducted a word search on both opposing standards that highlight their different focus. American Birthright mentions the Constitution 111 times, compared with 24 times in the Colorado civics standards, the word God 12 times as opposed to never in the Colorado standards, the word flag 12 times as opposed to once, and the word American 374 times compared with just 68 times in the Colorado Standards.

What It Is Not

Critics, including challengers in the upcoming school board election, vehemently oppose the American Birthright curriculum. Among these voices, many misconceptions on American Birthright have come up and are now being repeated in nearly every discussion surrounding the topic.

“American Birthright is not recognized by the Colorado Education Authority endangering the acceptance of student’s degrees.”

False. The Colorado State Board of Education voted not to adopt the American Birthright standards as a basis for the revision of the current Colorado standards. However, under Colorado law, school boards have the discretion to determine their own curriculum. The Colorado Department of Education has reported that Woodland Park’s superintendent has committed to “meet or exceed state standards required by law.” According to the Civics Alliance, American Birthright will prepare children for college and career because it provides comprehensive content knowledge in History, Geography, Civics, and Economics, as well as sustained coverage of Western Civilization, World History, United States History, and Civics.

“American Birthright downplays the darker chapters of U.S. history, like slavery and the mistreatment of indigenous people.”

False. The Civics Alliance openly rejects theoretical frameworks such as critical race theory as it considers it an attack on the foundations of American democracy, completely disregarding American’s history of courageous individuals and movements that fought for liberty for all and ultimately lead to the abolishment of slavery. Instead, it vows to focus on an ideologically neutral, apolitical history, teaching students about America’s foundations, its struggles, and the brave individuals that fought for its freedom.

“Being the only district in the nation to adopt American Birthright, Woodland Park students are treated as guinea pigs.”

False. American Birthright was largely based on other existing state standards with a conservative focus such as the Massachusetts and Florida social studies standards. Since its publication, many other states across the nation have adapted or are in the process of adapting their state wide social studies standards in line with the principles of American Birthright such as Florida, Virginia, South Dakota, Ohio, Louisiana, Indiana, Arizona, and Tennessee among others.

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American Birthright

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Even though Woodland Park is so far the only single school district to explicitly adopt the American Birthright social studies standards, many states across the nation are successfully teaching students based on the same principles and standards albeit under a different name.

“American Birthright is a curriculum undermining critical thinking in students.”

False. American Birthright is not a curriculum, but rather a model set of social studies standards that state-level education departments adopt in order to guide and regulate individual school districts as they craft their own curricula. It is important to note that it is further limited to social studies classes and does not touch on other subjects taught in schools. According to the Civics Alliance, it was specifically created as a set of standards and not a rigid curriculum to enable teachers to choose the curriculum best suited for their specific classroom and students’ needs.

“American Birthright is censoring teachers and pushing a religious, conservative agenda. It is bringing politics into classrooms.”

False. According to its website, American Birthright aims at teaching students to identify the ideals, institutions, and individual examples of human liberty, individualism, religious freedom, and republican self-government; assess the extent to which civilizations have fulfilled these ideals; and describe how the evolution of these ideals in different times and places has contributed to the formation of modern American ideals. It claims to represent an ideologically neutral, apolitical history. The Civics Alliance describes its mission precisely as "preserving and improving America's civics education and preventing the subordination of civics education to political recruitment tools." American Birthright does not explicitly censor certain books, but – like any set of civics standards – its focus will naturally influence the selection of educational materials and resources. Whether specific books are censored or not depends on the policies and guidelines established by each individual school district implementing the curriculum.

As the community remains deeply divided on the issue, the Woodland Park School District and its leadership face an uphill battle in finding common ground. The controversy over American Birthright, while emblematic of a broader national debate over educational standards, remains a pivotal issue in the upcoming school board election, with the final outcome set to shape the future of Woodland Park's education system. Voters will have the opportunity to voice their opinions through the ballot box on November 7, determining the direction the district's curriculum will take in the years to come.

Pray For	Pray Against
The upcoming school board elections.	Lies being spread about candidates and campaigns.
Civil and fact-based discussions in the public square.	Division in our community.
Opportunities for neighbors and community members to find common ground on divisive issues.	Misinformation about American Birthright to be spread.
Conservative teachers to come forward and support the endeavors of the current school board.	The indoctrination of our children with ideologies that contradict biblical values.
Our Republican representatives in the Colorado State Board of Education.	Any irregularities during the upcoming school board elections.
More schools and boards of education to adopt conservative social studies standards.	
For our public schools to provide the foundation for educated, upright, and engaged citizens to emerge and continue to uphold the values the United States is build on.	

WHY DOES THE BIBLE CONTAIN PROPHECY?

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I believe that the historic trajectory of the Jewish people amounts to one of the surest proofs that there is a supernatural realm beyond their mere, physical world. For centuries, this disproportionally small people group has endured wave after wave of persecution. Yet the Jews have endured, thrived, and immeasurably shaped world events. Mark Twain, though not a religious person, observed, “All things in this world are mortal but the Jews.” He admitted that the Jews and their place in history pointed to the reality of God and the supernatural.

Ezekiel 38 prophesies that in the last days Arabic and Gentile nations will attack Israel. But the Bible promises that God will fight and defend Israel, and once regathered, the Jews will never again leave their land.

As they did in the Six-Day War of 1967 and the Yom Kippur / Ramadan war of 1973, Muslim nations have launched a fall-of-the-year attack on Israel. And again— to a miraculous degree that has come to be expected— it is sure that the outcome will *not* be good for those who stand against Israel.

Ironically, I was in the studio filming a video about the Jews and end-time prophecies on the day before the Hamas war against Israel began. We are living, I believe, very near the time of Jesus’ return! Think about the following:

Five reasons that prophecy is important:

1. The Bible contains accurate prophecy because only God writes history in advance (and God wrote the Bible).
2. Bible prophecies show God’s sovereign reign over world history.
3. Fulfilled prophecies demonstrate God’s omniscience and foresight.
4. Fulfilled prophecies prove that the Biblical God is the true God— and that He reigns in time and in eternity. God “rules and overrules.”
5. Fulfilled prophecies should compel every thinking person to bow before the Savior who alone can offer salvation and amnesty.



Acts 1:7 reminds us that God holds “the times and the seasons” of history, “in His own hands.” Scholars speak of “general eschatology”— the unfolding of future events, culminating in the conclusion of time as we know it.

But there is also the matter of “personal eschatology.” What does the future hold for you? Where will you spend eternity? If you have personally accepted Christ, your eschatology is secure; you will be in heaven with the Savior. If you have not made this decision, call on His name today.

An old hymn asks the question, “What will you do with Jesus? Neutral you cannot be; One day your soul will be asking... *What will He do with me?*” This season of time is irrevocably pointing us to history’s greatest moment— Christ’s return. Being ready begins with your simple prayer... which He has promised to hear (John 6:37; Romans 10:13).

Raise Your Voice! Upcoming Community Dates:

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

- ◆ 11/07/2023: Election Day!
- ◆ 11/08/2023, 6 p.m.: Regular School Board Meeting at the District Office, large conference room.
- ◆ 11/16/2023, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.
- ◆ 11/21/2023, 5:30 p.m.: Chambers Business After Hours hosted by Community Banks of Colorado.

Soda Smile (A True Story)

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

*Do not boast about tomorrow,
for you do not know what a day may bring*
Proverbs 27:1

It was my first year in college, and even though I was excited about being in school, being far from home was not part of the excitement. Home was everything to me. When I had to leave for college it felt like I had been dragged from my safe haven.

Standing outside the school library and wondering which way to go, my thoughts were interrupted by a cheerful voice. “Are you lost?” I turned around and saw this face with all smiles, and wondered how people could be so happy far away from home. “Are you lost?” She asked again. “If you are, then that makes two of us, because I am lost too. My name is Ama.”

I found my voice and answered. “Hi Ama, I am Grace. How can you be lost and happy at the same time?” I asked, in a perplexed tone.

“Oh, it’s so much fun to be safely lost.” she giggled. “This is school; it’s new to me, and it’s far from home. I love new things and I love being far from home. Don’t tell me you are missing home.” she said, looking puzzled.

At this point, I knew this was not an argument I was going to win, and I wasn’t even going to try. “You know what, I think we come from two different worlds.” She must have noticed it was a conversation I wasn’t willing to have, because she smiled and pointed to a map that would help us find our way.

As we walked back to our different hostels, we exchanged phone numbers and she asked if we could meet again. “You are my only friend right now and I would like us to meet again?” Every time she spoke she had this smile on her face, like everything in the world was on her side. I really liked that, and wished I could feel that way.

“Sure, we should meet again.” I said.

“So, are you coming over to my room, or do you want me to come to your room?” she asked, still wearing that rich smile.

“You decide!” I said, hoping she wasn’t going to tell me to come to her room.

“Okay then, I’ll come to your room.” she said.

‘Thank goodness,’ I thought to myself. “That works for me. So, when are you coming?” I asked.

She excitedly scrolled through her phone, humming a song. “What about this Sunday after church?”

“You really scrolled through your phone to get a date to visit me?” I asked.

“Oh yes!” She answered, enthusiastically. “I try to study twelve hours a day, to include lecture times. If I don’t do that first, then I am not at liberty to do anything else for the rest of the day. I mean, that’s why we are in school, right? To study!”

I shook my head in amazement. “You are more serious than you seem,” I said to her, “and your everlasting smile balances that nature.”

“Is that a compliment?” she asked, a bit puzzled, still smiling.

“I don’t know,” I responded, “I’m just expressing an observation.”

“Well then, I’ll take that as a compliment.” she responded with a hysterical laughter that got me wondering if she was normal.

On the day of Ama’s visit, I wasn’t sure how to entertain her. However, I knew she loved soda. So, I got a can of soda for her. Suddenly, there was a knock at my door, and I knew she was the one. I opened the door, and there she was standing and grinning cheerfully with a pack of soda in her hands. “Tada! I brought soda!” she said, which was followed by hysterical laughter.

For a while I thought she had lost it. “Did you really bring a pack of soda?” I asked.

“May I come in?” she asked, still grinning.

I apologized and asked her in. “To your question, I remember you said you don’t drink soda, and I didn’t want you to stress about getting me some. So, I brought some for today and any other day I may visit.” She stated with another laugh. I stood still for a while, wondering what manner of person she was.

“Nice room!” she said, cutting into my thoughts. “No roommate?” She asked.

“None for now,” I responded with a smirk, “and I hope it stays that way.”

“But why?” She asked.

“It scares me to think I may have a bad roommate.” I answered.

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Soda Smile (A True Story)

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

“You could try thinking about getting a good roommate. The bible says to think on good things.” Again, her positive take on life was adorning. Sitting on my bed, she grabbed a can of soda, popped it open took a sip and smiled. “You must think I have no fears,” she said, looking straight into my eyes. “Don’t be fooled! Everyone has something they are afraid of.”

“What are you afraid of?” I asked. “I am afraid I will die in a car accident if I fall asleep. So, I never sleep in a moving vehicle.”

For the first time there was no smile on her face. She stared at the can of soda in her hands, like she was searching for an information, her face expressionless. “That is the only thing I am afraid of.” she said in a whispering tone. There was silence for a while, and then she slowly raised her head from staring at the can of soda, looked around the room, and then turned to my direction in a swift stare. She suddenly looked pale in that brief moment, as fear took over that face of pure joy. Fear indeed is a torment!

“I think you should drink your soda.” I said, breaking the grave silence.

She smiled briefly, sipped her soda and burst into laughter. I laughed along, not sure what the laughter was about. But there was life in the room again, and I treasured it more than the grave silence.

“Soda does have a strong influence on me.” she said.

“It’s the sugar.” I responded.

“Sugar is good.” she countered. “You would agree it is better to be under the influence of sugar than fear, right?” she asked.

“Oh yes! I never want to see you afraid again,” I said, “so please, drink your soda.”

She went on to confide that her family thought she approached life too casually and needed to take certain matters more seriously. She then emphasized how grateful she was to be in school, where she could afford to be carefree about whatever she wished. She looked directly into my eyes, seeking understanding and support. “Do you understand?” she asked, looking intently into my eyes to get some support.

“Yes, I understand and support your view of life. I don’t think there is anything in this life that anyone should take too seriously. Honestly, I’d like to be like you; carefree and always smiling.”

Immediately, she grabbed a can of soda, popped it open and handed it to me. “Start here,” she said. “if you hope to be like me, drinking soda is a good place to start. Come on! Try it, and let’s get high on soda.” Even though soda was not my thing, sharing it with Ama was a delight, and I did.

A month passed without a visit from me, and Ama's attempts to visit me were thwarted by my busy schedule. Yet she remained understanding and supportive. When I felt overwhelmed by my academic workload, Ama's words reminded me that it was okay not to understand everything as long as we did our best.

One day, we unexpectedly bumped into each other, and Ama shared her plans to attend her aunt's wedding. I congratulated her and promised to visit her as soon as she got back from the wedding. “I believe you, and can’t wait for us to drink and get high on soda. And if I don’t see you here on earth, we shall meet in heaven.” she said, beaming her priceless smile.

“No! **heaven will wait.** I’ll definitely visit you when you come back.” I replied.

A week after Ama’s aunt’s wedding I realized she hadn’t reached out. I tried to call her, but my calls wouldn’t connect. I knew what time she would be in her room, and decided to show up unannounced.

As I made my way out of the library, I noticed a group of students talking. From the look on their faces I could tell it wasn’t good. I continued walking until I heard someone call out my name. I turned around and it was the librarian. “So sorry about your friend.” he said.

I stood frozen, not sure what he was talking about. He noticed my surprise, and asked, “You haven’t heard?”

“Heard what?” I asked.

“There was an accident and six of our students were killed. Ama was one of them.”

I swallowed what seemed like a heavy lump in my throat. I could neither speak nor move.

“Are you okay?” he asked.

With my heart racing in fear, I hoped against hope that he was wrong. “How do you know her?” I asked, trembling.

“Well, she comes to the library a lot, and I spent time chatting with her. On one of those days, she told me you were her only friend, and asked that I be nice to you. I am so sorry.” **Continued on Page 7...**

Soda Smile (A True Story)

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

I walked away, feeling guilty and condemned. As each day passed, I couldn't help but feel condemned for not returning Ama's visit. Did she fall asleep during that fatal journey? Could I have done something to prevent her from taking it? These questions plagued my mind with no answers.

One thing was certain: *heaven didn't wait*. My time with Ama was short but profoundly enlightening. I had assumed there was ample time, and I regretfully delayed the opportunity for a deeper fellowship. To this day, I carry my regrets, but I will forever treasure the brief moments we shared. Ama's soda smile remains eternally etched in my memory.

CALL TO ACTION

Amidst the chaos in the world, and the endless activities in our lives, we often claim to be too busy. Yet, isn't it a sorrowful realization that we assume we have all the time in the world, only to discover that we don't? There is someone out there who longs to hear your voice, read your message, or simply wants to know that you care. Don't delay, make that call, send that message, or make that visit as soon as you can, because tomorrow is uncertain, and *heaven may not wait*. After reaching out to them, take a moment to savor a soda, or your favorite beverage, and with a big smile say to yourself, "Yes, Jesus loves me!"

Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

QUALITY
CO.

MADE WITH INTEGRITY



Qualityclothing.co



Your Success is Our Success
Quarataconsulting.com



Faithchai.com



Yourmoneymakeover.com



Who is God? And who is He for this life?

BY JEM HEALING
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Who is God? And who is He for this life?

The question with no answer it seemed. It was January 2021. If God is not for this life then we are in trouble and life is pointless I said to my Jehovah Witness friend. We became friends while working for a Spa as professional massages therapists.

She was so eager to talk to me about her God. I was not eager to hear any more religious garbage. I was fed up with it. I want to know the God who wasn't about rules and control. The One that set people free. Who is He? How can I have of Him? How do I get believing the Bible to work for me? There seemed to be many people around me that had it all together but none of them could help me. There were too many things I had to do first according to them, and I wasn't capable. The requirements were staggering and not possible. There was a genuine hunger in me for pure truth. Something was missing from the picture. I needed help and I cried out to God.

My friend walked me through the salvation steps. I accepted Jesus Christ into my life. Looking back, I see Jesus really showed up that day when I showed up, empty and finished with everything but Him.

There was such a huge amount of religious abuse on me it's a wonder I got out from under.

After being invited to study with her, I said I would because I really needed a teacher and I really wanted to know more. I didn't care how I learned. I needed God and I was willing to do whatever I needed for answers.

I told her I want no denominations, no man-made rules, no rewritten scriptures or interpretations by clueless people. I was finished with anything that wasn't the pure word of God. I wanted only the original translation and nothing else. I asked her, "Do you hear me?"

And she replied, "Yes, I hear you."

God heard me too! Oh, He is faithful and trustworthy. God can use anyone to deliver His message in His timing.

So, Who is God and Who is He for this life?

The first thing God showed me is it's His love and efforts, not mine, that makes me right with Him. As I got up to pack my stuff and move out of my boyfriend's house because I didn't want to mess this up, I heard a voice say, "come rest in Me, be healed." I looked around there was no one in the house but me. I wrote it down and as I'm staring at the words it took a bit for me to realize I just heard the voice of God speak to me through the Spirit.

I felt so much love and relief. It's hard to explain it. As a new believer I was so excited about what had happened. Unfortunately, those who know you well from your pre-conversion days will tear you down quickly. Be careful with who and how soon you share with them. Just soak yourself in the Word and allow your mind to get renewed. Let the Holy Spirit do the talking for you when the time is right. One thing's sure, you can rest in Him, seek Him first and above all and I promise you He will show you the way to go in His timing, not yours and certainly not people's timing. His timing!

The Holy Spirit is the One that gives revelation of God's Word. People can preach, teach, talk, and minister all they want but without the power of the Holy Spirit operating through them it's just human effort and of no effect.

God is good and so very faithful to those who walk by faith in the grace of Jesus Christ as Lord. I got absolutely crushed when I shared my excitement with someone I thought would understand from a Baptist denomination. She said, "There are many spirits, how do you know it was God? If you are saved you won't live in sin one more minute. You will walk out now and never look back."

I couldn't sleep that night. I felt like I had just been kicked in the stomach. I felt sick. I prayed and cried. I said, "Okay God if you are real then I have to see a miracle that erases any doubt once and for all." I said, "I believe, but I am hurting so bad. I must know if that was your voice I heard and not some other spirit."

God revealed Himself to me the next day in the most crazy way, confirming that He is real, here and now. He really is so amazing.

I was up North in Wisconsin visiting family. There's no internet connection the minute you go outside the home. Backwoods. Up North. Not my cup of tea.

My heart was very heavy and tired. I made a cup of coffee and went outside where the kids were playing. I prayed saying, "God I have no idea how you're going to do a miracle here, but I'm fully expecting that you are going to show me just how much you love me and how real you are and that was your voice talking to me."

This still brings tears to my eyes as I think about what happened next. I hear a song coming from the toy Jeep one of the kids was driving, tearing up the dirt in the driveway. They were laughing and noisier than a circus!

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Who is God? And who is He for this life?

BY JEM HEALING
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

The voice of the artist is so clear over the noise—I'm alive, I'm alive because he lives, gently and clear—I open my phone to "Shazam" the song to see who's singing and what I'm hearing.

Matt Maher's "Because He Lives" pops up on my phone without internet connection. The radio on the child-sized Jeep, which needing internet to work, suddenly began playing that song of all songs!

I began to praise the Lord, laughing and thanking Him for His goodness to me. All doubt left me in an instant. The Word says we know His voice.

Thinking about it now only the Spirit of God would say come rest in Me and be healed. The devil and his minions are seeking to kill, steal and destroy.

I had begun the journey to step into the fullness of relationship with the Holy Spirit. This same journey that I am on today. Today I'm resting in Him daily. You too can choose to do like I did: rest in Him, allowing Him to help renew your mind, and receiving revelations from the Holy Spirit daily. I pray that this article will help anyone with the same questions I had, so that they can enter into the fullness of relationship with the Lord, like I have.

Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:



Systema Martial Arts
(813)-857-7738
Tampasystema@icloud.com



Interview With Alex McFarland

BY JON WILLIAMS
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

With over two thousand media interviews under his belt, Alex McFarland has grown accustomed to explaining Biblical worldview to the world as well as the church. Alex has been an Apologist for the Gospel most of his life. At an early age, he saw prominent Christian entertainers struggle to articulate basic Gospel truths when given the chance in the national spotlight. He was disappointed to watch a prime audience, listening with an open mind, failed to hear the basic good news of Jesus Christ. Alex stated, “We have to be able to present the Word of God because sinners need to be saved.” He has dedicated his life to being an effective communicator. He has written twenty books over his career with the goal of using effective reasoning to spread the Gospel to a dark and deceived world. After asking God to open doors, Alex has been blessed to have ministered in well over two thousand churches and meetings.

Even though Brother McFarland has taught more than ten years at Charis Bible College, he continues to see expanding opportunities on the horizon. He is in the process of developing a third-year program in Apologetics for Charis students. “I believe that God has been preparing me for the past 25 years for this next chapter in my life at Charis”, Brother McFarland said. He, also, said that social research shows that even an introverted person will interact with seventy-five thousand people over the course of their life. It is imperative that believers be ready to give a defense of their faith as they go through their life. We need to be able to build bridges and persuade the lost.

“There is something special here at Charis,” Alex said. He has had opportunities to serve with notable ministries such as Billy Graham, Liberty University, and James Dobson to name a few. Having this experience puts him in a unique position to see the potential of Charis going forward in the future. He calls Brother Andrew Womack a visionary who was able to see the value of instilling a Biblical Worldview to Charis students.

Brother McFarland believes that one of the greatest issues of the church is unity. The body of Christ needs to go beyond the walls of denominational barriers and embrace Christ’s prayer in John 17 for unity. Also, the American church needs to rediscover the supernatural. One of Brother McFarland’s twenty books is Ten Issues that divide Christians in America outlines this need amongst others. For too long these barriers have hindered the church from being as powerful in the world as it should be. Brother McFarland encourages Christians to not avoid difficult questions, but instead rely on the Word of God to establish sound doctrine.

I asked Brother McFarland what advice he would have for Bible College students or the body of Christ as a whole. He answered with 2 Timothy 2:15, citing that believers should “study to show yourself approved” and pointed out that the verb “study” was conveying that we should study continually. As the educational world would say, be a lifelong learner. Also, he said believers should have goals. Every believer should have goals in several areas of life, be it intellectual, financial, ministry, etc. For we will all give account, and we want to present a quality life to the Glory of God.

The Attack on Free Speech

BY ALEX MCFARLAND
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

Millennials say misgendering someone should be a crime;

Let’s talk about why this is a bad (not to mention unconstitutional) idea

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat has always been a favorite at our house.

Like fans worldwide, I applaud the creative way that Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber brought to life the Biblical tale of Joseph and his multi-colored coat (*c.f.*, Genesis 37-45). But in the prologue there is a lyric that has still makes me cringe though I’ve heard it hundreds of times:

“We all dream a lot - some are lucky, some are not

But if you think it, want it, dream it *then it's real*,

You are what you feel. . .”

That last line may as well be the *summa fides* for millennials and younger. The belief that “what I feel” constitutes reality and is therefore “my truth” is now being coupled with the assumption that you must believe it, too.

Is it true that, “We are what we feel?” Of course not. A child may pretend that a bedsheet is an invisibility cloak or that their cousin is Barbie. But somewhere along the journey through childhood, the stages of adolescence, and then into adulthood, rational people come to terms with their actual identity.

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Today, people well beyond the protean years of childhood may now identify as any number of “selves,” and with growing momentum are insisting that everyone else affirm and agree. But must the public *necessarily* acquiesce, or be compelled to affirm things they know aren’t true? Is the law on the side of those who insist others agree with their subjective “gender identification”? Surprisingly and dangerously this question is up for debate.

“Natural rights” as opposed to “Gay,” “transgender,” or “abortion” rights

Before having a discussion of what “rights” our Constitution actually protects, let me say this as emphatically as ink on paper can convey: People may do or think whatever they wish (within the bounds of civil law). Those who desire to engage in homosexual acts may do so and those who believe that fidelity to their “true self” mandates cross-dressing may do so. No atheist should be “forced” to acknowledge God, and no woman who wishes to remain childless should be forced to become impregnated.

Our unique Constitution was framed on the assumption that humans exist as an objective category of being. “Male” and “female” are *not* arbitrary social constructs, and knowledge of moral truth *is* embossed in the psyche of all rational people. Our “rights,” therefore, are not unlimited. “Liberty” does not mean (or, it did not originally mean), “militant autonomy.”

Every American was blessed to live in an America that made a promise something virtually no other country did: The government would recognize the *penumbra* (grouping) of rights imparted to you by... *God*. The list of “natural rights” guaranteed protection by law is wonderfully broad (life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness)—but it is not unlimited.

You may identify as a furrie in your off time, but your employer does not have to make concessions for such role-playing in the workplace. To try and shoehorn recently codified, “manufactured” rights into a frame work that assumed timeless, universal rights jeopardizes the future of our once-stable Republic.

While it is troubling that nearly half of young adults support whatever “special rights” advocacy groups dream up, it is (sadly) understandable that they do. So many people have not been taught much about America, except that it is (allegedly) “bad, bad, bad!” The time to mature-up and defend out natural, rights-based government is *now*.

Despite what hundreds of professors and thousands of students insist in telling me on university campuses, America is not purely a democracy (but a representative republic based on natural law). Nevertheless, Churchill’s famous quote is helpful to this discussion: “Democracy is the worst form of government – except for all the others that have been tried.”

Is America perfect? Certainly not. Will our Constitution affirm (and the culture at large celebrate) every kink and whim insisted upon by narcissistic sinners? No, and thank God for it.

But if you want liberty, stability, and prosperity unlike anything humans have experienced previously over thousands of years of recorded history . . . our natural law Republic has got you covered! Let’s not lose it.

Enforced acquiescence to the increasingly militant demands of LGBTQ+ ideologues can only come about if the U.S. Constitution (and its philosophical foundations) are erased from the public consciousness.

And to think that we may replace our Constitution and *not* have it supplanted by a totalitarian form of government . . . well, that is simply make believe.

Alex McFarland directs Biblical Worldview for Charis and is a co-host of the “Truth and Liberty” broadcast is week. His website is: www.alexmcfarland.com

Woodland Park School District School Board Meeting

BY CYNTHIA BEHR
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

The Woodland Park School District convened for their monthly meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023. The line began forming before 4pm. Teachers who were making an honorable attempt to build a bridge handed out water, snacks and even sub sandwiches from a local deli. Live music bellowed from a PA system as we waited. Many decorated a t-shirt to show unity and solidarity for our students. That is, after all, the reason we are convening. Certainly we all need to remember that it’s not our agenda or need to be heard that’s most important but the students’ well-being: spiritually, emotionally and physically. We have differing ideas about what well-being looks like. If we will just believe the best and know that we all have the same goal, to give our students the best possible education. **Continued on Page 13...**

The Jewish Fall Feasts

BY AMANDA LOCKMAN

Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

The Jewish Fall Feasts have special meaning for Christians, as they can remind us of God's promises and what's to come. My family does not have any Jewish roots, but this year Holy Spirit really impressed upon me to learn about these feasts and observe them. We invited some of our close friends to join us and what a blessing it was to set apart these appointed times to really reflect on and to realign our hearts on our relationship with the Lord. For me, these feasts have been a time of even greater intimacy in my relationship with the Father. For my husband it has been a time of not setting goals as we typically would during New Years but instead aligning his heart with the Father to hear what it is that He has prepared for him this coming year. He has received a very clear direction for the coming year.

It's been so much fun learning about all the traditions and cooking some of the traditional foods served at these feasts. For our kids the apples and challah bread dipped in honey symbolizing the expectation for a blessed coming year was a favorite. One of my favorites was speaking out blessings over our family and friends as a group. It was so powerful to see the fathers lay hands on their wives and their children and declare scripture and good things over them and their futures, and the wives doing the same over our husbands.

Let's explore these feasts more closely.

Rosh Hashanah (The Jewish New Year): Rosh Hashanah is also called Yom Teruah or the Feast of Trumpets. It's celebrated as the Jewish New Year, even though it's in the seventh month of the Hebrew calendar. This time marks new beginnings and helps us wake up to God's plans. The blowing of the shofar, a trumpet-like instrument, is a key tradition. It symbolizes a shift or change, victory, and a call to action. In the Bible the sound of trumpets signaled important events, and it's believed that when Jesus comes back it will be during Rosh Hashanah.

Rosh Hashanah kicks off the "10 Days of Awe," a time for reflection, making amends, seeking forgiveness, and realigning ourselves spiritually with God. It's like opening new doors in our relationship with God and in other aspects of our lives.

Yom Kippur (The Day of Atonement): Yom Kippur is the holiest day of the year for Jewish people. This is the one day a year that the priest would enter the Holy of Holies and offer atonement for the entire nation. For Christians, we understand that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross provided atonement for our sins once and for all. This day of atonement is foreshadowing the day of the Second Coming of Jesus when the Jews will once again "look at Him whom they have pierced (John 19:37)," and repent of their sins and receive Him as their Lord and Savior.

As Christians, we reflect on Jesus' sacrifice and our reconciliation with God. We also pray for our Jewish brothers and sisters to receive this gift of salvation.

Sukkot (The Feast of Tabernacles): Sukkot is a time to remember and be grateful for God's protection and provision during the Israelites' 40 years in the desert. People build and live in temporary tents called sukkahs. This reminds us that our true home is in heaven, not on Earth, and we are to place our ultimate hope and trust in God's promises and provision. The Lord is returning to once again tabernacle (dwell) with His people. He will wipe away every tear and we will put off these temporary bodies, or dwellings, and put on our new eternal bodies and live forever with Him. This truly is a time of great celebration.

The current Jewish year is 5784, and it carries special meanings too:

5: Represents grace and unmerited favor, a season of God's kindness.

7: Signifies perfection.

8: Represents greater authority in our words, for good or bad.

4: Symbolizes doors or opportunities.

We are now stepping into a new season of completion, transformation, new beginnings, and experiencing God's presence and manifested glory in greater ways. We have grace and a greater authority in our words to declare doors to be opened and closed. It's a season to grow spiritually and step into new opportunities with the Lord.

Even though the fall feasts have passed for this year it's not too late to meditate on their significance and what the Lord is preparing for you this coming year. Press in and seek Him like you never have before, He's got something good to share with you! Let's also remember to pray for our Jewish family to come into a place of repentance and the salvation we so sweetly have in Christ Jesus.

Woodland Park School District School Board Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

BY CYNTHIA BEHR

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

The atmosphere of this board meeting was also a little less tense. Many spirit-filled believers showed up in force to blanket the school and the boardroom in prayer. The anointing of the Lord was palpable as community members filled the room. As is standard procedure, those who wish to speak placed their name on the roster next to the door. I was number 29. And I arrived at 4:05pm for a meeting that begins at 6pm for which the doors open at 5:30pm. These are some dedicated parents, staff and community members. Intentionally, we prayed over the numbers that were called and unlike previous sessions, the majority of people who were called were conservative.

The news crews had been invited. They were summoned by parents and former faculty who have a liberal leaning agenda and have initiated lawsuits against the school board. After the 4th conservative was able to speak before the board during public comment, the News crew left without hearing the remaining speakers. Even some of the speakers who are typically agitated and hostile were more hospitable and peaceable that evening. Afterward, some might even conclude that the fervent effectual prayer of the righteous avails much.

I believe the atmosphere is shifting in these school board meetings. I believe that the power of the Spirit of unity is greater than the power of strife, envy and backbiting. Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world. In addition, the finished work of the cross means that we no longer have enemies. The Word says that we only have footstools. Every soul in that boardroom is destined for heaven or hell. Winning souls is a higher virtue than winning arguments.

It's important to look over the history of this school district and borrow from the annals in order to chart our course. Here's a quote from the District website to remind us of where we have come. "Both enrollment and educational programs continued to grow from 1990 to 2001. The District experienced phenomenal growth from 2,311 students in 1990 to over 3,200 students in 2001...up an astonishing 38.5%!" (Woodland Park School District Webpage, 2001). What changed in 2001?

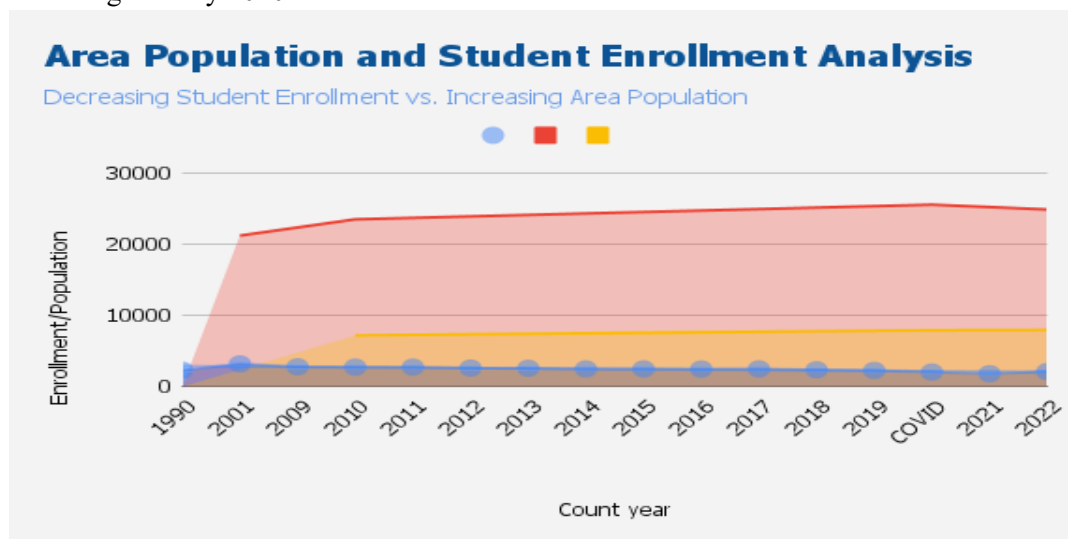
Some things that stood out to me during the school board meeting is that those who are cloaked in darkness are believing lies. They even stated lies as facts, and it seems they fully believed them. One of the primary lies that stood out to me was the belief that the current sitting school board members have caused the enrollment to decrease; however, records with the Colorado Department of Education reveal the truth that this decline began over 20 years ago.

Data

*There has been no significant redistricting in the past 15 years that would affect these statistics.

*There have been no major factory- or employer-closing to reduce the availability of jobs. If anything, jobs have increased due to Charis Bible College moving to the area in 2014 from Colorado Springs.

*Colorado Springs Christian Schools opened the elementary school in Woodland Park in 2005 and expanded with sixth and seventh grades by 2020.



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Woodland Park School District School Board Meeting

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BY CYNTHIA BEHR

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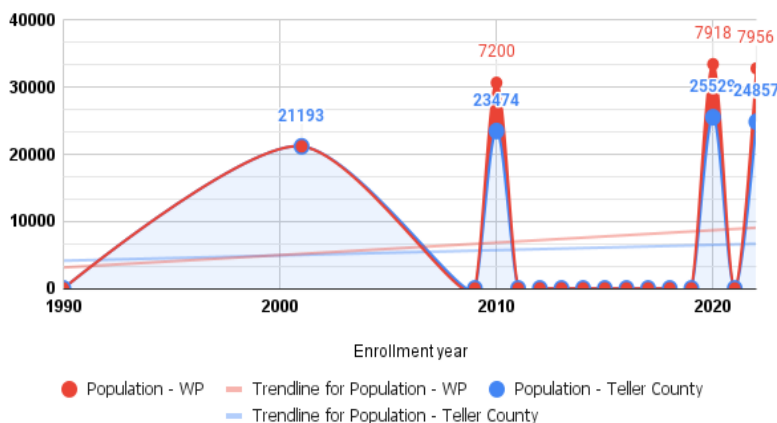
**Table A Colorado Statewide Enrollment & Yearly Change
2009 to 2022**

School Year	Enrollment Statewide	Change +/-	Percent change
2009	832,368	13,925	1.7
2010	843,316	10,948	1.3
2011	854,265	10,949	1.3
2012	863,561	9,296	1.1
2013	876,999	13,438	1.6
2014	889,006	12,007	1.4
2015	899,112	10,106	1.1
2016	905,018	5,906	0.7
2017	910,280	5,262	0.6
2018	911,536	1,256	0.1
2019	913,223	1,687	0.2
2020	883,199	-30,024	-3.3
2021	886,517	3,318	0.4
2022	883,264	-3,253	-0.4

WOODLAND PARK RE-2 Enrollment 2009-2022 contrasted w/ Population Trends

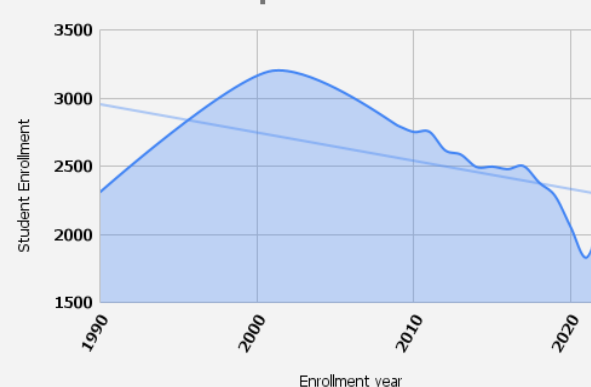
Count year	Students	Loss or gain	Population - Teller County	Population - WP		
1990	2,311					
2001	3200	889	21193	6710		
2009	2797	-403				
2010	2752	-45	23474	7200		
2011	2753	1				
2012	2617	-136				
2013	2586	-31				
2014	2495	-91				
2015	2498	3				
2016	2480	-18				
2017	2502	22				
2018	2380	-122				
2019	2284	-96				
COVID 2020	2055	-229	25529	7918		
2021	1832	-223			Include Merit 184 = 2119 total	
2022	2122	290	24857	7956	Includes Merit	
Change over 5 yrs	-380					
Percent Change	-15.19%					
Change over 1 yr	290					
Percent change over 1 year	15.83%					
Change over 14 yrs	675		The data shows an inverse relationship that the population has steadily increased, while the school enrollment has declined dramatically since 2001, while population density remained consistently around 20% for the demographic group age 5-18 years of age.			
Percent Change 14 yrs	-24.13%					

Population - Teller County and Woodland Park



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Student Enrollment per School Year



Woodland Park School District School Board Meeting

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BY CYNTHIA BEHR

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

I have taken the liberty to compile this data from the CDE Website and the U.S. Census and created graphs that provide a clearer view. You'll notice in graph A and B that the waning numbers of the school district trace back to 2002 at its height. Since that time, enrollment at the school board has been steadily declining, sometimes in large groups of 50 to 100 students at a time as you'll see in Table B. This was long before the current school board took office.

The graphs are inconclusive as to why the school district has declining enrollment. I've heard much conjecture, but I do not see a clear explanation why in the annals of the school or in the growth of the community. Graph B and C depicts that there has been a slow and steady increase in the population both in Woodland Park and in Teller County overall. In fact the growth trajectory between the city and the county have been congruent over the past 20 years.

Another point of contention is the impact of the Bible college, that allegedly decreases availability of housing for young families. However, over 70% of residents of Woodland Park own their home and this statistic has been unvaried over the previous two decades. These residents are not transient or college age. Further to this point, Charis Bible College did not open in Woodland Park until January of 2014. Some might expect there to be a spike in population or a spike in enrollment due to the Bible College, but there has not been any significant change from before the college came and after they came. Perhaps some just find it easier to point the finger, rather than investigate a root cause.

The facts are clear to see; the population has grown steadily while the school district enrollment has greatly decreased conversely with the rise in population. Interestingly, the statistics online indicate that the percentage of the demographic school-age range of 5-18 years has remained between 18%-20% of the city's population or roughly one-fifth. For comparison, Colorado Springs reports 16.5% of their population is between the ages of 5 and 18. Comparatively, we have more school-aged persons in our community than even Colorado Springs.

What I have personally observed, having worked as a substitute in all of the schools and as a full-time employee in both the high school and the middle school, is that there is a sharp decrease in enrollment between the elementary, the middle school and the high school. Another easy target for the blame is Merit Academy. Prior to the arrival of Merit Academy, which initially provided elementary and middle school programs, the most noticeable change in decreasing enrollment is the transition between the middle school and the high school. For decades, parents have been choosing to send their teens "down the pass" to go to school in Manitou Springs. Can we investigate why? Is it the climate at the high school? Is it perhaps bullying or other criminal behavior that's permissible at the high school? Is it the layout of the school? Do parents feel it's not safe for their children? Is it the staff? I happen to think the high school staff are top notch, including many of the ones who left the school district this year. Is it access to extracurricular activities, sports, military advancement or other academic opportunities that Woodland Park hasn't been able to offer? What are some constructive reasons based on sound statistics rather than finger-pointing and conjecture?

Another lie spoken during public comment was that Charis had taken over the school board. There is only one sitting member of the school board out of 6 who has any affiliation with Charis Bible College. Members of our community move here for many reasons. Woodland Park is a coveted vacation destination. Many who visit vow that someday they will move here and live out their retirement years in these treasured tranquil mountains. Another popular reason to visit Woodland Park is the Bible College which hosts almost monthly conferences. These events bring in evangelical spirit-filled believers from all over the globe who love to spend money and boost our local economy. Many of these visitors say in their heart, I would love to live in a place like Woodland Park. We are so blessed to live in the land of the free and the home of the brave. In America, we have a constitution that guarantees our right to interstate travel and move where we have greater opportunities. But you know there are those who have found this quiet little gem of Woodland Park and want to keep it all for themselves. Just me and my three. None for you.

Whatever the reason folks fall in love with Woodland Park, the community is enriched by having so many diverse members join us thanks in part to the diversity from Charis Bible College. Historically, we have been a conservative community that values family and faith. The surrounding community of Woodland Park values a slower pace and knowing your neighbor by name. We enjoy running into folks at the post office, the library and the grocery store. 'Round here you can never run to the store, run in and run out without running into at least 3 people you know. We value the heart of this community. We value the diversity of thought. Differences are what make this a great place to live, thrive and raise a family. I'd like to see our community grow together with a common goal of putting the educational needs of our students first ahead of any personal or political agenda.

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Woodland Park School District School Board Meeting

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BY CYNTHIA BEHR
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Would you also like to see the principles of truth and liberty of our Constitutional Republic reign in Woodland Park, Teller County, Colorado and throughout America? How can you have a greater impact in your community?

I affirm you to get involved in your local government while you still have the ability. I challenge you to find out when the next school board, city council or other civic event will be held in your community. “*Now is the day of salvation.*” (NKJV. 2 Corinthians 6:2) “If not you, then who? If not now, then when?” (ascribed to Polly Chandler Hillel, Theodore Roosevelt, and Robin Scharma as well as 3 other obscure people)

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Author’s opinion: As a parent, citizen, and neighbor.

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

I am a mother of four and citizen of Woodland Park. The heart-wrenching events unfolding in Israel at the moment leave no parent’s heart untouched and our thoughts and prayers are with those affected. Events like these remind us how fortunate we are to live in a country where we can openly express our concerns and take part in meaningful discussions even in the midst of a heated school board race. We *get to* go to school board meetings and have a voice, we *get to* shape and influence our kids’ future, and we *get to* have a vote this November. These are privileges not to be taken for granted.

I am thankful for the current school board for taking the time to commit to no less than three different school board forums. However, none of them included all six candidates. Both sides have accused each other of having biased questions or biased moderators. After attending several forums in the past few weeks, I want to question whether this really matters? Can the candidates not trust the voters to see through and past all that? As parents we want to understand what our school board candidates stand for.

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Author's opinion: As a parent, citizen, and neighbor.

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

A few weeks ago, my four year old son woke up with the words: “Mommy, today I am gonna be full of surprises!” What sounds funny and adventurous coming from a child, is not something we would appreciate from our school board members. We do not like surprises and I, personally, will not vote for someone who does not show me what they stand for, who is not ready to face their opponents or answer the same questions, no matter who is asking. Are these candidates seriously expecting to win more support by avoiding a chance to engage with their community in a forum organized by students of their own district? Of course, this mainly addresses the three challengers, who declined to attend the Merit forum because it did not, also, include the other schools in the district, according to Seth Bryant. At the candidate forum organized by the Chambers of Commerce, Mike Knott stated that it is much harder to bully someone face to face. He made this statement right after making some pretty controversial remarks about the current superintendent, the same superintendent he will undoubtedly have to work with should he be elected to the Woodland Park school board. Despite this fact, I fully agree with his statement. So, show up to the meetings and forums organized by your community!

I, however, also want to appeal to the current board in their role as leaders of our community. As leaders faced with issues or disagreements, our initial question should always be: “What did *I* do to contribute to this issue?” I expect our school board members to set an example for how productive discussions can lead to solutions even in the face of differing opinions. This is their chance to control the narrative! I urge all candidates to move past their disagreements and accusations and to show commitment to transparency and open dialogue, which, after all, is the main campaign slogan pushed forward this election season. They need to demonstrate to parents that they are prepared to represent the parent’s interests with integrity and to see beyond all the biases. I have school board candidate signs posted in my front yard. My neighbor has different candidate signs in his front yard. And we get along just fine. If we can do it, so should any viable school board candidate.

Glory Stories from the Front Lines

BY CYNTHIA BEHR
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Recently, a Charis Bible College graduate sent an update from the front lines on how the Lord is moving in Oregon. Our brother and fellow evangelist Byron K. Inscoe, who graduated in May of 2023, has been seeing a mighty move of God in Oregon since his arrival. However, it wasn’t very long ago that he wasn’t sure where he was going or what his next assignment was. Even when graduation rolled around, Byron had no idea what he would be doing, with whom, or how. When he asked the Lord if he should continue in a third year track at Charis, the Lord did not direct him to go to Charis another year. Byron pressed the Lord about what his next steps were and waited. During praise and worship at the end of the school year, the Lord spoke to Byron and directed him to go to Oregon and to a specific park in the town of Salem, Oregon, where he had never been. Byron knew no one there. No one except the Lord, that is.

For a man like Byron, driving to Oregon was out of the norm. He had never even left his home state of North Carolina before coming to Charis Bible College in Woodland Park. Colorado was as far west as he had ventured until May of this year. Moving all the way to Oregon was an absolute leap of faith. After graduation, he packed his things and headed west. Needless to say, this step of obedience could be scary to the average person . . . or it could be exhilarating. Byron decided to trust the Lord, anticipating only good, because after two years at Bible college he knows the character of his heavenly Father. He knew he could put his absolute faith in the God who delivered him from alcoholism, pancreatitis and liver failure. He knew that God has a purpose for his life. Byron knew that God had appointed him for such a time as this. And he knew that whatever was waiting for him in Oregon, God had equipped him at Charis Bible College to be able to answer the call. With that in mind, he drove over 1,350 miles to Englewood Park in Salem, OR, and he waited.

Sometimes the Lord will test you to see if you will be obedient to His first instructions. Will you do whatever He asks you to do? Will you trust Him? Most times, the Lord only gives you the next step. Like a faithful servant, an ambassador of the Lord, a steadfast soldier, Byron trusted the Lord and that Thursday in May, waited at Englewood Park until he was given his next assignment. Through a series of events, he found The River Church down the road from Englewood Park and heard they were having church that evening, on a Thursday night. He arrived at Englewood Park on Thursday, went to The River Church Thursday night and by Friday, he was sharing the Gospel with the River Church team of evangelists in the streets of Salem, OR.

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Glory Stories from the Front Lines

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Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Since May, Byron has officially joined the evangelism team at The River Church. He goes out sharing the Gospel six days a week and they are seeing a mighty move of God everywhere they minister. In Byron's recent updates, he reported, "875 people got saved in a 10 day period. We go out 6 days a week and have seen people saved everyday. Another time, over 500 [people] in 4 days" [accepted Christ as their savior].

When pressed to give advice on methods or strategies, Byron had this to offer: We just go out in the streets. We go to public events like the state fair. We don't use tracts or phones or texts.. We have a group of people that just hit the streets. I ask people if they know God loves them and has a great plan for their life. Then I speak about 3 or 4 verses of Scripture so the Word can go to work. Then I say I'm going to pray for you. I don't ask [if] I can pray. I don't give them a chance to say no. In the prayer, I ask the Holy Spirit to touch their heart. Now I have the Word and my prayers working. And I just lead them in a prayer of salvation.



In addition to evangelizing in the streets of Salem, OR, the River Church hosts outreach events for the public to attend. They enlist special guest speakers as well as healing ministers and evangelists. Testimonies from these events are even more incredible evidence that the Lord is moving in Oregon. Byron shared that "one lady had been in a walker for 10 years and [after prayer,] she's healed, and no longer uses the walker." Another young man had a very bad stuttering issue, but the Lord healed him instantly on the street. According to Byron and the evangelism team, that young man has never stuttered since. In Byron's words, there are "too many healings to list them all. God is pouring out His Spirit!!" This is reminiscent of the last verse in the book of John, chapter 21, "And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written." (NKJV)

As Byron likes to say, "Glory be to God!"

We are living in an age when we don't have time to mess around. It seems that there are so many people dying lately and one thing is for certain: They are either going to heaven or to hell.

The writing is on the wall. The red heifers are being fattened. The new Temple is being built right now in Jerusalem. Gog and Magog stand at the door of Israel. Iran, Russia & China are poised & prepared while people's hearts are waxing cold, children are turning against their parents and parents against their children. Paul warned Timothy that this day would come in 2 Timothy 3:1-10. And here we are.

John warned the church in Revelation [3:15-17](#) not to be slack or lukewarm in the last days or Jesus would spit them out of his mouth. The river Euphrates is actually drying up. The signs are all around. What are we going to do about it?

We have 3 choices. We can sit here all comfy in our Lazy Boy and armchair quarterback this thing. We can stand patiently on the sidelines waiting for coach to put us in the game. Or we can get on the front lines where thirsty weary souls need a drink of living water. Which are you going to play?

Here's a suggestion. Take a moment in line at the grocery store to strike up a conversation with someone else waiting. Or sitting on the bus, passing the time on your phone. Instead ask the person near you if they've seen the latest Christian movie. People love talking about themselves. Ask them what is the best part of their day. This will give you a chance at a connection. At some point you can ask if they need prayer for anything which can lead into a conversation to ask, "If Jesus came back today, what do you think you would say to him?" This let's you know where their heart is. "Have they made Jesus their Lord and savior?" Or follow Byron's script with a couple of your favorite verses. This might be their last invitation to say yes to the Lord. Hey, the worst that could happen is they say, "No thanks." But what if they say yes? You've changed eternity.