

# Kingdom Chronicle

## Short Term Rental Ban BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff Takes Effect – Or Not?

### Enforcement of Ordinance 1469 Suspended Amid Legal Challenge

In the ongoing dispute over short-term rental regulations, the enforcement of Section 5 of Ordinance 1469 has been temporarily suspended. This decision follows the filing of a lawsuit on December 23, 2024, by Mary Sekowski and the Teller County Short-Term Rental Alliance, which seeks to invalidate the ordinance passed by voters in December 2023.

Ordinance 1469 prohibits short-term rentals in residential areas unless the owner is a primary resident. Section 5 of the ordinance, set to take effect on December 31, 2024, states that existing business licenses for rentals that do not confirm to the new regulations will not be renewed. However, this provision is now on hold pending resolution of a Motion for Preliminary Injunction filed by the plaintiffs.

The City has retained Andrew D. Ringel, Esq., of Hall & Evans, L.L.C., to defend against the lawsuit. Mr. Ringel filed a stipulation temporarily suspending enforcement of Section 5. According to Mr. Ringel, the stipulation will allow the City sufficient time to prepare a Motion to Dismiss the plaintiffs' Complaint and a Response to the Motion for Preliminary Injunction. The City's legal counsel emphasized that the stipulation is not an acquiescence to the plaintiffs' arguments but a strategic decision to ensure the City can comprehensively contest the claims.

### Ordinance 1472 Remains in Effect

While Section 5 of Ordinance 1469 is suspended, Ordinance 1472 remains fully enforceable. This ordinance establishes operational guidelines for short-term rentals, including the adherence to the Good Neighbor Guidelines, the display of a valid business license number on all public rental platforms, and the submission of contact information to the City for all short-term rental properties.

During the January 2 City Council meeting, a

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## Raise Your Voice! BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff Upcoming Community Dates:

◆ 01/18/2025, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.

◆ 01/21/2025, 6:15-6:45 p.m.: Prayer meeting for our library (Woodland Park library, first room on the left when entering from lower level).

◆ 01/23/2025, 9:15 a.m.: County Commissioners meeting at 112 North A Street in Cripple Creek.

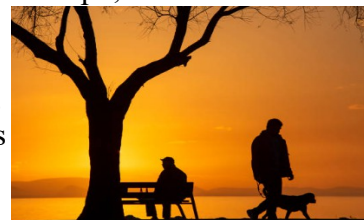
◆ 01/25/2025, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.

## When In Doubt Or Afraid, Remember! - Psalm 77 BY JOY OTI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

*1 I cried out to God for help; I cried out to God to hear me. 2 When I was in distress, I sought the Lord; at night I stretched out untiring hands, and I would not be comforted. 3 I remembered you, God, and I groaned; I meditated, and my spirit grew faint. 4 You kept my eyes from closing; I was too troubled to speak. 5 I thought about the former days, the years of long ago; 6 I remembered my songs in the night. My heart meditated and my spirit asked: 7 "Will the Lord reject forever? Will he never show his favor again? 8 Has his unfailing love vanished forever? Has his promise failed for all time? 9 Has God forgotten to be merciful? Has he in anger withheld his compassion?"*

Zeph sat on a park bench, his thoughts heavy as he watched people around him revel in the warmth of a bright Saturday afternoon. To them, the sun was a gentle kiss on their skin, a source of joy. But to Zeph, its heat felt oppressive, a reflection of the struggles in his life. The past three years had been difficult, he had been in and out of jobs five times. Every time he landed a position, something went wrong, and he found himself back at square one.

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## Short Term Rental Ban Takes Effect – Or Not?

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

resident encouraged fellow citizens to monitor compliance with Ordinance 1472. The resident urged neighbors to report violations such as missing license numbers, overflowing or untimely take out of trash, or other infractions, ideally accompanied by photo or video evidence. He stressed that landlords can be fined up to USD 1,000 per day.

The public comment leaves a questionable aftertaste. Is fostering a culture of neighbors scrutinizing neighbors the future community we want to build? Is it worth jeopardizing neighborly relations over regulatory compliance? Or are there better ways?

The debate over short-term rentals and their place in Woodland Park's neighborhoods continues, raising broader questions about community values and cohesion in the face of evolving regulations.



[HTTPS://WWW.CITY-WOODLANDPARK.ORG/400/CITIZENS-ACADEMY](https://www.city-woodlandpark.org/400/citizens-academy)

<https://woodlandpark.gov/400/Citizens-Academy>

## Here Is A Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:

**bitcreed**  
bitcreed.us

Agile Project management, apps, security audits, recruiting, etc.  
Contact us at [info@bitcreed.us](mailto:info@bitcreed.us) for a free initial consulting.

**Your partner in all software matters**

## Calling All Intercessors Join Us For Strategic Prayer

BY AMANDA LOCKMAN  
*Kingdom Chronicle Contributor*

Are you passionate about standing in the gap through prayer? We invite you to join us for Governmental Intercession, where we pray and intercede for everything from our local city council and school board to the nation of Israel.

**When:** Sunday afternoons from 3:00-4:00 PM

**Where:** Java Haus Conference Room

Additionally, we are gathering for intercession focused specifically on our public library and community. Your prayers are vital in these challenging times!

**When:** 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 6:15-6:45 PM

**Where:** Downstairs of the library, first room on your left as you enter from the lower level

Please note, we start and end on time as there are events scheduled after each prayer meeting. Don't be late—every minute of prayer counts! Come, let's unite in prayer and make a difference.



## Kingdom Chronicle Updates

BY KYLE GONZALEZ  
*Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief*

Have you ever wanted to do more than just read about the Godly news that the Kingdom Chronicle reports on? We provide our readers with many ways to engage with their community, to include attending official meetings. In addition, if you have ever wanted to learn journalism skills, such as how to conduct interviews, we are looking to fill some important roles in our team.

If you feel the call to write for a journalistic endeavor with a faith-based focus, please contact us via [editor@kingdomchronicle.news](mailto:editor@kingdomchronicle.news). We can develop your skills through practical application as an Investigative Journalist. Also, if you find our content to be a blessing, have suggestions for us, or feedback (to include testimonies) please send us an email at [editor@kingdomchronicle.news](mailto:editor@kingdomchronicle.news). I pray that you all have a blessed day.



## New Year: A Deeper, Renewed Trust – A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Years ago, when I was still in grade school, I used to despise this time of year. The new year always made me tense and instilled fear of the future. Looking to the year ahead was not enjoyable for me because I had no positive expectation or hope. Now it is totally different for me. I love reflecting on the previous year and looking forward to all the possibilities and prophecies the Lord has for me in the new year. Which one are you? Do you have your trust in the Lord? Where is your hope?

Lets go to proverbs 3 where verse 3 says “Let not mercy and truth forsake you; bind them around your neck, write the on the tablet of your heart”. Keep truth close. The book of Romans says that faith comes by hearing the word of God and this verse wants you to write truth on your heart. Keeping the truth of the word of God at the front of your mind and heart produces faith. Faith is key when we need hope. How can we have a positive expectation of the future if we don't trust God or even know who He is?

Recently, in my own life, the Lord had to show me that I wasn't expecting revelation from Him daily. He wanted me to trust Him and expect good things from Him, an understanding of His love, or a new found understanding of His word everyday and every time I go open my bible. That is huge trust. Doing so means I know that He is GOOD, He LOVES me, and WANTS to show me things I do not know (Jeremiah 33:3). That is true for you as well. There is hope for six months from now.

Proverbs 3 has many more commands like “Do not be wise in your own eyes” (verse 7), “seek for wisdom and understanding” (verse 13), and “Fear the Lord and depart from evil” (verse 7). On the flip side is all the parts of the chapter we quote, like “you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet” (verse 24) or “In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths”. Recognize that God does love you and wants to bless you, the end of the chapter even says “The wise shall inherit glory”, but trusting Him is just as important.

If you are like I was a few months ago and you are having a hard time trusting Him, this quote I read may help you – “The base for trusting God is grace”. You can't trust Him and expect great things from Him if you don't know Him. (God has names, God has a nature, I encourage you to study that.) It all starts by receiving His grace. If I ever get in that place of weariness or feel a lack of trust on my part, I go back to the cross. His death was for YOU, now that is grace. Romans 15:13 says “Now may the God

of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit”. HE is the God of HOPE, He is your source of hope. He wants that close, intimate faith with you. I will leave you with Numbers 23:19 because the more you learn of His grace and His nature from His Word, you will want to remember this: “God is not a man that He should lie, Nor a son of man, that He should repent. Has He said, and will He not do? Or Has He spoken, and will He not make it Good?” (Selah).

### A New Year Prayer

BY KATE GORELOVA  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

As into a New Year we enter  
Help us Lord to just let go  
Of everything that hinders us  
Prevents us further go

Of every habit and addiction  
That hinders us – and stunts our growth  
Of every heartache, unforgiveness  
We let it go, and we forgive

And help us to hold on to You  
Your promises, Your Word – in faith  
In faith to enter this new year  
And walk by faith and walk with You

Distractions Lord, distractions come Lord  
To phone sometimes we're glued, just scroll  
The Internet- sometimes it too – Lord  
Just pulls us in – and we time waste

Lord help us to not make excuses  
But truly change our focus Lord  
To Kingdom-minded be – and always  
To seek Your face, Your Kingdom too



## Twisting The First Amendment

BY KATE GORELOVA  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

They took the First Amendment and it twisted  
And suddenly it became something else  
And somehow “congress” started meaning “teacher,  
Or citizen or school- or someone, something”

“Shall make no law” somehow it started meaning:  
Cannot express one’s faith in public place  
And then they took the phrase “establish religion”  
And made this mean “allow” religious things

“Establishment of religion” was also twisted  
And started meaning “to express one’s faith  
In any public forum or arena”  
As if expressing faith became illegal

In other words – whoever you are now  
You faith cannot express in public place  
Although the constitution still protects it  
They twisted First Amendment to fit “them”

But if you simply read the constitution  
Nowhere in First Amendment’s this phrase’s found:  
“There’s separation of the church and state”  
Just read it – you will see the simple truth

In other words, in this country, America  
The constitution is the highest law  
And constitution it protects the freedom  
The freedom of religion, speech and press

And it’s no wonder – there are evil people  
Who just want to get rid of constitution  
And call it old, irrelevant, not needed  
It’s because they don’t like it protects freedom

Do not deceived be by the Left’s agenda  
They try to silence you, take rights away  
For we the people – we will not be silent  
But fight for rights that God has given us

## Misuse Of A Phrase - Separation Of Church And State

BY KATE GORELOVA  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

They shoved this phrase into our throats  
As if to make us silent  
“Separation of Church and State”  
~Keep your faith away from the government

This phrase Jefferson in private letter wrote  
To confirm to people of great faith  
That government would not control religion  
And only one religion won’t establish

This phrase was used to protect  
To empower people freely to believe  
It was used to remind the people  
Government could not control religion

Yet somehow this phrase got twisted  
And Christians and people of faith  
Were told, “stay away from the government  
-The government does not need your faith”

And while many Christians were silent  
A voice in the government weren’t  
Those who were so evil and vile  
They made sure that evil will reign

Do not be deceived- but speak freely  
We have this God given right  
To practice religion, faith freely  
And government cannot us silence

## Here Is A Local, Christian-Owned Business We'd Like To Highlight:



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

## When In Doubt Or Afraid, Remember! - Psalm 77

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

“We’re sorry, Zeph. It’s nothing personal. You’ve been one of our best employees, but the company just can’t keep up with the economy. We have to let you go.” Those words, delivered with false sympathy, had become a familiar refrain, etched into his memory from each “letting go” moment – a phrase he’d coined to describe the painful cycle of rejection.

Zeph loved and trusted God, but the past year had tested his faith more than ever. The verses from Psalm 77:1-9 echoed in his mind. He believed they described his lot in life. The carefree joy of the people around him, was the life he once enjoyed. The weight of that thought shattered the fragile peace he had been clinging to. Without warning, tears began to stream down his face, as he sat in the middle of the bustling park, lost in his despair. He bowed his head and wept bitterly.

*10 Then I thought, “To this I will appeal: the years when the Most High stretched out his right hand. 11 I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago. 12 I will consider all your works and meditate on all your mighty deeds.” 13 Your ways, God, are holy. What god is as great as our God? 14 You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples 15 With your mighty arm you redeemed your people, the descendants of Jacob and Joseph. 16 The waters saw you, God, the waters saw you and writhed; the very depths were convulsed. 17 The clouds poured down rain; the thunder rumbled in the sky. Your arrows of lightning flashed. 18 Your thunder roared from the whirlwind; the lightning lit up the world! The earth trembled and shook. 19 Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters – a pathway no one knew was there!*

Suddenly, Zeph felt the presence of someone standing in front of him. He opened his tear-filled eyes, and there she was – a little girl, no more than three years old, with the sweetest smile and her arms stretched out toward him.

“May I give you a hug?” she asked, her bright, wide eyes beckoning with love and innocence. Zeph froze, his mind racing. He glanced around, wondering if she was lost – or worse, if this encounter could somehow spell trouble in a world fraught with suspicion. But then, he noticed the stare of the people around him. They weren’t alarmed; instead, their eyes radiated kindness, as if they were silently urging him, “Take the hug. You need it.”

Reassured, Zeph extended his arms and gently embraced her. She rested her small head on his shoulder and, with her tiny hands, patted him on the back three times. Then she whispered softly in his ear, “Mummy says to remember something good, and you’ll feel better.” Her innocent voice carried a strength that pierced through his sorrow. Encouraged, he pulled away gently, kissed her softly on the forehead, and said, “Thank you. I will.”

The little girl giggled with joy and ran back into the crowd. Suddenly, applause broke out, rippling through the audience like a wave. Embarrassed by the attention, Zeph stood up, and quietly walked away from the spotlight.

Like a psalmist recalling the mercies of God, Zeph took a journey down memory lane. He remembered the day wildfires swept through his city, consuming homes in their path. Against all odds, his house was spared, untouched by the flames. He thought of the day his car was about to be repossessed, and a surprise check arrived in the mail that same day that not only cleared his debt but also gave him several months of financial relief. Then, there was the impossible day, as he called it—the day a complete stranger in a store, unprompted, handed him a check that wiped out his student loans. As these memories flooded back, the heaviness in Zeph’s heart began to lift, and the weight of God’s faithfulness took its place. Once again, hope was restored and faith was reactivated.

### CALL TO ACTION

For some of us, the festive season and the new year are reminders of what has been missing, or prayers that have seemingly gone unanswered. But like the author of Psalm 77, let us take time to remember the goodness of God and His unbreakable promises. I admonish us to abide in the presence of God in this new year, with praise and prayer. For He who promised is indeed faithful to do it.

*He’ll do it again,*

*Just take a look at where you are now, and where you’ve been.*

*Hasn’t He always come through for you?*

*He’s the same now as then.*

*You may not know how,*

*You may not when,*

*But He’ll do it again*

– Shirley Ceaser



## A River In The Desert

BY JULIA LEE  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

“Oh no” James muttered as he tapped the gas gauge of his truck as it came to a puttering stop on the side of the desert highway. “Tap, tap” and then “oh no” again but louder as his fists hit the dash with a thundering clash slamming his eyes shut. “I don’t even know where I am,” he thought in panic as he began to open his eyes and gazed into the rear-view mirror. “It is a long, long way back” he said aloud as a sense of hopelessness began to stream into his heart.

It was high noon, and he was already sweating because the only air conditioner his truck had were two crank windows. Anger crept into his mind as he said aloud, “how did I miscalculate the gas?”

“Why is the gauge wrong?”

“I am so stupid!”

He began inflicting despair upon his entire being. Another thought came limping in, “now what am I going to do?” As James opened the door to let some air move inside the truck. He had not seen another car or truck in over two hours.

As James sat in his truck with the door wide open, he began to wonder, “How did I even get to this stupid endless desert?” Then his first instinct was to assess what he did not have. My water bottle is one-third empty, no food, little money, no form of communication and obviously no gas to go anywhere.

“Nothing good ever happens to me” he said aloud as self-pity began to form, and silence began.

“Maybe someone will drive by, but what if they don’t...” As a flicker of hope sparked for a moment and then vanished. Hour after hour began to pass as James looked back and looked forward and saw nothing. His stomach had begun to growl but he was used to being hungry.

He had been alone since he was sixteen and the past ten years had been filled with lack. The good news was that he had some good survival skills, so his main concern right now was the lack of water. As the sun began to set a sudden cold filled the truck.

James rolled up the windows and sat in darkness as it began to arrive. Deep despair settled in as he wondered briefly, “will I die out here?” The wind began to whistle and howl around the truck as James’s heart felt the depth of his loneliness and his constant thirst. He was not prepared for what was coming because two days would

pass as extreme heat and cold were all he thought he had.

In the middle of his third day, James was startled by a car speeding down the desolate road. The car passed him so fast that sand and dust flew up all around him stinging his parched skin. Within less than a minute James saw the flashing lights of a state trooper’s car as it began to slow down and stop behind him.

James’s heart leaped as he saw a man get out of the trooper car and walk up behind his truck as he heard him say, “You need some help? My name is Trooper Scott. How long have you been out here son? Come with me I have water and food in my car.”

James did not hesitate as he leapt out of the truck and quickly consumed a sandwich, a candy bar and two bottles of water as he sat in Trooper Scott’s car. Finally, James hoarsely answered, “Three days. I have been here three days because I ran out of gas.”

Trooper Scott smiled at him and said, “Have you ever thought of buying a map?”

“Are you lost James?”

James just looked at him for a few moments then said “I guess I am.”

“Well, you look like someone that needs a swim.” Trooper Scott smiled as he continued, “Just over that knoll is river, let’s go.”

James was bewildered at what he was saying but got out of the car and began to follow Trooper Scott toward the knoll. Dust, dirt and sweat had mingled together as it clung to James’ face and clothes.

“So, you are telling me there was river over there all along?” James asked in his state confusion.

“You better believe it.” Trooper Scott said as he smiled at James as they approached the top of the knoll.



James could not believe his eyes. It was a river – full, flowing and sparkling in the sunlight. James took off, ran toward the river, and jumped right in. Every part of his body drank in the river as it washed over and over him.

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## A River In The Desert

BY JULIA LEE  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Tears of joy mixed with the river as his eyes filled up with thankfulness.

“Enjoy the river James.” Trooper Scott chuckled as he sat down on the bank.

Time seemed to stand still as James splashed about in the river.

“You ready to get to town now?” Trooper Scott smiled as he watched James floating in the river.

“Yeah, be right there. It is hard to leave this place.” James replied as he shook off on the bank of the river.

There was a quiet peace between the two men as they drove into the small desert town. Trooper Scott looked over at James and said, “May I ask you something James? Did you asked God for help last night?”

There was a long pause and then James replied “Yeah, I did.”

Trooper Scott smiled and said, “Okay, I’ll be right back.”

Within fifteen minutes Trooper Scott came out of the gas station carrying a case of water, a large bag of food and began pumping gas into a five gallon can. Within twenty minutes they were back at James’ truck filling it with gas. As Trooper Scott handed the bag of food to James he reached in and took out a small book. “This is for you James.”

Trooper Scott continued, “I marked a few places for you to read and it is filled with hope and life for you James,” He reached out to shake James' hand and say goodbye.

The last thing Trooper Scott said was, “James, Jesus loves you, and don’t you forget it; you hear.”

James shook his hand, thanked him and then looked at the book and it was Bible. As James opened it up, he could see that Trooper Scott had placed five twenty dollars bills in it where a scripture was underlined. James looked at the scripture as he read Isaiah 43:19, which said:

*Behold, I will do a new thing,*

*Now it shall spring forth;*

*Shall you not know it?*

*I will even make a road in the wilderness*

*And rivers in the desert.*

As James read his eyes and heart slowly drank in the words. Then it occurred to him that God can make rivers in deserts and the river on the other side of the knoll had been there all along even if he could not see it. James

smiled for the first time in a long time as he watched Trooper Scott’s car move out of sight in front him. With the rumble of the truck engine, James put it in gear and looking forward he knew something new had begun to form inside of him.

For the first time in his young life something good had just happened even if he did not fully understand it yet. He decided in that moment, “Maybe Jesus does love me,” and as his truck rambled down the road the only words he could form in his heart were, “Thank you Jesus, thank you for helping me and for Trooper Scott.”

My encouragement is this: as we move forward in the new year, let us look through a wind shield of hope because our God is in the desert places of our living ushering in faith, hope, help and love like a river because He is faithful. As children of God, we are assured that He will help us, as His Word tells us in Isaiah 41:10, “*Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.*” There are rivers in our deserts right now, even if we cannot see them, so let hope arise, let our hearts jump in and receive all that God has for us today!

**Coming Up @ Your City Council Meeting:** BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Please find the current agenda and supporting documents on the city’s website:

<https://woodlandparkco.portal.civicclerk.com/>

We encourage you to attend these public meetings and voice your opinion during public comment. Also, please email your council-members to make sure your voice is heard. Even a few emails have a tremendous impact on the council-member preparing for these meetings.

