

Kingdom Chronicle

City Council Meeting At A Glance

BY NGOC TRAN
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Our city council meetings are open to the public. Their agendas and supporting documents can be found online at <https://woodlandparkco.portal.civicclerk.com/>. If anyone is unable to attend them in person, the meetings are recorded live and accessible through their YouTube channel. This was my first time at a city council meeting online since I was unable to attend, being in Texas at the time, but it was a great experience to hear what our citizens and community are doing and a great way to get involved.

The city council meeting opened up with roll call of all city council members. and a pledge of allegiance to our flag. Their first agenda of business was interviewing two applicants Tyler Vaughn and Sheila Jimenez for the Keep Woodland Park Beautiful Committee. Soon after having all the votes of council members, both applicants accepted the responsibility and was sworn in. Congratulations to both of you and thank you for being willing to serve our community!

The next agenda was a presentation from the Newmont Corporation that does mining in Cripple Creek and Victor. They informed us that as Newmont prepares to sell CC&V , the company will have no further role in community development in Teller County and the surrounding communities. Thanks to their generous employees, VV&V Legacy Fund donations in 2024 total \$189,750.80.

Furthermore, a public comment was raised by a concerned Father who had a concern about there not being a signage on the intersection of Kelley Rd and Highway 67 of whom had the right of way. He stated that many times dropping off his son, there has been incidents of potential wrecks and accidents. Members directed him that their city manager Aaron Vasilotti would be reaching out to him.

The big, ticketed item on the agenda was the unfinished business item concerning Woodland Park School District IGA discussion. Usually in this discussion, the public may make comments, however this was a

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Raise Your Voice! Upcoming Community Dates:

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

◆ 02/16/2025, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.
◆ 02/18/2025, 9:15 a.m.: County Commissioners meeting at 112 North A Street in Cripple Creek.

◆ 02/18/2025, 6:15-6:45 p.m.: Prayer meeting for our library (Woodland Park library, first room on the left when entering from lower level).

◆ 02/19/2025, 6 p.m.: Community Engagement Forum with the Woodland Park Police Department at the Police Station.

◆ 02/20/2025, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave. ***pre-briefing and prayer at 6 p.m. at the Memorial Park flagpole.**

◆ 02/23/2025, 3-4 p.m.: Governmental Prayer at Java Haus.



please join us for our annual

DADDY DAUGHTER

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FRI FEB 21 6-8pm

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Declaration Of Independence

BY KATE GORELOVA
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

We hold these truths to be self-evident
It meant that Founding Fathers knew
That there are TRUTHS and they are evident
(That relativism is not true)

That all men are created equal
And also this means that they knew:
There is Creator – if created
And people equal are created

And they're endowed by their Creator
Again this clearly shows to us
They recognized – there is Creator
Who gave us certain human rights

Those human rights – that God gave people
They are unalienable rights
That phrase means that it's not the government
That gave us rights – but God indeed

Those rights are life, those rights are liberty
Pursuit of happiness – is right
And to secure these human rights
The government must bow to God

The Founding Fathers knew and recognized
That government must bow to God
That government cannot make laws
That contradict the laws of God

But when you take God out of picture
Then government become the “god”
Who gives or takes away our freedoms
That God gave us as right to have

And when you take God out of government
And Him acknowledge you refuse
It won't be long until the government
Will become evil – your rights takes

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.



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.



Colorado Senate Unanimously Declares February 1 As World Hijab Day

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

In an unprecedented move on January 31, 2025, the Colorado State Senate unanimously passed Resolution 25-004, officially recognizing February 1 as World Hijab Day. The resolution, introduced by Senator Iman Jodeh,

celebrates the hijab as a “choice, a freedom, and a blessing” while encouraging women across cultures to try wearing one in the spirit of promoting “religious tolerance, cultural understanding, and international solidarity.”



What might surprise some Coloradans is the complete lack of opposition to the resolution, even from



supporting a resolution that claims the hijab symbolizes dignity and respect for women and encourages others to practice an expression of Islam.

Senator Jodeh, the daughter of Palestinian refugees and a notable advocate for immigrant and refugee rights, made headlines by wearing a hijab herself on the Senate floor, even though she is never seen doing so in public or on her political platform. She brought additional hijabs for

Christian senators or Republicans, all of whom even allowed their names to be added as co-sponsors after the resolution's passage. This unanimous vote effectively puts every state senator – regardless of political or religious persuasion – on record

other women in the Capitol to try as part of the day's observance, symbolizing solidarity with Muslim women.

Jodeh described the resolution as part of her ongoing mission to create space for Muslim voices in the Legislature, stating, *“It’s just one of multiple things that I do throughout the year to make sure that Muslims are heard and Muslims have a space in the Legislature.”* The organization World Hijab Day celebrated the passing stating on social media: *“On January 31, 2025, the Colorado State Senate passed Resolution No. 25-004, officially designating February 1, 2025, as World Hijab Day in the State of Colorado. This milestone reflects a commitment to religious freedom, inclusion, and women’s empowerment. It was made possible through the dedicated leadership of Senator Iman Jodeh (@imanforcolorado), whose unwavering support for the rights of Muslim women and religious expression is truly commendable.”*



The resolution's content, however, raises important questions for conservative Christians and others concerned about religious freedom and cultural identity and heritage of the United States of America. Declaring that wearing the hijab promotes dignity and respect for women, and framing it as a universal “freedom” and “blessing,” overlooks the reality that in many parts of the world, women are compelled to wear the hijab under threat of social punishment or even violence. In Iran, for example, women continue to risk their lives by protesting compulsory hijab laws in pursuit of genuine freedom.

From a Christian viewpoint, it is concerning that resolutions like this one blur the lines between promoting genuine religious freedom and endorsing specific religious practices that do not align with core American values of personal choice, gender equality, and Christian heritage.

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The resolution also raises questions about whether Christian practices and symbols would receive such unanimous and unquestioned support in the same Senate chamber. Would a resolution encouraging women to wear crosses for a day or promoting modesty as defined by Christian doctrine pass without controversy?

Despite these concerns, Senator Jodeh's success in garnering full bipartisan support for World Hijab Day underscores a growing acceptance of multicultural initiatives within Colorado's government. The complete lack of opposition, even from conservative Christian senators, suggests a political climate where objections to religious and cultural initiatives are increasingly muted, perhaps out of fear of being labeled intolerant or out of step with current social trends.

As Coloradans reflect on this resolution, it remains critical to remember that true religious freedom includes the right not just to wear a hijab, but also to decline doing so without fear, pressure, or social coercion – a freedom that should be safeguarded for all women regardless of faith. It might also be worthwhile for us constituents to remind our elected representatives, that everything the hijab stands for is incompatible with our Constitution and it's recipe for freedom. The very identity of our nation.

Created In His Image

BY KATE GORELOVA
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

God each person has created
In His image them created
We are not just souls and bodies
With a purpose God us made

Every person, every person
Whether like we them or not
Are designed and with a purpose
And has value and has worth

How we treat each other matters
And it matters also too
That we image of God see
In each person, every person

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closed discussion. This discussion was about prop 2A that passed backed in November. It was voted no and that the 1.09 city sales tax would go to the school district with an Intergovernmental agreement (IGA) on the usage of sales tax by the school district with a requirement that a summary of its reporting and backing that summary with a detailed ledger be given to them every month starting Jan. 31st of 2025. Council members had brought up their disappointment stating that the school district fell short on the requirement even though they had been told many times and given a template to follow to adhere to the requirement of this contract. A one-page summary was sent in without any form of backing to confirm those numbers. Mayor Kellie Case noted that she had talked with the school board chair and President of the school district Mick Bates, and he was working on getting that sent to them ASAP. Merit Academy CFO was right on the ball and submitted all required documents. Right now, the council members have given them a cure period of 30 days to meet these requirements according to the IGA contract however council member Carol Harvey said, "in the meantime we can also direct the staff to prepare an ordinance to end the text and it would come to first reading and public hearing." The ordinance will be brought up in the next meeting on March 6, if these documents are not submitted correctly. Please be praying for the School District for them to be responsible, have wisdom, and in a timely manner resolve this so that our school, faculty, and students do not suffer. Furthermore, I pray that we join in unity and hold each other accountable for the good of this community.

Following this, Quasi-Judicial items were heard pertaining to zoning and land use and special permits. The city council approved an ordinance authorizing the City of Woodland Park to grant an access easement across a portion of land. Two liquor licenses were approved and granted to Joanie's Cafe and Bakery and Sushi Thai.

The meeting ended with all the reports from the council members. These reports give details about what events are going on in the community. Its important that you know your council members and attend these meetings. This community needs you, would love to know you, and your voice matters! Get involved, get engaged, and make a difference! It was a privilege and honor to report to you about our Council Meeting.

It Will Not Delay

BY JOY OTI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

*For the revelation awaits an appointed time;
it speaks of the end and will not prove false.
Though it lingers, wait for it; it will certainly come and
will not delay - Habakkuk 2:3*

“Brian,” his mother called out. “Come on, let’s go. We’ll be late for church.”

“I’m coming! I need to get my umbrella,” he called back.

Brian’s mother, Emily, chuckled at his response. ‘It’s not going to rain,’ she thought to herself but decided to let him do as he pleased. She had just returned from a trip to Singapore two days ago and bought an umbrella as a birthday gift for Brian. It was a special present, featuring a picture of his favorite comic book hero, Batman.

Though she had explained that the umbrella would be useful when the rainy season started in five months, Brian insisted it was going to rain that Sunday.

As they drove to church, Emily glanced at her son, amused. He held the umbrella tightly, almost as if it were a treasure. “Aren’t you worried your friends will laugh at you for bringing an umbrella to church during the dry season?” she teased.

“It’s okay, Mom. They can laugh if they want, but I know it’s going to rain. I don’t need to wait five months to use my umbrella,” Brian replied confidently.

“What makes you so sure it’s going to rain?” Emily asked, curious.

“Because I prayed,” Brian said.

“Well, did God tell you it would rain?”

“No, Mom. But I prayed, and He said, ‘all things are possible to those who believe.’”

Emily nodded, impressed by her 4-year-old son’s faith, though part of her feared he might be setting himself up for disappointment.

During the service, Brian frequently glanced out the window, checking for any sign of rain. Each time, he seemed momentarily disheartened. Emily, sitting in the adult service, couldn’t stop thinking about him. She too would subtly crane her neck to look outside, only to find the skies stubbornly clear.

When the service ended, Emily rushed to Brian’s classroom, preparing herself to console her son. To her surprise, he didn’t look sad at all. Standing there with his precious umbrella, he waved happily at her.

Emily wrapped her arms around him. “Hey, you look cheerful. I’m sorry it didn’t rain,” she said gently.

“No, Mom, it hasn’t rained yet,” Brian corrected her with a bright smile.

“Okay, then. Let’s go home,” Emily said, smiling faintly.

The ride home was quiet, Emily unsure of what to say. Instead, she turned on the radio and began singing along softly to the music.

Around 9 p.m., which was Brian’s bedtime, Emily went to check if he was in bed and see how he was doing. To her surprise, she found the umbrella opened by his bedside, and Brian fast asleep. She felt a pang of sadness. Even after a full day without a single drop of rain, her son remained hopeful. The mother in her wished she could somehow conjure up rain for him. She gently closed the door and went to bed, her mind restless with concern about how Brian might feel in the morning. Sleep didn’t come easily; she tossed and turned, her heart heavy with worry, until she eventually drifted off.

At about 11:45 p.m., a loud bang startled Emily awake. The sound was so jarring that she fell to the floor in fright. It was thunder! She gasped and scrambled to her feet. “Oh, my goodness,” she whispered, “it’s raining!” A glance at her clock confirmed it was nearly midnight. A surge of excitement overtook her. “Brian, it’s raining!” she exclaimed, dashing toward his room.

Though she felt guilty for going to wake him, she couldn’t bear the thought of him missing this moment. She wanted him to experience the rain he had waited for so patiently. But when she reached his room, Brian wasn’t there. Panic washed over her. She checked the bathroom, but he wasn’t there either. “Brian!” she called, her voice tinged with worry. Her eyes darted back to his bed, and that’s when she noticed something: the umbrella was gone. A realization struck her. “You’ve got to be kidding me,” she muttered, and rushed out of the house.

There he was, outside in the rain, holding his umbrella and dancing with sheer joy. Tears sprang to Emily’s eyes as she laughed, overwhelmed by the sight of her son reveling in his miracle.

Brian spotted her and waved. “Come on, Mum!” he called, beckoning her to join.

Without hesitation, Emily stepped into the rain.

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It Will Not Delay

BY JOY OTI
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The umbrella was far too small to cover both of them, but it didn't matter. Together, they danced, letting the rain soak them as laughter and happiness filled the night.

When they finally returned inside, Emily wrapped Brian in a towel, drying him off while he beamed with delight. "When did you leave your room?" she asked, still amazed.

"I wasn't sleeping," Brian admitted. "I was sure it was going to rain, and I didn't want to miss it. So, I pretended I was sleeping when you came in. After you left, I waited by the window until the rain started. I told you, Mum – I got to use my umbrella today! I'm so happy."

Emily smiled, her heart full of joy. "Yes, you are," she said, kissing him on the forehead before tucking him back into bed.

The next morning, after dropping Brian off at school, Emily drove to work. The rain continued, steady and refreshing. She turned on the radio, curious to hear the news. To her astonishment, the announcers were marveling over the rain as well.

"This is truly unprecedented," one voice declared. "This kind of rainfall has never happened during this season. Let this be a reminder, everyone: never say never."

Emily smiled, tears welling up again as she drove. Deep down, she believed it was her son's faith-filled prayer that had moved heaven. God had heard him, and answered. Emily basked in the joy of knowing that her little boy's unwavering belief had been rewarded.

CALL TO ACTION

I'll admit that not many of us can exercise the kind of faith Brian displayed. A lot of us will be concerned about what people may think of us. Brian was different. He prayed and had faith in God, and was willing to risk being laughed at. He had faith it was going to rain that Sunday, and was willing to sacrifice his sleep. He did see his miracle, which set an unprecedented event in the history of his city. Waiting on God is hard, but it's always rewarding. Brian's miracle was not delayed, as the scripture promises. It only lingered. But he didn't give up. There's a difference between a delay and a linger. When something lingers, it is only a matter of time before it happens. In other words, the expected event may be slow, but it is advancing. So, like Brian, let's choose to wait on God, and risk being laughed at if it comes to that. For

surely, every word He has spoken concerning you will happen, if you faithfully wait on Him.

When Heartbeat Stops

BY KATE GORELOVA
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Throughout the ages, many ages
Throughout the centuries and years
Death was pronounced when heartbeat ceases
When heartbeat stopped – it was called death

And when inside another's womb
A heart of baby stops the beating
The mother's told- that baby died
She had miscarried – she is told

She has miscarried- she is told
Because someone inside her died
A child- whose heart was beating, beating
Just stopped because the child has died

To be called dead- one first must live
Not just called "clump of cells or fetus"
Without first – Life – one cannot die
Death can't be called – unless once living

And yet somehow to sooth the conscience
Abortion is not seen as death
In which a life that mother carried
Was purposefully terminated

That life – a heartbeat – spirit, soul
That baby hidden in the womb
Deliberately that life was ended
Because a woman has a choice

When heartbeat stops – death is pronounced
Unless of course it's termination
Of pregnancy that is unwanted
To sooth the conscience – terms like death
Are simply just not used – avoided



Equality

BY KATE GORELOVA
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

“Equality”: more fair, more humane
Just and equitable and so inclusive
These are the terms so often being used
You heard them, right, in schools and media

Equality – so often it’s confused
For instance if you work hard- earn great money
But then another lazy person says
“Equality means share your money with me”

And then they say “Equality – means share
You house inherited that’s big with lots of property
That is unfair- you did not work for it
Give it to us and money share with us

Equality – when used by Founding Fathers
Meant equal opportunity for all
Not equal outcome, but an opportunity
That all of people could succeed in life

But many people figured out this thing
They could be lazy and depend on government
They do not work – but your taxes and mine
Are used to “help” those very able-bodied

And people who are lazy and are helped
Don’t have incentive to work – they get money
They see “equality” as ‘you work hard and much
I’ll equally receive the blessings’

“An equal outcome – everyone is helped
The lazy eat for government gives money
They tax you more and more and more
So they can make “equality for all”

Of course there are exceptions- not all people
Who are on welfare – government supports
Some of them work so hard but they still struggle
But many of them just don’t want to work

Equality it is a word that’s twisted
And many people are confused by it

And socialists and communists they use it
But package it into this “pretty box”

That box is full of communist ideas
And socialist agendas, Marxism
And then they put such pretty bow on it
And call that box “Democracy” – so pretty

But one lie it was simply not enough
They started falsely saying to the people
Democracy they called United States
Although it is a constitutional republic

Politically Biased Feelings

BY KATE GORELOVA
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

“Politically Biased Feelings”
Is now what’s promoted, you see
And many now do not know
The history of this land

Remember the former days
God people so often did tell
Because history is important
And history we must know

When history is not taught
And all of the bad/good that happened
When you don’t know what to prevent
Then history will repeat

But when history repeats
It’s often with vengeance repeats
So fiercely and so much worse
And people will freedom loose

We diligent must be then
To know history and teach it
Politically biased feelings
Is not what we focus must on

The American Way of Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness: Unity in the Face of Division

BY AARON HELSTROM
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

The American way of life has always been rooted in the fundamental principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These values, enshrined in the Declaration of Independence, have guided the nation through its history and remain at the heart of what it means to be American. However, in today's world, there is a growing concern that these ideals are being threatened by forces that seek to divide us and undermine the very freedoms we hold dear. In particular, social warfare tactics of division – designed to pit citizens against each other – threaten to distract us from what truly matters: the protection of our Constitutional rights. It is crucial, now more than ever, that we come together as a community to preserve the values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, staying united in our commitment to protect the freedoms guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution.

At the core of the American way of life is the belief that every individual is entitled to the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights provide the foundation for our society, allowing people to live freely, think independently, and seek fulfillment according to their own desires and abilities. The Declaration of Independence declared that these rights are self-evident and granted by the Creator, meaning that they cannot be taken away by any government or external power. For generations, Americans have held fast to these principles, seeing them as the path to a just and prosperous society.

However, as the nation has grown and evolved, so too have the forces that seek to undermine these principles. In recent years, we have witnessed a disturbing rise in ideological division, stoked by a variety of influences. Some of these forces, particularly communist ideologies, are designed to create fractures in society – pitting people against one another based on class, race, or political beliefs. These tactics of division threaten to weaken the unity that is essential for the protection of our Constitutional rights. As President George Washington warned in his Farewell Address: “The common and continual mischief of the spirit of party are sufficient to make it the interest and duty of a wise people to discourage and restrain it.” Washington recognized that division based on political factions could destabilize the nation and divert attention away from the core principles of freedom and self-government.

Similarly, President John Adams understood the importance of unity in safeguarding liberty. He stated, “Liberty, once lost, is lost forever.” These words serve as a stark reminder of the fragility of freedom and the need to actively protect it from any threats. In times of division, it is easy to lose sight of the fundamental values that bind us together. If we allow ourselves to be torn apart by ideological differences, we risk losing the very rights that define our nation.

To preserve the American way of life, we must come together as a community, committed to upholding the principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This means setting aside our differences and focusing on what unites us – the Constitution and the rights it guarantees. We must be vigilant against divisive forces, including those that seek to exploit our differences for their own gain. The protection of our Constitutional rights must always remain our highest priority, for it is through these rights that we are able to live freely and pursue our dreams.

In conclusion, the American way of life is built upon the enduring principles of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. As a community, we must resist the temptation of division and come together to protect the Constitutional rights that safeguard these ideals. By heeding the wisdom of President Washington and President Adams, we can ensure that the freedoms we hold dear are preserved for future generations. The time to unite is now – our liberty depends on it.

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 for a free initial consulting.

Your partner in all software matters

Woodland Park School Board Passes Resolution Recognizing Only Two Sexes

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

In a decisive move reflecting the shifting federal landscape, the Woodland Park School Board voted on January 29 to formally recognize only two sexes – male and female – in its district policies. The resolution, which passed 4-1 with only Keegan Barkley dissenting, aligns with the executive order signed just a week earlier by President Donald Trump, titled “Defending Women From Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government.”

The board’s resolution affirms that gender identity is separate from biological sex and establishes clear distinctions in school policies regarding restrooms, locker rooms, and athletic competition. Additionally, it emphasizes the district’s need to comply with the new federal directives to avoid potential loss of funding.

Board Secretary David Rusterholtz defended the resolution, arguing that schools have a responsibility to teach students objective truth. *“We need to teach our kids the truth. It doesn’t mean we’re going to accept any kind of bullying,”* he stated. *“This is a culture war, and the war has been against the truth, and I’m proud to say that we need to stand for our kids.”*

Federal and State Policies Collide

This local decision mirrors the growing tension between the federal and state governments on the issue of gender identity in public education. While the Trump administration has taken a firm stance against gender ideology in schools, Colorado state policies continue to mandate the recognition of students’ preferred pronouns and name changes. School districts as well as other administrative entities across the state now face a complex dilemma – whether to align with state law or adhere to new federal policies that directly contradict it.

In this same light, the El Paso County Commissioners recently passed a resolution committing to full compliance with federal directives, even if they conflict with Colorado state policies.

Superintendent's Response and Next Steps

The resolution passed with overwhelming support. The district superintendent will now be tasked with updating

administrative policies and procedures to align with the new resolution.

Superintendent Ken Witt reaffirmed the district's commitment to both compliance and student well-being, stating, *“As a district, we remain laser-focused on academic excellence and creating an environment where every student thrives.”*

The coming months will likely bring further debate as school districts across Colorado grapple with the implications of the federal order. With both state and federal governments pulling in opposite directions, Woodland Park’s resolution may serve as a model – or a flash-point – for other districts navigating the same challenge.

Kingdom Chronicle Updates

BY KYLE GONZALEZ
Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief

There will be some big changes coming to Kingdom Chronicle coming in March 2025. The first of which will be that we're going social! Yes, we will be on social media. Stay tuned to our next issue for additional information about how to connect with us on your favorite social media site. Secondly, we're going to be giving the layout of our bi-weekly issues and website a face lift. Nothing will be changing with our content, but this is a much needed quality of life improvement that we're excited to unveil in March 2025.

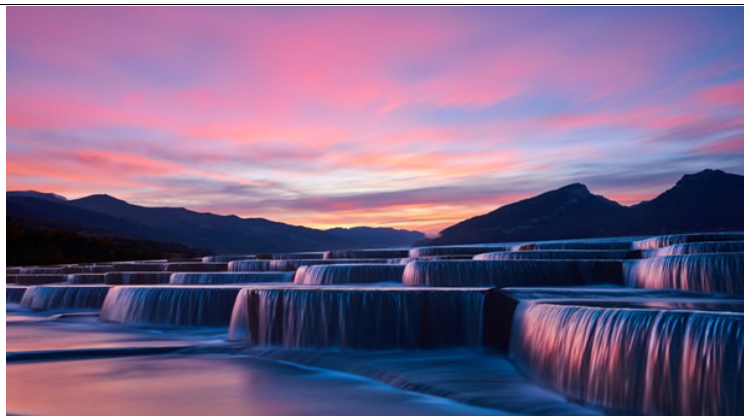


Also, you may have noticed some of our new writers, contributors, and other exciting new pieces. Well, that is because many are answering the call to join our awesome team! Do you feel called to help us spread Godly news? If so, come and learn journalism skills, such as how to conduct interviews, and be a part of all that we're doing here.

If you feel the call to write for a journalistic endeavor with a faith-based focus, please contact us via editor@kingdomchronicle.news. Also, if you've been blessed by the Kingdom Chronicle, please send us a testimony. We would be blessed to know just how God has used Kingdom Chronicle to impact your life!

God Draws Us With Lovingkindness

BY JULIA LEE
Kingdom Chronicle Staff



In Jeremiah 31: 3 (NKJV) God's Word tells us that, "The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying: "Yes, I have **loved you** with an **everlasting love**; Therefore, with **lovingkindness** I have drawn you." I have always loved this scripture because I hear God talking to me in it and it brings me back to a time when I experienced God's lovingkindness in way I had never before. I was on a mission trip in Egypt, and I was out in the Sahara Desert. It was a night so quiet and peaceful that I heard no sounds coming from anywhere. Our team was heading in for the night for rest and sleep. I waited outside for a few minutes, and I turned my gaze to the night sky and began to thank my God for the beautiful day I had that day. The night sky seemed so vast, and the stars were shimmering in all their splendor. My heart wanted to sing to Him because everything in my heart began to reflect the beauty of the night sky. The awe and joy that filled me was incredible. My heart felt like God was drawing me – pulling me in closer to Him. I just stood there letting my heart receive from God and it felt like waterfalls washing over me. It was a moment in time I will never forget. I was amazed when I discovered that in God's Word, He tells us He draws us with "lovingkindness." We do not have to strive, earn, beg, or plead for His lovingkindness because He is love. In 1 John 4:7-11 the Word of God speaks to us saying,

7 Beloved, let us love one another, for **love** is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. **8 Anyone** who does not **love** does not know God, because **God is love**. **9 In this the love of God** was made manifest among us, that God sent his only **Son** into the world, so that we might live through him. **10 In this is love**, not that we have **loved** God but that he **loved** us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. **11 Beloved**, if God so **loved us**, we also ought to **love one another**. **12 No one** has

ever seen God; if we **love one another**, God abides in us and **His love** is perfected in us.

As I gazed at the desert night sky, I realized that God's lovingkindness was not a far and distant unattainable love. It was ever present like a river of unending kindness, mercy, faithfulness, and an unfailing love. To know this love, to know that it is the same love to be shared with one another as well as affirm that God abides in us, is a beautiful testimony of who God is. As I stood in the dry parched sand of the desert that night, I experienced God's lovingkindness as it filled every place of me. Isaiah 41:18 (NKJV) illuminates the beauty of His love to me in that moment through these words,

"I will open rivers on the bare heights, and springs in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of water; And the dry land fountains of water."

I am sure I have not adequately described in its fullness how that moment of His lovingkindness impacted my life, but it was an experience that I will never forget. My encouragement, regardless of the season you find yourself in, is this – Let us open our hearts to the lovingkindness of our God because in that place He will fill you with a river of love so much that it will overflow out of you and into the people around you. This love, our God, truly draws us with lovingkindness so let us release that love to all because the harvest is white and filled with many who need Him, long to know Him and are seeking Him with their whole heart.

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



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