

Kingdom Chronicle

The Garden of Decision BY JOY OTI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Decisions are among life's greatest challenges, especially for those with strong principles, as they must carefully consider the consequences. Whether it's career choices, relocation, housing decisions, selecting a life partner, or business moves, the repercussions of decisions shape our lives profoundly. Many of us navigate our paths based on past decisions, whether with regret or gratitude. Even when we're confident in our choices, decision-making is never easy.

Mankind was fallen, death was imminent, and God was heartbroken. He knew He had to make a decision, and it was not going to be an easy one. It's ironic that some assume God's decisions come effortlessly due to His divine nature. In reality, every decision concerning humanity is weighty for God. He experiences emotions, yet unlike humans, He isn't ruled by them. It's from Him that we derive our emotions. According to scriptures, God laughs (Psalm 37:13), gets angry – albeit slowly (Psalm 103:8; Rom 1:18), He loves (John 3:16; Jeremiah 31:3), and He forgives (Ephesians 4:32). When God chose to redeem man from his fallen state, He had only one choice; He had to give to receive, and it was going to be a very costly gift – a standard set by Himself.

Perfection is all that God is, and perfection is what He demands. And this is the reason there was no one else to fit God's bill for sin, but His Son Jesus. In my wild imagination, I hear God say to Jesus; "Son, we have to save man, and only you can. For the first time, you are going to be man in the absolute sense of mankind. You'll be tempted by all they are tempted with, feel everything they feel, and be everything man is. But to remain the perfect sacrifice, YOU MUST NOT SIN." In other words, it's like telling someone to swim in the ocean, and then instructing them not to get wet. Sin is the reason the cross was ever discussed. The crux of the matter was Jesus not committing sin, until sin was put on Him. Jesus was fully man, and so had the propensity to commit sin. The devil targeted His vulnerability to sin, but Jesus triumphed through adherence to the word. So much emphasis has

Continued on Page 2...

Interview With Kelley Case: Mayoral Candidate BY JON WILLIAMS Kingdom Chronicle Staff

It is election season again here in Woodland Park, and I had a chance to sit down and talk with Kellie Case. Kellie is running for mayor of Woodland Park this year. As a fourth generation Coloradan, Kellie has been a part of municipal government for over twenty-eight years. After serving for seventeen years as the finance director/treasurer, she ran and won a seat on the city council where she has served for the last few years. Kellie is also a successful Realtor with Keller Williams where she has welcomed many new residents to her mountain home.

The hottest issue in Woodland Park lately has been the issue of short-term rentals (STR). This is the very issue



that has emboldened her challenger for the mayorship, Jerry Penland. Kellie felt that Homeowners Association (HOA) rules could have prevented most of the complaints from the locals about out-of-town visitors. Kellie stated that many people have summer homes in the

area, and they want to be able to rent them out during the winter when they are not here. Many residents buy a home a few years before retirement and rent the home before moving here full time. She fears a lawsuit might force this issue into being reconsidered. Short-term rentals (STR) made Woodland Park hot commodity during COVID when the hotels were closed, like many places across the nation. Woodland Park is a tourist draw for the HOV trails, fishing, as well as proximity to the National Park and world class skiing.

While talking about economic development, Kellie

Continued on Page 4...

The Garden of Decision

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

been put on the cross; I thank God for the cross. Yet, I strongly believe that Jesus' greatest feat lay in resisting sin despite susceptibility. Any sin would have nullified His role as the perfect sacrifice, rendering the cross ineffective, and man would have remained in his hopeless state.



Jesus' ministry was fraught with ugliness, hatred and betrayal, from the very people He came to save. He knew, before it all began, that the people He had come to save would reject Him. He still came anyway. When His ministry was rounding up, He was without sin, and the garden of Gethsemane was the place where He would make the greatest decision as God, and in the history of human existence – taking all kinds of sin and perversion on Himself. The scripture says He was grieved unto death, and His sweat was like drops of blood. Three times He prayed that He would not have to suffer what He knew He was bound to suffer, and three times He asked that the will of the Father be done, therefore, fulfilling Isaiah 53:10 “... **the will of the Lord will prosper in His hands.**” In today's language, Jesus' prayer would sound something like; “Father, I really do not want to go through this. It's too much! Everything in me wants out. However, I trust your judgment, and know you want the best for me and mankind. I'll do as you will.” The cross and everything associated with it was too much for Jesus. Otherwise, He would not be in anguish, and pray consistently three times

for the cup to be taken away from Him. Jesus was without sin until He got nailed on the cross. It was at that point that the sin of man, born and unborn, was laid on Him. And with sin came shame that He had never known, being the Lord of glory. That shame was the same as Adam and Eve experienced in the garden of Eden, when they sinned and sought cover. The first effect of sin is shame, and then death, and finally separation from God, and Jesus was going to face all three. On the cross, Jesus was still man as much as He was God – double jeopardy. As man, He suffered the pain and torture due to Him, and as God, He was ready for the final battle of death and a journey to hell, that only He as God could accomplish. Hebrews 12:2 tells us that “**for the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross, scorning its shame....**” Jesus disregarded the shame associated with the cross, counted it as nothing in comparison to what He was going to achieve – man reconciled to God; that was His joy!

Now, the bible tells us in Hebrews 12:2, that Jesus is our example, and like Him, we will find ourselves in the garden of decision. When we do find ourselves in the garden of decision, we should follow His example – decide for the greater good. Your decision to take one job over another, choose one mate over another, terminate that pregnancy or keep it, go to school or call it quits, etc., should hinge on the weight of the greater glory. In other words, if the glory of the destination weighs much more than the shame of the process, scorn that shame and prioritize the glory ahead. Embrace the path that leads to greater fulfillment, even if it entails temporary discomfort or pain. By following His example, we can endure challenges and finish strong.

Word of Wisdom for at least one reader: having that baby has greater joy and glory than the temporary shame of walking around heavily pregnant unmarried. At the end, you'll win! “Trust me,” says Jesus, “I've been there!”

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



My Free Water Store
200 South Chestnut Street
Woodland Park, CO 80863
719-687-8732



Faithchai.com

Christians And The Political Process

BY AARON HELSTROM
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

If Christians do not get involved in the political process, America may experience several potential consequences:

1. **Loss of Representation:** Christians make up a significant portion of the American population, and their values and beliefs often shape their perspectives on social, moral, and political issues. If Christians do not engage in the political process, their voices go unheard in policy discussions and decision-making processes. This could result in policies that do not reflect the concerns and priorities of the Christian community.
2. **Erosion of Religious Freedom:** Without active participation in the political process, Christians may be at risk of losing protections for their religious freedoms. Issues related to freedom of worship, conscience, and expression could be overlooked or undermined, leading to restrictions on religious practices and beliefs.
3. **Impact on Social Issues:** Many Christians are passionate about social issues such as abortion, marriage, family values, and education. Without involvement in the political process, Christians may struggle to influence legislation and policies related to these issues. This could result in laws and regulations that contradict the Constitution and Christian values.
4. **Shift in Cultural Norms:** Political decisions and policies often shape cultural norms and values. Without Christian engagement in the political process, there will continue to be a gradual shift away from Judeo-Christian principles that have historically influenced American society. This will lead to a cultural landscape that is less supportive

of traditional Christian values and result in the attacks on Christians.

5. **Lack of Moral Leadership:** Christians have historically played a significant role in advocating for moral leadership and ethical governance. Without active participation in the political process, there will be a void in moral leadership, leading to increased corruption, dishonesty, and moral relativism in politics and government.
6. **Diminished Influence on Public Policy:** Christians have the potential to influence public policy and shape the direction of the nation through their engagement in the political process. Without their involvement, policies will be driven by secular ideologies and special interests rather than by moral and ethical considerations.



In conclusion, the continued absence of Christian participation in the political process will have far-reaching implications for American society, including diminished representation, erosion of religious freedom, a lack of moral leadership, and traditional American values. It is crucial for Christians to engage actively in the political process, advocate for values and beliefs, and work towards stopping the erosion of the Rule of Law and the Constitution.



Pray For

Fair and smooth elections.

The involvement of Christians in the political process to help elect God-fearing leaders.

Prosperity for Woodland Park and its communities.



Pray Against

Unlawful interference with democratic processes.

Idleness and/or a lack of knowledge keeping the Body of Christ from becoming involved in the political process.

Christians failing to head the call to become involved.

Interview With Kelley Case: Mayoral Candidate

BY JON WILLIAMS
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

was quick to mention that we have a high-speed fiber in-town and is a good opportunity for future development. Other developments are already underway, such as the Tava House going in on six acres to the south of Highway 24. Once complete, Tava House is going to be a steakhouse, a tap house, a culinary school and an event center.

Water availability and use will always be an issue in Colorado, and Woodland Park is no exception. Wise planning by the City Council has a new reservoir in the works on the Boy Scout land north of Rampart Range Road. This water will augment the supply of water to Woodland Park, but will not allow any increase in population for the future. This supply will simply save Woodland Park money by reducing the amount of water bought from the pipeline.

When asked about crime, Kellie was proud to say that crime is under control in Woodland Park. She referenced previous decisions that have put the police office in a strong and effective position. Kellie has won the endorsement of Woodland Park Police Chief Chris Deisler.

When asked what big thing she hoped to get accomplished as mayor and her last few years in Woodland Park government, Kellie said that she hopes to nurture relationships between the city and county. She sees where communication and moving together on issues will be a win-win for a better Woodland Park as well as Teller County.

Residents of Woodland Park can vote for Mayor and City Council positions on April 2, 2024.

Freedom Church Upcoming Events

BY KYLE GONZALEZ
Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief

◆ 03/31/2024 Easter Service at Freedom Church will be on **Sunday** at 5 p.m. in the Auditorium at Charis Bible College.

◆ 03/10/2024 Freedom Church Ladies' Night at 5 p.m. in the Java Haus coffee shop in Woodland Park.

◆ 03/16/2024 Next Steps for Freedom Church at 12 p.m. in the Conference Room at Java Haus.

◆ 05/31/2024-06/01/2024 The first ever Freedom Church conference: "Uprising Men's Conference" will be held in the Auditorium at Charis Bible College.



Go online to register today at www.uprising2024.com!



Raise Your Voice! Upcoming Community Dates:

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

◆ 03/11-03/15/2024: Ballots mailed for April 2nd City Council and Mayor election.

◆ 03/16/2024, 8 a.m.: Teller County Republican Assembly (credentialing starting at 7 a.m.).

◆ 03/16/2024, 1-3 p.m.: Meet & Greet with City Council Candidate Eric Lockman after the St. Patrick's parade at Wayback Burgers

◆ 03/19/2024: Teller County Commissioner Candidacy Nomination Papers due.

◆ 03/19/2024, 5.30 p.m.: Chambers Business After Hours (for members) hosted by Keller Williams.

◆ 03/20/2024, 6:00 p.m.: Victory Life City Council Candidate's Forum at High School Auditorium

◆ 03/21/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.

◆ 04/02/2024: City Council and Mayor Election!

◆ 04/04/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.

◆ 04/11/2024, 5-7 p.m.: Chamber Spring Business Expo & Market at the Ute Pass Cultural Center.

One Minute News BY JOEL “SUNNY” BROWN SPENCER *Kingdom Chronicle Contributor*

As an active and aware member of our community, I want to report relevant news about our community that is easily accessible. One-Minute news goes over the important events in Woodland Park with less fluff in the most concise way.

Christian Nationalism

On Feb. 2, Denver reporter Logan Davis gave a presentation at our local Woodland Park library against Christian Nationalism. Logan said in his presentation that Christian Nationalist are “set to turn their backs on democracy” because of their more conservative views. He has, also, written multiple articles in his paper claiming that Charis Bible College, Andrew Wommack Ministries and its affiliates are problematic for the Woodland Park community. This notion was confronted with push back from the community.

Richard Harris disproved some of Logan's claims with historical evidence. For instance Logan stated that the “Appeal to heaven” flags were explicitly Christian and that, “Christian Nationalism is an attempt to merge American Identity with Christian Identity”. Richard Harris disproved this claim by mentioning that, “The Appeal to Heaven flag was a popular emblem during the American War of Independence... adopted by George Washington on Oct. 21, 1775 as a flag for commissioned American naval vessels. The phrase “appeal to Heaven” reflects the universal sentiment of patriots that God is the author of our liberty and our unalienable rights.” Besides Richard Harris, there were several other members of the community that disagreed with Logan's approach saying that he was trying to cause division in Woodland Park. In the audience the organization TUFF attended and later in an email responded to the events saying, “Separating

Continued on Page 6...

MEET ERIC LOCKMAN

Let's chat after the
St. Patrick's Parade at:

WAYBACK BURGERS

MARCH 16, 1:00-3:00PM

CONSERVATIVE CANDIDATE FOR WOODLAND PARK
www.EricLockman4Council.com



Paid for by:
EricLockman4Council

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



Your Success is Our Success
Quarataconsulting.com



FIX YOUR MONEY FIND YOUR PURPOSE

Yourmoneymakeover.com

One Minute News

BY JOEL “SUNNY” BROWN SPENCER

Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

Christianity from Christian Nationalism is possible.” Robert Zuluaga, an American history teacher based out of Woodland Park, said in response to Logan’s speech, “I completely disagree with Logan’s worldview. ... Words can be deceiving, emotionally charged, and calculated to tear us apart. If you and I make demons of each other, how can we learn and grow together as community?”

The response from his presentation was mixed and had many sides to it that will surely be conversation points going forward for the Woodland Park community.

Changes to Hunting License

Colorado's Big-game license season kicks off on March 1st, with significant shifts by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Among the most impactful alterations is the redistribution of big-game license allocation, now favoring residents with a change from 65% for residents and 35% for nonresidents to 75% for residents and 25% for nonresidents. High-demand hunt codes maintain their exclusivity, remaining at 80% for residents and 20% for nonresidents. There will be mandatory testing for chronic wasting disease from deer that have been harvested during the season adding a vital layer of wildlife conservation. Lastly the Bear’s Ears herd suffered high elk mortality, so all either-sex hunt codes within DAU E-02 are replaced with antlered-only hunt codes.

Bears Emerging from Hibernation

As spring approaches, bears awaken from hibernation with big appetites, ready to forage for sustenance. Colorado bears go into hibernation in early November and emerge in mid-March. Colorado Parks and Wildlife underscores the urgency of responsible waste management and food storage practices to mitigate human-bear encounters. According to the National Park Service, bears immediately commence their search for food upon emerging from hibernation. Store food and dispose of garbage properly, as both can be an attractant for bears and can be harmful to bears if consumed. Make sure to secure all food, drinks, and other scented items immediately when camping, hiking, and backpacking, and never dispose of food waste in the wilderness.

Colorado Senate Bill on Gun and Ammo Tracking

Senate Bill 066, proposed in the state Senate, aims to permit credit card companies to categorize purchases of firearms and ammunition. Sponsored by Sen. Tom Sullivan, the bill is promoted as a tool for law enforcement to track potentially suspicious activity related

to gun transactions. Advocates argue that such tracking is essential for combating illicit gun-related activities while ensuring fairness in economic transactions. Despite amendments and ongoing progress, citizen engagement remains pivotal in shaping the final version of the bill. Sen. Tom Sullivan emphasizes that tracking financial transactions could help identify patterns and prevent crimes such as money laundering, sex trafficking, and mass shootings, clarifying that purchases would only be monitored if they raise suspicion. Gun store owner Seth Stern opposes the bill, labeling it as a disguised form of gun registration and a violation of the Second Amendment. Republican committee members share concerns about the bill's perceived intrusiveness and its effectiveness in preventing mass shootings. On the other hand, Hudson Munoz, executive director of Guns Down America, asserts that the legislation does not impinge on Americans' right to bear arms, highlighting that banks already use similar categorization methods for other products to detect fraud and suspicious activity. Munoz stresses the importance of applying consistent standards to gun retailers as to any other merchant. Despite controversy, the bill continues to advance with adjustments. For your voice to be heard on this issue, contact your local senator.

School Board Discusses Merger of Woodland Park High School and Middle School

The Woodland Park School District RE-2 board plans to merge Woodland Park Middle and High Schools. According to the announcement, the merger is in response to shrinking enrollment numbers and the need to “improve the efficiency of building usage.” However, community feedback reveals concerns over consistency and stability for students as the merger comes just a year after the district decided to split up sixth-grade students among the district’s elementary schools. One parent in attendance at the Wednesday meeting was frustrated at the lack of consistency that the newest merger would bring in the public comments section. In response to the action she said “You don’t care about stability for our kids,”. Aaron Salt, one of the members of the board later in the meeting showed the parents where different areas would be repurposed to create separation between the High and Middle School students both in instruction and in the pick-up and drop-off process. Salt said that bringing Middle schoolers into the High School building would consolidate and improve resources.

Our Father: A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Many of us have testimonies of how we came to Christ, but they all look different. Jesus came to save us of our sins regardless of how we sin or how deep in sin we are. Jesus suffering and death on the cross was out of immense love for you no matter where you were or are currently. The Father has such intense, passionate love for us all that we all have the choice to receive that love and let it change us, lead us and change those around us. Just because someone lived a holier life than me does not mean they are more worthy of God's love. That is not what the cross has done for us, but it is law. If you've ever lived with a legalistic mindset then you will understand this parable that Jesus taught with. This parable, or story, was one of many that Jesus used as an illustration in his teachings. In the story of lost son, we see that intense, passionate love God the Father has for us. I personally have been, and still am, captivated by how this parable paints a picture of about our Heavenly Father. I pray that

it does for you as well.

Setting the scene, the man has two sons and the younger wants his share of inheritance. The Father freely gives to his younger son what he asked.. "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.' So he divided to them his livelihood." (Luke 15:12) This man gave what rightfully belonged to the son, and did it freely. As a dad, I am sure he knew his son's tendencies. So, what happens next may not have surprised the father, yet he gave to his son what belonged to him. God does the same thing to us. He wants to freely give us our inheritance (Romans 8:32) and when we ask for it, we receive it. He gives us what Jesus suffered to obtain, what's now our heritage, knowing your past, present and future sins. This father likely knew that, so in the next verse, the sons reckless and quite honestly poor living choices may not have been

Continued on Page 8...

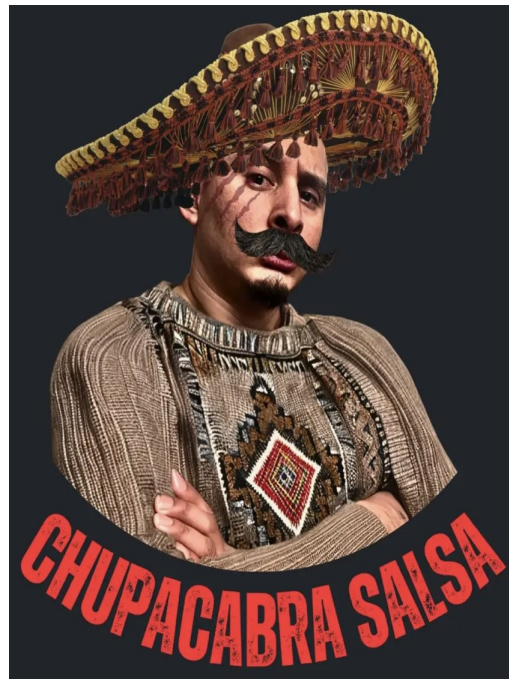
Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

QUALITY
CO.

MADE WITH INTEGRITY



Qualityclothing.co



Contact Daniel Silva via
Facebook Direct Message to
Place an Order:

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/1117226659701115>



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

Our Father: A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

a surprise to the father. The son “...Journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living..” (Luke 15:13) We can all see that choosing to live like that is a very selfish thing and an empty way of life. This son wanted to fulfill the desires of his flesh, which was in his heart when he asked for the inheritance. He already had committed the act of sin, in the eyes of Jesus, before ever physically doing it.

This next verse is something I personally expect with a lifestyle like the son's, but it is still sad to read, “But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.” (Luke 15:14) Sin will keep you going until you are dry as a bone, until there is nothing left and it leaves you wanting every time. The son kept going until all he had was spent. Now, after sinning like this, he is left with less than what he started with. That is the desire of the enemy every time, he wants to “Steal, kill and destroy” (John 10:10), stripping you of all you have. This is where he “Began to be in want”. However, that was already the expected outcome, since the sin was committed in his heart when he asked for his inheritance. Now, he is in lack. This happens to all of us. We have all been in a place of lack in at least one area. Regardless of how that happened, what we do next is so important. It shows the position of our heart. The son joined himself to the pigs, the lowest, most inhumane thing you could do in that time in his culture. That is how he truly felt in his heart. At his lowest he identified with the lowest position in society. No wonder he squandered all of his inheritance, he felt like a pig. “And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.” (Luke 15:16) To be this low and no one pay attention or give anything is a hard place. He was alone and had no one to help him.

“When he finally came to his senses, he said to himself, ‘At home even the hired servants have food enough to spare, and here I am dying of hunger! I will go home to my father and say, “Father, I have sinned against both heaven and you, and I am no longer worthy of being called your son. Please take me on as a hired servant.”’ (Luke 15:17-19) He came to the realization of what he was doing. Sometimes there are beliefs in our hearts even we are not aware of. We may not be, but God is. He knows our innermost being (Psalm 139: 3,13). When the son came to the understanding of what he was doing, thinking and believing, he formatted a solution. To get

out of the place he was in he had to come to his senses. What is sad about this is we see more of the position of his heart in his solution. He calls his fathers house home, but has a wrong perception of his father. He knows it is where he belongs but has a twisted view. He acknowledges what he is doing, but does not see himself to be a son any longer. I question if he ever did, but now truly feels orphaned. He had the humility to go back and confess his sin to his father, but did what some of us Christians have done. We get to a point where we are stuck in that mindset of ‘I am not worthy’, the mindset of an orphan or slave. Yes the son had the humility to tell his father he was wrong, but he did not have the right view of his father because what he thought his father would do is very different from how he reacted in the end. “So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him.” (Luke 15:20) The father embraced his son with affection. That was not the picture he had in his mind. When we know someone well we can predict how they will react to certain things. However, we can’t do that with an acquaintance or stranger. This son did not know his father very well. Neither did the other one. The older son was jealous of the younger.

Both sons possess a form of pride and neither of them knew their father's love intimately. Having a father that literally ran to meet his lost son shows that this man has nothing but compassionate love for both his sons. This is what he said to the older son, “Look, dear son, you have always stayed by me, and everything I have is yours.” (Luke 15:31) He was freely willing for his older son to have what he owned. It was the heart position of this older son that stooped him from receiving it. Both sons could of received and embraced their fathers love, but they didn’t. When the younger son was still far off, his father started running because he took one look and recognized him as his son, his heir. He did not think of him to be an orphan, a drunk or even a failure. He surly did not see his son as the status pigs had in that time. He saw him as his son, period, and started running. That is the intense, active, unconditional love of our God. Whether you are like the younger son, with a low sense of self and unworthiness, feeling orphaned, or the older son with a higher view of himself and full of jealousy – Jesus died for both.

This is the picture of our heavenly father that I want

Continued on Page 9...

Our Father: A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

paint for you. No matter how holy your life may or may not be, no matter how extravagant your testimony may or may not be, God's love is unconditional to all. Our father is the one to lead us. He loves us and wants to be the one we go to for help, to provide for our needs and do life with us, but He also loves us and thus wants to provide correction and discipline. He wants that intimate relationship with us so that we can draw on his love and make a course-correction when the discipline comes. Responding well to a fathers "no" shows the intimate trust built. I pray this has blessed you and will end with these verses from second Corinthians 6:16,18

"What agreement [can there be between] a temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be My people." ... "And I will be a Father to you, and you shall be My sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."

Here Is A Local, Christian YouTube Content Creator We'd Like To Highlight:



Place of
Immersion@immerssiontoday

Candidate Forum BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

City Council Candidate Forum: Disassociation From Some or Representation For All?

On March 5, 2024, the Greater Woodland Park Chamber of Commerce hosted the first candidate forum at City Hall bringing together eight City Council candidates and two mayoral candidates for a discussion on the issues facing our community. The moderator was former superintendent Steve Woolf. While the candidates presented the expected range of perspectives on short-term rentals, water resources, and transparency in decision making and communication, some notable themes emerged.

One such theme was the candidates' positions on various "interest groups" in Woodland Park that divide the public opinion, including Charis Bible College and the RE2 school board. Some candidates, such as Teri Baldwin and Jeffrey Geer, made their opposition to these groups abundantly clear, while at the same time paradoxically advocating for communication and understanding across differing opinions. Notably, in preparation for their potential role as councilmen many of the candidates are making an effort to meet with officials and local leaders and to create connections. As part of this effort, all candidates were invited to a meeting with the leadership of AWMIL. However, not all candidates decided to accept this invitation. As citizens we expect our elected officials to model effective communication and to build bridges to other elected bodies and major economic players in our town, supporting them in facilitating the change we want to see. Not all candidates have been able to demonstrate their capability of being that example. The question arises whether a candidate has not already disqualified themselves as an effective negotiation partner by disassociating so strongly from groups that have such an impact on our town, regardless of their own position.

The forum covered a range of topics, from the comprehensive plan to the future reliever route to rising housing costs, and the candidates provided varying perspectives on how to address these issues. The discussion on the voter-approved 1.09% sales tax to the public schools, and lack of transparency from the school board and its superintendent Witt, underscored the importance of accountability and communication in governance. The timing of the recent announcement of the closure of Gateway Elementary School, mere hours after the long

Continued on Page 10...

Candidate Forum BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

awaited meeting between the City Council and the school board regarding the sales tax (IGA), raised concerns among the candidates about transparency and public engagement in decision-making processes. However, it was also stressed that the City Council and the school board have parallel jurisdictions and the Council's influence on the school board is, therefore, extremely limited if not nonexistent. While this is certainly important to keep in mind, good leaders manage to have influence across jurisdictions by leading through example.

The public reacted with audible approval to two questions answered by candidate Eric Lockman and seconded by the other candidates. Lockman stated that he was not prepared to sell out the town for dispensaries as the negative effects thereof can be observed on the example of Glenwood Springs. People who require access to a dispensary have that option close by in Colorado Springs. At the same time, when asked whether Woodland Park should become a "Sactuary City", all candidates seemed to agree with Lockman that a city should first and foremost be a sanctuary for its own citizens, not illegals.

Overall, the forum provided valuable insights into the candidates' views and priorities, and highlighted the importance of electing leaders who are committed to representing all members of our community and fostering open dialogue. As voters we have the responsibility to carefully consider the candidates' positions and make informed decisions in the upcoming election on April 2nd. Engage with your candidates at meet & greets or other public forums.

For those who missed the Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum, the recording is available on YouTube under "The Chamber of Commerce Candidate Forum." A second forum will be held on March 20, 2024, at the High School hosted by the Victory Life Community Involvement Team with Commissioner Dan Williams as the moderator.

Let us remember that our town's future depends on the leaders we choose, and let us hold them accountable to the values of servanthood, transparency, communication, unity, and integrity that are essential to a thriving community.

School Board City Council Meeting BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Staff

A Historic Reunion: School Board and City Council Meet After Years of Silence

In 2016, the citizens of Woodland Park voted for the collection of a special sales tax by the city of 1.09% for the benefit of the Woodland Park school district. The tax was to be used solely for educational purposes and, thus, an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) was signed between the City of Woodland Park and the school district, providing for a yearly audit and presentation of the school board to the City Council, on how the sales tax was being spent. The last meeting of that kind took place in 2019, right before the pandemic.

After several unsuccessful attempts during the past six months to set up a meeting between the City Council and the Woodland Park school board to discuss the IGA, the frustrated City Council first discussed the possibility to lose the tax altogether absent cooperation by the district during its meeting on February 7. That meeting was promptly followed by a call from the district attorney and a combined meeting between the two elected bodies was finally scheduled for February 29.

The suggested resolution to repeal the tax altogether was nevertheless still discussed during the February 15 City Council meeting. Whereas council members Zuluaga and Connors opposed putting the resolution on the agenda as to not walk into the scheduled meeting with the school board with an open threat, Harvey, Nakai, Neal, and Case felt it necessary to schedule the resolution for public hearing on March 7. Zuluaga claimed that both him and Harvey had received the proposed budget from the school district back in June. However, that information was insufficient for Harvey.

After five years of silence, the long awaited meeting between the City Council and the school board finally took place on February 29. However, what ensued was more akin to a showdown between legal representatives than a collaborative discussion between the two entities. The meeting aimed to shed light on how tax dollars were being utilized and to address concerns over transparency. The school board, represented by their attorney Brad Miller, pointed to logistical challenges exacerbated by changing seats and the COVID-19 pandemic as reasons for the lapse in annual meetings. Other than that, the meeting merely outlined points for

Continued on Page 11...

School Board City Council Meeting

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

future negotiations and focused on disagreements over administrative fees and contract language, but tensions lingered.

Adding to the complexity, a GOP representative circulated a printout of the emails between the school board's attorney and the city's attorney, revealing that the school board had not outright refused to meet with the City Council but both parties struggled to find suitable dates and in the end the ball was with the city. The handout also included a print out of the emails sent by the district to council members Harvey and Zuluaga back in June 2023 including their 2023/2024 budget. As a twist to the story, Harvey suddenly claimed that said budget was absolutely sufficient for the terms of the IGA, but that it needed to be presented to the public.



Only one week later, at the subsequent City Council meeting on March 7, emotions ran high as Harvey appeared to backtrack on her earlier acknowledgment of the sufficiency of the received budget information, reverting to her initial position that it was inadequate to fulfill reporting requirements. It's important to note that while the resolution suggests a serious consideration of repealing the school board sales tax, it was framed by City Council as a power play to maintain leverage over the school board rather than a realistic proposition. Nevertheless, even after the combined meeting, Harvey, Nakai, Neal, and Case voted against putting the matter to rest until an agreement on the IGA adaptations is reached. Mayor Hilary LaBarre urged calm, emphasizing the council's limited authority in the matter. The topic is, thus, once again scheduled for public hearing on March 21.

As the City Council and school board navigate the intricacies of the IGA and strive for greater transparency, the ultimate goal remains to ensure that taxpayer funds are allocated responsibly and in the best interest of the community. At this time, it appears that no one in the community believes that a repeal of the sales tax would actually be in its best interest.

You're Free To Go

BY JEM HEALING ARTS
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Without proper understanding of God's love and grace people will keep turning to the religion for right standing with God. Depending on one's own efforts to overcome strongholds, living in the shadows of shame and guilt, wishing somehow it all would resolve and disappear. We've all been there. Some of you reading this might be there right now, feeling frustrated, angry, confused, and hurt at God. You feel like giving up. "God, if you are real do something!" If the law and our own efforts could have taken the place for the unrighteousness of mankind God would not have sent Jesus to be sacrifice that ended the power of darkness. (Romans 6:10) Jesus took the penalty of death, one time for everyone. For you and me and every bad person we know and don't know. All those horror stories on 60 minutes and 20/20 and on the news, even those people.

Whoa, I don't know that I like the sound of that. Some people have done really really horrible things! Some really hurt me. Hurt you. Romans 3:23 says "ALL" have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. A small, bad thing or a really horrible, bad thing is still a bad thing. Even a good person who never did anything bad is in the same category. A sinner. But now forgiveness and restoration has come when Jesus took the punishment for sin that mankind (you and me) deserved, so we can go free. Jesus rose from the grave, conquered the darkness of sin and death. The price for sin has been paid through His death on your behalf and Jesus is alive! (Matthew 28:6) However, not everyone has chosen to be set free by what's already available and done through Jesus. Just because every person on the planet has the price of their sins paid for by the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ, not everyone has repented and received the gift of redemption that is rightfully theirs.

It's not sin that stands in the way between God and people anymore, but unbelief. Simply not believing in Christ as the Savior, sent by God for you to set you free from the strongholds of sin and darkness in your life is the only thing keeping you from the freedom available to you by Jesus Christ. Law was removed when Jesus came, and we were now given a new and better covenant. (Hebrews 7:22-25) We have a High Priest that lives forever, who is forever dependable, and able to save everyone who comes to God through Him. He intercedes for everyone that calls upon His name for help.

Continued on Page 12...

You're Free To Go

BY JEM HEALING ARTS
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

I struggled for many years, believing that God and Jesus were somehow real, but I had no understanding of love and grace. I didn't know about the Holy Spirit. Nobody wanted to talk about Him. The laws and rules of the church needed to be kept to perfection yet nobody could. There was constant contentions, people getting away with whatever they could, hiding the real truths of their lives as if God doesn't know if the people don't know, living a two faced life! What others thought about me mattered more than my own better judgment. Who understands what I'm saying?

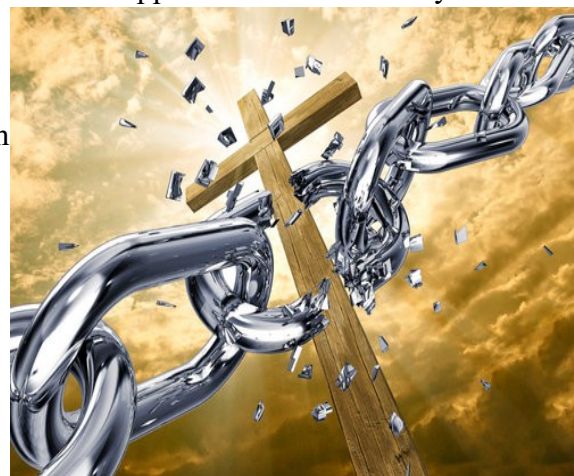
No voice, no thought, no decision of my own but everything was based upon the voices of the bishop and elders of the church right down the the last stitch of thread in my clothing. The bible says that God wrote His laws on our hearts. (2 Corinthians 3:3) Even though all this was going on, at a very young age I knew deep within me this way of life was not right. I didn't know what the truth was, but I knew that the way I was living wasn't it. I never heard the gospel as a child even though I was in church on a regular bases. The Amish rules were preached, scripture was spoken in German, only partially understood. Scripture was taken out of context and made to fit the lifestyle and for control of the people. Reading the bible was not encouraged, never discussed, nor were bible studies allowed. The outside of the cup was clean, but inside was nothing but death. (Matthew 23:26)

In (2 Corinthians 3:4-18) it goes on to say we are not sufficient in ourselves, but it's from God. We are ministers of the Spirit. The letter (law) kills but the Spirit gives life. The law came with such glory the people couldn't even look at the face of Moses, but the ministry of the Spirit has much more glory. There was glory in the ministry of condemnation, but the ministry of righteousness far exceeds it in glory. It is permanent and we can wholeheartedly put out faith in the Word of God over the laws that once existed, that only lead to condemnation because nobody could keep the law perfectly. The law was only given to show people their weakness and the need from a Savior. Until one believes in the Son of God for righteousness, (rightstanding with God) a veil remains over their eyes and hearts, (verse 15-17) but where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom!

When we believe and turn to Jesus the veil is lifted and revelation comes into out hearts and minds and

transformation happens from the inside out.

This is what happened to me in January 2021. How do I know Jesus to be true? Because I'm changed from the inside out. People who knew me before are now telling me I changed.



After 3 years of walking in the freedom of the Lord and in a relationship with God through the Word they see a difference even if they don't believe in Jesus. The hunger to know God more and more has only grown stronger. Every scripture turns into a teaching that I want to shout to the world. I know I am in preparation time and walk by faith that God is never too early, never too late, but always right on time. I am anointed and chosen for a time such as this and He is preparing me for the purpose, and calling on my life since the day I was born.

I grew up in a cult, the odds of escaping a cult like that is extremely hard, but never underestimate what God can do with a seed that is planted by Him in your heart. In my case God used a Jehovah's Witness who had visited our private, one-room school. I heard John 3:16 and believed it. After years of wandering and living in darkness because the gospel wasn't preached, only bits and pieces of it and the rest was all just religious garbage. I didn't know God. I had no relationship with God even though I had believed John 3:16 as a kid. When I came to the end of myself and to the end of caring so much what others thought of me, the seed from John 3:16 sprang into life and for the first time I saw God's love and grace for me. The rules and laws I had tried in vain to live up to fell away and I saw what Jesus did for me had nothing to do with what I was trying to do for God so that I would be loved and accepted.

ABC Book Series Update

BY KYLE GONZALEZ
Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief


Some of our readers may remember that back in Issue 4 of the Kingdom Chronicle I wrote about this awesome book series. The author, Mindi Mende, is busy with finishing the whole alphabet with fun rhyming lessons. The books touch on biblical principles in a fun, easy to read way for kids to enjoy. Great Commission Publishing produces some of the best books for all ages, and they are continuing to expand their titles. I strongly encourage our readers to check out their website and see if there's anything that could help expand the library in your Children's Church.

The next books to be released, with plushies, will be books D, E and F. Check them out on their [website](#).

MINDI MENDE
AUTHOR

904-502-4097

MEET THE ABC EARLY LEARNING ANIMALS



PO BOX 7762 WOODLAND PARK, COLORADO 80863





WEBSITE: <https://greatcommissionpublishing.com>
YOUTUBE: <https://www.youtube.com/@GreatCommissionPublishin-zi4px>
TIKTOK: <https://www.tiktok.com/@greatcommissionpublishin?lang=en>

MEET ALL THE ANIMALS OF THIS 26-BOOK SERIES!

ABC 123 EARLY LEARNING SERIES

Fun Rhyming Lessons!

- Letters
- Numbers
- Colors
- Geography
- Math
- Science
- Health
- Hygiene
- Manners
- Safety
- Communication
- Behavior
- Character

Visit your Local Gift, Book, or Toy Store!"

Great Commission Publishing

Here Is Another Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

The logo for bitcreed features the company name in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below the name is the website address, bitcreed.us, in a smaller, lowercase, sans-serif font. The background of the logo is a stylized, light gray mountain range with jagged peaks.

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