

# Kingdom Chronicle

## The Heart of Jesus: A Devotional

BY GABRIELLA BUCCI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Whether you are ashamed of your past, locked in religion or know the Lord for yourself, the heavenly Father's love is something He wants every one of us to be intimately aware of. The Father's love is unlike anything else. His grace goes so much further than we can sin, and His love passes our understanding. If you do not feel satisfied, I can encourage you with the fact that what you need to satisfy: you already have. If you think you know the limits of God's love, there is always more. I want to illustrate the Father's Heart for us in three different examples that the Lord showed me recently. First was the parable of the prodigal son, second was Martha and Mary, and last was the adulterous woman.

In the parable of the prodigal son, the younger son asked for his inheritance and the father gave it. Once the son received it, Luke 15:13 says "Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living." He fled home and wasted it. His time was likely spent partying and leading an immoral lifestyle. He fled home because he wasn't satisfied with what his father could give. How sad. He had the best available to him at home, but wasn't aware of that. He had a loving father at home but didn't value that as much as possessions. Look at the father's perspective, he let his son have what he wanted even though he knew he'd waste it on worldly things. Seeing that his son would rather go and live immorally, and be 'comforted' by partying than be filled in the same way by the love he had for his son must have been hard on the father. To love your son so much but let him live immorally, and worldly, is truly huge. In the time that the son was living wildly he was wasting away, and eventually came to his senses while in a pig pen (verse 17). I cannot imagine what this father was going through. We know from later in verses 28-32 that this man was no closer with his older son. To have one son flee, and the other become consumed with judgment and a sour heart; the father had his fair share of challenges when it came to loving them. "And he arose and came to his father. But

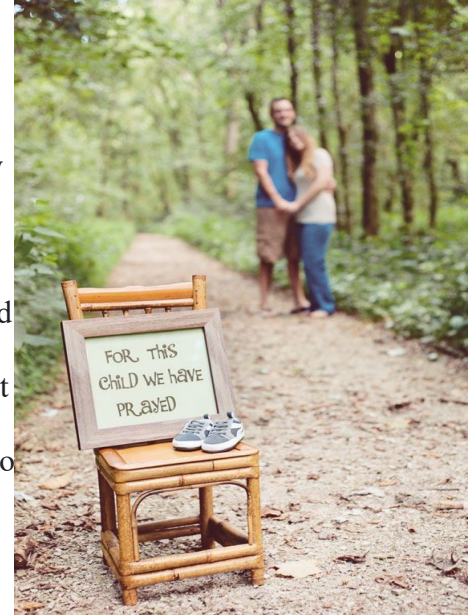
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## An Adoption Story

BY JON WILLIAMS  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

In our society we hear so much about ending pregnancies in teenage women that we rarely remember there's a complete other side to that issue. Forty years ago, a young woman found herself in a difficult position. Due to some poor decisions she found herself a pregnant teenager and alone. While she considered her options, she decided to give her child up for adoption, knowing the baby girl would receive a better life, which she couldn't provide herself. She entered a home for unwed girls, and was able to place the baby up for adoption at birth.

The young baby girl was placed with into a loving home by an adoption agency. The girl grew up with a loving family and became successful in life. Although she was told at an early age she was adopted and what that meant, she never sought to find out who her parents were. She felt that it would be dishonoring to her adoptive parents to find out who her birth parents were, so she waited. There came a day, however, after working through the pain of her parents passing away, she decided to it was time to reach out to her birth mother.



It is a sensitive thing not knowing who your biological parents are. There might have been a terrible situation surrounding the conception. Is the risk of knowing birth parents worth it? All of these concerns flowed through the girl's mind. However, the girl reached out after some time of contemplation to find out who her birth mother and father were. The adoption agency had a lengthy and detailed screening process. In the particular state where she was born, the laws very much favor the parent.

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while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him." (Luke 15: 20). In spite of all that the younger son had done, the father saw his son returning home and instantly recognized him as his own and his instinct was to run to meet him. What love. The father wanted so bad to be reunited to his son just to show his love. Later in verse 31, he tells his older son, "Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours". Despite the possible offense he could've had toward his older son, he was open and willing, all along, to give the same to his older son despite the lack of relationship. This father had so much active and passionate grace and love for both his sons. If you were being embraced by your father or if you were the son who realized what you had access to, would you care about your earthly possessions? Probably not. Abiding in his love is the most satisfying thing, and seeing the father in this parable shows us a picture of what God's heart is for you.

Moving to a different scenario, reading Luke 10:38-42 "Now it happened as they went that He entered a certain village; and a certain woman named Martha welcomed Him into her house. And she had a sister called Mary, who also sat at Jesus' feet and heard His word. But Martha was distracted with much serving, and she approached Him and said, "Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Therefore tell her to help me." And Jesus answered and said to her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things. But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." Jesus was welcomed into their house, but Martha had a very different approach to Jesus than Mary did. She was "Distracted with much serving". This is not to say that serving is bad; serving is great, with the right heart. Martha did not have the right heart, her serving was distracting her from Jesus. Serving should bring our focus more defined onto Jesus. Martha even accused Mary of not doing anything and demanded she help. This is, of course, a picture of someone with a performance-based mindset. Some with this mindset have trouble slowing down in life and often avoids intimacy with the Father. They try constantly to please God by works. Defending Mary, Jesus responds, "Look, what you're worried about is not as important. What's important is spending time with me." Mary was not lazy, but "...Sat at Jesus' feet and heard his word" and that is the "good part, which will not be taken away from her." This is the

intimate relationship that the father in the other example longed to have with his sons, and it's the same intimate relationship that He longs for in each one of us. Mary had not only invited Jesus into her life but made Him her entire focus and center of her life. What I think is the best part is that when Martha tried to loose her attention from Jesus, she didn't even have to defend herself. She never said a word the whole time, yet Jesus defended her. Her focus was on the son of God. That is how we can know the father and be satisfied (Psalm 27:8), skipping the step the younger son did in the last parable. Before serving, the Father desires to know us from that kind of position. Jesus even said this closeness "will not be taken away from her." So, unlike anything in this world, this relationship we've been called into with Him cannot be taken away. Serving opportunities can be taken away, so, too, can titles, relationships with others, whole ministries, but your relationship with God can't be taken away - will you choose to abide there?

Now, leaving the book of Luke, I want to end with what happened to the adulteress woman in John 8:1-12. The fact that she is known as the 'adulterous woman' is sad because she experienced such great grace and love from Jesus. "This they said, testing Him, that they might have something of which to accuse Him. But Jesus stooped down and wrote on the ground with His finger, as though He did not hear. So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first." And again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. Then those who heard it, being convicted by their conscience, went out one by one, beginning with the oldest even to the last. And Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. When Jesus had raised Himself up and saw no one but the woman, He said to her, "Woman, where are those accusers of yours? Has no one condemned you?" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said to her, "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." (John 8:6-11) The Scribes and Pharisees, wanting to stone her, were trying to test Jesus. They wanted this woman to get what she deserved and to accuse Jesus of something. Jesus didn't even answer at first, but when He did, one by one everyone left. They were all "...Convicted by their own conscience..." (verse 9) Not only could no one accuse Jesus, since all had sinned, but no one could do anything to this woman. Jesus defended her

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*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

out of love by shutting down the motives of the Scribes and Pharisees. She was left with no one to accuse her, just like Mary in the last example. The impure motives of the Scribes and Pharisees could not have separated this woman from the Love that Jesus had. Committing adultery was, and still is, something the church condemns people for and is usually covered up. She did deserve to be stoned, but Jesus said "Neither do I condemn you; go and sin no more." (verse 11). He had grace for her in that there was no condemnation. She was free of judgment, and from that grace Jesus encouraged her to walk free from sin. He did this out of love. For the woman, the evil hearts of others around her did not matter because of Jesus' love for her. He said "Neither do I condemn you" because Jesus was not expecting her to fulfill the law. He knew she would fail and, thus, had grace for her. Likewise, He is not expecting any of us to fulfill the law, but knows that the law strengthens sin. If our Father is not expecting that, then why would He condemn us for not living perfectly? Of course Jesus would have grace. Knowing Jesus'

response, why would the woman accept condemnation from others? Why would you?

In all these examples we see God's Love and grace for us. We see his heart for his kids. From the embracing love of the father to his son, to the intimate relationship Mary and Jesus had, to the heart felt grace and love the adulteress woman received. It is undeniable that Jesus loves you. He does not identify you with your past or mistakes like the father did not with his younger son. He does not condemn you like Jesus didn't with the adulteress woman. Above all, He desires to know you and teach you like He did Mary. He does not want your works as much as He wants your heart. Jesus would do each of these examples for you and so much more. From this love, we can serve, "sin no more", and freely receive what we have access to in the Father's Kingdom. Imagine yourself receiving God's love in these situations, or in whatever may be going on in life. It is your choice to then freely receive what your heavenly Father freely gives.



### Pray For

The prodigals (both sons and daughters) to come to their senses and return home to the Father.

The love of God to penetrate the hearts of those caught up in a performance-based mindset.

Those who are in condemnation to accept the grace of Jesus, like the adulterous woman, and sin no more.

Teaching from the Holy Spirit, like Mary was taught by Jesus.

Opportunities to share the good news of the Gospel message with someone who is lost.

The truth about the heart of Jesus that we have just read to become deeply rooted in our hearts so that we can walk out our relationship with Jesus, and truly know His heart for us.

Jesus' free gift of salvation to be accepted by everyone.

### Pray Against

The mentality that we have 'done too much' to be forgiven and will not be embraced by the Father.

Being a 'human doing' instead of a 'human being'. - We don't have to *do* anything for God's love.

Condemnation coming from the accuser of the brethren, because Jesus asked, "Where are your accusers?"

Becoming so busy that we don't take the time to be taught by our teacher.

The plans of the enemy in the lives of all who would have the opportunity to encounter God's grace and love.

The seed of the truth that has been scattered on the ground of our hearts being eaten up by the birds before it can even take root in our hearts. Also, against the seed being choked out by the cares of this life.

Obstacles in the way of people hearing the Gospel.

## An Adoption Story

So, in the event the birth mother didn't want to be identified, there was no way to find out who her mother truly was. This became a very trying time wondering if the mother would allow her identity to be made known. Weeks turned into months as the social worker said she was making progress but she couldn't guarantee a positive outcome.

Suddenly, the mother had been found and wanted to communicate. What did the mother say? *"I thought about you every day of my life."* As the story unfolded, the birth mother had recently lost her husband and found great comfort and hearing from her child that she'd given up many decades before. Conversations via e-mail and then phone took place to find out the back story of who the mother and daughter were and had become. Then photos and social media passed back and forth, and familiarity

continues to grow to this day.

There's nothing like the loss of a child. I have heard and seen many women lament the baby that was lost due to a decision or to the fallen world we live in. There seems to be no end to that pain of loss, only learning how to cope. Psalm 34:18 tells us that "The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." For any who are brokenhearted, I pray that you will find comfort in the Father's love. This testimony of one who took a painful journey to see her child live a good life without her can give hope to anyone facing a difficult decision to choose life. There is nothing more beautiful than the gift of life, perhaps even more beautiful when the difficult decision made forty years prior came back in joy from reuniting with the woman's daughter who lived due to her difficult decision made forty years prior.

## Freedom Church Upcoming Events

BY KYLE GONZALEZ

*Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief*

◆ 05/04/2024 Guest Speaker Audrey Mack is joining us at Freedom Church on Charis Bible College Campus. You don't want to miss this!

◆ 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!](http://www.uprising2024.com!)



BY JON WILLIAMS

*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

## Raise Your Voice! BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI

*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

### Upcoming Community Dates:

◆ 05/02/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.

◆ 05/11/2024, 11 a.m., Ribbon Cutting Ceremony – Wayback Burgers

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



Connecting You to Your Future  
Start your **cryptocurrency** journey today  
[digitalassetsisters.com](http://digitalassetsisters.com)



## One Minute News

BY JOEL “SUNNY” BROWN SPENCER  
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

As an active and aware member of our community, I want to shed light on the most relevant and important news about our community. My goal with One Minute News is to deliver the most important stories in under one minute to keep you up to date with relevant news without keeping you busy. Enjoy.

### Woodland Parks Middle and High school's new Assistant Principal

As the high school and middle school merge there has been a need for big leadership change. Troy Richey has been positioned to be the Principal of both the Middle School and High School, alongside him Chad Cosner has been appointed as the High School Assistant Principal and Michelle Eastman has been appointed as Assistant Principal for the Middle School. This seems to be a step in the right direction as the Woodland Park school district says that both Cosner and Eastman understand the importance of partnering with parents and guardians in the education of students. Overall, this will benefit both parents and teachers with the much needed promise of open and collaborative communication. Additionally both Assistant Principals have been committed to our community for years. Chad Cosner has held various roles, including High School Counselor, Athletic Director, Dean of Students, and Interim Assistant Principal to serve our students. Michelle Eastman has had similar experience by serving as a High School Social Studies teacher and an AP Human Geography teacher, and has been instrumental in leading the Student Council. As mentioned above they both have the priority of being committed to the students, and a big part of that is to be committed to their parents. As public roles Troy, Chad and Michelle are all accessible to anyone who would like to learn more about their positions.

### Woodland Park Declares Itself a Non-Sanctuary City

Woodland Park joined a number of counties declaring its status as a non-sanctuary city, refusing to bend to the political pressure that would force us to compromise on illegal immigrants policy and procedure.

Below is the summary of the most impactful parts of the resolution Text:

Point 1. Woodland Park believes in, and is committed to, securing the border, enforcing immigration laws to protect the community, and upholding the laws of the State of Colorado and the principles of the United States Constitution; and

Point 2. citizens of the City have expressed concern over the transport of migrants entering the country illegally into the City's limits, which may compromise the safety, well-being, and resources of City residents.

The City hereby makes the following statements regarding migrant response:

The City calls upon the President of the United States to take immediate and effective action to secure the border and enforce immigration laws to address the concerns of the community. The City encourages open dialogue and collaboration with state and federal authorities to address immigration concerns and work towards solutions that align with the well-being and safety of the community. The City hereby declares itself a “non-sanctuary” City. This Resolution shall become effective and be in full force and effect immediately upon approval.

PASSED AND RESOLVED by the City Council  
Woodland Park, Teller County, Colorado

This is an obvious win for our community, as it ensures that our community can and will be protected from illegal alien influences from the top down.

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



Your Success is Our Success  
Quarataconsulting.com



Yourmoneymakeover.com

## One Minute News BY JOEL "SUNNY" BROWN SPENCER Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

### Woodland Park Election Results

Recently, Woodland Park has elected a new city mayor and city council members. The following are the results and some important things that you should know about this election. Firstly, Kellie Case has been elected the new mayor of Woodland Park. Seated with her, Steve Smith, George Jones, Teri Baldwin and Jeffrey Geer have all been elected to City Council. As Kellie Case was previously a member of the City Council before this election, there will be an additional opening for a City Council seat. This opening will be posted for 30 days per process of application and application review. The requirements for applicants are that they are at least 18 years old, have lived in Woodland Park for at least a year, be a U.S. citizen and have no felonies on their record. Many of the people reading this article qualify for the application so if you are interested in making an impact in our community, please prayerfully consider applying. Lastly it is notable to remember that these are our elected officials, elected to serve the community as a whole and its productiveness and wellness. If you have any questions, concerns or ideas contact your recently elected Mayor or the City Council.

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



Place of  
Immersion@immersiontoday

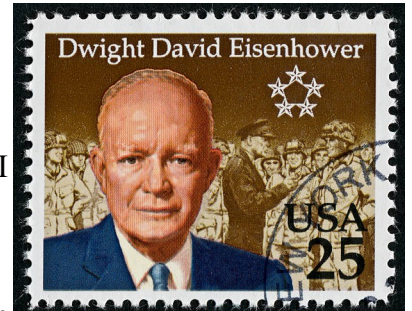
## Dwight D. Eisenhower BY KEANU BRAUCHLI Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

Hello, my name is Dwight D. Eisenhower. But many people call me Ike. I was born on October 14, 1890 in Denison, Texas, but I was raised in Abilene, in Kansas. As a boy I liked to read books, and I worked hard helping my Father bring wood inside for the fire. I, also, sold fresh vegetables to earn money.

When I was older, I wanted to go into the military but they rejected me from the Naval Academy for being too old. However, they accepted me at West Point and let me train people for World War I. Then they let me fight in World War II, where I lead the D-Day invasion and became a general.

After World War II, I became the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. I was baptized shortly after I became President, the only President to ever get baptized while in office. I introduced the White House Prayer Breakfast and started cabinet meetings with prayer. To underline our nation's Christian heritage, I put the words "under God" in our Pledge of Allegiance and introduced the phrase "in God we Trust" as America's motto.

When I was older still, I signed into law the 1957 Civil Rights Act, which protected African Americans' right to vote. I created the Interstate Highway System throughout the United States of America. I began the NASA program, which started our country's flights into space. I added the states of Alaska and Hawaii to the United States of America. I died on March 28, 1969 because of a long illness. I hope you liked learning about my story.



*Editor's Note: Keanu is a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student. He wrote this piece because of his interest in Dwight D. Eisenhower. Like Keanu, if you have a desire to write for the Kingdom Chronicle as a Contributor, please send us an email at:*

[editor@kingdomchronicle.news](mailto:editor@kingdomchronicle.news) for your article to be considered. We will prayerfully consider your article's inclusion in a future issue of the Kingdom Chronicle. Also, if you would like to provide any feedback on the Kingdom Chronicle, as a whole, please send us an email at: [editor@kingdomchronicle.news](mailto:editor@kingdomchronicle.news) We would love to hear your honest feedback about how we're doing, whether a particular writer's articles are disciplining you, or if you have a testimony of how the Kingdom Chronicle has helped you. I pray that you have a blessed day.

## A House Empty

BY JEM HEALING

*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Today I want to talk about the importance of staying filled with the Spirit of God and His righteousness, using the verses found in Matthew 12:43-45. When an unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through dry and water-less places seeking rest but finds none. That certainly doesn't sound like a fun place to go. Even unclean spirits hate it. Seeking rest and finding nothing, the unclean spirit says, "I will return to my house from which I came". The unclean spirit is calling our body his house! And when he comes around he finds it empty, swept, and in order.

The first mistake a new believer makes is to have their house found empty. A life without unclean spirits is a life in order! Hallelujah! However, being empty means there is plenty of room for the unclean spirit to come back in. This is because the believer's house is empty there is room to bring all his buddies with him, who are also looking for a nice, swept and orderly place to call home.

He brings all 7 of them, even worse than himself. They enter and dwell there. They sit on your couch, eat your food, completely trash the place, filling your home once swept clean and in order, with their filth! I feel my skin crawl and my stomach turn from imagining someone coming into their swept and orderly home, only to find that it has been taken over by uninvited, unclean spirits, not paying rent or bills and trashing their home. The very nerve!

This picture I'm describing is of a life without a relationship with God. Someone who has repented and believes in Jesus Christ as Lord, but never went any further than that. Going right back to, "you trusting you" for their life. Their house, which is the "you" in this scenario stays empty. It was swept and put in order when the Spirit of God came in through faith in Jesus. We are saved by grace through faith. It was and is real. We don't

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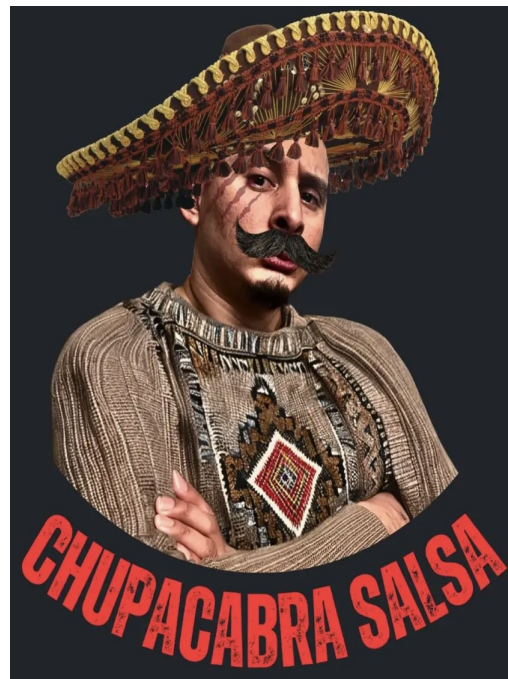
## Here Are Some Local, Christian-Owned Businesses We'd Like To Highlight:

**QUALITY  
CO.**

MADE WITH INTEGRITY



Qualityclothing.co



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

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



Faithchai.com



**My Free Water Store**

200 South Chestnut Street  
Woodland Park, CO 80863  
719-687-8732



## A House Empty

ever have to allow our homes to be seen by the enemy as his house, nor give room for the enemy to enter again! However, if we don't know how to be filled and stay filled with God the next step is so key but often missed. Here's the key: How does faith come? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. That's how you first received Jesus into your life. You heard it, and believed by faith in God's grace for you, and received it. The next step is relationship with God through the Word. God wants a relationship with you! He loves you. When you love someone you want to spend time with them. This is no different. God wants to spend time with you and for you to know Him. The way to do that is to be in the Word. The Word is alive! Jesus is the Word and Jesus is still alive today. John 1:1 gives the details. Jesus now lives in you when you believed by faith in Him. The Word is LIFE and TRUTH, and is the incorruptible Seed of God.

When the Word is planted in your heart it produces LIFE in you. It fills you, changes you, leaves no room for any unclean spirit to come back in and make a home in you ever again. We must be filled up constantly with the Word by giving a daily invitation to be in us, feeding, not just on bread (human food) but on every word of God. This is so key! It's a decision and choice you make in your heart, asking the Spirit of Truth to lead you daily to guide and teach you. It's up to you to do your part and be filled daily by spending time getting to know Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, by being in the Word. Revelation, understanding, and the wisdom of God, direction for your life, are in the Word of God and come through the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, teaching us all things!

Once I understood being filled and staying filled is by having a relationship with God through the Word, my life changed. The roller coaster life ended. No matter what happens in a day, I can depend on the solid relationship with God who lives in me to be there, calm, peaceful, giving me a sure confidence that He never leaves me, and never forsakes me. It's life more abundantly to my life here and now, and forever, even after my earthly body passes away. In Jesus name you have all power and authority over the enemy and his minions who roam the earth looking for people that have open doors that they might enter, to kill, steal and destroy, keeping people from knowing God.

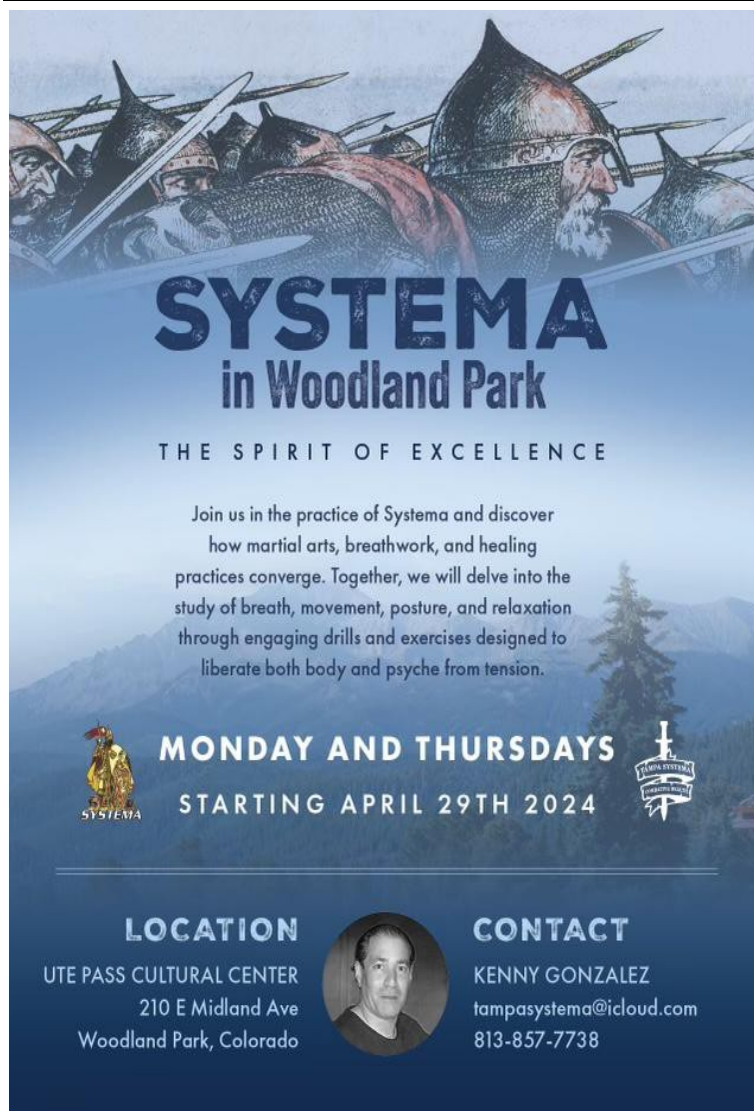
**BY JEM HEALING ARTS**

*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

It's only in our consistent relationship with God that the spirit of darkness can't come dwell in our homes anymore because where the Spirit of Light is there is no darkness. So keep a swept, orderly home and always stay filled with God's Spirit through relationship with Him.

Choose today who you will serve. Unlike the enemy, God never comes in uninvited. He respects your free will. I hope this article has been helpful concerning the importance of staying filled with the Word and why, and what that means for your life. As always, thanks for reading and, until next time, remember you are loved and blessed by God.

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



**SYSTEMA**  
in Woodland Park

THE SPIRIT OF EXCELLENCE

Join us in the practice of Systema and discover how martial arts, breathwork, and healing practices converge. Together, we will delve into the study of breath, movement, posture, and relaxation through engaging drills and exercises designed to liberate both body and psyche from tension.

**MONDAY AND THURSDAYS**  
STARTING APRIL 29TH 2024

**LOCATION**  
UTE PASS CULTURAL CENTER  
210 E Midland Ave  
Woodland Park, Colorado

**CONTACT**  
KENNY GONZALEZ  
tampasystema@icloud.com  
813-857-7738



## Election Results: Woodland Park's New City Council and Mayor BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

On April 2nd, Woodland Park voted on four open City Council seats and the new Mayor. Eight candidates were campaigning for the four Council seats as well as two candidates for the new Mayoral appointment. All residents living within the city limits of Woodland Park were eligible to vote. With this many seats open (the City Council is comprised of six council members plus the Mayor) these elections were monumental for the next four years of Woodland Park and Teller County as a whole. For two months, candidates campaigned with slogans that sounded similar across the board such as: “unifying the town, transparency in decisions, listening to and representing all citizens, and no special interest group – aka Charis – affiliations.” It was the last topic that divided the candidates and the voters.

The four conservative, Christian candidates – Tim Northrup, Eric Lockman, Frank Connors (the only incumbent), and Don Dezellem – were labeled as Charis affiliated, for having some connection, no matter how remote, to Charis Bible College and AWMI. As Charis officially clarified, Tim Northrup used to be a Charis student and phone minister on Charis’ prayer line, Eric Lockman completed a first year e-Charis program while traveling with his family, and his wife is a Charis alumni, Frank Connor’s wife is a current Charis student, and Don Dezellem, well, he is just friendly to anyone in town, which in the eyes of the opponents makes him an affiliate too. Yard signs were vandalized with “Charis affiliate” stickers, newspaper ads published with Andrew Wommack’s infamous quote that he allegedly wants to “take over Woodland Park”, and the last bit of civility lost on social media even amounting to threats against anyone close to these candidates. When an unknown group called “Citizens for a Vibrant Woodland Park” advertised for the four conservative candidates for City Council and Jerry Penland for mayor – a registered democrat – Penland was immediately added to the ousted group of “Charis affiliates” even though running a completely independent campaign.

Though the loudest voices, often from parties outside of Woodland Park, generally do not represent a majority, it is definitely what spoke to the voters and what is represented in the election results. Voters came out in record numbers with a participation rate of 51%, a third of which came in during the last few hours before the polls closed. Around 9 PM Tuesday night, city clerk

Suzanne Leclercq announced the results to the candidates. Kellie Case became Mayor with 1551 votes over Jerry Penland with 1357 votes. The City Council results look as follows:

- Steve ‘Smitty’ Smith: 1818 (elected to four year term)
- George Jones: 1801 (elected to four year term)
- Teri Baldwin: 1753 (elected to four year term)
- Jeffrey Geer: 1625 (elected to two year term)
- Frank Connors: 1181
- Tim Northrup: 1148
- Eric Lockman: 1129
- Don Dezellem: 1087

None of the conservative candidates made it onto the City Council, which, in a majority conservative town, is quite unusual. Even though they still received 40% of the votes, the massive gap of 20% to the winners is astonishing and can only be seen as a reflection of the frustration in town against anything connected with Charis or AWMI.

On April 4th, after some lengthy but entertaining goodbyes (watch the recording for Robert Zuluaga’s performance of Don Quixote), the newly elected City Council members and Mayor took their oath and held their first meeting. The most important item of the agenda was the filling of the empty Council seat left by Kellie Case, who moved up to Mayor. According to the Woodland Park City Charter, the council has three options. The first is to simply appoint the next highest vote-getter from the election two days prior. Other than that the Council has the power to simply appoint someone in disregard of the election results, or to have an application process where anyone can apply again. Considering the record voter turnout, and the recent election which is the very reason for the vacated seat by Case, one would think the appropriate choice is obvious. Not so for the new Council.

Nakai’s first suggestion was to reappoint Carole Harvey, who was already appointed nine months ago to fill a vacated seat but decided not to run for reelection. What followed after that was a bizarre circus with people in the audience watching in disbelief. The city clerk announced that Mayor Case had received an email by another interested party, who was sitting in the audience. The Council decided on the spot to hear both Harvey and the applicant separately without any notion of opening the application up to anyone else, including the four candidates

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## Election Results: Woodland Park's New City Council and Mayor

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

that just ran an election campaign. Only once these two candidates had made their bid, Mayor Case was made aware of Don Dezelle signaling his interest. Nakai then commented that they were getting dangerously close to an application process and so the exercise was ended with the announcement of a 30 day application process, open to everyone including the four unsuccessful candidates, after which the Council will interview all interested applicants and make its decision, hopefully considering the 40% of the population that made their choice already in a democratic process.

## Trusting God In Our Darkest Hour

BY JOY OTI  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

In a certain season of Jacob's life, it felt as though the good days were gone. Nothing seemed to hold interest anymore. His wife had tragically passed away during childbirth, and, many years later, his beloved son Joseph was seemingly dead. Perhaps he questioned if God had forgotten him, enduring more losses than gains. It was very frustrating, especially for a man who had a strong fellowship with God and even 'struggled with God and won.' One might think that such a relationship would prompt God to whisper the truth that Joseph was still alive, sparing Jacob the pain and grief. Yet, for some reason, God remained silent or absent, leaving Jacob to live out some of his days in grief. However, as the story unfolds, we discover that God wasn't just fulfilling His promises to Jacob amid apparent troubles; Jacob's brightest days were also on the horizon.

For twenty years, Jacob was convinced of Joseph's death and mourned over him. If you are like me, you may have asked; where was God during those years of Jacob's suffering and Joseph's turmoil? I do not know! But the end of the story showed that God was working to fulfill His promise. Even though Jacob sorrowed over his losses, he never doubted God's faithfulness. At a point in his life, he probably believed that his suffering was part of the deal with God, especially since he had dealt crookedly in the past. He knew God was unquestionable, but trustworthy. When the time was right, Jacob found that Joseph was not only alive, but had become the prosperous leader God had promised. And the end of Jacob's life was a fulfillment of

## Trusting God In Our Darkest Hour

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promises.

Consider David; he was living a normal life with no enemies, except the animals that threatened his sheep, which he easily conquered. Then one day he was anointed king, and had expectations of a fulfilling life of leadership. Yet, reality unfolded quite differently. Pursued by Saul, he fled from his homeland. Fearful of King Achish, he feigned madness to stay alive. Famished, he begged for bread from Abimelech the priest. Let's not assume David wasn't bewildered by the dark turn his life had taken after he was anointed. I imagine there were probably times he sat in solitude and wondered what the anointing was all about, if all that would follow was suffering and a threat against his life and family. For seventeen years after he was anointed King over Israel, David didn't have a Kingdom to rule, but a band of enemies to fight against. It seemed like the anointing brought nothing but trouble. Yet, despite his inability to comprehend it fully, he placed his trust in God. When the time was right, he assumed the role of the King of Israel, and the many troubles he had faced were essential in building his character for royalty.

We all encounter perplexing situations, after believing we've heard God and obediently follow His directives. Yet, the outcomes don't always align with our expectations, and days seem like a fruitless cycle. From Jacob, Joseph, and David's stories, we should find solace in understanding that certain adversities are integral to God's promises coming to fruition in our lives. It seems to be a divine model that when we have a promise from God, troubles almost always follow. But these troubles are never a waste. Like David, Jacob and Joseph, they help in building the character that we require to live out God's promises for our lives.

God's apparent silence during our darkest hours may remain unfathomable but His silence never denotes inaction. Yet, He calls us to trust Him without wavering. He hasn't beckoned us to understand Him but to have faith in Him. Having faith in the darkest of times can be daunting, but like the old hymn says, "there is no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey!"

**Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the word of his servant? Let the one who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the Lord and rely on their God. Isaiah 50:10 (NIV).**

## Interview With Tom Hamner, J6 Patriot

BY CYNTHIA BEHR  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

In March at a fundraising gala for Israel Defense Forces (IDF), this reporter had the unbelievable opportunity to dine and interview the renowned J6 Patriot Tom Hamner. His manner was very warm and disarming. Brimming with enthusiasm, Tom is very excited about the coming election, the changing direction that our Nation will need to take under President Trump as well as all the support he is giving to fellow patriots who are still unjustly confined or incarcerated due to their participation at the Capitol on January 6, 2021.

Patriot Tom Hamner was sentenced to 30 months incarceration for being present on the steps of the Capitol. For the most part, during the protest, Tom remained peaceful and non combative. He had no weapons and went with zero intention of fighting or engaging in violent protests. At no point during his interactions with Capitol Police was Mr. Hamner acting violently or physically assaulting the officers. He admits things got heated, but as this reporter can attest, the crowd was violently provoked to anger by the Capitol Police. From the crowd's point of view, they were well within their rights as U.S. Citizens to peaceably protest on the steps of the Capitol as is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution. Tom is now exercising that First Amendment Right letting more people know that it's the everyday Tom from the Men's Prayer Group that was marginalized, disenfranchised, persecuted, and prosecuted for taking a stand for free and fair elections in America.

Having served his sentence, Tom is now fighting to help other J6 defendants who still have not received a fair and speedy trial. Some are serving in solitary confinement with as little as one hour of daylight per month. Our United States Judicial system has eroded, steeped in corruption. Please pray daily for those who are wrongly incarcerated. Pray for their fair treatment, for favor with prison guards and for their immediate release. Please also pray for Tom's teenage daughter who has been removed from her mother's custody while Tom was incarcerated and is being held in child protective custody. She has some significant needs and the best place for her would be safely in her parents' protective custody instead. Pray for her safety and peace of mind during this injustice. We pray that judges rise up to defend the Constitution and Americans' God-given liberties. All these things we ask in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

## Interview With Tom Hamner, J6 Patriot

BY CYNTHIA BEHR  
*Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

If you would like to make a contribution to help those wrongfully incarcerated for exercising their First Amendment Rights, check out the following link:

<https://www.givesendgo.com/GC2A6>

## Veterans & The Political Process

BY AARON HELSTROM  
*Kingdom Chronicle Contributor*

Veterans have a unique perspective and valuable contributions to make to the political process, both at the local and national levels.

Here are several reasons why their involvement is important:

1. Service and Sacrifice: Veterans



understand the importance of service and sacrifice for the greater good. Their experiences in the military have instilled in them a sense of duty, responsibility, and commitment to serving others. Engaging in the political process allows veterans to continue their tradition of service by advocating for policies and initiatives that promote the welfare and interests of their communities and nation.

2. Defense of Values: Veterans often hold deeply held values and beliefs rooted in their faith, including principles of justice, compassion, and human dignity. By participating in the political process, they can help ensure that these values are reflected in public policies, laws, and governance structures. They can advocate for issues such as religious freedom, moral integrity, and the sanctity of life, contributing to the promotion of a moral and just society.
3. Protection of Liberties: Veterans have fought and sacrificed to defend the freedoms and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution. Engaging in the political process allows them to protect and

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## Veterans & The Political Process

BY AARON HELSTROM  
*Kingdom Chronicle  
Contributor*

3. preserve these liberties by advocating for policies that uphold the rights of all individuals, including: freedom of speech, religion, assembly, and due process. Veterans understand the importance of safeguarding democratic institutions and the rule of law, and their involvement can help strengthen the foundations of democracy and ensure that the voices of all citizens are heard and respected.
4. Representation and Advocacy: Veterans bring unique perspectives and insights to the political arena, informed by their diverse backgrounds, experiences, and expertise. They understand the challenges facing veterans, military families, and communities, and can serve as powerful advocates for policies and programs that address their needs and concerns. By running for office, serving on advisory boards, or participating in grassroots advocacy efforts, veterans can ensure that the voices of those who have served are represented and amplified in the political decision-making process.
5. Leadership and Civic Engagement: Veterans possess valuable leadership skills, including discipline, resilience, teamwork, and problem-solving abilities, which are highly relevant to the political arena. Their leadership can inspire others to become more civically engaged, foster a culture of public service and civic responsibility, and promote greater accountability and transparency in government. By leading by example and actively participating in the political process, veterans can help shape the future of their communities and nation for the better.

In summary, veterans have a vital role to play in the political process, bringing their unique perspectives, values, and leadership qualities to bear in service of the common good. Their involvement can help ensure that the principles of justice, liberty, and life are upheld, and that a “Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from then Earth.”

(Abraham Lincoln, Gettysburg Address)

## Gay Nationalist – The Proselytizing Of Youth

BY ALEX MCFARLAND  
*Kingdom Chronicle  
Contributor*

Remember the San Francisco Gay Men’s Choir, and their 2021 video singing, “We’re coming for your children?” Remember that? At the time, as many conservatives and “traditional morality” voices expressed concern, with equal conviction many voices essentially retorted, “Chill out! Can’t you people take a joke?” But for the “Gay Nationalists” working to groom America’s youth for a thoroughly woke, hyper-sexualized tomorrow- all of this is no joke. Gay/trans / CT / Marxists activists take their work of deconstructing America with religious fervor. Because deviancy and license is their religion.

With contempt for God and His followers, traditional Americans are slammed as “Christian Nationalists.” But lets call the woke zealots what they are- Gay Nationalists. An example of this is found in the now-infamous clip of transportation secretary Pete Buttigieg’s ‘husband’ leading impressionable children in an LGBTQ+ pledge to gay flag. Grooming youth in the gay/trans ideology— and pawning the meter of our nation’s pledge of allegiance to give teaching a sort of benediction— it is clear that fellow human beings are not the only thing Gay Nationalists seek to violate.

### **Live as you wish, but don’t destroy America’s philosophical foundation.**

The mainstreaming of homosexuality, the redefinition of marriage, the eisegesis of rights into the Constitution where inalienable rights previously would never have been implied—none of these social and political machinations could be implemented unless a pesky (for the left, anyway) little problem were forced out of the way: Natural Law.

Great thinkers throughout history, history’s religious and philosophical leaders (not to mention the Framers of our nation) have called it by many names: self-evident truth, objective morality, undeniable truth, and “natural law.” Space does not permit delineation of all implied by natural law, but for the purposes of this article, let me point out three things that natural law would tell us:

1. Males and females are different
2. People of every era and culture know this
3. One’s gender is an inherent/unalterable part of

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## Gay Nationalist – The Proselytizing Of Youth

BY ALEX MCFARLAND  
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

3. what it means to be a human being
4. Things come from God and are tied to God.

Since the 1960s, our culture has been at war with Natural Law. For example, deep inside we know that killing babies is wrong. But so we may legalize it and not feel too bad, we've spent decades engaging in mental gymnastics, denying that life begins at conception, and quibbling over when a human fetus should be recognized as a person. Regarding the long-term conditioning of public consciousness so that homosexuality is gradually accepted (or at least, over time, made to appear less counter-intuitive), our children were fed junk science and history. Historical revisionism, so as to spin opposition to Natural Law in a positive light, has birthed a cottage industry of what could only be called "anti-knowledge." (In a couple of debates I have done, pro-LGBTQ academics have said to me, "Throughout history the nature of marriage has always been fluid." - This is simply false.) But in order to usher in the moral and social changes that the progressives / leftists envision, Natural Law must be abolished. Or at least *recognition* of Natural Law must be abolished. Problem is, you can't abolish that which is part of the DNA of reality.

Alexander Hamilton (whose influence on the creation and understanding of the Constitution can hardly be overstated) spoke often of "Natural Law" and God, and of our obligation to acknowledge both. Hamilton called this moral law, "*eternal and immutable law*," and is "*... obligatory upon all mankind, prior to any human institution whatever. This is what is called the law of nature.... Upon this law depend the natural rights of mankind.*"

Because of our desire to legitimize behaviors we know are wrong, humans ignore Natural Law, or try to deny our awareness of it. But Hamilton (and the Founders) believed in human accountability to Natural Law, because in our consciousness and in nature God has inexorably revealed moral truth:

*"The sacred lights of mankind . . . can never be erased or obscured by mortal power. No tribunal, no codes, no systems, can repeal or impair this law of God, for by his eternal law, it is inherent in the nature of things."*

In jettisoning natural law and God from Whom it emanates, we are positioning ourselves for a very bleak future. We are paving the way for a hell on earth for our children's children. One of two futures awaits America and

the West in the absence of a recovery of moral truth / Natural Law: Either the iron fist of communism, or the iron sword of Sharia. Only the affirmation of Natural Law morality—and government based thereon—is sufficient to hold those two forces at bay.

The Framers of the constitution understood that if we recognize God's weaving of Natural Law and objective morality into the fabric of life, we could experience a blessed, "manifest destiny." Should these things not be recovered, we will continue to head toward inevitable tragedy.

In Biden's "Fate of the Union" speech, March 7, 2024 . . . ahem, "State of the Union" address, you may have noticed that he said, "Trans Americans, I've got your back." As a Christian minister and citizen, let me be clear: Persons who identify as gay/trans/whatever are free to live as they wish. I will say that my heart is heavy with concern for their spiritual and psychological well-being. But for the President to endorse/enforce the philosophy of Gay Nationalism (a worldview insisting on presuppositions incompatible with, and detrimental to, our Constitution)—this cannot be tolerated.

Live gay, live straight, live chaste, live promiscuously— each of us will answer to the Almighty for how we responded to the truth we really did know. But the enforced abolition of known moral truth so as to placate the sexual deviants who are after our children; this is paving the way for the loss of America. In the name of God— it must stop.

Rev. Alex McFarland is an educator, broadcaster, and author of 20 books. [www.alexmcfarland.com](http://www.alexmcfarland.com)

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## Easter's Promise: Jesus Is Our Foundation For Hope And A Future

BY ALEX MCFARLAND  
*Kingdom Chronicle Contributor*

One of the most riveting figures in all of Scripture, the suffering righteous man, Job, asked the ultimate question— “If a man dies will he live again?” (Job 14:14). This comes from what scholars believe is one of the oldest parts of one of the world’s oldest books, the Bible. Centuries of time and vast cultural differences fail to overshadow the commonalities shared by all human beings: We are more alike than different. We all want to know, “What happens after I die? Where have my loved ones gone? Is heaven real?”

People everywhere are grappling with these and other spiritual questions. Three decades of travel throughout the world, having countless conversations with people of every conceivable background, I am convinced that people everywhere are thinking about God. Oddly, some who seem to think about God constantly, obsessively almost, are people with whom I correspond that claim to be atheists. People want to know about the “non-physical” side of their existence.

The Bible (that book that so vividly lays bare facts about the nature of people) says that, “God has put eternity in our hearts” (Ecclesiastes 3:11). People wonder what they can know about God. What may we really know about the afterlife, if there even is one? It is only natural that we ponder . . . the supernatural. Will I see Grandma again? Will I know my loved ones in heaven? Even children often seem intuitively know that God and the soul are real. “I believe in God,” my (then) 5-year-old nephew Max once said. We were taking a family hike in the woods on a Sunday afternoon. “Why do you believe in God?,” I asked. Gesturing to the trees and hills all around us, the pre-first-grader reasoned, “All this stuff had to come from somewhere.” Perfectly logical. No one in our family had explained the cosmological argument for God to Max. But just like people in developed and undeveloped nations I have interviewed around the world, we seem to know that “creation” must have had a “Creator.”

Faith in God and trust in Him is the “default” position of the human psyche. Common, also, to the human heart is an innate, intuitive awareness that our deceased loved ones, though passed away, are not gone from us forever. “I miss Grandma, but she’s gone to live with God,” a child calmly said as I was counseling a young family. Appearing nervous that the conversation was moving toward some emotionally raw areas, the Mom

stammered, “We’re all coping the best way we can.” With impressive calm confidence, the son (about 7 years old) said, “I believe she is in heaven with Jesus.”

Ask most people about what it means to be a human being and, generally, they’ll describe people as having “a body” and “a soul.” While true, “body” and “soul” is are really only part of the story. Growing amounts of evidence from medical science (near death experiences, or NDE’s) provide compelling indication that the soul survives death. Both artfully and scientifically, the 2023 film *Near Death* lays out evidence that the soul survives physical death. This, the most successful theatrically released documentary of all time, interviews doctors, theologians, and people who were documented to have survived clinical death. These days the Western world may govern itself and behave as if God, the soul, and eternity aren’t real, but the evidence says otherwise. Deep inside, I am convinced that people know it. This brings us to Easter—and what we may know with certainty about the state of the soul.

### **An authoritative Guide to, “the other side”**

A 2023 study by the CDC says that roughly half of all teens feel, “depressed and/or hopeless” about their lives and the future. Young females trend worse than the guys, with some 57% percent feeling this way. How sad that youth (once a time of life when people might have been faulted for too much optimism) seems increasingly characterized by debilitating pessimism. A gripping hopelessness and futility—desperation, even—isn’t inflicting just adolescents: Countless grown-ups feel it, too.

This is where knowledge of the reality of Jesus Christ is so urgently needed. Jesus—Who heals broken lives, loves unconditionally, and Who, Himself, beat death and the grave—offers new life and hope to every human being. Jesus’ physical, literal, resurrection from the grave is one of the most document-able realities of the ancient world (regarding the historical proof of Christ’s life and resurrection, I refer you to the acclaimed research of my friends and colleagues of 25 years, Gary R. Habermas and Michael Licona).

Do you feel that your life has no value or purpose? Jesus Christ did all that He did because you absolutely are a person of worth. The man who proved Himself to be

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## Easter's Promise: Jesus Is Our Foundation For Hope And A Future

BY ALEX MCFARLAND  
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

God incarnate sees you of inestimable value!

Do you feel insecure about what tomorrow may hold, and you wish there were some definite plan for the future? Jesus is the One who promises, “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Hebrews 13:5). God has the road map for your life, and He is eager to bless your journey (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Do you worry about death and want to make sure that you’re square with God Almighty? Jesus (who, quite literally, is a close by as a prayer) says that in believing in Him, you are set right with God and will be in heaven (John 6:40).

Do regrets gnaw at you, and you beat yourself up for past things you’d life to forget? Easter reminds us that all guilt and punishment for sins was put on Jesus. On the cross, He truly did die for us all. In putting our faith in Jesus, anyone and everyone can begin a new life with a clean conscience. Jesus gives not only peace with God, but the elusive peace with ourselves (John 14:27).

Why trust all that Jesus says about God, the soul, and the afterlife? Because only Jesus was able to enter the realm of death and—under His own power—emerge from the grave, tangibly alive (Luke 24:39). The Lord of life conquered the realm of death.

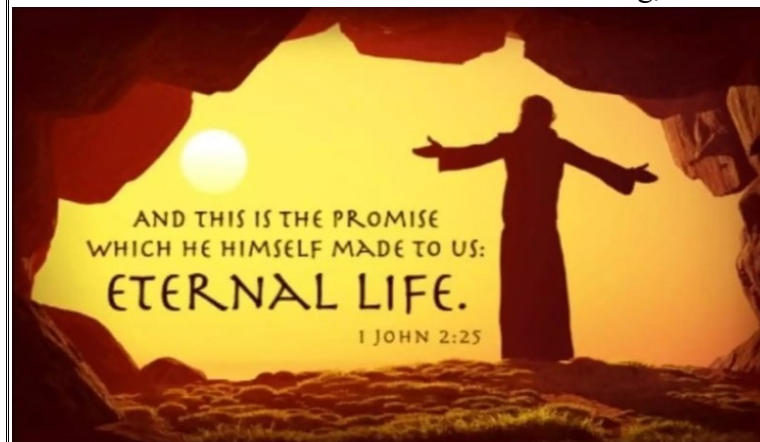
The 96<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards “song of the year” was titled- “What was I made for?” – Written Billie Eilish and her brother (pron. “Eye-lish” ). The lyrics are pretty much the cry of today’s young generation:

“I used to know . . . now I’m not sure . . . what I was made for?”

Is there an answer? Yes. It is Jesus. The Lord of life. The One who showed love. The One who promises hope. The One who beat death. The Bible says that Jesus is the Creator of all things (Colossians 1:17). The Bible says that Jesus welcomes any who will turn to Him (John 6:37).

The Bible says that Jesus can grant that most-desired-of-all things...that thing dying humans have cried out for...that thing the poets and writers have created songs and stories about...that thing that pagans societies ignorantly created myths over, not even realizing they were acting on God-ordained desires buried deeply within their human souls. To the One who will put their trust in Him, Jesus can grant eternal life.

The Christian Gospel is GOOD NEWS! It is also UNIQUE news. Throughout the centuries when cultures, when the world, when individual people found themselves out of answers, out of options, and out of time they would turn to the One we should have turned to all along, Jesus.



Picture from [www.biblestudytools.com](http://www.biblestudytools.com)

1. A unique presentation of Who God is
  - God is not distant
  - God is not uncaring
  - God is not unreachable
2. A unique presentation of Who Jesus is
  - Jesus is not a myth- but real/actual/historical
  - Jesus is not merely “a good person” or “a good role model”
  - Jesus was not simply trying to show the human race how to live
3. A unique explanation of Who we are
  - Billy Graham said, “God made us; He can fix us if we’re broken.”
  - Religion says that people are basically good
  - Jesus said that we’re sinners, and need new life”
  - Religions say that we can improve ourselves
  - Jesus promises that He will restore us

**CONCLUSION: A unique explanation of our true HOPE AND FUTURE**

- “I don’t know how to feel, but I want to try... Someday I might... Someday I might know”
- Man in Cincinatti airport. “You are not on the manifest.”