

Kingdom Chronicle

Christians in Politics

BY JON WILLIAMS
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

I recently had the opportunity to be in a Christian conference right in the heart of the United States capitol. The meeting had to do with pastors being involved in the politics of our country. While the event was well attended for the space that we had, I marveled at the lack of numbers at the presentation. Representatives from all over the country briefed pastors of churches and other people of faith about the spiritual condition of the capitol and of the nation. It was refreshing to hear so many high-level politicians speak about Christian faith. The thing that really stuck out to me was the quote from one of the Representatives. He said, “Send more people of faith to DC”. It surprised me to hear of the Bible studies that the Representatives participated in while Congress was in session. They even had prayer groups concerning legislation and major policy decisions that were before them for vote.

Other than voting for Constitution-loving believers, what should the church be doing to steward our country

righteously? In the United States, we are blessed with a system of government that allows our voices to be heard, freedom of speech. It is



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a God-given right and a privilege to be able to speak freely because not everyone on the earth lives in such a notion. Yet, we as believers don't seem to speak up. We don't seem to be involved with government, locally or nationally. We just don't seem terribly concerned with our community, with our state, or with our nation until it is too late. I have even heard pastors tell their congregation to not be involved in politics. So what has that led us to? A corrupt society that seems to value death. Abortion, child mutilation, etc.

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What is Pentecost?

BY JAVAN SMITH
Kingdom Chronicle Contributor

Fifty days after Passover, is the biblical feast known as Shavuot (the Feast of Weeks). Through Church history, Shavuot has commonly been called “Pentecost,” a name derived from the Greek word for “fiftieth.” Because most of the world follows the Gregorian calendar, rather than the lunar Hebrew calendar, churches observe “Pentecost Sunday” on a day that may not correspond with the biblical Feast of Shavuot, but regardless of what some scholars may argue, Pentecost and Shavuot are the same holiday. During 2024, “Pentecost Sunday” was observed on May 19, but according to the Hebrew calendar, the holiday should fall on June 11-13. Calendar discrepancies notwithstanding, the meaning of the Feast is far more important than the actual date of observance.

Of the seven feasts of Israel, Pentecost is the final spring feast. Four feasts occur during the Spring and three occur during the Fall. When studied as a complete panorama, the seven feasts tell the story of the betrothal and marriage of the Messiah with His Bride. In the four spring feasts, we see a portrayal of the betrothal or ‘kiddushin.’ At the betrothal stage, the bridegroom offers the cup of wine to his beloved, and she has the choice of whether to accept. Once she accepts, then the marriage contract, known as the ‘ketubah’ is drawn up, specifying the bride price, or “mohar.” Yeshua the Messiah fulfilled the four spring feasts in His first coming, when He came as the suffering servant. In the first Pentecost that followed His crucifixion, Jesus sent the bride price (“mohar”) of the Holy Spirit, whom

Ephesians 1:13-14 refers to as the down payment of our promised redemption.

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Peter Dennis / Getty Images

What is Pentecost?

BY JAVAN SMITH

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During Passover, the Lord offered the cup of wine, revealing His intent to betroth us to Himself. Recall that the very first Passover was the night that the Lord led the armies of Israel out of Egypt. Most scholars believe that the Law was given at Mt. Sinai fifty days after the very first Passover, which would have been the very first Feast of Shavuot. In a sense, the Law represented the marriage contract (the ketubah) between the Lord and His Bride. Of course, Israel broke the marriage contract (see Jeremiah 31:32), but when Jesus came, He paid the price of the broken contract. In fact, when He was in the wilderness, He responded to each temptation by saying “it is written.” The Hebrew word for “marriage contract” (“ketubah”) literally means “written.” Though the New Testament is recorded in Greek, Jesus would have spoken Aramaic or Hebrew, and the word that He would have used to say “it is written” would have been a direct reference to the marriage contract that was given at the first Shavuot, namely the Law. Even though the bride had broken the contract, the Bridegroom came to keep that which had been “written.”

Pentecost represents a season of waiting. After Passover, the people of God are to count fifty days, from barley harvest to wheat harvest. Recall that the Holy Spirit came “when the Day of Pentecost had fully come,” according to Acts 2:1-4. Why did it happen when Pentecost had fully come? Fulfillment of the Promise had to happen on the fiftieth day, corresponding to the time frame God had prearranged millennia earlier. Between the Resurrection and the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit, what did Jesus instruct His disciples to do? He told them to wait! (see Luke 24:49). Sometimes, waiting can seem maddening, but we know that He is working in the waiting.

Befitting to the theme of waiting, the story of Ruth is generally associated with the holiday of Shavuot. Orthodox Jews traditionally read the Book of Ruth during the Shavuot season. Ruth’s redemptive story is a story of waiting, trusting that her redeemer was working on her behalf. From the time of barley harvest, corresponding to Passover, to the time of wheat harvest, corresponding to Pentecost, Ruth patiently continued to glean in the field of Boaz. After waiting for nearly seven weeks, she received an instruction from her mother-in-law, Naomi. What was that instruction? Essentially, Naomi instructed her to wait some more! In Ruth 3:18, Naomi told Ruth, *“Sit still, my daughter until you know how the matter will turn out; for*

the man will not rest until he has concluded the matter this day.” Meanwhile, while Ruth waited, Boaz was acting as her kinsman-redeemer, working out the details of her redemption!

And so, as Pentecost season is upon us, we are reminded that we are in a time of waiting. Our season of waiting is not a time to sit idle, just as Ruth continued to serve in the field while she waited.

Likewise, we remain about the King’s business while we await the return of our Redeemer. The three fall feasts which are yet to be fulfilled remind us of the reason why we are waiting. During the three fall feasts,



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namely the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement, and the Feast of Tabernacles, we look ahead to the wedding phase of our marriage to the Messiah, known in Hebrew as the “nissuin.” One day the trumpet will sound, and He will carry away His Bride to dwell with Him in His Tabernacle! For this reason, the Fall Feasts symbolize the phase of when He will marry us once and for all and carry us away to abide with Him eternally. The etymology of the “nissuin” phase comes from a Hebrew word meaning to “lift away” or to “carry away.” Praise the Lord!

So let us wait for Him, and let us be about the King’s business as we wait. Whether you observe Pentecost according to the Gregorian calendar or the Hebrew calendar, or whether you have never observed the feast at all, remember to thank Him for the marriage contract that He upheld for you and the down payment of the Holy Spirit that He gave to you as a bride price. Most importantly, remember to look up, for your redemption draws nigh!

Christians in Politics

BY JON WILLIAMS
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

We have an obligation to speak up and change the direction of our communities and eventually our nation. We have the power to change the nation if we will use it.

Jesus spoke of believers being the salt of the earth. Often, we hear this referenced as believers being a type of preservative keeping the world from decaying. However, something else needs to be considered, salt makes things taste better. Let's not miss the fact that Jesus was clearly saying that the presence of believers should make the world a better place, not just in the church house, but in the courthouse as well. How can a believer make the world a better place when they are not involved in its operation?

Of course, I can't miss the opportunity to mention

the parable Jesus told in Luke 19 where He told the servants "Occupy till I come". Jesus seemed to think that His servants would be engaged in the affairs of their community. He didn't say duck into the Synagogue and stay low till I return. He could have said just that, but instead, He sets an expectation of prosperous interaction. Then He reinforces the servants who did well with rewards.

The beautiful thing is that when Christians are involved respect for life and prosperity reign. This is just not so with other religions and political institutions. The tolerance and benevolence of the Christian experience is without rival. There should be no shame in the politically active Christian. The world's greatest country is proof.



Pray For

Believers to become more politically active, choosing to do as Jesus instructed: "Occupy until I come."

Pastors to become emboldened to see change in their communities by getting involved, no matter how small.

The salt of the earth to retain it's saltiness.

Our brothers and sisters already in political offices to remain strong in the face of persecution (even from other believers).

Pray Against

The stigma of believers being politically active, to include shaming of those who are involved in politics.

Complacency in the body of Christ to just complain about the evils we see, but not do anything to get involved.

The enemy's plans to make salt lose it's saltiness.

Persecution of Christians involved in politics, especially from their fellow believers.

Freedom Church Upcoming Events

BY KYLE GONZALEZ
Kingdom Chronicle Editor-in-Chief

◆ 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!



After the Promise

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

If everyone had the chance to dictate a life without troubles, everyone would choose a life without troubles. Unfortunately, troubles are a part of our fallen world. For those whose hearts are turned to God and have made Jesus their Lord and Savior, God promises to make all things work out for their good. In Mark chapter 4, Jesus taught on the parables of the Sower. Concerning the seed on the rocky soil, Jesus describes it as those who hear the word and immediately receive it with joy. But since they do not have deep roots, they don't last long. As soon as problems and persecutions come to test the word they fall away. So, this is the first instance we see where troubles gain the notoriety as a test to the word. In John 16:33, Jesus declares that trouble is a certainty in this world, and then encourages us not to be weary of them, because He has overcome the world and the troubles it would cause us. This is confirmed in Romans 8:37; "despite all these things, (all the troubles mentioned in vs 35-36) overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us." God's love for us is how we overcome the troubles that will befall us, bringing us victory through it all.

ENTER ABRAHAM

Abraham was living the dream; he had a good work-family life, was successful and had probably come to terms with never having a child. Then God comes into his

life, gives him an instruction and a promise. He obeys; leaves for Canaan with his nephew and family and then encounters what is probably the first trouble of his life – a famine like he had never known. Abraham had an emotional separation from his nephew after a rift between their herders, he fought a war just to rescue his nephew, endured the gossips and questions of a promise that had lingered so long, had a marital conflict with his wife Sarah after Ishmael was born, was sadly separated from his son Ishmael. Eventually, twenty-five years after the promise and his many troubles, Isaac was born.

ENTER JOSEPH

Joseph lived at peace with his siblings and parents until he had a series of dreams that pointed to a promise of greatness. Then the troubles began; his brothers hated him, his father scolded him, they sold him, he was falsely accused, he was imprisoned and forgotten. Eventually, thirteen years after the promise, he attained the greatness promised him.

ENTER DAVID

David was a sweet shepherd boy who tended his father's sheep.

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

Raise Your Voice! BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI *Kingdom Chronicle Staff*

Upcoming Community Dates:

- ◆ 06/06/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.
- ◆ 06/11/2024, 6:30 p.m.: Teller County Republicans (GOP) monthly meeting at Pikes Peak Community Center in Divide.
- ◆ 06/12/2024, 6 p.m.: Regular School Board Meeting at the District Office, large conference room.
- ◆ 06/12/2024, 6 p.m.: Community Engagement Forum with the Woodland Park Police Department at the police station.
- ◆ 06/18/2024, 5.30 p.m.: Chambers Business After Hours (for members) hosted by the Colorado Wolf and Wildlife Center.
- ◆ 06/27/2024, 6:30 p.m.: City Council meeting at City Hall, 220 W South Ave.
- ◆ 06/29/2024, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.: 22nd Annual Citywide Cleanup, Memorial Park, with free food, music, and games.



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After the Promise

BY JOY OTI

Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Then a promise of kingship came, and he was anointed king. After the promise, he was loathed by his brothers, hated by the king whom he served faithfully, he was compelled into exile for the safety of himself and his family, he was threatened by the people he governed, fought countless wars, and suffered betrayal by priests and kinsmen. Finally, fifteen years after the promise and the many troubles that followed, David ascended the throne as King over all of Israel.

ENTER THE LION OF THE TRIBE OF JUDAH

Jesus, as we know Him, enjoyed fellowship with His father in the heavenly realms. All was well, until Adam and Eve did the unthinkable and handed over authority to the devil. But God, who is God all by Himself, sought the restoration of fellowship with man and gave Jesus a promise: **“After he has suffered, he will see the light of life and be satisfied; by his knowledge my righteous servant will justify many, and he will bear their iniquities.”** Isaiah 53: 11. Thousands of years after the

promise, Jesus was born, suffered as expected, bought His kingdom with His own life, took back His life, and received the promise of brothers and sisters into His fold.

If you are currently going through any kind of trouble and you know you have done no wrong, pause to ponder: Do you have a promise? The troubles we suffer are usually commensurate with the promise or promises we have received. Abraham had to learn fatherhood caring for Lot and his household, while managing great wealth with integrity. Joseph had to learn to be a leader in prison before becoming a leader for all of Egypt. David learned to rule over a few, before he became king over all of Israel. No form of suffering is in isolation. You either suffer because you have a promise, or suffer as a consequence of a poor decision or lifestyle. If your conscience is cleared of the latter, then welcome to the hall of suffering servants awaiting eventual glorification – the fulfillment of a promise.

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Faithchai.com

Exploring Passover: A Journey of Learning and Celebration

BY AMANDA LOCKMAN
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

As with the fall feasts I have felt drawn to learn about the spring feasts that are significant in Jewish culture. The timing of these feasts, along with other events happening globally and in the sky, made me even more curious. Just like we did with the fall feasts, we invited some friends to join us in celebrating, and it's been an amazing experience. In the upcoming articles, I'll share what we've learned.

We kicked off our Passover celebration with a traditional Seder. Together, we loved going through the Haggadah, a guidebook that walks you through prayers, blessings, and the story of Passover, including the symbolism of the items on the Seder plate. All of this comes from a command in Exodus 12 to observe the feast for generations to come. About 25 people of all ages came to our home to share in the Passover Seder. We all had a great time learning, trying traditional foods, and remembering the goodness and power of our God together. It was so special that we decided to make it an annual tradition for our families. Here are some things we learned.

At its core, Passover commemorates the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt, as described in the book of Exodus. God, through Moses,

intervened dramatically, inflicting ten plagues upon Egypt, culminating in the death of the firstborn, while sparing the Israelites who had marked their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificial lamb. This act of deliverance marked the beginning of a new chapter for the Israelites, as they embarked on a journey toward the Promised Land.

For Christians, Passover holds great significance, particularly in understanding the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, refers to Jesus as "our Passover lamb," drawing a direct parallel between the ancient ritual and the ultimate act of redemption through Christ's crucifixion. Just as the blood of the lamb protected the Israelites from judgment, so too does the blood of Christ cleanse believers from sin and grant them eternal life.

Moreover, the Last Supper, which Jesus shared with his disciples on the eve of his crucifixion, was a Passover meal. When Jesus introduced the practice of Communion, he gave special meaning to the bread and wine. They became symbols representing his broken body and shed blood, signifying forgiveness for sins. Thus, every time Christians partake in Communion, they not only remember Christ's sacrifice but also participate in the ongoing fulfillment of Passover's promise of redemption.

Beyond its historical and theological dimensions, Passover serves as a strong reminder of God's faithfulness and deliverance. Just as he rescued the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, so too does he deliver believers from the power of sin and death. The message of Passover resonates across generations, offering hope and assurance to all who trust in God's promises.

In a world marked by turmoil and uncertainty, the message of Passover speaks volumes to Christians today. It reminds us of God's unfailing love, his power to save, and his faithfulness to fulfill his promises. As we reflect on the ancient story of liberation, we can find renewed strength and hope for the journey ahead, confident that the God who delivered the Israelites from Egypt is the same God who offers salvation to all who call upon his name.

Through its rich symbolism and timeless truths, Passover continues to inspire and edify believers, inviting them to experience the fullness of God's love and grace. As we embrace the message of Passover, we are drawn ever closer to the heart of God, who reigns victorious over sin and death, now and forevermore.

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



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New City Council Shows Its True Face

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

On May 16, 2024, the Woodland Park City Council met for a special session at 5:30 p.m. to interview the four candidates that had applied for the last remaining City Council seat vacated by newly elected mayor Kellie Case. The council asked different questions to every candidate. The four applicants were Carrol Harvey - former council member that resigned in 2019 and then was appointed to fill a vacant seat in May 2023 but did not run for reelection, Don Dezelle - conservative candidate and long time resident who received 1,087 votes on April 2nd, Donald A. Hoying - member of the planning commission, and Eric Lockman - conservative candidate who received 1,129 votes on April 2nd.

Several public speakers including the three Teller County Commissioners had urged the council in previous meetings that the council is under an obligation to do the “right thing” for the City of Woodland Park, that they now have to listen to their citizens, especially the ones that did not vote for them, and strive to be representatives for all in an attempt to unify the town. After all, the whole reason for the vacant council seat is the recent election with a record voter turnout, the highest form of democratic participation. Four unsuccessful conservative

candidates each received around 40% of the votes and these citizens’ votes should count. One public speaker reminded the council that Carrol Harvey had lost the privilege to be on the council by her past resignation and her refusal to run for reelection in April.

However, all this was to no avail. As many had already predicted, the whole exercise appeared to be more show than earnest and Carrol Harvey was elected to the council with 5 out of 6 votes, while George Jones voted for his planning commission colleague Donald Hoying. To top it off, George Jones later tried to justify the decision of the council by stating that they had received 10 written endorsements for Carrol Harvey, but none for the other candidates. 40% of the votes in an election apparently do not count.

The remainder of the session was dominated by the budget presentation by the School Board. After board president Mick Bates and superintendent Witt presented the planned allocation of the 1.09% sales tax that the city collects for the school district, the council members ceased the opportunity to let their frustration out on the school district’s leadership using the supposedly insufficient

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Transgender-ism in Woodland Park Schools – Mandated by Denver

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

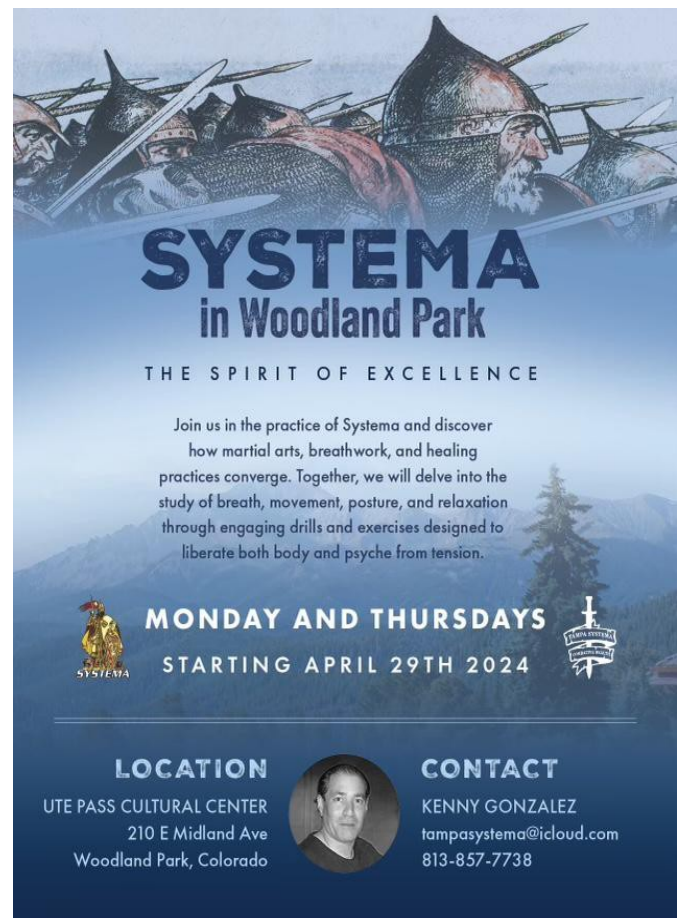
On April 29, 2024, Governor Jared Polis signed House Bill 1039 into law concerning non-legal name changes for students in schools. The new bill mandates all public and charter schools to use a student's preferred name if requested by the student. The so called "chosen name" refers to any name differing from a student's legal name reflecting their gender identity, and "gender identity" is again defined as an individual's (i.e. the child's) inherent sense of their gender, regardless of their biological sex. The bill also established a specific task force which will oversee and enforce the implementation of the new law by local school districts. According to the bill, the refusal of a school to use a student's chosen name will be deemed a form of discrimination. Schools must put the new law into action and have a written policy in place by July 1, 2026.

The implementation of HB1039 was discussed at the Woodland Park School Board meeting on May 8, 2024. During the meeting, the board discussed and ultimately passed a directive to superintendent Witt to draft a corresponding policy for the Woodland Park school district. During the discussion, president Mick Bates stressed that parental rights cannot be violated and that parents should always be informed about their child's wish for a name change. He also stated that the policy should include a rule giving the school the right to deny any disingenuous name changes. David Rusterholtz was the only board member who passionately opposed the law and spoke up against it, saying that it was a bad law that undermined the family, something we should not have to tolerate. The law further violates the rights of parents and educators, and school employees to stand for what they believe. However, the resolution passed, signaling the board's agreement to comply with HB1039, and ordering superintendent Witt to draft the administrative policy, which will then again be brought in front of the school board.

And just like that, our representatives in Denver have managed to forcefully introduce transgender-ism into our local public schools and charter schools, a place that should be dedicated to education, math, reading, and writing, not indoctrination on social issues. But instead of just pointing the finger at Denver, we have to ask ourselves: how did this happen? Where was the church? Where were the parents of Colorado? Where was I?

At Wednesday's school board meeting, not even a handful conservative citizens showed up. Apart from that, the room was filled again with opponents of the conservative school board who – as usual – did not hold back from letting their frustration and opinions known during public comment. How was your voice heard? As Christians, citizens, parents, we have a responsibility to hold our elected officials accountable, to speak up, to be engaged, and to stand for truth. The passing of HB1039 is the painful result of our inaction. While not everyone is called to run for an elected office, no-one is called to ignorance. Please prayerfully consider where you can make a difference in the future. Please consider attending our local government's school board and city council meetings, engage your church, and be a participating citizen. Let us be a light in this dark world.

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Understanding the Importance of Pentecost to Believers Today BY AMANDA LOCKMAN Kingdom Chronicle Staff

Pentecost stands as a cornerstone event in Christian history, marking the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles and initiating the widespread missionary activities of the early church. Celebrated fifty days after Resurrection Day, this day of remembrance is often regarded as the birthday of the Christian church, reflecting a crucial moment in its foundational history.



Svetlana Vorotniak/iStock.com

The event of Pentecost is recorded in Acts 2, where the apostles, gathered in a room, experienced a powerful manifestation of the Holy Spirit. This event was heralded by sounds like a mighty rushing wind, followed by tongues of fire resting upon each of them. This miraculous occurrence allowed bystanders to hear them speaking in various languages, thereby communicating the Gospel to the multicultural crowd in Jerusalem. This ability to interpret the tongues as their native tongue symbolized the universal message of Christianity and its reach across all cultures and languages.

For Christians, Pentecost is not just a historical event but also a milestone that underscores several key elements of our faith:

1. **Empowerment by the Spirit:** Holy Spirit is the very source of power and guidance for believers today that He was for Jesus as He began His ministry on this earth. The Ruach or breath of God that brings life and equips us with spiritual gifts. The gifts of prophecy, healing, words of wisdom, words of knowledge, the gift of faith, working of miracles, discerning of spirits, tongues, and interpretation of tongues are crucial for building up the church and allowing us to

carry out the very ministry that Jesus began for us.

2. **Unity:** Pentecost demonstrates God's intention to extend salvation to all peoples, nations, tribes, and tongues. The event highlights the true nature of God and the church's role as a global community of believers commissioned to take the gospel to the ends of the earth.
3. **God's Indwelling Presence:** Pentecost emphasizes that God's presence is accessible to all believers through the Holy Spirit. This presence within believers is a transformative force, guiding, comforting, and empowering us in our daily walk with Him and every facet of our lives.
4. **Fulfillment of Prophecy:** Pentecost fulfills ancient prophecies, and the promises made by Jesus about the Holy Spirit. It marks the establishment of the New Covenant, where God's laws are inscribed on the hearts of believers, signifying a new way of living and interacting with the divine.

Pentecost is a celebration of these themes empowerment, unity, divine presence, and prophecy fulfillment. It's a day for Christians to reflect on the dynamic and living nature of their faith, facilitated by the Holy Spirit. The ongoing influence of Pentecost continues to inspire and drive the mission and life of the church today, making it a central aspect of Christian worship and identity. This year, 2024, Pentecost began at sundown on May 18 and ended at sundown on May 19. In my home we gathered with family and friends to pray, breakfast, worship, and reflect on the life, movement and power of the Holy Spirit in and through us as believers.

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New City Council Shows Its True Face

BY NICOLE BRAUCHLI
Kingdom Chronicle Staff

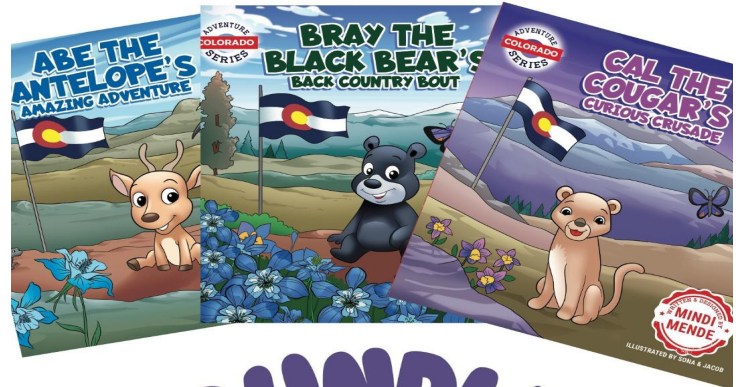
reporting as excuse. Witt had to endure ridiculous accusations of fraud, shenanigans, spearheaded by council members Geer and Baldwin. The behavior of our elected officials was a disgrace and certainly did not set an example on how to have difficult conversations in a civil matter in an already divided community. The school district's budget will formally be approved by the school board in June. All its detailed financials are available on the school district's website. All the while, the City Council will continue its conversation on potentially taking away the 1.09% sales tax from the school district, and, ultimately, our school children; which was put in place by the citizens of Woodland Park in an overwhelming majority on the ballot in 2016.

More From Our Partners At Great Commission Publishing

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

More From Our Partners At Great Commission Publishing

BY KYLE
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*Kingdom Chronicle
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