

Navigating the seasons of life

Dr. W.G. Romine, II
Guest opinion
www.rlmregionalchurch.com

The Bible says, "Man, born of woman is a few days old and full of trouble." Many of us have no idea how true this statement is until we transition from children to parents. Thank God for the different stages of childhood. Although, where we start geographically and into which financial and social structure we're born can matter greatly as to the character built into each individual. True equality must meet a conditional standard built upon this statement: "All things being equal, all things being relevant." Only when the conditions are exactly the same, can two individuals aspire to the same goal with the same potential to achieve it.

Reality dictates something far from the wonderland we are lead to believe through fairy tales and private education, provided by our overly protective parents. Since all things are seldom equal we are going to swallow a dose of reality like our grandparents had to. This takes us back before the spoonful of sugar was added. Our grandparents had to take the medicine and then run for something to chase it down with. Times used to be hard for most folks back in our grandparents day. Although there were some who always had it better, the most they ever saw was suffering the same as they had experienced. Perhaps childhood was cherished more because it was split between play-time and chores (work). Being tired had a different definition back then, than it does today.

Each generation gains something, but it also gives some thing away. Do you think we are better than our grandparents because of change; or do we just suffer in different ways? Having things easier is not the same as having

things better! I don't want to skip a generation, but medical science is proving that the grandchildren of today are suffering many of the sickness and diseases which never affected our grandparents until their senior years. Stress and diet related obesity are destroying many young people during their childhood season. Many are given adult prescriptions before reaching mid-way adolescence. Imagine children suffering from diabetes, congestive heart failure, and rheumatoid arthritis. When the ingredient label lists more preservatives than actual food, the human body cannot assimilate the chemicals and is forced to store them, causing the body systems to break down.

Oops! TMI (Too Much Information). Now back to the parents, children of the grandparents. These would be the Baby-Boomers. The generation after WWII, who challenged authority and wanted to experience free love. There are not enough acronyms to describe them. I guess their one conciliation is a refusal to admit inhaling. Many achievements were made through this generation's input, which have contributed to a stronger work ethic as the Boomers approached mid-life. This is the generation that would reinvent the wheel. Technology trumps everything else, driving the industrial revolution at warp speed; inventing, creating and destroying before the paint dries.

The grandchildren of today are reaping benefits of a society driven by change. Necessity spawned inventions past common reasoning to explain. Work has become an exercise in mental accent. Child's play in this 21st century would confound Einstein. IQs are being measured in preschool and children are stuck in front of the monitor until they complete the next level or conquer their op-

ponent overseas. They challenge their parents to keep up with them by requesting the latest software to download. They are smarter; but when will they stop to play a game that doesn't bedazzle your optic nerve or fry brain circuits? Why can't they just be children?

The old days are gone forever, because the march toward a New World Order is creating a New Social Order. Sound bites and headlines direct us through life like rats in a maze. Details are left for later discovery, if and when problems occur. Heritage must become more valuable, if we are to benefit from the efforts of our grandparents and parents. History is more than a recorded footprint of our parents existence.

It is the impression our families have made in this territory. Mistakes and major achievements stretched over generations are responsible for shaping much of what we have become today. Sometimes our best efforts to bury the past only serve to reveal things we wish we never knew. Perhaps we do owe an apology to the children who survived the sins of our ancestral conflicts.

Kansas is in the heart of the United States and is the geodetic center of the North America Continent. This puts Kansas in the spotlight of this nation and the continent. Our past achievements are as vital to our history as our present achievements will be to our future. It's time to lift up our eyes toward heaven and bless the Lord for the strength He has given our families to overcome the perils of settling, building and creating the heart and bread basket of this nation. Kansas is strong because our families would not abandon their hope when finances failed. Kansas is still here because our families would not leave when the earth failed to produce crops during the great drought. Kansas is

strong because our families fought to the death for the right to farm and ranch on the high plains once filled with buffalo and outlaws. Kansas is filled with hope because our families watch over their own from cradle-to-grave with something valuable enough to secure their future, real estate.

The one thing tornados cannot take away. Kansas is looking into tomorrow by following in the footsteps of its automobile designers, aviation engineers and manufacturers, astronauts, and national leaders.

American history paints Kansas into the center of conflict as this nation experienced many growing pains. Kansas, through U.S. Highway 83, is the American crossroad from Canada to Mexico. Many Americans don't understand the importance of all Kansas has to offer, but they often borrow the line from a world famous movie, *Wizard of Oz*, "We're not in Kansas anymore." History comes alive in many ways as you travel through this landscape of the home of di-

nosaurus, Indian heritage, infamous outlaws, Coffeyville, Dodge City, and the cattle drives and Calvary Forts, not to mention buried treasures of natural resources such as fresh water aquifers and petroleum beds. Kansas is rich in open range lands and diverse wildlife. Its lakes and rivers are filled with a verity of aquatic life and record setting fresh water game fish. Sportsmen from across the nation enjoy the bounty found in abundance within our borders.

Most importantly, the people of

Kansas are survivors and providers with an obstinate passion born out of a heritage passed down from generation to generation. Pride is the bedrock and foundation of most family farmers carrying the legacy of over one hundred and fifty years of feast or famine faith. Remember, they are doing it for the rest of us who are not farmers. We who understand your effort applaud you, love you and pray for your strength to continue. You deserve all the blessings that come your way.

I would appreciate your Vote in the August 5th Primary.

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Americans United decries military 'free day'

TOPEKA (AP) — A national group alleged Wednesday that Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., is forcing soldiers to participate in a weekly religious event, a program that has been mentioned in a federal lawsuit in Kansas.

Americans United for Separation of Church and State sent a letter to the Department of Defense's inspector general, asking for an investigation into the Sunday evening event, whose name was recently changed from "Free Day Away" to "Tabernacle Baptist Church Retreat Program." The Tabernacle Baptist Church in Lebanon, Mo., has hosted the event for soldiers from the Missouri post since 1971.

A Fort Leonard Wood spokesman said the program is voluntary, and the church's pastor said it has taken steps to ensure that soldiers know they will hear a religious message if they attend.

But Americans United's executive director, the Rev. Barry Lynn, said soldiers at Fort Leonard Wood must either attend the program or stay on post.

"That's not the kind of choice that ought to be given to soldiers," said Lynn, who described the practice as "coercive evangelism."

In the letter to the Defense Department, Lynn's group said its request was prompted by complaints from an unnamed soldier assigned

to Fort Leonard Wood.

A spokesman for the Department of Defense, Cmdr. Daryn James, said he didn't know whether the inspector general had received the letter and declined further comment.

Mikey Weinstein, president of the Military Religious Freedom Foundation, applauded the request for an investigation. Still, Weinstein said he doubts American United's request will result in changes, based on his group's own efforts to fight the practice by going through the military's chain of command.

Weinstein's group and an atheist soldier stationed at Fort Riley, Kan., Spc. Jeremy Hall, have filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Kansas against the Department of Defense and Secretary Robert Gates that mentioned the event. Hall and the foundation claim that the military allows and even supports a culture in which religious liberties are violated regularly.

Hall said he participated in "Free Day Away" in July 2004, during his basic training at Fort Leonard Wood.

Fort Leonard Wood spokeswoman Tiffany Ryan said soldiers are briefed about the event before they are allowed to leave post. That includes letting them know they will hear a religious message and must stay on church grounds.

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COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

Schedule of church services

- COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.
- ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May, Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May
- COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Sunday School 9 a.m., Worship Service 10:15 a.m., Sunday evening Prayer Service 6:30 p.m., Wed 3:30 Rock out @ The Rock, Wed. 7 p.m. Youth @ The Rock. E-mail: cdag@st-tel.net. www.collegedriveonline.com
- BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym
- FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.; Wednesday afternoon Bible Study: 3 p.m.; RC Club 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2 p.m.
- COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH**, Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30 AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45 AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.
- SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.
- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Saturday evening worship 5:30 p.m.
- WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.
- CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Jordan Barrett, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.
- COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org
- REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**, 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.
- FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Pat Stuart and Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com
- OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
- PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.
- LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
- WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (COT)
- BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.
- THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565
- REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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