

# Hate religion, but love Jesus?

Within the past few months a video was released on YouTube titled "Why I hate Religion, but Love Jesus," by Jefferson Bethke. At the time of this writing the video has been viewed 20,757,918 times.

This video went "viral" - a way of saying it became popular through Internet sharing.

I am sure some of those numbers were repeated views. However, that number is still astonishing. It definitely raises questions for us all.

If you haven't seen the video, what are your initial thoughts from the title? Does it strike you as true or false? Why?

If you have seen it, what was your reaction? Agree or disagree? Why?

Often the term "religion" has been used as a synonym of "Christianity." That's a problem - "religion" is not equal to "Christianity."

Religion shows the institutional side of Christianity, which many are not attracted to at all. Christianity is about Christ, about relationships. Religion is about showing up and checking off a list of duties you deem necessary. Christianity is about putting self second to other things to live a life of servitude.

Religion attempts to look good, from the structures or décor of the building to the clothes you are wearing. Christianity may look nice, but that isn't a priority.

I grew up with "religion" in mind. The demonization I have attended since birth made "doing it right" a priority over what it actually means to "do it right" outside of the church building. I had no idea what I was supposed to "do" in my everyday life; how I was supposed to live out my Christianity. I only knew I was



## Jarrod Spencer

### • From the Pulpit

trying to get you to look like me.

In one portion of Bethke's poem he challenges us by saying, "They can't fix their problems, and so they just mask it; Not realizing religion's like spraying perfume on a casket."

"Grace" is one of those "Christianese" words we have used in churches forever. However, its depth has become stripped and devalued by overuse. It has become a selfish word, meaning that you like receiving grace given to you but have a difficult time giving it. It is a challenging concept to practice, most difficult when most needed.

The religious will sometimes throw the "Jesus" card out there to think he will fix everything, when, in fact, he may not. His name is used as a mask when a situation may not actually get better. Phrases like "God will make a way," "He doesn't give us more than we can handle," or "God works all things out for good" are tossed out - true in some circumstances but not guarantees for every situation.

Here is an additional line from the poem, "See the problem with religion, is it never gets to the core; It's just behavior modification, like a long list of chores."

Have you ever had a religious experience where you didn't feel you made it past the

surface? Instead, you did your religious things out of duty or dressing up to look nice. Religion just seems to be about the wrong things. It tends to keep away the relationship and is concerned about the "what" you do in life.

We can all put on a good front, as the institutionalized part of religion seems to cause. We want to look like we belong to Jesus but it doesn't go past the covering.

The religious in the Bible were often corrected for their outside acts and dead hearts. Jesus called them fools. The church needs to let Jesus in. Jesus is the cure for sin and religion can cause an infection. It makes you feel good but it doesn't go deep. Religion causes us to work but Jesus already did the work.

Understanding what Jesus did and why God allowed what Jesus did should cause us to be eternally grateful and humbled. It is not us who had to pay the penalty we deserved because of sin.

When sin came into the world, in the Garden of Eden, God separated Himself from us. To allow Jesus to die was God's plan for an intimate relationship with us. Religion simply does not do that.

Those that have a relationship with Jesus are religious, but those that are religious do not necessarily have a relationship with Jesus.

I am thankful Jesus died so that I can have a relationship with Him, His Father, and the Holy Spirit. May I never be just religious.

Jarrod Spencer is the minister, at the Colby Church of Christ, 510 East Fourth. He can be reached at (785) 460-6322 or by e-mail at jarrods@att.net.

## Deaths

### Twila Robertson Whitley

Twila Robertson Whitley, 96, she made new friends at St. Joseph's Manhattan, formerly of Colby, died Tuesday, April 24, 2012, at Meadowlark Hills Sloan House in Manhattan.

She was born June 23, 1915, in Manchester, the daughter of Ewan and Emma (Dieffenbaugh) Robertson. She was raised on a farm near Manchester, just north of Abilene, attending a country grade school and graduating from Abilene High School in 1932.

On Feb. 16, 1935, she married Henry T. Whitley of Solomon. The family lived in several Kansas communities before settling in Colby in 1943.

In the early years, she helped her husband operate and maintain telephone systems across the Midwest.

She enjoyed time with family and friends, bowling, playing the piano and ballroom dancing, as well as needlework and puzzles.

Following retirement, she and her husband spent their summers in Branson, Mo. More recently,

she made new friends at St. Joseph's Village and Meadowlark Hills.

She was a 58-year member of the Order of the Eastern Star and a member of the Colby Presbyterian Church.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, a son, Winston Keith Whitley, and brothers-in-law Guy Foster and Robert Whitley.

Survivors include daughter-in-law, Marily Whitley (Jim Morrill), and a sister, Lila Foster, all of Manhattan; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 17, 2012, at Beulah Cemetery in Colby with the Rev. Carol Rahn officiating.

The family suggests memorials for the Multiple Sclerosis Society, in care of Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, Kan., 66502.

On-line condolences may be left for the family at www.ymlfuneralhome.com.



Twila Whitley

## Clarification

The story "Catfish released in ponds east of Colby" on Page 1 of the Thursday, April 26, Colby Free Press did not say how to get to the walk-in fishing ponds east of town. From Colby, go east on Fourth Street (U.S. 24) and turn north at the Wagoner and Sons Wrecking Yard (on County Road 21, or Taft Ave.). Go north one mile to Veterans Memorial Drive (County Road T) and park near the railroad tracks. Walk east a block or two; the ponds are just south of the road. Be careful not to drive into the pasture or leave any gate open.

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The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

## Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.90
Corn (bushel)	\$5.99
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.21
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.42

## Colby farmer to wed in August ceremony

Sara Fox of Hays and Justin Sloan of Colby plan to marry Saturday, Aug. 4, 2012, at the Colby United Methodist Church.

The bride is the daughter of Don and Penni Fox and the granddaughter of Darrell and Cecilia Fox and Jim Havens, all of Stratton, Colo.

She is a 2008 graduate of Stratton High School and will graduate with a bachelor's degree in animal science from Fort Hays State University in May.

The groom is the son of Tom and LaDonna Sloan of Colby and Nola Sloan of Wichita. His grandparents are Cecil and Martha Koster of Cawker City.

He is a 2001 graduate of Colby High School and a 2006 graduate of Kansas State University with a bachelor's degree in agricultural technology management. He farms with his family's operation.

The couple will live in Colby.



Justin Sloan and Sara Fox

## Honor society has induction

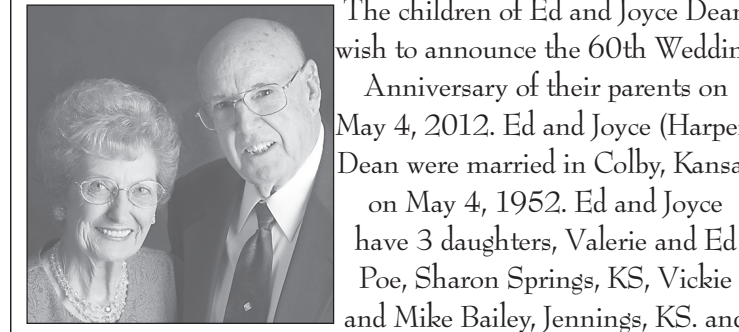
Twelve sophomores were inducted April 17 into the National Honor Society at Golden Plains.

They were selected because they exhibit scholarship, character, leadership and service.

New inductees include Grant Spresser, Josh Barnhart, Tristan

Schwarz, Hailee Spresser, Macayla Easton, Jacob Antholz, Zach Spresser, Cheyenne Miller, Kylie Jones, Leea Juennemann, Chance Hoeting and Jordan Christensen.

The ceremony was led by President Emily Wachendorfer and followed by an ice cream social.



Ed and Joyce Dean

The children of Ed and Joyce Dean wish to announce the 60th Wedding Anniversary of their parents on

May 4, 2012. Ed and Joyce (Harper) Dean were married in Colby, Kansas on May 4, 1952. Ed and Joyce

have 3 daughters, Valerie and Ed Poe, Sharon Springs, KS, Vickie and Mike Bailey, Jennings, KS. and

Velda and Dennis Billenwillms, Canadian, Texas. They have 9 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. They will be celebrating their anniversary with family. Cards will reach them at 506 E. Oak, Oberlin, 67749

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**Stop and Take a Moment**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR... MAY 10TH**

Buying a home is perhaps one of, if not the largest investments you will make. I remember when I purchased my first home, it was for \$11,500 and I was nervous, scared, un-certain, and a little bit excited. I thought to myself, how will I ever get this home paid for? I would have really jumped off the emotional cliff, if someone would have shared with me how much I would have really paid for the home, with all the interest calculated into the equation.

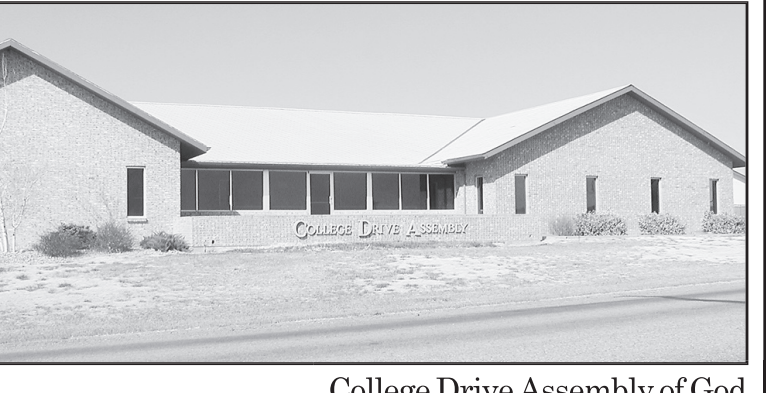
Of course, the fear did not keep me from proceeding because the American Dream of homeownership is so important. However if I would have had been more informed about the buying process, I would have had a better comfort zone to work in. I think it is very important to share knowledge, after all knowledge is power.

I am having one of my FREE Home Buyer's Seminar on Thursday May, 10th. It will be held at the Stock Realty office and will start at 7:00p.m. And end on time at 8:30 p.m. I would like to invite you to attend. We have lots of fun. We share information, ideas, have fellowship and refreshments. Please call my office 785 460-7653 or email me [molly@stockrealtyauction.com](mailto:molly@stockrealtyauction.com) to reserve a seat, but walk-ins are welcome. It is a complicated world and home ownership is an achievable dream for everyone... let me help you reach that dream. SEE YOU THERE!!!!

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# Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



College Drive Assembly of God

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 1890 S. Franklin Ave. - Colby High School Auditorium. Pastor Dave Funk. Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. www.celebratejesus.org

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, 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.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercosy Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

**CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**, 1145 S. Franklin - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. 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 by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497. Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, 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.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL**, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, 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.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, 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

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Mike Baughn, 785-694-2278, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. [www.colbychurch.com](http://www.colbychurch.com)

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Youth Pastor Ben Phillips. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, 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.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, 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. - Intercosy & Prayer, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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