

How can we feel safe in world full of problems?

Since the shootings at Virginia Tech, laws allowing people to carry weapons have been under fire. The debate about how those laws affect public safety has been in the news like never before.

People like to feel safe; that's just how we are. But how can we feel safe today? Concealed weapons, school shootings, people who have gone off the deep end, crime, illness, natural disasters, war — there are plenty of reasons to fear for your safety.

Most people have a "sword" in their home that they are not even aware of — the "sword of the spirit" (Ephesians 6:17), God's word, the Bible. How can a book affect your safety?

The problems we see in the world today that make us fear for our safety were foretold in the Bible. God's word explains why these things are happening, what we can



sharon corcoran

• use it or lose it

do about it and what the future holds.

Matthew 24:6, 7 says, "You are going to hear of wars and reports of wars; see that you are not terrified. For these things must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be food shortages and earthquakes in one place after another."

How can we not be terrified as these things take place?

Proverbs 18:10 says, "The name of God is a strong tower. Into it the

righteous runs and is given protection."

That doesn't mean just knowing what God's name is will protect you (translated from the Hebrew Tetragrammaton, it is rendered Yahweh or Jehovah), but that building a relationship with Him puts us under his protection. Strong towers in ancient times were a place of refuge. How can our Heavenly Father be our strong tower?

Proverbs 3:5, 6 says, "Trust in God with all your heart and do not lean upon your own understanding. In all your ways take notice of him, and he himself will make your paths straight."

Philippians 4:6, 7 says, "Do not be anxious over anything, but in everything by prayer and supplica-

tion along with thanksgiving let your petitions be made known to God; and the peace of God that excels all thought will guard your hearts and your mental powers by means of Christ Jesus."

We need to trust God, look to Him for guidance and believe that whatever we face in life, He can and will help us get through it. The "peace of God" mentioned is a deep, inner calm that comes with knowing that whatever bad things we see happening and whatever problems we are dealing with are all temporary.

Trusting in God doesn't mean that we won't ever feel anxiety or stress — that is just not realistic with today's problems — but it means we can keep it in perspective.

God's protection doesn't mean that nothing bad will ever happen to us, simply that no matter what does happen, it is temporary.

John 5:28, 29 says, "Do not marvel at this, because the hour is coming in which all those in the memorial tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who did good things to a resurrection of life, those who practiced vile things to a resurrection of judgment."

No matter what happens to us, even if we die, God can undo it. And His past actions show that He will.

2 Peter 2:5-7 says, "and he did not hold back from punishing an ancient world, but kept Noah, a preacher of righteousness, safe with seven others when he brought a deluge upon a world of ungodly people; and by reducing the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes he condemned them, setting a pattern for ungodly persons of things to come; and he delivered righteous Lot, who was greatly distressed by the indulgence of the law-defying

people in loose conduct."

God set a pattern, not just for the ungodly, but in delivering the righteous.

2 Peter 3:9 says, "God is not slow respecting his promise, as some consider slowness, but he is patient with you because he does not desire any to be destroyed but desires all to attain to repentance."

When Jesus foretold today's events in Matthew 24, he was answering his disciples' question about the "conclusion of the system of things."

God will provide deliverance from these problems for the righteous; it is a conclusion, the end of the present world. The problems have gone on so long because God is patient — He is giving you the chance to be one who is delivered. Will you use the "sword of the spirit" to seek God's protection?

More than 64 percent of state's budget devoted to education

Kansas' future looks brighter today than it did just a few months ago, as we look over the successes of the recently-concluded legislative session.

Our state was already heading in the right direction, and the work of the last several months is going to help us continue our progress toward a brighter future.

With more than 64 percent of the state's budget devoted to education, a special emphasis has been placed on improving learning opportunities for Kansans of all ages.

I proposed increasing early learning opportunities for young children, fulfilling the promise made to K-12 students in last year's school plan and expanding the ability of Kansans to continue education beyond high school. All of these goals were achieved.

A quality education is critical to success in the workforce and in life, which is why it's so important we continue to expand opportunities for learning. I was very happy with the progress we've made in ensuring every child has access to a great education.

While an educated workforce is



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• governor

the state's biggest economic development incentive, I also proposed ways to promote continued job creation in Kansas. Those included reducing the unemployment insurance tax, reducing the franchise tax for small businesses and encouraging development in rural areas. All three were passed by legislators.

In January, I called on legislators to work with me and the Health Policy Authority on a plan to move toward health insurance for all Kansans. I also proposed health insurance for children birth to age 5. While legislators did agree to begin working on a plan for expanded coverage, they again rejected health insurance for children.

It's good we've taken a first step towards full coverage, but it's very frustrating that politics continues to hold us back when it comes to giving young children access to health

care.

Finally, renewable energy and energy efficiency were both priorities this session. Lt. Governor Mark Parkinson and I have been working with utility companies to meet goals for wind energy production and energy conservation, and I praised legislators for passing several energy-related measures.

Kansas has the potential to be a real leader when it comes to wind power, biofuels and efficiency, and the steps we've taken this year will help us move away from fossil fuels.

2007 State of the State Scorecard

Creating a Skilled Workforce

- Funding was passed for all three years of last year's historic commitment to schools.
- Additional local control was granted to communities.
- Early learning opportunities for Kansas children were expanded.
- Funding was provided for critical deferred maintenance needs at state universities.
- Additional scholarships were created for Kansas students to seek higher education.
- Operating budget increases for universities and community colleges were included in the state budget.

Spurring Job Creation

- We created the Office of Rural

Opportunity to help communities attract families and businesses.

- We provided franchise tax relief for more than 16,000 Kansas small businesses.

• We approved \$175.8 million in unemployment insurance tax relief to Kansas employers.

• We provided additional help to laid-off workers, including elimination of the waiting week for many.

• We created a task force to aid Kansas' bid for the National Bio-and Agro-defense Facility.

Health Care for All Kansans

• We set out a framework to move toward health coverage for all Kansans.

Promoting Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency

• Utility companies are moving toward wind energy goals I set forward.

• Funding for transmission lines to move wind-generated electricity were included in the budget.

• Utility-driven energy conservation programs were endorsed, are underway.

Work Left Undone

• Legislators didn't give Kansas kids a healthy start in life by insuring children birth to age 5.

• Legislators didn't create Rural Opportunity Zones to help small communities attract new jobs.

• Legislators didn't help businesses retain skilled workers by passing the On-TRACK (Training, Recruitment And Careers in Kansas) initiative.

Write plans for month in order of priority

Make a list of five things you want to accomplish this month to improve or grow your business.

Write them in order by priority and hang up the list in a place you will see everyday.

Determine what steps you need to take to accomplish these goals, then get to work.

You probably won't have huge blocks of time to devote to completing your list, but I'm sure you can find 15 minutes here and there. Instead of another game of FreeCell or solitaire, use that time to work on your business.



jamie morphew

• business tips

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting. We offer free and confidential business consulting in Kearny, Scott, Sherman and Wichita Counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphew at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

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Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

April 18 — 5:19 p.m., 1000 E. Business U.S. 24, a 2006 Chevrolet driven by Tammy D. Kallestad was driving south on East Business U.S. 24 when the car collided with telephone pole on the east side of the road.

April 19 — 1:26 p.m., 1502 Main, a 1997 Pontiac driven by Anna J. Harper was going through the driveway at 1502 Main. She decided it was too steep and backed up hitting a 1989 Chevrolet owned by The Parts House.

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

March 18 — Brady C. Sisk, \$138 for speeding.

March 19 — Robert S. Kish, \$138 for speeding.

March 20 — Susan M. Alley, \$120 for speeding.

March 22 — Josh M. Doerfler, \$126 for speeding.

March 23 — Darren J. Roberts, \$126 for improper parking.

March 24 — Kara L. Bivins, \$120 for improper parking.

speeding.

Natural Living Cottage & Wellness Center
314 14th Street, Burlington, Co.
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Row of holes on pines from yellow-bellied sapsucker

If you see a row of holes on pine trees, the problem is not borers. Borer holes will be randomly spaced over the trunk.

Holes that are in a horizontal (most common) or vertical row are caused by the feeding of the yellow-bellied sapsucker. This woodpecker makes shallow holes and then feeds on the sap released from the wounds or on insects attracted to the site.

Other trees this bird often attacks include maples and Bradford pear, but about any species is a potential target. Surprisingly, certain trees may become favorites to the exclusion of nearby trees of the same species. Damage to mature, estab-



dana belshe

• ag notebook

lished trees is usually slight and temporary, though small trees may be girdled and killed.

To control these birds, you have a couple of options:

- Wrap the trunk with fine wire mesh in the area of damage. This may discourage the sapsucker if left in place for several months. The

tree likely will be girdled and die.

- Use Tanglefoot on the area of

mesh must be adjusted every six months or removed when no longer needed. If the mesh is left in place, the

tree likely will be girdled and die.

Use Tanglefoot on the area of damage. This sticky material is applied to tree trunks to capture insects that crawl up the trunk. Yellow-bellied sapsuckers do not like to put their feet in it.

Dana Belshe is agricultural agent for Kansas State University Research and Extension and the Sunflower Extension District, covering Sherman, Wallace and Cheyenne counties.

Need a Ride?

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Open House

You are cordially invited to an open house in honor of USD 352 retirees. The retirees are Mark Hagerman, Gaylene Shank and Linda VanLoenen.

It will be **Tuesday, May 15th**
from **3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.**
at the District Office.

We hope you come by & share some memories.

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CHECK OUT THIS WEEK'S SPECIALS!

Graduation is just around the corner! Don't forget your meat & cheese & fruit platters!

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