

# Kansas hero safety awards announced

The Kansas Department of Transportation has selected six Kansans as recipients of Transportation Safety Awards for their efforts to improve traffic safety. The awards will be presented at the 26th Annual Transportation Safety Conference on April 20-21, 2021, in Wichita.

Recipients are honored in two categories - People Saving People Award and the Hero Award.

The People Saving People Award recognizes an individual or organization that has made outstanding contributions to the improvement of transportation safety behavior in Kansas. The 2020 recipients are:

**Riley County Police Department** - The Riley County Police Department (RCPD) partnered with Kansas State

University (KSU) to build Operation ARC, a traffic enforcement campaign around the tenets of procedural justice. With procedural justice, decisions are accepted as legitimate by those affected if the decision maker gives them a voice, has trustworthy motives, is neutral and respectful.

**Cherie Sage, Topeka** - Sage is the State Director of Safe Kids Kansas, a network of partners and local coalitions across the state dedicated to preventing childhood injury. She is passionate about child passenger safety. Since being named director in 2009, more than 75,000 car seats were checked at more than 4,000 events, and more than 125,000 bike helmets were distributed.

The Hero Award recognizes the individual who risked his or her own life for someone else when they happened upon a crash or while trying to prevent the likelihood of a crash in a one-time traffic safety-related incident. The 2020 recipients are:

**Technical Trooper Ryan Wolting, Kansas Highway Patrol, Topeka** - Wolting applied a tourniquet to the nearly amputated arm of a semi-truck driver injured in a crash to stop profuse bleeding. A trauma nurse at the Salina Regional Hospital reported to KHP that Wolting's application of the tourniquet saved the driver's life.

**Game Warden Ross L. Uhrmacher, Kansas Department of Wildlife Parks and Tourism, Chanute** - Uhrmacher launched a SeaArk

boat into the fast-flowing flood waters of the Verdigris River to save an 88-year-old driver trapped in his almost submerged vehicle. Uhrmacher's skills played a significant role in the successful rescue of the driver.

**Officer Benjamin Schaefer and Officer Jared Thomas, Wichita Police Department** - Schaefer and Thomas arrived at the scene of a motorcycle crash before EMS and began first aid. They applied a tourniquet as the knee was almost severed and treated severe wounds. The trauma surgeon at St. Francis Hospital said the officers helped keep the driver alive.

**Deputy Mark Davis, Johnson County Sheriff's Office, Olathe** - While off duty, Davis saw a vehicle

stalled on train tracks as a train was approaching. When he and a bystander could not move the vehicle, he told the driver to exit the vehicle. The

driver refused. Davis physically pulled the driver from the vehicle just seconds before the train hit it.

## 2020 Kansas notable books

TOPEKA — State Librarian Eric Norris recently announced the 15th annual selection of Kansas Notable Books. The 15 books feature quality titles with wide public appeal, either written by a Kansan, set in Kansas or about a Kansas related topic.

The 2020 Kansas Notable Books include "Birds, Bones and Beetles: The Improbable Career and Remarkable Legacy of University of Kansas Naturalist Charles D. Bunker" by Charles H. Warner; Lawrence; "A Constellation of Roses" by Miranda Asebe-

do, Manhattan; "Crumbled! (The Misadventures of Nobbin Swill)" by Lisa Harkrader; Tonganoxie; "Follow Me Down to Nicodemus Town" by A. LaFaye, Glen Carbon, Ill.; "Headwinds: A Memoir" by Edna Bell-Pearson, Overland Park; "The Healer's Daughter: A Novel" by Charlotte Hinger, Hoxie; "How to Be a Family: The Year I Dragged My Kids Around the World to Find a New Way to Be Together" by Dan Kois, Arlington, Va.; "Journey to a Promised

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The Coffey County Republican

# Devotional Page

## Unity among a nation of Christians

Pastor David Cochran  
Penial Bible Church, Waverly



Pastor David Cochran

It's voting season again. I can almost smell the "Your Vote Matters" banners fresh off the printing press. As citizens of the U.S.A., it is a privilege to be able to take part in the installation of our national leaders. Even though I am just one person, I am part of an establishment that is made up of individuals like me, and we drive the future of our nation forward together.

This article is not about voting, or even the U.S.A. This article is about a completely different nation - the Church. Concerning Christians, 1 Peter 2:9 says, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light." The Apostle Peter makes it clear that we are not "just Christians." Corporately, we make up a new nation. We are the beginning of what the Bible calls the "new creation," where God is King, we are His people, and He is making all things perfect, even better than they were in the Garden of Eden.

I've been asked, and know other pastors who have been asked, "Why should I go to church? There are so many hypocrites there. Aren't we supposed to 'be' the church, not 'go' to church? Can't I be a good Christian, love God, read the Bible, pray, and do my best to obey Jesus without going to church?"

I understand where these questions come from. I know firsthand what it's like to "go to church" with some frustrating people. I know hypocrites. I have been one many times! I have spent much time "going to church" while trusting in my own individuality to get me by, giving little thought to the value of God's community. But I want to give you a bit of hope today that what God has made - His Church - is actually good, and will be good if you and I can reconsider what exactly God made. These are just a few

components of what God has made, but hopefully they can fill in some mental and spiritual gaps for us.

Man did not make the Church. God did. "Church" comes from the Greek word "ekklesia," which means "called out." God made the Church by distinguishing Christ-followers from Christ-rejectors. In fact, a couple verses after 1 Peter 2:9, Peter calls God's people "strangers and exiles" in society, because they've been called into God's very real kingdom. God's process creates a community of like-minded people who love, believe, worship and imitate Jesus.

Jesus's number one priority for His people is unity. This is clear when you read John 17, which is the longest recorded prayer of Jesus, entitled the "High Priestly Prayer." This is also Christ's last recorded prayer before His crucifixion and is all about the unity of His followers. In many other places, Christ and His apostles stress the importance that His followers, first and foremost, love one another. Christ's number one priority is extremely hard to follow when we neglect the assembly of His people. We can only love real people, not hypothetical ones. Do you want your spouse to love the actual you or a hypothetical version of you? Being part of His assembly just makes sense if we sincerely want to obey Christ's number one desire for His people.

God formed His church to operate like an actual body, particularly Christ's Body. We are the physical manifestation of Christ left here on earth. Therefore,

we are "Plan A" for Christ's glory and grace to spread around the world. The reason His glory and grace are not being manifest to the world as it should can be chalked up to the fact that His people are either not imitating His love within the Church, let alone without it. Ephesians 4:15-16 explains that love is the only way Christ's "body" (the church) can grow and flourish. They do this when every "part" (person) works together properly. This tells us two things. When we are part of an assembly, we have to recognize that we have a function there, and if we don't perform our function, or perform it without love, we incrementally starve, neuter, and immobilize ourselves and everyone else, making the Church useless. If you are a Christ-follower and are not part of an assembly, you deprive yourself and the church of the benefits God has in store for us and them. You also contribute to the uselessness of the Church. We cannot express reconciliation with God to the world if we cannot even reconcile with each other.

When the first church formed, the first work of the Holy Spirit among them was that they "considered all their things to be common." That is, they considered their livelihood to be at the disposal of the common good among the people of God. And it is a life like this that Jesus said would drive the church forward. John 13:35 says, "By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." "One another" means The Church. This is not a tribute to Marxism. Not even close. But it is a tribute to the love and unity that should, and CAN be shared among Christians. Let's pray and act in a way that seeks the Kingdom of God to be more apparent among us.

### From the Bible

For I know the plans I have for you; plans to prosper and not to harm you; plans to give you hope and a future.

— Jeremiah 29:11



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