



Pope Francis smiles as he arrives at the Santa Maria Ausiliatrice Basilica, in Turin, Italy, Sunday, June 21.

Pope says marital separation sometimes 'morally necessary'

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis addressed damaging dynamics within families Wednesday, saying sometimes the separation of a husband and wife may be "inevitable" or "even morally necessary" to protect the "weaker spouse or small children."

Francis said some troubled spouses are able to overcome their problems and revive their marriages. However, he said not all separated couples can do so.

"There are cases in which separation is inevitable. Sometimes it can become even morally necessary, precisely when it comes to subtracting the weaker spouse, or small children, from more serious injuries caused by arrogance and

violence, by humiliation and exploitation ... and by indifference," the pope said, at his weekly general audience.

Francis has been making a series of statements about family issues ahead of a much-anticipated October synod, or meeting, of bishops to address the topic. The bishops will take up many issues, including how the church can be more welcoming to divorced Catholics who remarry without going through the church process that declares their first marriage null.

"Let us ask the Lord for a strong faith to see with his eyes the reality of family life, and for a deep love to approach all families with his merciful heart," Francis said Wednesday.

Noah's big biblical boat being built as Kentucky attraction

By DYLAN LOVAN
Associated Press

WILLIAMSTOWN, Ky. — In a rolling Kentucky pasture, the first few wooden ribs of a giant Noah's ark tourist attraction have begun to sprout up.

For now, there's only a foundation, some concrete pillars and the ribs. But the Christian ministry building the ark says the public will be awe-struck by the size of the 510-foot-long ship when it's finished next year.

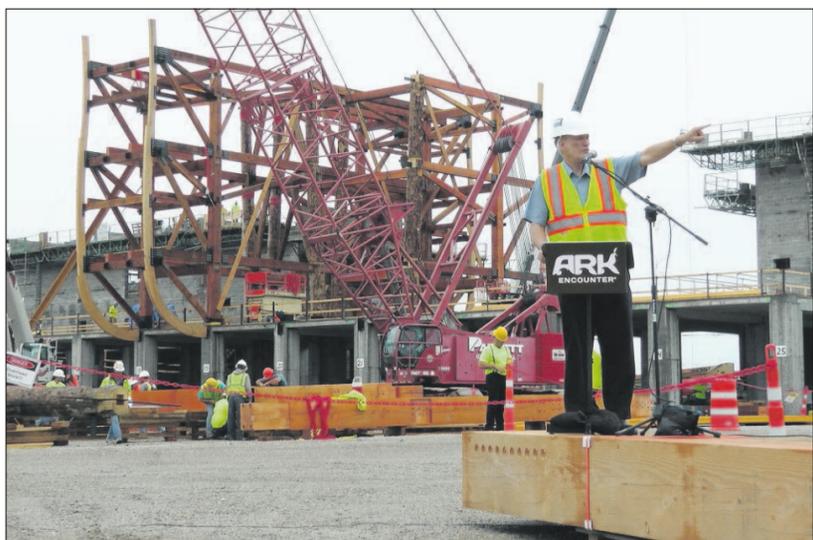
"This is going to be huge attraction just for the structure itself," said Ken Ham, founder of the Kentucky-based group, Answers in Genesis.

On Thursday, journalists were allowed to tour the site for the first time — following a hard rainfall, as it turned out.

The religious theme park project that was announced nearly five years ago is still afloat, after hitting a stretch of rough waters. The ministry had to break the project into phases after private funding stalled a few years ago due to a soft economy. The ark is the first phase, and plans for other attractions at the site were put on hold.

Answers in Genesis says it will pour nearly \$90 million of private donations and bond funding into the attraction, which will be called the Ark Encounter. So far, Ham said, about \$70 million has been raised.

The Christian group says it has researched the Noah story to determine the size of the boat. In the Bible



Ken Ham, founder of the Christian ministry Answers in Genesis, stands in front of a Noah's ark attraction being built in Williamstown, Ky., on Thursday. The wooden boat will be 510 feet long when it is finished and opens next year.

"When they come here and go through, we're not going to be forcing them to believe our message."

— Ken Ham, founder of Answers in Genesis

account, the ark was built by Noah to carry pairs of all the earth's animals as the world was destroyed by a flood.

"Most people don't really understand the size of the ark, and we're going to answer questions like, how could he fit all the animals on board," Ham said at the construction site Thursday.

Ham's ministry opened the Creation Museum in 2007 a few miles from here. It has drawn criticism from science educators for exhibits that challenge evolution and

promote a view that the earth is about 6,000 years old.

TV star and educator Bill Nye, who suggests the tourist-friendly ark could divert young people away from science, debated Ham on evolution at a widely-seen event at the Creation Museum last year.

The big boat project took another hit last year when the state of Kentucky withdrew a tourism sales tax incentive that would have meant about \$18 million for the attraction after it is up and running.

State officials said in December that tax incentives shouldn't be used to "fund religious indoctrination." Answers in Genesis disagreed and filed a federal lawsuit to get back into the incentive program, saying they should not be excluded because of their religious beliefs. The state has asked a judge to dismiss the suit, and a hearing is scheduled for next week.

"But we're not forcing people to come here, they come of their own free will," Ham said. "And when they come here and go through, we're not going to be forcing them to believe our message, we don't do that. They're going to have a great experience regardless of whether they agree with us or not."



Staff photo by Daniel Wattenburger

Off the set of 'Mad Max'

A 1937 Chevrolet Rat Rod decked out with barbed wire, steer horns and a skull hanging from the rearview mirror was a popular entry in the New Hope Father's Day Car Show on Sunday in Hermiston. The vehicle was entered by Robert Hill of Athena. Rick Sandford of Ione won best truck and best of show, Mark and Cheri Montee of Hermiston won best car, Brock McDonough of Hermiston won best motorcycle and Rick Denning of Echo won "At Least I Have Wheels."

All told, 45 vehicles were entered into the contest and \$700 was raised for the Made to Thrive youth outreach program.

BRIEFLY

Grace Baptist holds yard sale

PENDLETON — Grace Baptist Church is hosting a yard sale this weekend.

The event is Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 2809 S.W. Goodwin Ave., Pendleton. Free hot dogs and lemonade will be served from noon to 1 p.m.

Organizers invite the community to come out and browse and visit with church members.

For more information, contact 514-276-3031, gracebaptist12@juno.com or search Facebook for "Grace Baptist Church-Pendleton."

Classes offer Bible-based activities

PENDLETON — Kids can discover what it means to hold on to God's mighty power in everyday life during Peace Lutheran Church's Everest Vacation Bible School.

The free event starts Monday and runs through Thursday from 8:45 a.m. to noon each day at 210 N.W. Ninth St., Pendleton. The sessions are open to children from age 4 up to those who just completed the sixth grade.

The learning activities include singing songs, team building games, making yummy treats, participating in Bible adventures and science experiments.

For more information call 541-276-7592.

Nazarene church welcomes ministry team

HERMISTON — The music ministry and worship group from Northwest Nazarene University will minister at the Hermiston Church of the Nazarene.

Covenant provides an opportunity for summer ministry for students at the university.

The group will perform Sunday, July 12 at 10:30 a.m. at 1520 W. Orchard Ave., Hermiston. Everyone is welcome and there's no admission fee.

For more information, call 541-567-3677.

Hermiston church hosts Marcia Whitehead

HERMISTON — A New York transplant will present her ministry of song and testimony when she visits the Hermiston United Methodist Church.

Marcia Whitehead will lead the service Sunday, July 19 at 10:30 a.m. at the church, 191 E. Gladys Ave., Hermiston.

Everyone is welcome and there's no admission fee.

For more information about the presentation, contact Jackie Dunlap at jldunlap@charter.net or call the church at 541-567-3002. For more about Whitehead, visit www.marciawhiteheadusa.com.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Worship with us!

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| <p>Adams Community Church Duane Geyer, Pastor 140 N. Main, Adams, OR 566-9457 Worship 9 am</p> | <p>GRACE AND MERCY LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA OPEN HEARTS - OPEN DOOR www.graceandmercy.lutheran.org Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (Nursery Provided) Fellowship, Refreshments & Sunday School Check Out our Facebook Page or Website for More Information 541-289-4535 Tom Inch, Pastor Grace and Mercy Lutheran Church, ELCA 164 E. Main St. / P.O. Box 1108 Hermiston, Oregon 97838</p> | <p>St. Johns Episcopal Church All People Are Welcome Scripture, Tradition and Reason Family service 9am Sunday Gladys Ave & 7th Hermiston Fr. Dan Lediard, Priest. PH: 567-6672</p> | <p>Redeemer Episcopal Church 241 SE Second St. Pendleton (541)276-3809 www.pendletonepiscopal.org Sunday Morning Worship 9:00 a.m. Wednesday Worship Noon Wednesday Evening Prayer and Pot Luck 6:00 p.m. All Are Welcome</p> | |
| <p>Grace Baptist Church 555 SW 11th, Hermiston 567-9497 Nursery provided for all services Sunday School - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM 6:00 pm Wed Prayer & Worship - 7:00 PM "Proclaiming God's word, growing in God's grace"</p> | <p>PENDLETON FIRST CHURCH OF GOD FIRST SERVICE 8:30 AM SECOND SERVICE 10:30 AM 712 SW 27th ST. 541-276-1894 www.fcogpendleton.com</p> | <p>FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH -Presbyterian Church (USA)- 201 SW Dorion Ave. Pendleton Service of Worship - 10:00 am Children's Sunday School - 10:20 am Fellowship - 11:00 am www.pendletonpresbyterian.com Open Hearted...Open Minded</p> | <p>Come meet Jesus at PENDLETON BAPTIST CHURCH 3202 S.W. Nye Avenue, Pendleton, OR 541-276-7590 Sunday Morning Worship 8:30 & 11:00 AM Sunday Bible Classes 9:45 AM Sunday Youth Group 6:00 PM Awana Kids Club Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM K - 6th Grade (Sept-May)</p> | |
| <p>FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH in Mission for Christ LCMC Bible Study.....9:00 AM Sunday Worship.....10:30 AM Red Lion Hotel (Oregon Trail Room) www.faithpendleton.org</p> | <p>Living Word Christian Center Sunday Worship Service 10:00 AM Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 PM Sharon Miller, Pastor 401 Northgate • Pendleton 278-8082 www.livingwordccc.com</p> | <p>The Salvation Army Center for Worship & Service Sunday Worship Service 9:30 - Sunday School 10:30 - Worship Service Wednesday Bible Study 5:30 Family Fellowship Meal 6:00 Bible Study COME AS YOU ARE 150 SE EMIGRANT (541)276-3369</p> | <p>Peace Lutheran Church 210 NW 9th, Pendleton ELCA Join us Sundays 9:30 am Sunday Worship 10:30 am Fellowship 11:00 am Sunday School & Adult Class ~Come and be at Peace~ on 1290 KUMA noon each Sunday</p> | |
| <p>Community Presbyterian Church 14 Martin Drive, Umatilla, OR 922-3250 Worship: 10 AM Sunday School at 11:30</p> | <p>Faith Center Church Worshipping God • Loving People 108 S. Main • 276-9569 Summer Sunday Worship 10:00 am Wed. 7:00 pm Praise, Prophecy & Prayer Sr. Pastor, Ray O'Grady pendletonfaithcenter.org</p> | <p>FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) 215 N Main • Pendleton Summer Worship begins at 9:40am Office 276-5358 M-F 8:30-12:30 WWW.FCCPENDLETON.ORG</p> | <p>New Hope Community Church Ministries for the entire family 1350 S Hwy 395, Hermiston Sunday Worship Services: 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Classes for kids during both! Call 567-8441 Servicios en Español</p> | |
| <p>a place to belong Pendleton First INVITING ENRICHING INVOLVING EMPOWERING SUNDAY SERVICES AM Celebration-10:00am AM Kids Place -10:00am The Connection--6:00pm Groups for all ages: Adults, Children, Youth, & College Thursdays Celebrate Recovery-6:00pm Celebration Place-6:00pm Other Groups Available Weekly For more info visit WWW.PENDLETONFIRST.COM 1911 SE Court Ave 541-276-6417 Assembly of God Church</p> | <p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church Saturday Services Pendleton 1401 SW Goodwin Place 276-0882 Sabbath School 9:20 am Worship Service 10:45 am</p> | <p>First United Methodist Church 352 SE 2nd St., Pendleton, OR Office 276-2616 New Pastor Dr. Jim Pierce Worship Service 9:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM Broadcast KUMA 11:00 AM Childcare Available Choir practice Sundays 8:30 AM</p> | <p>PILOT ROCK BAPTIST CHURCH 585 SW Birch, Pilot Rock, OR 97868 (541) 443-2500 prbconline.blogspot.com Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship Service: 10:45 am Wednesday Services: Kids' Club: 6:00 pm Youth Group: 7:00 pm</p> | |
| <p>BAHA'I FAITH "The Unity of All Mankind" Pendleton Baha'i Center at 1015 SE Court Place Devotions Sundays @ 11:00am; Everyone invited! (541) 276-9360 visit us at www.pendletonbahais.org</p> | | | | <p>To share your worship times call Amanda Jacobs 541-278-2683</p> |