

faith focus

Former Web Site URL

<http://www.kxtx.com/faith.html>

Positioning Statement

Exploring the impact of spirituality and the diversity of religions in North Texas.

[Dallas/Ft. Worth]— *Faith Focus*, produced in partnership with Thanksgiving Square, is a weekly, televised forum for the faith communities of North Texas. *Faith Focus* airs on Sunday mornings at 6:00 a.m. on KXTX-TV 39. An encore presentation of each program will air at 6:30 p.m. the following Saturday on KDTN-TV 2.

1999-2000 SEASON PROGRAMMING

Air Dates - Sunday, 09/03 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 09/09 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Dr. Arun Gandhi #817 – Join us for a special conversation with Dr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi, who has dedicated his life to promoting nonviolence.
(1999-2000 Season Finale)

Air Dates - Sunday, 08/27 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 09/02 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Bible Translators #816 – Learn about a North Texas linguistics school that prepares graduate students for the demanding work of Bible translation.

Air Dates - Sunday, 08/20 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 08/26 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Hindu Faith #815 – Some 20,000 North Texans call themselves Hindu. Discover what it means to live life as a devout Hindu.

Air Dates - Sunday, 08/13 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 08/19 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Evangelism #814 – Is evangelism appropriate in our multicultural and multifaith society? An interfaith panel tackles the question.

Air Dates - Sunday, 08/06 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 08/12 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Movie Reviews #813 – A full-time Presbyterian minister who is also a part-time movie critic looks at the spiritual side of the movies.

Air Dates - Sunday, 07/30 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 08/05 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Sikh Tradition #812 – Learn about the Sikh tradition – the fifth largest religion in the world – and a growing community in North Texas.

Air Dates - Sunday, 07/23 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 07/29 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Friday NITE Friends #811 – Discover a local church that is offering a unique ministry of respite care for families of children with special-needs.

Air Dates - Sunday, 07/16 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 07/22 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) DISD's Religious Task Force #810 – DISD responds to the growing religious diversity of the student population with the help of the Religious Community Task Force.

Air Dates - Sunday, 07/09 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 07/15 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Baptist Family Resolution #809 – A thoughtful look at the “Family Resolution” adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention urging wives to submit to their husband based on Biblical authority.

Air Dates - Sunday, 07/02 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 01/08 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Medical Ethics #808 – A medical ethicist challenges the faith community to confront the profound questions of death and dying.

Air Dates - Sunday, 06/25 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 07/01 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Faith Through Art #807 - Meet Christian artists Bill Wallace and John Collier as we take a look at some of their inspiring artwork and discuss the role of religious imagery in the art world.

Air Dates - Sunday, 06/18 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 06/24 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Love Clinics #806 - Advice on love and dating from the Love Clinic's founder Dr. Sheron Patterson.

Air Dates - Sunday, 06/11 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 06/17 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Czech Covenant #805 - Bishop William Oden and a group of North Texas Methodists are creating a covenant of faith with Methodists in the Czech Republic.

Air Dates - Sunday, 06/04 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 06/10 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Preventing Child Abuse #804 - A local coalition partners with faith communities to train leaders and volunteers to recognize and protect against the threat of child abuse.

Air Dates - Sunday, 05/28 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 06/03 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Spirit of the Rainforest #803 – Yanomamo tribesman of the Venezuelan rainforest shares his controversial story of conversion to the Christian faith.

Air Dates - Sunday, 05/21 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 05/27 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) The Baha'i Faith #802 - Part of an occasional series focusing on different faith groups from the Dallas-Fort Worth religious landscape.

Air Dates - Sunday, 05/14 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 05/20 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Dealing with Anger #801- A multi-faith panel tackles tough questions such as, “Are we becoming angrier as a society?”

Air Dates - Sunday, 05/07 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 05/13 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Coping with Violence #800 - With senseless killings and other violence dominating the news, how do we cope with our own fears and grief? Join us for a multi-faith perspective.

Air Dates - Sunday, 04/30 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 05/06 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Blood Drives #799 – A look at the critical shortage of blood donations in North Texas and how the faith community can help.

Air Dates - Sunday, 04/23 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 04/29 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Millennium Meeting #798 – A recent Town Hall Meeting explored the significance of Christianity’s 2000th anniversary. Ecumenical panelists share some of the highlights.

Air Dates - Sunday, 04/16 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 04/22 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Family Pathfinders #797 - Family Pathfinders matches families leaving the welfare rolls with mentoring teams of volunteers from faith groups.

Air Dates - Sunday, 04/09 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 04/15 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Gratitude #796 – Join us as we explore the meaning of thanksgiving, with Elizabeth Espersen of Thanks-Giving Square.

Air Dates - Sunday, 04/02 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 04/08 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Exploring the Labyrinth #795 – Learn about an ancient form of devotion that has thousands of North Texans visiting the Labyrinth at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Dallas.

Air Dates - Sunday, 03/26 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 04/01 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Mission to Israel #794 - Local civic leaders travel to Israel in an effort to build bridges of interfaith understanding.

Air Dates - Sunday, 03/19 (Ch. 39 at 6 a.m.) & Saturday, 03/25 (Ch. 2 at 6:30 p.m.)
(R) Muslim Women #793 – The traditions and choices of Muslim women are often baffling to outsiders. Meet four local women who challenge the stereotypes and say they’ve found joy and freedom in the teachings of Islam.

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(R) Religious Diversity #792 – We are currently witnessing unprecedented change in the religious makeup of our communities. A look at living together respectfully. (1999-2000 Season Premier)

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See You At the Pole – In the wake of the tragic shooting at Wedgwood Baptist Church, Faith Focus updates and airs an encore presentation from last season featuring See You at the Pole director Billy Beachum and one of the student leaders of the movement.

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1998-1999 PROGRAMMING

Air Dates - 02/28, 03/06, 08/29, 09/04/99

Multifaith Exploration & Exchange #791 – (1998-99 Season Finale) Since 1993, the Multifaith Exploration and Exchange (MEE) has brought together people of diverse faiths in a spirit of sharing. Sponsored by Thanksgiving Square in downtown Dallas, the program has quietly and patiently created bridges of mutual respect among Christians, Muslims, Jews, Hindus, Buddhists, and more. Four members share the benefits of understanding the faith of others.

Air Dates - 02/21, 02/27, 08/22, 08/28/99

Laity Empowerment #790 – Whether it's Jewish Torah study, challenging classes in New Testament Greek, or in-depth analysis of the Koran -- there seems to be a hunger out there to learn more about our spiritual traditions and the rich fountain of history and wisdom that each has to offer. Meet representatives of four major faiths that are working to fulfill this need and to empower the laity.

Air Dates - 02/14, 02/20, 08/15, 08/21/99

The Bible's Role #789 - Many believe the Bible is the literal word of God. At the other end of the spectrum, many others view the "Good Book" as simply an historical document, one that's influenced our culture but doesn't speak to the problems of modern society. Two local Bible scholars will share their perspectives on the role of the Bible in today's culture.

Air Dates - 02/07, 02/13, 08/08, 08/14/99

Mental Illness #788 - Mental illness affects an estimated one in four families – yet, unlike physical forms of disease, it is often misunderstood and even stigmatized within the faith community. Whether the problem ranges from a mild form of depression to a severe psychosis, mental illness can challenge one's spiritual beliefs, but also rally one's spiritual resources. Our guests say that one can find God, and comfort, amidst the pain of mental illness.

Air Dates - 01/31, 02/06, 08/01, 08/07/99

Sabbath #787 - "Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy." That's one of the Ten Commandments, but it seems as if the Sabbath is all but forgotten in today's society. It's rare to hear a pastor admonishing the congregation to keep the Sabbath – and many argue it's simply not realistic in today's hurried society. But our guests say they've reaped rich rewards by observing the Sabbath.

Air Dates - 01/24, 01/30, 07/25, 07/31/99

Problem Pregnancy #786 - Whether struggling with poverty, family or health issues, whether considering abortion or adoption, many pregnant women need real help and counsel from the faith community rather than rhetoric. Our guests are dedicated to extending that kind of concrete assistance.

Air Dates - 01/17, 01/23, 07/18, 07/ 24/99

Body & Soul #785 – New evidence confirms that we can't separate the body from the mind and soul because we are spiritual as well as physical beings. Guests share practical ideas for putting this body and soul link to work for you along with tips for developing a fitness plan that builds the "spiritual muscles" as well the bodily ones.

Air Dates - 01/10, 01/16, 07/ 11, 07/17/99

Cancer: A Spiritual Journey #784 – A diagnosis of cancer often leads individuals to confront the "big questions" of faith and to discover what's most important in life. For some, faith becomes a source of great strength and comfort, while others may ask, "Why me?" Host Mary Jacobs, a cancer survivor, talks with two other survivors about the spiritual journey of cancer.

Air Dates - 01/03, 01/09, 07/04, 07/10/99

Commentary & Satire #783 - Religious commentary has always been with us, but what about when it takes the form of satire? Are some subjects too sacred to poke fun at? Ole Anthony of *The Door* and Chris Tucker of KERA will look at religious commentary and satire.

Air Dates - 12/27/98, 01/02, 06/27, 07/03/99

Urban/Suburban Connections #782 - Are suburban congregations obligated to step in and help tackle the problems of the inner city? Meet four people who say the problems of the inner city -- drugs, crime, gangs and poverty -- affect all of our communities.

Air Dates - 12/20, 12/26/98, 06/20, 06/26/99

Dallas Area Interfaith #781 – Some say religion and politics don't mix, but not Dallas Area Interfaith. Members argue that their faith compels them to get involved and to engage others in the democratic process in the city of Dallas. The coalition of 60 churches and congregations is pursuing a broad agenda for improved schools, housing, and city services – and sometimes meeting with controversy.

Air Dates - 12/13, 12/19/98, 06/13, 06/19/99

Irie Session Gusters #780 – Sexual abuse is a subject many people would rather not talk about – that's true within churches and other faith communities just as it in our society in general. But silence and secrecy allow sexual abuse to happen. Irie Session Gusters, who was sexually abused as a child, chose to “tell the secret” and now works within the African-American faith community to offer hope and help to survivors of sexual abuse as well as families coping with HIV and AIDS. She shares her journey of faith and service.

Air Dates - 12/6, 12/12/98, 06/06, 06/12/99

Forgiveness #779 – “To forgive is divine” – that's a lesson taught by most of the world's great religious traditions. But in both private and public life we often find that “forgiveness” is not easy to give -- or to receive. Father Gale White teaches seminars on the topic and explains why forgiveness has little to do with the recipient and everything to do with the spiritual well-being of the one who forgives.

Air Dates - 11/29, 12/5/98, 05/30, 06/05/99

Simplicity #778 – Call it “downshifting” or “cashing out” or simply living a less complicated life. It's a choice that more Americans are making as a way to cut out stress and carve out more time for friends and family. Others make the choice for spiritual reasons. Three guests – a Quaker and two Mennonites – will share how living simply relates to their faith and their concern for the poor and the environment.

Air Dates - 11/22, 11/28/98, 05/23, 05/29/99

Homosexual Ministries #777 - As many denominations struggle with controversies such as ordaining gay and lesbian clergy, blessing same sex marriages -- some congregations say that their interpretation of the Scriptures calls for compassion and acceptance above all else. Meet clergy from three North Texas churches that are actively seeking opportunities to minister to the spiritual needs of the homosexual community.

11/15, 11/21/98, 05/16, 05/22/99 Are All Religions One? #776 - Are the teachings of the world's major religions essentially the same? Can we view other faith traditions as valid without compromising our own beliefs? Those questions have become more immediate as the North Texas community becomes more religiously diverse. Meet our guests who have examined this question in depth – one from a scholarly viewpoint and the other from a more personal perspective of faith.

11/08, 11/14/98, 05/09, 05/15/99 See You at the Pole #775 – “See You at the Pole” is an annual event that started in 1990 right here in North Texas. It has led millions of high school students in 28 countries around the world in prayer. It's become so popular that it

has even inspired a series of fiction books aimed at teens. Meet the program's director, Billy Beacham and one of the teen activists involved in "See You at the Pole."

Air Dates - 11/01, 11/07/98, 05/02, 05/08/99

Feminine Divine #774 – Is God a "He," a "She," or neither male nor female? A growing movement says it's time to look at the feminine side of God. They believe that a feminine divine empowers women and brings a nurturing emphasis that patriarchal traditions ignore. We'll hear how conventional religions are making room for the feminine side of God – and we'll meet two practitioners of alternative traditions that employ ancient images of the Goddess and Mother Earth.

Air Dates - 10/25, 10/31/98, 04/25, 05/01/99

Organ Donors #773 – Why am I here? What is life about? What does God want from me? These questions of faith are ones that organ recipients face everyday. Donor survivors must also face their doubts. Will my loved one need their body in Heaven? Will I dishonor their body by choosing organ donation? Share their stories and find out how local faith community leaders are reaching out to their congregations to increase understanding of organ donation.

Air Dates - 10/18, 10/24/98, 04/18, 04/24/99

Justice Ministries #772 - Meet four guests who say faith is the "forgotten factor" in addressing the problem of crime and they are working to put religious commitment into the lives of offenders, their families and the victims of their crimes. Learn more about Restorative Justice Ministries Network, Gov. Bush' faith initiatives and putting offenders to work.

Air Dates - 10/11, 10/17/98, 04/11, 04/17/99

Sacred Earth #771 – Are we meant to be the masters – or the stewards – of the natural world? Does God call us to care for creation? Many faith groups are saying "yes," with challenges to their members for awareness and action to help protect our natural environment. But some worry that environmentalism means putting the "creation" before the "Creator." We'll revisit the debate – and look at the issue from another, very different perspective – that of the Earth-centered spiritualities.

Air Dates - 10/4, 10/09/98, 04/04, 04/10/99

Dismantling Racism I #770 - Is the faith community doing enough to fight racism? Do our institutions and culture – even our churches – still serve to keep us apart? Are there ways that we all perpetuate racism unknowingly? Join us as we talk with three people who say "yes," racism persists in our community – but we can change it. They have set a goal of no less than "dismantling racism," starting right here with the faith community of North Texas.

Air Dates 09/27, 10/03/98, 03/28, 04/03/99

Marriage Savers #769 - An interdenominational group of North Texas churches have joined together to create a Marriage Covenant based on the national Marriage Savers program. Not only do these churches require premarital counseling and offer marriage

enrichment courses, they have banded together to combat “church shopping” by engaged couples. Meet some of the local leaders of this covenant program and find out how it’s influencing our local divorce rate.

Air Dates - 09/20, 27/98, 03/21, 03/27/99

Secular Media #768 - The *Ft. Worth Star Telegram*’s religion editor Jim Jones and *The Dallas Morning News*’ religion reporter Deborah Caldwell will discuss the demands and challenges of religious coverage by the secular media along with our host and freelance religion journalist Mary Jacobs. Get a “behind the scenes” perspective on some of the most notable events in recent religion news.

Air Dates - 09/13, 09/19/98, 03/14, 03/20/99

Genetics II #767 - The many ethical and religious questions posed by genetics are no longer theoretical. As rapidly emerging knowledge of genetics moves out of the laboratory and into people’s daily lives -- individuals and the clergy who care for them – are finding the answers increasingly complex. Meet guests whose lives have been forever altered due to genetic testing and examine the pastoral side of coping with genetic concerns and loss.

Air Dates - 09/6, 09/12/98, 03/07, 03/13/99

Genetics I #766 - A recent genetics conference entitled “Faith in Medicine - Where is God in Genes?” will be the starting point of our discussion. Conference speakers, practicing geneticists, genetics counselors, and guests whose lives have been forever altered due to genetic testing, will be discussing some of the more significant genetics’ issues facing faith organizations today.