



# WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Kathy Aeillo, Pastor — Almaena, Clayton and Norcatour United Methodist Churches

In the 8th chapter of the book of Nehemiah we read of the Israelites, returned from their exile in Babylon, standing for hours in the city square to hear God's Word read to them. As they listen, they raise their hands and say, "Amen, Amen." and they weep with joy to hear the Word of God and to have it explained to them so they can understand it.

These same people, in some cases their parents or grandparents, had been sent into exile because they broke God's Law. They were such hypocrites, going to the temple, praying and making sacrifices so every one could see them, then cheating the poor and living lives filled with sin.

You've heard the old adage, "absence makes the heart grow fonder. Seventy years of exile must have been enough to make the Israelites realize what they'd been missing, to make them understand God had given them His Law because they were chosen.

Sometimes I wonder if we have become like the ancient Israelites. I wonder if we realize how special it is to have God's Word available to us or if we take access to the Bible, and to worship, for granted. If you listen to a member of the Gideons talk about the hunger they witness for God's Word throughout the world, the eagerness with which it is received, maybe you'd think about how blessed we are to have access to it in our homes and churches.

There are all sorts of

tools we can use to help us understand what we read. The Bible has been published in many different translations, some old and familiar, some newer and much easier to understand, in more modern language. There are Bible dictionaries and Bible commentaries and concordances and Bible maps, all things to help us take in what God wants us to learn.

Not all Christian denominations utilize the Bible in the same way. Over the thousands of years of oral tradition and written words some feel it is possible that people may have made changes. The one thing we know has remained constant in all of time is God, God's Law and God's Truth.

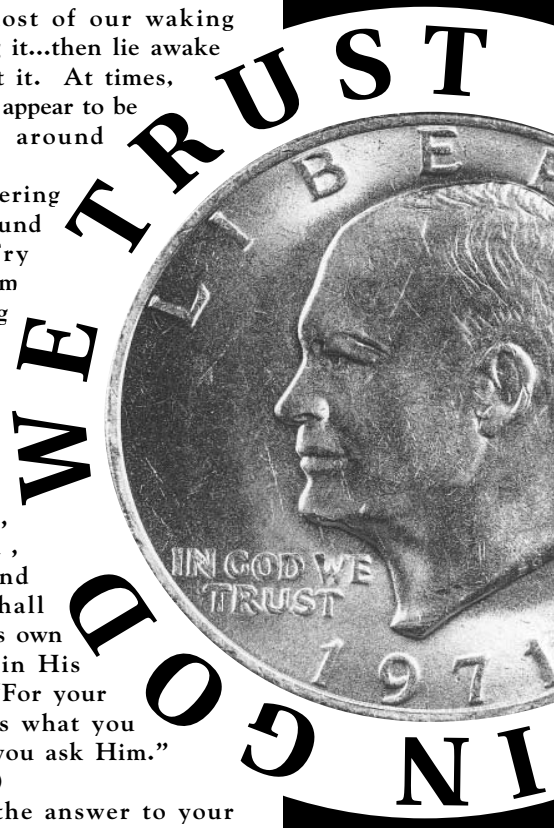
The people of ancient Israel wept to hear God's Word — they'd been without it for far too long. I have found peace, found questions, found answers, and have wept while reading the Bible. I remember having tears come to my eyes one night as I read Romans 5:8 — read that God loved me so much that He sent His Son to die for me while I was still a sinner. It was like a light bulb going on, or maybe like a light in the darkness. Suddenly I "got it", I understand that nothing equals, or even compares to the love of God for ALL of God's children. That's the impact God's Word can have on people.

Like every other book, the Bible is full of words. But, in all the world, there are no more wonderful words than those in the Bible.

**MONEY!!** When we have it, how shall we spend it? When we lack for it, how shall we accumulate it? We spend most of our waking hours earning it...then lie awake fretting about it. At times, our very lives appear to be centered around money.

Try centering your life around God. Try praying to Him concerning your needs. When those prayers are joined with your God-given intelligence, strength, patience, and faith, He shall provide in His own manner and in His own time... "For your Father knows what you need before you ask Him." (Matthew 6:8)

In fact, the answer to your needs is printed on all legal tender...bills and coins alike. It reads... "In God We Trust."



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Luke 10:25-37	Galatians 5:1-15	Leviticus 19:1-18	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Deuteronomy 30:1-10	Deuteronomy 30:11-20	Joshua 22:1-9

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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# PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

The Sunshine City Library Board met Jan. 26 and learned from the audit that the books were in order. Members discussed: placing an outside drop box for patrons convenience; the summer reading workshop; librarian training; approved the 2004 budget; and the donation of a scrapbook from Darline Brown.

Jan. 29, Harlan Van De Wege and Vivian Jansonius accompanied by Anita De Boer of Phillipsburg went to Hays. Mrs. Jansonius attended the High Plains Mental Health meeting where she was awarded a certificate for attending the meetings for 35 years.

They also visited Kambri Jade Bogart, Mrs. De Boer's granddaughter and Mrs. Jansonius' great-granddaughter. Kambri Jade was born Dec. 27.

Joining the group for supper were Jerol and Jennifer DeBoer, Kelsee and Taylor, Mark and Lisa Grieve and Megan, Lori Bogart, Kali and Alex.

Vivian Jansonius is taking orders for bouquets of daffodils for a donation of \$5 per bouquet. The money raised will be given to the American Cancer Society. To order a bouquet call 1-785-973-2795.

Feb. 5, Rev. Jeffrey and Linda Van Der Weele and Philip went to Orange City, Iowa, to visit their daughter and sister, Priscilla, who attends college there.

Sam and Donna Stuteville left Jan. 31 for eastern Kansas to visit his mother Margaret Stuteville in Stilwell and friends, Larry and Joy Feris of Gardener and other friends and family. The Stutevilles returned home Feb. 6.

Since Gleaner's didn't have their regular meeting due to the

snow and cold, they rescheduled and met Feb. 12.

John Kats went to Luray on Sunday to visit his daughter, Rhonda and Rudy Haberer and their family.

Norman and Rose Erickson of Phillipsburg and Rodney Jansonius visited Sunday afternoon at the home of Hazel Jansonius.

Jeff and Nicki Nesvara of North Platte, Neb., spent the weekend at the home of her parents, Bill and Diane Greving. They also visited her sister, Amy and Todd Slavik in Long Island; her brother, Colby and Cher Greving, Caley, Christen, Colton and Camryn.

Paul Winchell of Orange City, Iowa, was a recent visitor at the homes of John Kats and Dick and Ann Jansonius.

The Gleaner's Circle of the Prairie View Reformed Church met last Thursday. Chairperson, Darline Brown, conducted the meeting and read, "Trust and Believe". Devotions were given by Hazel Jansonius and the Bible study, "Promise and Hope", was presented by Goldie Barker. Eight members were in attendance. A letter from Lavonne Ponstein was read and Vivian Jansonius served lunch. Others attending were Wauneta Schemper of Long Island, Linda Van Der Weele, Julianna Lasniewski and Linda Hultgren of Prairie View. The March meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m., March 4 at the Prairie View City Library. The program will be about Kid-Link.

Burdett and Belva Leydig went to Kearney on Saturday to visit at the homes of their family, Gene and Tammy Tillotson, Sydney and Colin and Mike and Lisa Leydig, Courtney and Megan.

# LYLE NEWS

By HELEN HELM

The community was very saddened Thursday to learn of the death of Van Cozad. He had been a resident of the Beaver Valley Nursing Home for some time and was steadily losing his health. He and his wife, Irene, were long-time members of the Lyle Community until they moved to Beaver City, Neb., to be near their daughters, Ruth Vise and Karla Clason. Irene had preceded him in death in 2001. They were a special couple, always ready to lend a helping hand, and their love for each other was an inspiration to all. They made the world a better place to live. Van's funeral services were held Saturday in Beaver City with burial at Lyle beside his wife, Irene.

Things are getting back to normal after the snow storm and the bitter cold weather. Church services were held Sunday at Lyle and the United Methodist Women met Tuesday at the Community Building to continue their mission project. Those present were Veda Wood, Joyce Sumner, Margaret Magers, Kathy Van Meter and June Jolly.

On Monday Mrs. Magers, Mrs. Van Meter and June Jolly joined Bob Streyer at the County Line Cafe in Norcatour for cards. Mrs. Magers and Mrs. Van Meter then treated Mrs. Jolly to dinner to observe her birthday.

Although Van Cozad had been taken to the Holdrege Hospital Tuesday evening, Mrs. Magers, Mrs. Jolly, and Mrs. Van Meter attended the ham and bean supper at the Beaver City Senior Center and stayed for cards later.

Mrs. Carolyn Plotts had decorated the Community Building at Lyle with the Valentine theme for the Liberty Star Club meeting Wednesday afternoon. A Valentine exchange was held for their mystery sisters. Mrs. Magers led them in a word game for activity and Teresa Reves had a program on diets. Others there were Kathy Anthony, who is a new member, Veda Wood and Mrs. Van Meter.

On Thursday morning Mrs.

Magers, Mrs. Van Meter and Mrs. June Jolly attended the pancake breakfast at Norton sponsored by Norton businesses. Cris Cakes, who is noted for his pancakes and entertainment, was in charge. They report a fun morning.

Veda Wood had two callers this week. Dwight Wood came Tuesday and didn't find her home as she was sewing at the Community Building and Teresa Reves came Wednesday evening and repaired a door knob Mrs. Wood had been having trouble with.

After getting a ride to the farm with Deb Helm Friday evening, Ceanne Rinehart spent Saturday morning doing some chores for her mother with the help of Matthew and Timothy Helm. Their dad came after them after dinner and Helen and Ceanne went to a baby shower for Maria and Derek Downer at Bartley. Kathy Brashears met them there. Martin Rinehart and John Helm joined them for Mass at St. Catherine's in Indianola, Neb. All went out for supper in McCook to remind Kathy of her upcoming birthday.

The Helms and Rineharts visited Van Cozad Sunday morning at the Nursing home in Beaver City.

John and Helen Helm took their grandson, Aaron Helm, to the dentist in Norton Monday morning and took him to school in Oberlin later. Enroute to Norton they saw a "sun-dog" which inspired a spirited conversation. The Helms visited Marguerite Fullerton at Good Samaritan Nursing home before returning home. They got to say "Hello" to several special friends; Ivah Alexander, Elva Shaunessey and Fern Anderson.

John Henry Rinehart, Colby, had Monday evening supper with his grandparents and took them to Lebanon for the American Legion meeting that evening. He returned home Tuesday morning.

Veda Wood was a guest of Kathy Van Meter Thursday evening for a Valentine dance sponsored by the First Security Bank of Holbrook for their Gold Club.

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