

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"THERE IS HOPE"

By Terry Laughlin, Living Word

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."

There are many in this world who live a life that would leave a black mark on tar paper. Some have lived that type of lifestyle so long that they feel there is no hope for change. Even if they could change they are convinced it wouldn't make any difference.

However, as we examine God's Word there is encouragement. When a sinner lays his sins at the foot of the cross with a repentant heart, he will discover that his life is not futile and his failures are not fatal.

Having Jesus Christ as a personal Savior and Lord puts "born again" Christians under His atoning blood. Their sins are never remembered against them again. They have a fresh clean start.

God has a way of taking the years of past experiences, both bad and good, and using them to help Christians fulfill the calling God has placed before them.

I have seen people who have developed their God-given talents and abilities to serve their own self-interests and then after receiving Jesus Christ, use those gifts to serve God. Therefore God making the proceeding years useful.

In light of being bought by His blood, our failures are not fatal. The Bible says the wages of sin is death. Death without salvation (found only through Jesus Christ) is eternal separation from God. With confessed sin laying at the foot of the cross, the sinner moves from a state of eternal death to eternal life; therefore, their failures are not fatal.

Before conversion, sin-

ners' hard hearts and sinful life styles keep them from having fellowship with God. Responding to God's call to repentance and accepting Jesus as Savior and Lord restores man's relationship with God.

The Bible warns Christians if they should 'fall away' they are "Crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting Him to public disgrace." The same Bible says to conduct ourselves "in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ."

It would be good for Christians to remember the Via Dolorosa, the traditional route that our Lord walked from Jerusalem to Mount

Calvary on the day of His crucifixion. A condemned criminal in Jesus' day was forced to carry the crossbar of his own cross to the place of execution. It was a one-way journey, no turning back! Christians sing a song entitled "I Have Decided To Follow Jesus." In this song is a verse that says "The cross before me and the world behind me." Jesus said if anyone wants to be His disciple, he must take up his cross and follow Him daily. That means Christians do not set their desires and wills against the claims Christ has on their lives. Christians need to be reminded of what Jesus did for them. They should look forward with great anticipation of someday running into the arms of Jesus, which have nailed scarred hands, and touching the body that bears the marks for their sins.

There is hope for the hopeless, because Jesus died on the cross, then three days later rose from the dead, making the lives of those who trust in Him as Savior and Lord, not futile nor are their failures fatal.

Expecting the Glow

"Are our instruments functioning correctly? I thought we would be closer to shore by now, so that darkness would not overtake us. Certainly we shall see the glow from the lighthouse. I know it's out there..."

The lighthouse, always a symbol of hope and stability, waits to guide the voyager traveling an unpredictable sea. Only our Creator knows our fate and only He can bring us the hope and the joy we need to traverse the future. We read in James 1:17... "Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change."

Do you have faith in God's protection? The positive thinker and minister, Norman Vincent Peale, said, "At least ten times every day affirm, 'I expect the best and with God's help will attain the best.'... This practice will bring all of your powers to focus on the attainment of the best. It will bring the best to you."

Visit God's House this Sabbath and expect to find the glow within.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Psalm 23	Psalm 32	Psalm 36	Psalm 103	Acts 1:1-11	Acts 1:12-26	Jeremiah 30:1-11

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWS-LETTER VOLUNTEERS

Three Prairie Family and Community Education unit met on May 13. Vice President Lula Hix presided at the meeting held in the Norcatour Educational building. Present were Norma McCallister, Marguerite Clark, Helen McVay, Betty Reid, Maxine Brooks and Lula Hix. Roll call was answered with something about asthma. Members then took a quiz and an evaluation on asthma. The evaluation will be sent to the extension office. The club received a thank you from the Veteran's Administration in Topeka for the Valentines and monetary gift. Helen McVay served lunch and Betty Reid won the hostess gift.

Family gathered at Esther Miller's on May 16, to help celebrate her birthday. Esther's 94th birthday was May 18. Those present were: Gary and Annette Miller, Merle Shirley, Dennis and Judy Shirley, all of Oberlin; Mike and Jan Miller, Prairie Village; Stan, Carol, Justine and Joel Miller, Patrick Shirley, Norcatour; Curt and Melissa DeDonder, Rossville; Steve and Sammy Miller, Hays; Julie Olson and Doris Naab, Liberal; Casey Tuttle, Quinter; Bev Morris and Casey Morris, Hoxie, and Chad and Aimee Applebury and Eli, Colby. Stan barbecued hamburgers and Annette and Carol served cake and ice cream.

Overnight visitors of Esther Miller's were Mike and Jan Miller of Prairie Village.

R.D. Thornton was admitted May 20 to the Oberlin hospital with pneumonia.

The Decatur Community High School journalism department will be accepting used cell phones, toner cartridges and printer cartridges all summer. These may be dropped off at the Norcatour city office.

Gail, Denise and Lucas Bailey and Arlene Hix attended the graduation for Mark Bailey at the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland. Mark received his associate degree in Electrical Technology. Mark is the son of Gail and Denise Bailey and grandson of Francis and Arlene Hix. Congratulations, Mark!

Keith and Linda Jurey, Albuquerque, N.M., were guests of Virgil and Joyce Price the weekend of May 22. They were visiting their sons and family in Kennard last week and planned to return to Norcatour for Memorial services.

Good luck to the Oberlin boys and girls track teams, who participated in the state meet in Wichita this last weekend. The Oberlin high school track teams both finished second at regionals. Kaitlyn Stapp was a member of the 4x100 team.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Lorretta Carter - May 25; Larry and Jodi Lyon - May 26; Jodi Lyon, May 27; Laverne Milner, Ron and Renee Harman - May 29; Jamie Wentz - May 30; Tad and Rebecca Hartsough - May 31.

There were fifteen in attendance at Senior Citizens Friday, May 21. Winners were June Jolly, Twila Henry, and Leona Schoenrad. Next meeting will be Friday, June 4, at 7 p.m.

Rea and Dee Magers visited Marguerite Clark and Betty Reid at The Whispering Pines Apartments in Norton on Friday.

Wava Reames wrote in to say she looks forward to each issue of the *Norcatour News*, and just wishes more Norcatourites would include their news. Some of the "guys" where she works get a kick out of the old items from the *Dispatch*. Wava recently toured the

Grossology Museum, a traveling exhibit which was at the Omniplex in Oklahoma City, with her granddaughter's elementary school. She writes that the entertaining "exhibit explains the body and its functions using gross exhibits and factoids that kids and kids-at-heart love"—descriptions included. To quote Wava, "Eew!! Gross!!!"

Congratulations to Andrea Marshall for receiving both the vocal and band Arian Awards from Decatur Community High School. The vocal Arian Award was also received by Brent Smith of Oberlin. These awards are given to the outstanding seniors in each department. Andrea has also received the Thespian of the Year Award, voted on by the high school drama club members and given to the most outstanding senior actor or actress each year. Additionally, she has received the J.R. and Loretta Betts Community Scholarship Award for her acts of community service. Andrea is the daughter of Troy and Deb Marshall, and granddaughter of Forrest and Inez Jackson and Neil Marshall. She will be attending the University of Nebraska in Kearney this fall with a double major in Music Education and Performance.

Andrea Marshall and Amber Reynolds had their senior recital on May 22, at the Gateway in Oberlin, sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities. It was an awesome performance and very well attended. Andrea and Amber shared their many talents and their love for God. The recital was composed of flute, saxophone, piano and vocal solos, as well as a duet with Andrea and her brother, Anthony; a trio consisting of Amber and her brother and sister; and another trio made up of Amber with her father and brother. Andrea and Rebekah Hasty performed their speech duet act. Andrea also performed an original piano solo, "Rain", which she composed as an assignment for music theory class. For the finale, the girls performed a duet entitled, "Friends".

Wilma Magers writes that she and her sister, Vera, enjoy seeing the names of friends from years gone by.

This note was received recently from Bonnie Rapp: "Bob Rapp is back in Manhattan at a rehab hospital, recovering from the spinal stenosis surgery he had at Stormont Vale Hospital in Topeka on April 20. The pinched nerve in the neck caused a paralysis of the left leg and arm, along with memory loss. He is getting stronger and can walk with a walker now, with someone at rehab hanging onto his belt. He hasn't talked them into letting him come home as yet." They have enjoyed hearing from folks.

John and Carol Cook write they are living in a mobile home park in West Richland, Wash. She gets to see her grandbaby almost every day, advises that most people think Baily looks like her. They are having a lot of trouble with the motor home, lots of things wrong with the water pipes and etc., but they are getting it fixed. They said to tell everyone hello, and that they actually miss all of us and Norcatour, and the peace and quiet. They can be reached at (509) 967-7062, or mail may be sent to: P.O. Box 4672, West Richland, Wash., 99353. For those who would like to get revenge on John, his birthday is June 16.

Bill and Bee Nelson sent word that they were to be home for a ten-day period before returning to Kansas City so Bill can finish his chemotherapy series.

ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Bob and Barbara Fisher of Colorado Springs called on Bud and Lila Engelhardt Wednesday evening.

Brant Marble came home Friday afternoon and stayed until Monday noon. He visited his uncle, Harold Shearer Saturday morning and helped him move some machinery. On Saturday evening he visited his brother,

Blaine and family. Sunday morning Brant took his mother, Esther Marble to the Deaver Cemetery in Nebraska where Ray and baby are buried. Sunday afternoon he went to Long Island to visit Bill Godfrey.

Angie and Timmy Smith of Mesa, Ariz., and Toni Valentine of Downey, Calif., visited their grandmother, Reva Smith, and other relatives last week.



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