

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

BY JEFF NIELSEN—NORTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

As they started the final round, Matt Emmons was a few points behind the leader in the Olympic 50 meter three position shooting final. Emmons wasn't worried. After all, even at his young age, he is a seasoned and skilled shooter. He had already won one gold medal in this year's Olympics. As the final round progressed, he was shooting very well, gradually overtaking the leader. He needed only to be fairly close on his final shot to win the victory because of his 3-point lead.

On his final shot, Matt steadied himself, working on staying calm. When the time came to fire, he gently squeezed the trigger and sent the shot toward the center of the target. Only his shot didn't register on the correct target. He looked bewildered. Then the grim news was given to him. He had shot at the target one lane over from his own. He shot the wrong target. His final shot was ruled a complete miss and he dropped from a certain gold medal to 8th place.

You should have seen the look of bewilderment when Matt fired and his shot didn't register. Then there was the look of hapless resignation as the judges informed him of what had happened. So much work, so much skill, and then have it all slip away with such a costly and horrible mistake — a huge, public error.

I now have a whole new image when I think of the word "sin" that is used in the New Testament. This word (harmartano) means to "miss the mark." Matt Emmons knows about that. Even though he is recognized at a young age as a premier target shooter, he missed the mark in an embarrassing and humiliating way.

How determined are you? How much faith do you have in your beliefs? Would you try for seventeen long years, amid jeers and humiliation, spending your meager savings and journeying miles upon miles to attain your goal? Would you keep returning to beg to be heard... or just give up?

If Christopher Columbus had given up, we might not be living in this land of opportunity. He was a most determined individual - he was looking for riches to honor Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain. But beyond riches, Columbus wanted to fulfill a religious quest and bring Christianity to unknown parts of the world. Though Columbus did not realize either goal, he ultimately found "riches" beyond measure when he landed on our shores. God had different plans for Columbus.

God has plans for us as well when we have faith in Him and seek to discover His will for our lives. We must not become discouraged when we do not meet our goals, for our Creator guides us to greater rewards when we follow Him. We read in Hebrews 10:35-36... "Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised."

Won't you worship this week? When you discover your faith in God, your rewards will be priceless.

Many of us know about missing the mark as well. While we will occasionally find ourselves trapped in a sin because of willful rebellion, most seasoned Christians stumble most frequently when they misjudge a situation, put themselves in a vulnerable position when facing temptation, or cut themselves loose from the support and accountability that helps reinforce good moral judgment. Their intent isn't outright rebellion, but weakness or carelessness gets the better of them and they "miss the mark."

Sometimes that sin, their "missing the mark," is publicly embarrassing themselves and those they love. Often it is a private sin. Either way, it must be dealt with appropriately so they don't lose their way and become entrapped in a slow spiral that leads to total rebellion. Thankfully, God has given us grace to not only have our sin forgiven,

but to purify us and restore us to a holy relationship with him. We may not be able to control the public revelation of our sin, but with God, we can have another shot at the target. Matt Emmons wasn't so fortunate. My hope is that his miss won't deter him from being all he can be in the future. I know that is what our Heavenly Father hopes for us as well!

If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts. My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if you do sin, there is someone to plead for you before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who pleases God completely. He is the sacrifice for our sins. He takes away not only our sins but the sins of all the world. ~1st John 1:8-2:2



Riches Beyond Measure

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Corinthians 11:17-34	Exodus 23:1-13	Deuteronomy 5:1-22	Deuteronomy 5:23-33	Deuteronomy 15:1-18	Numbers 27:1-11	Numbers 36:1-13

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

The Prairie Homemakers Family and Community Education Unit met Sept. 27 at the Prairie View Senior Citizen Community Center. Everyone brought a dish for the potluck supper. Anissa Kats conducted the meeting and called the roll with the 15 in attendance reciting the unit's creed. It was reported that there will be a breast cancer meeting at 10 a.m., Nov. 12 in Phillipsburg; a bake sale on Oct. 23 at the 4-H building in Phillipsburg; and a Heartland meeting at 5:30 p.m., Nov. 13 at the fair building. Door prizes were won by LaVon Kats and Gloria DeWitt. Those receiving gifts from their Secret Pals were Diana Greving, Belinda Thalheim, Bev Schemper, LaVon Kats and Diane Tien. Hostesses were Diana Greving and Wanda Schemper. Others attending were Pat Hammond, Sara Nelson, Bev Ponstein, Linda Hultgren, Belva Leydig, Vivian Jansonius and children Isabella and Deacon Schemper.

On Sept. 30 Harlan Van De Wege and Vivian Jansonius went to Hays. They had supper with some of Mrs. Jansonius' family.

They were Mark and Lisa Grieve, Kaiden and Megan, Jennifer De Boer, Kelsey and Taylor, Heath and Lori Bogart, Alex and Kimbri Jade, all of Hays. Later Mrs. Jansonius went to the High Plains Mental Health meeting.

Jacob Jansonius of Golden, Colo., and Jennifer Jansonius and a friend from Overland Park came last week to spend the weekend with Rodney Jansonius and their grandmother, Hazel Jansonius.

Oct. 3 was 4-H Sunday. The Lone Prairie 4-H Club met at the Community Center. Tim Jansonius conducted the business meeting and discussed selling groceries. Installation of officers will be held during the November meeting. The meal for the group was furnished by Jerry and Gloria DeWitt, Kirk and Tammy Girard and Phil and Liz Jansonius. Later several club members went to 4-H Sunday services at the Saints Philip and James Catholic Church in Phillipsburg.

The Gleaners met Oct. 7 at the Prairie View Reformed Church. Wauneta Schemper previewed the lesson, Linda Hultgren had devotions and Goldie Barker was the hostess.

NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

The Silver and Gold dinner was held at the Manor on Oct. 5. Roberta and Richard Martin were the hosts. After the carry-in dinner Roberta told us about the different houses they had lived in. They have done a lot of traveling in their lifetime.

On Oct. 8 Anetta Knapp had an unexpected visitor. Her grandson from Ft. Sill, Lawton, Okla., just home for the weekend. He is hoping to be home Thanksgiving if not called to go on across. He is taking training.

Carolyn and Roger Linsenmeyer, Beatrice, Neb., parked their camper at the lake for the weekend and spent time with her mother, Doris Mizell and attended the Clayton bazaar. Sunday afternoon Arlene and Doyle Foss visited with them at Doris'. That evening they were guests at the home of Patty and Jerry Foster, Jennings. They also got to see Jared who was home for the weekend from K State. Of course, he wasn't very happy how the game came out Saturday morning to return home.

NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Birthdays and anniversaries: Ona VanGundy, Eldon and Marilou Long - Oct. 6; Larry Lyon, Rebecca Wentz, Jim and Carolyn Plotts - Oct. 8; Lee and Lora Arnold - Oct. 10; Robert Dickey - Oct. 11; Wilbur Hix, Melissa Miller, Wilbur and Lula Hix - Oct. 12; Larry Sumner - Oct. 13.

Having dinner together Sunday noon, Oct. 3, at the Town & Country in Norton were Pastor Leon and Lou Nehr, Goldie Brewer, Oran and LaVerne Milner. Goldie, Oran and LaVerne visited with Vi and Joy Gallentine afterwards.

Bonnie and Bob Rapp started calling for Elden and Mildred Auker, who live in Florida on Sunday, Sept. 26, and only got a busy signal until Sept. 30 when the Aukers' son, Jim, answered the phone. Elden came to the phone and said he and Mildred had moved into an apartment complex and were able to save most of their belongings. He said their house was practically demolished. His new phone number is (772) 299-6957.

There were 17 in attendance at Senior Citizens on Friday, Oct. 1. Winners were Oran Milner, Twila Henry, and Beth Johnson. Next meeting will be Friday at 7 p.m.

Beth Johnson attended the Oberlin Red Devils Homecoming assembly on Friday afternoon, Oct. 1. The ten-year queen was Jessie (Long) Luck. Also honored was athlete of the past, Chris Claussen. Chris is the grandson of Beth Johnson. Fiancee Angie Johnson accompanied Chris, and they had traveled the farthest dis-

tance to Oberlin for the assembly. Chris gave a very impressive speech. He currently lives in Balwin City, but will be moving to the Kansas City area for a new job.

Lora Arnold and son, John Arnold, attended the "Founder's Day" potluck supper at the Good Samaritan Center on Wednesday, Sept. 29. For entertainment, a gospel group made up of singers from around the area performed.

Marjorie Prince of Liberty, Mo., daughter of Arlene Hix, arrived on Friday, Oct. 1, to spend a few days with Arlene and Francis. Weekend guests were Marjorie's son, Scott Spencer; grandson, Dakota Spencer; and a friend, Tiffany Overton of Kearney, Mo. Other weekend guests were Arlene's son, Lloyd and Sharon Stanton, of Salina. They all attended the Cochran-Bailey wedding on Saturday.

Visitors of Francis Hix on Thursday, Sept. 30, were Ray and Wanda Kent and daughter Connie and Lamonte Einspahr of Mesa, Ariz. Wanda is Arlene's niece, and all were here to attend a wedding in Logan the following Saturday.

LODGE NOTICES

A.F. & A.M.
Norton Lodge 199
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
Second Wed., 7:00 p.m.
Specials on Fourth Wed.
Gerald Speer, W.M.
LeRoy Brown, Sec.

American Legion
Harrison Redd
Post No. 63
Second and Fourth Monday
Jake Durham, Commander

Eagles Lodge
FOE 3288
Second and Fourth
Wednesday, 8 p.m.
John Mann, President
Bill Nelson, Secretary

Sons of the American Legion
Fourth Monday
7:30 p.m.
Alan Hale, Commander
Aaron Hale, Adjutant

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Reg. 7:00 p.m.
First Mon. of each month
Jerry Bruinekool, Commander
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

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ALMENA

By ESTHER MARBLE

Donna Leuszler returned Friday, October 8 to her home at Cortez, Co., after assisting her mother Jean Leuszler for a few weeks.

June and Ellis Fisher visited Esther Marble Saturday afternoon.

Joyce Eckhart and Sue Jackson visited Jean Leuszler on Saturday and the ladies had lunch in Norton.

Bill Godfrey brought some turnips to Esther Marble Sunday evening to take to the Senior Center and other people in town. I delivered them on Monday morning.