

# NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

Guests coming to share Thanksgiving dinner at the home of Russ and Marcia Aumiller and Josh Vahling were Jeff and Kathleen Vahling, Allison, Sidney and Matthew, Hays; Jeremy and Missy Rumback and Nicole Vahling, Lenora; Bernita Aumiller, Selden; and Russ' sister, Wanda and a friend.

Allie Vahling has been a patient at the Norton County Hospital recently. He was to have surgery on Dec. 6.

Word was received of the death of Leo Bruggeman, Mesa, Ariz. Funeral services were held at Mesa on Dec. 7. He grew up and attended school at New Almelo. Survivors include two brothers, Fr. Gerald Bruggeman, Colorado Springs; Alfred Bruggeman, Phillipsburg; three sisters, Sophia Otter, Norton; Elizabeth Brinker, Glen Elder; Regina Reidel, St. Peter; four daughters, Carol, Mary Ann, Margaret and Patricia.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois, his parents, a brother, Ambrose and six sisters, Helena Otter, Agnes Otter, Sister Liquori, Louise Nible, Mary (Mae) Linden and Antoinette Bruggeman.

New Almelo Catholic Youth Organization held their annual Soup Kitchen on the opening day of pheasant season. The next day, the Knights held bingo at the Parish Center while the trap shoot was going on at the ball park. Myrna Mindrup won the blackout for a turkey.

Coming to hunt pheasants and visit with Edwin and Miram Slipke were Alan and Phyllis Slipke, Topeka; Mr. and Mrs. Max Lierz and their four children and a friend, Charlie, and Brian Nickol, Topeka.

Visiting at the home of Marion and Lorraine Long while other family members were hunting were Mark and Gerry Baalman, Grinell; Mandy Baalman, Kansas City; Michelle and Maggie Baalman, Hays. During the week Marshall Siruta, Goodland, stopped to visit his grandparents. They received word of the birth of a great-grandchild, Weston Hardy Christensen. He weighed 8 pounds 10 ounces. He has a sister, Laural. His parents are Nicholas and Tana Christensen, Orleans, Neb. The grandparents are Tom and Jan Long, Hays and Dane and Jill Christensen, Orleans. Other great-grandparents are Bob and Donna McClelland, Almena.

On Nov. 21, Joe and Rose Ann Long, Leawood, stopped to see his parents.

Sophia Otter had surgery in Kearney on Nov. 20 for a broken hip. She is recovering.

Gathering at the home of Marion and Marilyn Otter for Thanksgiving dinner were: Frank and Lorraine Otter, Gabby, Josh Otter, Ft. Sill, Okla.; Brandon Otter, Ft. Eustis, Va.; Gary and Emily Kessler, Alan and Robert, Lakin; Steve Otter, Wichita; Greg and Tammy Otter, Alissa and Seth, Bridgett and Zack Otter, Dustin and Joni Shellito and Lexus, Winona; Betty Knapp and DeMonta, Manhattan; Sr. Mary Ester, Concordia; Sr. Francis Margaret, Plainville; and Sr. Donna, Ellis.

Coming on Wednesday and spending Thanksgiving with his parents, Marion and Lorraine Long, were Fred and Carol Long, Independence. Callers at the Long home over the holidays were Mark and Gerry Baalman, Grinell; Justin and Michelle Baalman and Maggie, Hays; Donna Molnar and Tom Skgna, New York; Joe and Shandell Schieferecke, Ashton and Lakyn, McPherson; Irene Schieferecke, McPherson; Leonard and Joan Long, Zach and Alaina, Logan; and Roger and JoAnn Long.

Roger and JoAnn Long spent Thanksgiving with Brian and Stephanie Kirk and boys in Dallas.

While at Mass they were able to visit with a former neighbor, Marquerette Costello, daughter of T.A. and Rose Costello.

Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter for Thanksgiving were, Mike Otter, Cimarron; Paul and Sharon Otter, Kaitlin and Madison, and Misty McDuff, Great Bend; Will and Tina Ritter, Allyson and Carson, Olathe; Tom Otter, DeSoto; Mark and Sheila Otter, Ashley, Alisha, Anna, Marshall, Ulysses; Jim and Jolene Moss, Cheyenne, Courtney and Aaron, Jewell; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter, Saige and Curry, Salina. Joining them for dinner were Gary and Bertsie Bruinekool, Lenora and Rennee Bruinekool and Kirk Persinger, Norton. In the afternoon, Art and Karen Bates, Edmond, Okla., visited with the group.

On Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Slipke children helped Edwin and Miriam Slipke move to their new house in Hoxie.

On Nov. 26, the family of Sophia Otter gathered in the sun room of the Norton Hospital to celebrate her 98th birthday. Those wishing her a happy birthday were her sister, Elizabeth Brinker, Glen Elder; her niece, Jane and Larry Magne, Penn's Park, Penn.; Alfred and Betty Otter, Mike Otter, Cimarron; Paul and Sharon Otter and girls, Great Bend; Will and Tina Ritter, Allyson and Carson, Olathe, Tom Otter, DeSoto; Mark and Sheila Otter, Ashley, Alisha and Marshall, Ulysses; Jolene Moss, Cheyenne, Courtney and Aaron, Jewell; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter, Saige and Curry, Salina; Fran and Phyllis Otter, Lenora; Val and Kerrie Hernandez, Val, Alberta, Rosa and Patricia, Garden City; Vic and Joan Winter, Sidney, Cassidy and Gannon, Great Bend; David Otter, Denver; Pat and Garret Otter, Lenora; Carol Otter, Jeff Otter and Josephine, Steve Otter, Andrew and Alec, Mary Schulze, Emily and Mason, all of Norton; Tim Otter, Arkansas; Luke Otter, Hays; Steve and Janice Richards and Matt, Albuquerque, N.M.

On Nov. 27, Mike and Mary Schamberger, Hoxie, celebrated their 50th anniversary with a Mass and dinner. They were married in St. Joseph Church, New Almelo in 1954. All of their children were in attendance. They were: Ray and DeeAnn Schamberger, Ron and Sharon Schamberger, Jean and Rick Shipley, John and Gina Schamberger, Hoxie; Joan and Charles Shippers, Hays; and Jerry Schamberger, Glenn Elder; plus 17 grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

Also attending were her brothers, Connie and Charlotte Otter and Kevin, McPherson; Alfred and Betty Otter, New Almelo; Francis and Phyllis Otter, Lenora; Gilbert and Carol Otter, Norton; and her sisters, Janice and Steve Richards and Matt, Albuquerque; his brothers, Bill Schamberger, Hays; Clarence and Zita Schamberger, Hoxie; Alvin Schamberger, Joplin, Mo.; his sister, Tillie and Leo Dinkel, Hays; and sister-in-law, Lorene Schamberger, WaKeeney. Their attendants 50 years ago, Bill Schamberger and Sr. Donna Otter, were there to help them celebrate.

Family coming to the home of Lorraine Long on Dec. 4, were Bill and Rita Barker, Hays. On Dec. 9, Mr. and Mrs. Long and Roger and JoAnn Long attended the funeral of Artha Griffey at Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, Hill City.

Allie Vahling is back home after having one of his toes removed last week.

Raymond and Bonita Slipke, Rachel, Landon and Raelynn moved to New Almelo on Dec. 11. They are a nice addition to the village.

# PRAIRIE VIEW

By VIVIAN JANSONIUS

Dec. 9, Harlan Van De Wege and Vivian Jansonius went to Hays. They met Jerol and Jennifer De Boer, Kelsey and Taylor and Mark and Lisa Grieve and Kaiden and Heath and Lori Bogart, Kali, Alex and Kambri, all of Hays for dinner. Later, Mrs. Jansonius attended the High Plains Mental Health meeting.

Burdett and Belva Leydig of Prairie View and Laura Craig of Almena, attended the wedding of

Autumn Jakabowski and Keith Goenszel in Pilsen on Saturday afternoon.

Norman and Rose Erickson of Phillipsburg and Rodney Jansonius visited after evening church services at the home of Hazel Jansonius.

Gordon and Wilma Vahle of Long Island visited at the home of his mother, Marguerite Vahle, in Prairie View, late Sunday afternoon.

# Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

## WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jeff Nielsen, Norton Christian Church

We have many new babies at our church this year. One of them may be chosen to portray baby Jesus in our Christmas worship and celebration.

Now as many folks know, we really don't have any clear idea on what day Jesus' birth truly occurred. From a careful look at the birth stories in the New Testament, we can discern that it was not in late December — not with shepherds out in the fields with their flocks at night. Yet we celebrate the birth of Jesus with little guys like Eli this time of year. Why?

For me, there is a very simple explanation. We need to be reminded. Underneath the holiday season now so encrusted

with its present buying and commercial blitz, we need to be reminded of the greater gift. In the wildness and isolation of our busy lives we need to be reminded of God's overwhelming love. In the predictability of our lives so governed by pattern and ruts we need to be reminded of eternity's surprise. The birth story of Jesus is such a simple and straightforward joy with the long journey, the stable, the manger, the angels, the shepherds, and the Son of God. Our world needs to hear this story. As believers, we need to pray each season that God will reach the hearts of young children and cynical adults with this reminder and that he will help them see Jesus with fresh and wonder-filled eyes.

At another level, those of us "older Christians" need this yearly celebration, too. We need to be reminded

that like a baby at Christmas time, we too have been asked to play the role of Jesus in our world. When we confessed Jesus as Lord and were baptized into Christ, we put on Christ. (Galatians 3:26-29) Much more than just a garment we put on and occasionally wear, Jesus wants to become fully formed in us. (Galatians 4:19 and Colossians 1:28-29) The Holy Spirit works in our lives to conform us into the glorious presence of Jesus as we understand the Lord more fully and display his character more completely. 2nd Corinthians 3:18.

Christmas is a special time when we remember the birth of our Savior and celebrate the wondrous and sacrificial love of

God. However, it can be so much more if we will let the Savior have his way in us. This season can be a holy reminder of what the Lord wants us to be in the world — his living presence — to hearts that really don't know God's grace, love, character, compassion, and grace.

It's an honor for a baby to be chosen to portray baby Jesus at Christmas. However, let's not forget that we are honored to be Jesus everyday to the world clothed in darkness and in need of God's saving grace. So let's make the celebration of this season a powerful reminder that Jesus is not only born in us, but wants to be fully formed in us so the world can see God's glory in everyday life.

Paul said in Galatians 4:19, "Oh, my dear children! I feel as if I am going through labor pains for you again, and they will continue until Christ is fully developed in your lives." Merry Christmas.

Remember that Christmas vividly. The afternoon was not going at all well. I was nearly frantic...

"It's almost time for our guests! There is so much left to do before they arrive. Why, I still must wash the good china and put those fragile ornaments on the tree. Wait, was that a knock... already??"

Yes, there was a tiny tapping, as five-year-old Jimmy, my neighbor and star Sunday School pupil, ran in, all smiles, and scrambled into my lap. With excited hugs, he waved a homemade-crayoned card in front of me, with a precious scrawled "I LUV YU. MARY CRISMUS" at the bottom. That was the year I remembered what the joy of Christmas was all about.

This holiday season, won't you choose to concentrate most of your focus on the honored Guest? Gifts of smiles and laughter, time spent with family in reminiscent conversation, and fellowship with our friends and neighbors will be remembered more than dinner and decorations. After all, only Christ was perfect. Why not let your sentiments echo those of the apostle Paul, in Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing..."

Won't you worship God's Son this Sabbath in the humble spirit of His birthplace? Discover the joy of keeping it "sweet and simple".



## Sweet and Simple

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Zephaniah 3:14-20	Isaiah 42:1-17	Isaiah 43:1-13	Isaiah 44:21-28	Isaiah 51:1-16	Isaiah 52:1-12	Isaiah 55:1-13

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society  
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