

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

CROWN OF THORNS — By Terry Laughlin, Community Full Gospel Church

Nearly thirty years ago on a Saturday night I sat in an indoor arena excitedly watching a beautiful Arabian stallion receive the very high honor of "Legion of Merit."

The lights were turned off and a large spotlight appeared at the entrance gate. Music played as this beautiful bay stallion entered at a gallop. The spotlight followed him as he loped throughout the arena while an announcer proclaimed all the achievements accomplished by this horse.

While standing in the spotlight, a coronet of roses was fastened around the stallion's neck. Then came a lengthy standing ovation as this horse was led from the arena.

In contrast was the coronation day of Christ nearly 2000 years ago. Jesus, the perfect man, went about accomplishing the complete will of God, healing the sick, feeding the multitudes and raising the dead. If anyone is worthy of honor, it is Him.

But, He was not greeted with lights, music and cheering. An unnatural darkness came over the land as He hung on the cross. (Luke 23:44) He heard "Crucify Him!" (Matthew 27:23) "They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They put a staff in His right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. 'Hail, king of the Jews!'" He did not receive a coronet of roses but a crown of thorns was shoved onto His head. (Matthew 27:28-30)

The first result of sin was a curse and thorns came in as a part of that curse. (Gen. 3:17, 18) Suffering accompanies sin and thorns signify

affliction. "God made Him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us..." (2 Cor. 5:21) Christ was given a crown of thorns by the Roman soldiers, which was symbolic to Him being given the sins of us all. The prophet Isaiah gives us a very descriptive picture of what Christ suffered for us. "Just as there were many who were appalled at Him - His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness." (Isaiah 52:14)

Jesus came and allowed the priests and teachers of the law to hand Him over to wicked men to be crucified, (Matthew 20:17-19) because God's Word says, "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness." (Hebrews 9:22) Ephesians 1:7 tells us, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..." This is the gospel; Christ died for you.

Knowledge creates responsibility. My friend, hearing the gospel yet choosing not to surrender your life to Christ is to treat the blood of Christ as something you despise.

Paul wrote, "...there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day — and not only me, but all who have longed for His appearing." (2 Timothy 4:8)

This world honors their kings with coronations of roses, lights and standing ovations. Christ received a crown of thorns, so you, if you accept Him, can have a crown of righteousness.

Will you crown Jesus as King and Lord of your life?

We all know that temptation has been lurking as long as man has been upon the earth...slithering around in the Garden of Eden ...disguising itself with glitter and glamour, promising love and acceptance, and sometimes pretending to be the only solution to your problem.

As we approach President's Day, we remember that even George Washington, the "Father of Our Country" chopped down that cherry tree. Yet, he resisted the temptation to lie about it.

All of us succumb to temptations now and then. As 1 Corinthians 10:13 explains it: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." God allows us to be tempted for a reason. When we resist temptation and allow Him to be our guide, our spirit is strengthened. Perhaps one could think of this as a "divine" exercise in trusting our Heavenly Father.

Won't you visit your chosen House of Worship this week to keep in touch with our Creator and follow His Word in the Holy Bible? As you come to know God and His will, you will, like George Washington, discover divine possibilities for your life.

Troubling Temptations and Divine Possibilities



- SUNDAY Psalm 3
- MONDAY Psalm 4
- TUESDAY Psalm 5
- WEDNESDAY Psalm 6
- THURSDAY Psalm 25
- FRIDAY Psalm 26
- SATURDAY Psalm 27

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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ALMENA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Ellis and June Fisher visited Esther Marble Wednesday afternoon.

Another one of our friends, Dale Volgamore, died this week. Our sympathy goes out to the family.

Jay Leuszler returned to his home Feb. 20 after spending the week with his mother, Jean Leuszler. He came because of the interest in the new treatment that has just been released by the FDA for wet macular degeneration that his mother was starting. Macugene is a drug given as a shot directly into the eye and is to be repeated every six weeks for up to two years.

Bill Godfrey visited Esther Marble Monday evening on his way home after he went to Enfield's to see Dale Volgamore.

The Almena Study Club met on Feb. 10 at the Senior Center. Eight members and one guest were present with Phyllis Volgamore as hostess. Adelia Wilnerd brought the meeting to order with Helmi Moody giving the devotions on the ABC's of prayer. Albert Geil

showed a video on Glacier National Park, which detailed the many areas it contains. Roll call was answered by a recent trip.

The club decided on supporting the KAYS project for our troops, and also at year's end, has contributed to God's Pantry with food items. Following the Collect, the hostess served delicious refreshments and gave each one a long-stemmed red rose for Valentine's Day. The next meeting will be on March 10 with Jean Leuszler.

Florence Lambert and daughter Kaye visited Reva Smith February 4.

June Fisher called February 5 to tell me she is getting along nicely with her new knee.

Joyce Eckhart and Sue Jackson, Logan, brought a crockpot supper to the Jean Leuszler home Monday evening, Feb. 14. They came especially to visit Jay Leuszler, Ashville, N.C., who is assisting his mother this week.

We heard from my son, Brant Marble, who is in Iraq. He says he is okay but real busy.

NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

The Norcatur United Methodist Church annual pancake supper will be Saturday, March 5, from 5-7 p.m. at the Educational Building.

Local postal staff remind residents that mail count continues through the middle of March.

Wava Reames was once again in town the weekend of Feb. 12-13, to the delight of her parents, Frank and Velda Ward. That Saturday, guests of the Ward's for dinner were Ms. Reames, Leslie and Lynn Ward, Ruby Pflieger from Norton, and Kaley Ward.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Judy Jackson, Leona Schoenrad - Feb. 16; Russell James - Feb. 17; Arlene Hix, Darren Wentz - Feb. 20; Denise Bailey, Monty and Linda Hunt - Feb. 22.

Kenneth Ward has recently been a victim of pneumonia, but has gradually improved and hopes to be out and about soon.

On Thursday, Feb. 10, Bob Strevey picked up about 150 coats from the inmate clothing project at the Norton Correctional Facility, then Alice and Darrel Barnett helped him load a pick-up with additional clothing, all for the Mexican-American Ministry in Garden City. Other contributors to the project were the Bargain Box of Oberlin; Dewaine Stapp, who transported clothing; the Norcatur United Methodist Women, for helping with the cost of transportation; and the Norton Thrift Shop, who helped provide the clothing.

The Norcatur Pre-school reports the special ventilation/escape window has now been installed.

The pizza fund raiser put on by the Norcatur City and Rural Fire Department was a big success. The pizzas were delicious, partly due to the generous donation of fresh beef and pork by Stan and Carol Miller.

WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE and LAURIE LAWS

The news is in short supply this week due to Velma's talented hands not writing up the news! For the next two weeks please send all your news to Laurie Laws.

This past weekend Delbert and Laurie Laws traveled to Minden to visit with their daughter and her family (Shelly, Rick and Austin Anderson) in their new home. Delbert wasn't in town for the Anderson's move to Minden so he enjoyed seeing their new home. The Anderson's saved a few projects for Delbert to do, just so he'd know he was missed.

Finally Home

Delbert Laws returned home on Valentines Day this past week after being in Colorado for three weeks working on a remodel project for Laurie's niece, Gen VanBuhler, who is expecting her second child in April. Laurie joined Delbert the first week in Colorado and enjoyed visiting with friends and family. Laurie's sister, Gina Kuwamura, brought her back to Nebraska and stayed several days. While she was in Nebraska Gina was able to see her niece, Shelly Anderson, and Shelly's husband Rick and son Austin.

JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

United Methodist Women will meet March 2 at the church. Sue Glodt, Administrator at Sappa Valley Ranch near Oberlin will speak about their work with the children at the ranch. Quiet Moments will be given by Louise Cressler. Hostesses will be Helen Rhodes and Kathy Nauer.

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Muirhead went to Brookville Feb. 13 for Leland and JoAnn Johnson's 50th wedding anniversary reception. Mr. Johnson was a college friend of Mr. Muirhead's. They also visited Tamala Schulze and Kolten, their daughter and grandson at

Salina.

Keith and Helen Muirhead went to Salina Feb. 19 and picked up Tamala Schulze and Kolten then went on to Overland Park to visit their granddaughter Kallista who is going to Johnson County College.

Wayne and Louise Cressler enjoyed visiting their son Russell and Theresa Cressler and Preston at Bison on Sunday. Other families members who came were Amber Klassen, Keith, Landon and Issac; and Adalie Schroter of Lacrosse.

Jennings city residents water meters will be read today.

LYLE NEWS

By DEANNA SUMNER

Toots Magers visited Pat Schwab at her home last Thursday. Last Wednesday Sylvia Lovin from Wichita and Tim Nejd from Quinter, came to Kathy Van Meter's to stay and get her to Kearney on Feb. 11. She had shoulder surgery at the Heartland Surgery Center. Steve Van Meter

from Gibbon, Neb., came to visit her while she was there.

Friday evening Toots Magers, June Jolly and Kathy Van Meter went to Norcatur and played cards.

Sunday evening Toots, June, Kathy and Veda Wood went to Lebanon, Neb., for a pancake supper at the American Legion.

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