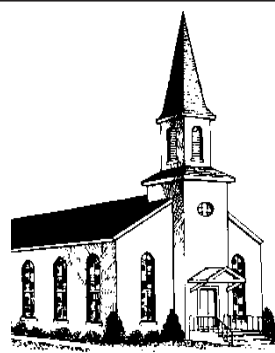


Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jerry Cummings, Pastor of Living Hope Fellowship in Norton

In 1 Samuel 3:7 there is an interesting statement about the boy Samuel who ministered to the Lord in the tabernacle. The Lord was calling to Samuel, but Samuel thought it was the high priest Eli speaking to him.

By way of explanation we read, "Now Samuel did not yet know the Lord, nor was the word of the Lord yet revealed to him." What was meant by this? Didn't Samuel believe? Didn't Samuel know who God was? Of course he did. What is obviously meant here is that Samuel did not know the Lord by personal encounter as he was having at that time in his life.

Whenever we say that we know someone, we mean that we have had shared experiences, encounters, and interaction with that person. And yet, when people say they know God, they often say this when they have little or no experiences, encounters or interaction with Him. In fact many in the church teach us that we are not to look for experiences. Yet in all of life, experience, and interaction are the ba-

sis of knowing someone. Indeed, if it were not for experiences with God, we would have virtually no scripture, since it is largely an account of people who knew their God.

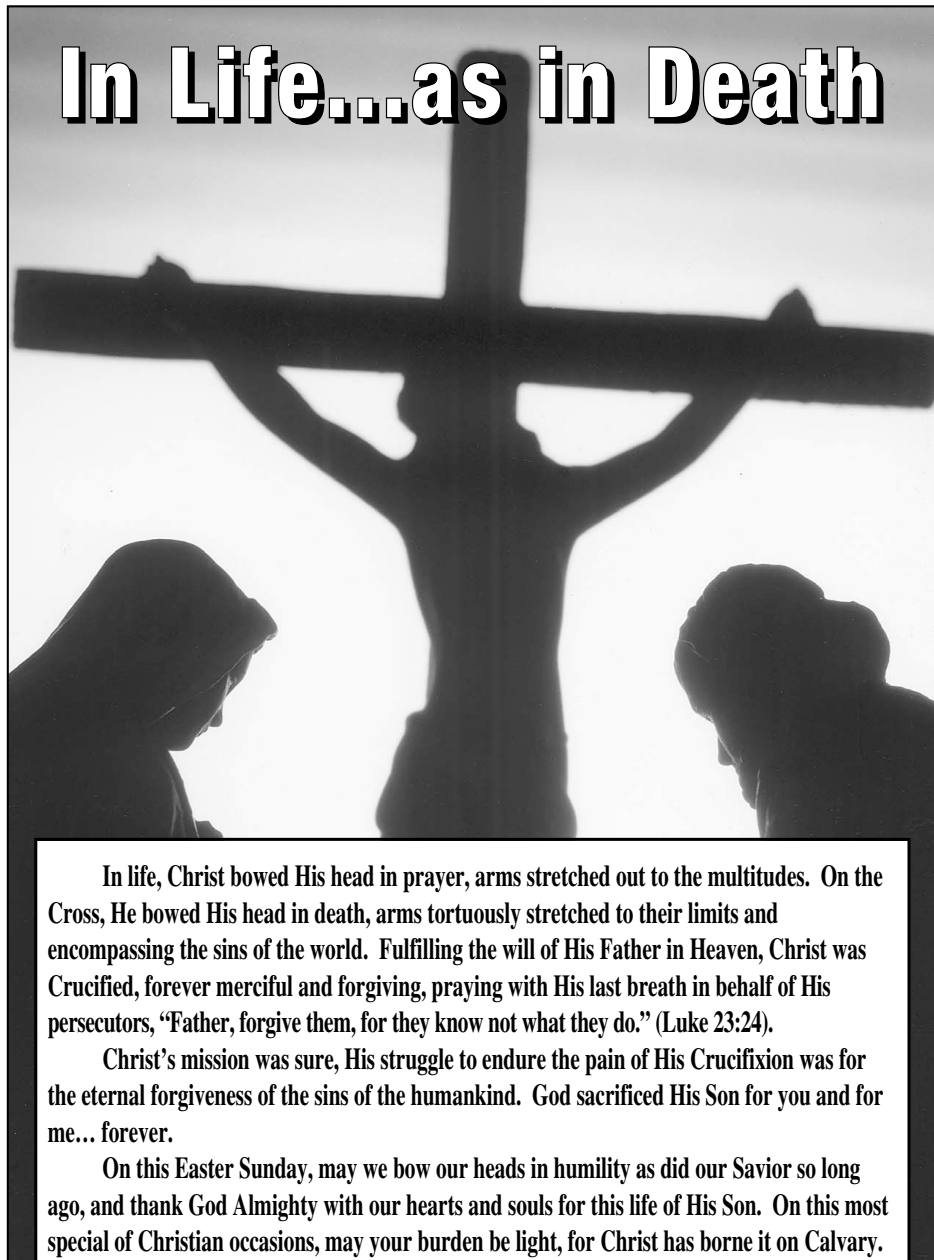
The whole purpose of Jesus' death was to take away our

sin so mankind could be reconciled (become friends again). If this is so, then we should desire and expect to encounter God by personal experience. Indeed, one of the foundational promises for our new covenant with God is that

"they shall all know Me" (Jeremiah 31:34). Later in John 17:3 Jesus says "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent."

But some would say, "we can't base our lives on experience can we?" Or, "we must go by fact and not feeling!" It is true that our faith and our choices must be based on what is true. And it is also true that truth is based upon the written word of God. These are the foundations for our life no matter how we feel on a particular day, no matter our experiences.

Truth and faith are our foundation, but what is a foundation worth without a building upon it? It is God's goal to reveal himself to us and for us to know Him. Relationship by experience is his goal. If our faith does not lead us to this, is it true and living? This is one of the reasons that God has given to us His Holy Spirit, to be in us and with us. He was given to lead us into the things of Jesus. So let us ask the Holy Spirit to come afresh upon our lives and bring us to truly know our heavenly Father and his Son Jesus Christ.



In life, Christ bowed His head in prayer, arms stretched out to the multitudes. On the Cross, He bowed His head in death, arms tortuously stretched to their limits and encompassing the sins of the world. Fulfilling the will of His Father in Heaven, Christ was Crucified, forever merciful and forgiving, praying with His last breath in behalf of His persecutors, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:24).

Christ's mission was sure, His struggle to endure the pain of His Crucifixion was for the eternal forgiveness of the sins of the humankind. God sacrificed His Son for you and for me... forever.

On this Easter Sunday, may we bow our heads in humility as did our Savior so long ago, and thank God Almighty with our hearts and souls for this life of His Son. On this most special of Christian occasions, may your burden be light, for Christ has borne it on Calvary.

SUNDAY Mark 16:1-18	MONDAY Isaiah 54:1-17	TUESDAY Isaiah 55:1-13	WEDNESDAY Isaiah 60:1-20	THURSDAY Isaiah 65:17-25	FRIDAY Revelation 21:1-27	SATURDAY Revelation 22:1-21
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE

Bob and Connie Holliday and their daughter, LaNita, and sons recently took supper to the Kevin Holliday home in Arapahoe to help Kevin and Nancy celebrate their first wedding anniversary.

Harold and Pat Yost went to Lincoln April 1 for a memorial inurnment service for her sister, Terry Ann (Hatch) Ahlmand. Mrs. Ahlmand died March 18 from complications following heart surgery.

Darrel Palmer had surgery in Omaha, March 27. It is hoped he can be moved back to McCook soon.

Kevin Holliday, son of Bob and Connie Holliday of Arapahoe, spent Tuesday in the Kearney Hospital as an outpatient. he seems to have finally found relief after being hospitalized three times since Feb. 14.

The Joe Kasson and the Kendal Rice families attended services at the Christian Church in Norton Sunday evening. The Kasson's son, Kirk, and his wife, Kim, and their children, were part of a team that went to Mexico to build a house. The evening included a Mexican supper and a slide show of the team's experiences.

Bob and Connie Holliday attended the wild game supper at Arapahoe recently. Other Wilsonville families were attending the 4-H Carnival in Arapahoe that same evening.

Peggy Ahlmeyer hosted the Busy Bee Club at her home March 27. After dinner, the women sewed and visited.

Brent and Coleen Ballou attended a special banquet at Hays where their daughter, Katie, was receiving a special honor.

A bit late, but still newsworthy, is the birth of Gage Alan Overton on March 4 at McCook Community Hospital. He is the son of Robb and Mary Jo Overton. He has a three-year old sister, Lanie. His maternal grandmother is Charlene Elwood Springer of Lebanon.

Jake and Trenton Hoagland, Hastings, spent some time recently with their grandparents, Ken and Carla Holtze. Their parents, Russ and Kendra Hoagland, came last Monday to pick them up.

Wedding Shower

Ashley Palmer and Ryan Wheelbarger were honored at a shower Sunday evening at the Baptist-Christian Church. Guests were welcomed by president, Margalee Ruf. A short devotional was given using scripture and poetry.

Games of "How Well Do You Know the Bride" and matching of couples found in the Bible, stories, and television were played. The couple opened their gifts assisted by her cousin, Kellie Ballou, who recorded the gifts. The gift opening was interspersed with bits of advice or household hints.

The guests were served refreshments by the Martha committee. The couple plan to be married April 28.

Baptist-Christian Women

Margaret Brown hosted the Baptist-Christian Women meeting at the church April 6. Margalee Ruf opened the meeting with prayer. The club has been invited to attend Guest Day by the Hendley United Methodist Women. Plans were made for entertaining the Wilsonville seniors and their parents at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, April 30.

Next month's project, a kitchen shower was discussed.

Janet Trosper presented the lesson using thoughts from Joel Olsteen's book, "Your Best Life". Highlights included, "Be Enthusiastic; Be aglow with God's presents". She shared how we lose our life because we have become ungrateful, and if not for God's goodness, you could have lost everything. The big question she asked was, "Are you bringing others to Jesus because of your joy?"

Gifts were brought for Arlene Rice Ministries.

Mrs. Brown served refreshments.

Rain

How wonderful the first week of April was with its April Showers. Thursday evening the com-

munity received a nice shower. Rain continued through the night and Friday morning. Amounts received varied from just over 1/2 inch to just under an inch.

Welcome Home

Margaret Spence who has spent the last five months with her daughter, Sondra, in Lincoln, returned to her home March 28. It was learned that Mrs. Spence was taken to the hospital in Cambridge.

Clean up was still being done at the Ron and Dee Anderson property all week. The Anderson's had help from Eldon Earley, Joe Kasson and Bill Lewis who worked to tear down and remove the remaining burned out shell of the Anderson's home.

Easter weekend Delbert and Laurie Laws traveled to their daughter Shelly's home in Minden to spend Easter with Rick, Shelly and Austin Anderson.

Jim and Becky Holtze drove to Lincoln for Becky's doctor appointment. On the way home, they visited their daughter, Janene, a college student in Kearney.

Darrell Palmer had a second surgery since going back to Omaha.

Gary and Lori Leibbrandt are in Rochester at Mayo's where she has had liver surgery.

The 2006 alumni officers have been meeting and making plans for the alumni meeting which will be May 28. The usual format of the evening was voted to be changed last year, so there will be a catered meal at the school auditorium. It is hoped that there will be an increased interest and larger attendance.

Sue Bethel accompanied her daughter-in-law, Betty Bethel to Kearney. While there they visited Kelly's daughter, Audry Bethel, who is a college student there.

Margene Holtze and Velma Holtze accompanied Betty Jorgenson of Cambridge to Curtis recently to attend the annual Easter pageant. It is a large production and takes many people many hours of practice. Eileen Thompson was one of the choir and also the choir coordinator. She is the former Eileen Koerperich who was raised in Wilsonville.

That evening, Velma, Margene, Becky and Lyndzie Holtze and Kenneth and Carla Holtze attended the closing night of the AWANA classes when the children received their awards and also sang and quoted Bible verses. Velma had five great-grandchildren in the group.

Allen and Connie Wilson spent the weekend in Kearney with their daughter, Kim and husband, Josh Townsend. Connie had attended a baby shower for Kim on Saturday.

Friday was kindergarten round-up in Cambridge, so there was no class that day. Several of the children enjoyed spending the day with their grandmother, including Drew Holtze and Baylee Miller.

Margene Holtze spent some time in Omaha recently assisting with the state F.B.L.A. Conference. Before returning home, she visited with Darrel and June Palmer at the University Hospital.

One of the first Easter dinners was held Sunday at the Kenneth Holtze home. Guests were their children, Rhonda and LaVern Banzahaf and family, Brad and Renee Holtze and boys all of Cambridge and Kendra and Russ Hoagland and boys of Hastings.

Friends were sorry to learn that Odessa Treat of Gothenburg took a bad fall on April 6. She dislocated both shoulders and bruised her face. She is recuperating in the nursing home in Gothenburg. Dee Lee, her husband, is also a resident there while she is recuperating. Cards will reach them at 918 16th Ave., Gothenburg, Neb. 69136.

Mary Wilmot is sharing the news that her sister-in-law, Verda McConnell, of Denver, will be celebrating her 90th birthday. Verda was raised in Lebanon, later making her home in Wilsonville where she taught in the public school in the late 40s and early 50s. She would enjoy hearing from friends.

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