

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

By Jerry Cummings, pastor of Living Hope Fellowship in Norton

Mark 10:15.... "Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

In our society and church, in general, we tend to stress how important it is to work hard to obtain our goals and the good things in life. Indeed, a work ethic is normally a good thing. I am reminded of an old movie where the father prays before the meal and thanks God for all they have, and then ends his prayer with the words, "but we wouldn't have any of it if we hadn't done it all ourselves." So it is that even when we talk of the blessings of God we still inwardly often attribute them to our own hard work and good choices. For many, the difficulty they have with the things of God is not a matter of not working hard enough, but rather in not knowing how to receive things that are free.

So Jesus, in Mark 10:15 tells us that if we are to gain the kingdom it is a matter of thinking more like a child and receiving it, not earning it. Little children are not thinking of working hard so that their parents will feed them, clothe them, accept them, give them a place to sleep, and so on. Yet, as God's children, we think that working harder is what will get us further. Children simply look to their father or mother, not to how they can earn their parents love and provision.

We must learn to be receivers from God. We must receive the kingdom. John said that "as many as receive Him to them he gave the right to become sons of God."

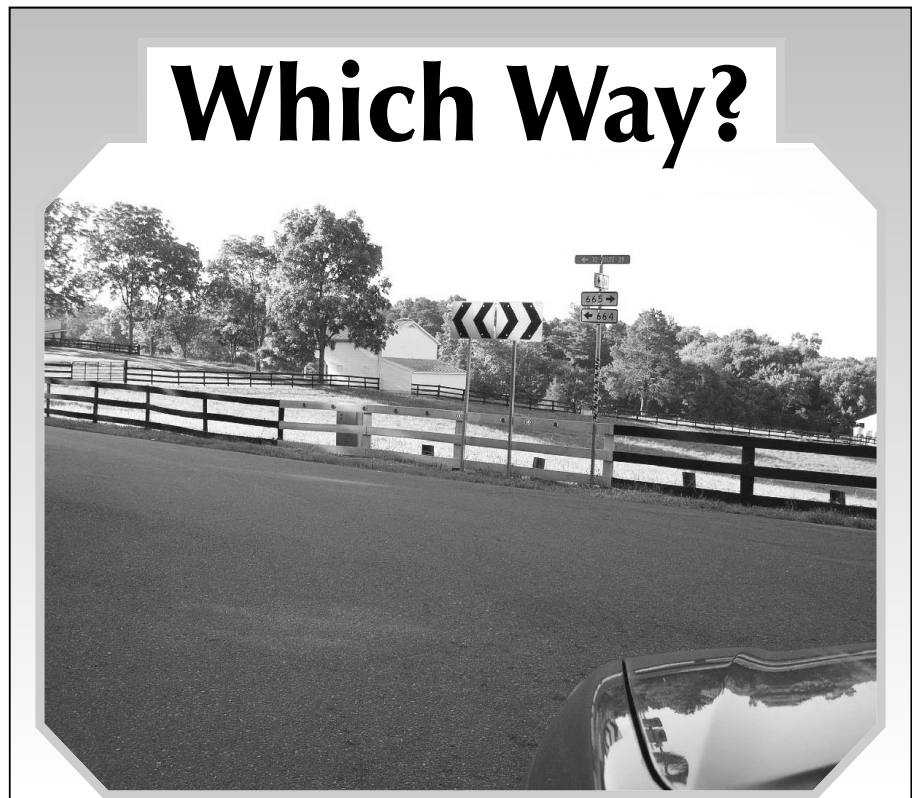
Jesus said, "Ask and you will receive." He said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Paul said, "You have received Christ Jesus as Lord."

This same thought is carried in the 23rd Psalm when David says, "The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not lack. A sheep is not figuring how to find its next meal or drink of water. Rather it is simply looking to the shepherd who knows where the water and green pastures are. The gospel is all about not looking to ourselves, but to the Savior, to our heavenly Father, to the one who has paid it all, and to receive from Him all that we need.

We are sinful; He gives righteousness. We are poor; He gives riches. We are weak; He gives strength. We are sick; He gives healing. We are lonely; He gives love. We do not know; He gives wisdom, and so much more. It is all free. We must learn to receive.

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Which Way?

What do we do when we reach an intersection and have to make a turn, and we're not sure which way to go? We have to make a choice, pick a direction. Sometimes a situation seems to have no good resolution...no decision seems like the right one. Indecision will confront us at many turns in our lives; what can we do?

In every situation there is something we can do, no matter how perplexing the circumstances. We can ask God. He can set us free from those paralyzing feelings of fear and frustration. James 1:5 assures us, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God."

This week, as you worship God...act! Tell God of your dilemma, invoking His unwavering wisdom. You need not struggle with which way to turn. You can move forward with faith, in God's loving care.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Thessalonians 5:1-28	2 Thessalonians 1:1-12	2 Thessalonians 2:1-17	2 Thessalonians 3:1-18	1 Timothy 1:1-20	1 Timothy 2:1-15	1 Timothy 3:1-16

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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ALMENANA NEWS

By ESTHER MARBLE

Jim and Gayle Bird visited Esther Marble on Friday. Twila Lindfors, Alan Lindfors and Noah, Pam Morel, Marquette, and Nic and Angelica Morel, Bryan and Katelyn of Wichita were visitors at the Jean Leuszler home Saturday. All attended the 85th G. S. Colip reunion held in Norton. Twila and Alan were overnight guests and early Sunday morning they joined a group of about 30 who visited the homestead of G.S. and Emma (Viora) Colip which has remained in the Colip family and is now a Historical Century homestead. Seven other farmsteads were visited as they had been the homes of their siblings.

After the tour, the group returned to the 4-H Building for family worship services and a noon meal.

Esther Marble visited Betty Baker Sunday afternoon.

Harold Shearer was cleaning the swather last week and found a balloon with a message inside. It said, "This balloon was released at the marriage celebration of Jaime Brock and Justin Davis on June 18, 2005, in Fort Dodge, Iowa. Please share with us how far our joy has spread."

Ken and Marla Kuiper spent July 29 with his mother, Alice Kuiper. They attended the birth-day gathering for Dorothy Tubbs at Long Island on Sunday and returned home that evening.

Terry Towery and wife, Heather and her children, Amy and Joey of Axtell, Neb., visited with Mr. and Mrs. Bud Engelhardt Sunday.

Brant Marble came to his mother's, Esther Marble, on July 30 to help Harold Shearer and Blaine Marble with their hay baling. They got it done, finally. Brant talked to Bill Godfrey on the phone a few times. Brant left for his base at Topeka on Aug. 5.

JENNINGS NEWS

By LOUISE CRESSLER

There will be an informational meeting at 7 p.m., Aug. 22 in the Community Hall to discuss the Oberlin swimming pool. If a new pool was built, how would it be paid for? Do you want a county tax to pay for it or some other means? Surrounding communities are invited to attend this meeting.

Naomi Carter fell at her home.

She broke her hip and was taken to the McCook hospital.

Ann Graner, Bethany Mo., came to spend time with her parents, William and Rachel Carter. William is home and doing well.

Wayne and Louise Cressler are enjoying visits from their children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The Housing Authority meeting was held Thursday evening.

NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

Rex Knapp came to visit Anetta Knapp Sunday evening.

Mildred Schwab accompanied Wayne and Norma McCallister to Holcomb on Friday to their sons. The men did some work for Rob on the house. They visited and ate a lot, returning home Sunday afternoon. The girls did some shopping.

On Sunday, Aug. 6 Lena and James Skrdlant's daughters had an open house for their 60th wedding anniversary in the community room. Out-of-town guests were Ralph and Evelyn Strayer, Atwood; Robert Pauley, Gysum; Pat Storey, Braner, Minn.; Jay and Rhonda Howell and daughters, Kacy and Jamie of Fort Riley; Julia Skrdlant, Liberal; Dawn and Bob Pauley, Smith Center; Arlene Hix, Norcatour; Bill and Diana Greving, Prairie View; Leon Attwell, wife and baby, Beloit and Ryan and Carman Keith and baby of Yuma, Colo.

Mary Keith went Sunday evening for a picnic in honor of grandson Shane Murphy, Alison

and Emma from Sioux Falls, S.D. Those present were Ed and Linda Keith, Diana and Bill Greving, Todd and Amy Slavik, Colby and Cher Greving, Caley, Christen, Colton and Camryn. Madison Waggoner from Plainville, nine-year old great-granddaughter of Bozie and Doloros Bozarth, has been visiting since last Thursday.

Doris Mizell joined the Ray Mizell family and Lester Mizell to go to Prairie View to the 25th anniversary celebration for Jeff VanDerWeele on Aug. 6.

Kathryn Attebery and Marjorie TenBensel of Arapahoe, Neb., visited Mary Keith Sunday. Ed Keith was also a guest.

Lois and Bob McPherson, Tucson, Ariz., were Monday morning guests of Doris Mizell. They had come back to help Lois' Aunt Agnes Pruitt celebrate her 90th birthday.

Many from the Manor attended the open house for Lena and James Skrdlant and we want to wish them many more Happy Anniversaries.

NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Jim Hook, stepson-in-law of Sam Johnson, sent word that Sam passed away on July 12.

Jim and Carolyn Plotts left Aug. 5, for San Antonio, where they made the acquaintance of their new granddaughter, Aniston Paige. She was born Aug. 3 at North Central Baptist Hospital in San Antonio, weighing 8 pounds, 14 ounces and measured 21 inches long. She is the daughter of Patrick O'Hare and Jennifer Auxier. Aniston has a big sister, Alexandria, 11. Other grandparents are Roger and Connie O'Hare, Goodland. While the Plotts are in Texas they also visited two other daughters in the area, Halley Roberson of Dallas and Kara and Adam Bravo and Taylor of Lucas, Texas.

Word has been received that Elden Auker died on Aug. 4, at the age of 95, in Vero Beach, Fla. He is survived by his wife, Mildred, of 73 years, and a son, Jim. The Strunk Funeral Home in Vero Beach is handling the arrangements. Elden graduated from Norcatour Rural High School with the class of 1928.

Trudi, John and Elissa McCollum came to visit Grandpa Bob and Grandma Kay Strevey on July 27. They all met at the Norton County Fair. Saturday Elissa stayed with Grandpa and Grandma while Trudi and John attended the car races in Norton. The McCollums returned home on

July 30. Kay Strevey left July 30, to do the "grandma thing" in Andover. She stayed a week helping Wendy Tien with her newborn son, Andrew, and with Ivalea. They also visited with Hollie, Justin and Jared Ricke. Kay returned home Aug. 6.

Birthdays and anniversaries: Wayne and Norma McCallister - Aug. 9; Troy and Deb Marshall - Aug. 11; Frank Hillebrand - Aug. 15; Andrea Marshall, Gene and Kristi Gallentine - Aug. 16.

Weekend guests of Bee Nelson on Aug. 5 and 6 were Tara Nelson, Anita Volsky and Wiggles (the dog) of Independence, Mo. Supper guest on Saturday was Wayne McCallister. They celebrated Anita's birthday with homemade ice cream.

Graveside services for Vera Bishop of Denver were held on Friday, Aug. 11, at the Norton Cemetery.

There were 17 present on Friday evening, Aug. 5, at Senior Citizens. Winners were Beth Johnson, June Jolly and Veda Wood. The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Friday in the Educational Building.

Overnight guests of Virgil and Joyce Price on Aug. 5 were Jason, Kathy, Connor and MacKenzie Jurey of Kennard, Neb.

They were en route home from a week of four-wheeling in Colorado. Aug. 6 was Connor's fifth birthday, so it was a special day for him.

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