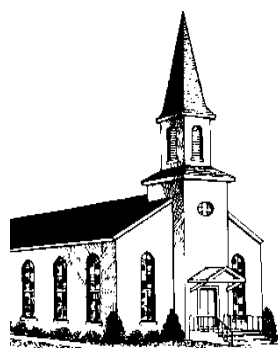


Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

"Will God Speak To You This Christmas?"

By Pastor Kirk Kasson, Almena Congregational Church

As I read the Christmas passages this past week it occurred to me that many of the participants in the Christmas story had a personal, verbal encounter with God.

During worship, an angel tells Zechariah that his wife, Elizabeth, will have a child.

In a dream an angel tells Joseph that his wife, Mary, will have a son, Jesus.

An angel tells Mary that she will give birth to the Savior.

The shepherds are visited, first by one angel, then by a "chorus" of angels.

A star guides the wise men to Jerusalem, at which time Herod's scholars use scripture to guide them on to Bethlehem. Then the star shines directly on the stable. They are later told in a dream not to return to Herod.

Joseph is later told in a dream to flee to Egypt and finally Joseph is told to return home by another angel, in yet another dream.

When was the last time God spoke to you?

I am sometimes envious of those in the Bible who had such tangible experiences with God. I want to wake up to find God's message for me written on the bathroom mirror, so I can start off my day knowing God's will for my life.

Hebrews chapter one says that in the Old Testament, God chose to

speak to His people many ways, but in "recent times" (in the few years before the book of Hebrews was written) God has spoken to us by His Son. Jesus came to earth in the flesh (as a baby) to be with us (His name, Emmanuel, means "God with us") so we could

hear teaching straight from God.

One thing Jesus said was that we should expect to hear God speak, if we are in right relationship with Him. "He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason that you do not hear is that

you do not belong to God." John 8:47 (NIV)

What kinds of things does God say?

This verse has challenged me, but I have come to understand that God has spoken to me several times, in several ways. I have never personally had an "angel" experience, but through the Holy Spirit God has convicted me many times while praying or reading scripture. Sometimes it is a word of advice. Other times I am convicted of a sin in my life of which I must repent and ask forgiveness. And yet I am often simply comforted by God's love and His promises.

What should I do? The Bible makes it clear that because of sin, we humans cannot hear God clearly without the help of the Holy Spirit. The key is putting our relationship with Him first. It appears to me that each of the people in the Christmas story had a real, personal relationship with God. God desires a relationship with you above all else.

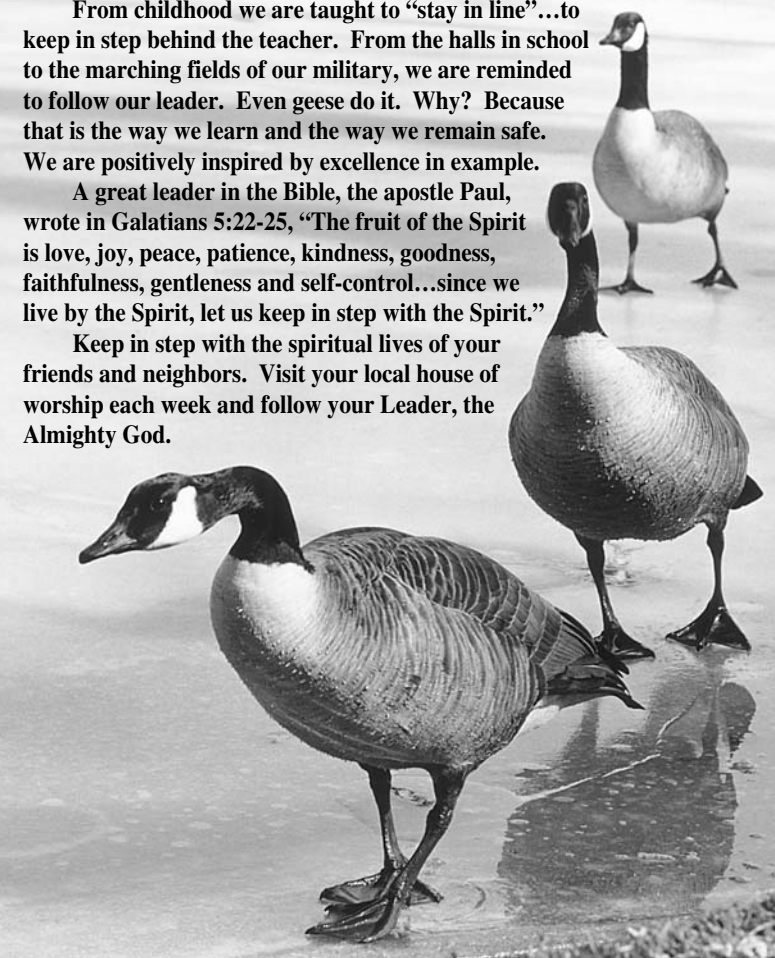
I pray that during this Christmas season you will be intentional about spending time in prayer and reading scripture, and that you will seek after God especially, so that you might grow closer to Him so that you might hear and obey His voice.

FOLLOW THE LEADER

From childhood we are taught to "stay in line"...to keep in step behind the teacher. From the halls in school to the marching fields of our military, we are reminded to follow our leader. Even geese do it. Why? Because that is the way we learn and the way we remain safe. We are positively inspired by excellence in example.

A great leader in the Bible, the apostle Paul, wrote in Galatians 5:22-25, "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control...since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Keep in step with the spiritual lives of your friends and neighbors. Visit your local house of worship each week and follow your Leader, the Almighty God.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Luke 21:5-38	Psalms 24	Psalms 122	Psalms 124	Psalms 126	Psalms 127	Psalms 128

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

On Nov. 18, Marion and Marilyn Otter, Greg and Tammy Otter, Seth and Alissa, New Almelo; and Steve Otter, Wichita, all attended the musical, "Oklahoma" at Lakin High School. Alan Kessler, grandson and nephew was one of the performing cowboys. He was wearing his great Uncle Bob's Stetson hat.

George and Vickie Gassmann and Margie Unrein attended the Thanksgiving dinner at the Cedar Living Center in Oberlin with Mathilda Bolig which was held Nov. 19.

On Monday, Nov. 20, Marion Long moved to the St. John's of Hays Nursing Facility. Lorraine has an apartment close by. Cards and letters can be sent to 2403 Canterbury No. 7, Hays, Kan. 67601.

Tuesday, Nov. 21, Tom Otter, DeSoto, arrived at the home of his parents, Alfred and Betty Otter. Wednesday morning, Tom and Alfred drove to Flagstaff, Ariz., to spend some time camping out in the mountains with Alfred's brother, Harold Otter.

Allie and Ruth Vahling attended an early Thanksgiving meal on Wednesday at the home of their son, Dick and Betty Vahling, Dresden. On Thursday, they returned to Dick and Betty's home for another Thanksgiving meal. On Saturday night, they attended a surprise birthday party at Norcatur for Gary Hillebrand's 50th birthday.

Coming to the home of George and Vickie Gassmann for Thanksgiving dinner were their children, Randy and Beth Gassmann and boys, New Almelo; Alice and Wes James and girls, Ellis; Connie Gassmann, Colby; other relatives were Jackie and Chuck Wright, Lenora; Sherri and Randy Sander, their daughter, Kelley and friend Andrew, Amarillo, Texas; Terry Fisher and sons, Tyler and Tanner and Fred Wilson, Ellis; Sam Batson, Norton; and friend Dorothy Mindrup. Their son Jeremy and Brandi Gassmann and Alaina, Lee's Summit, Mo., came on Fri-

day.

Mike Mindrup and Jason, Olathe, spent some time at the home of their mother and grandmother, Dorothy Mindrup. They left early on Thursday.

House guests at the home of Randy and Beth Gassmann and boys were Beth's sister, Janet and Don Bertling and girls, Valley Center. The George Hachmeister children celebrated Thanksgiving/Christmas with their mother, Evelyn and Gary Aumiller.

Thanksgiving guests at the home of Russ and Marcia Aumiller and Josh Vahling were Jeremy and Missy Rumbach and girls. Russ's brother spent Wednesday with them.

Raymond and Bonita Slipke and family ate Thanksgiving dinner with his mother, Miriam Slipke, Hoxie.

Coming to the home of Marion and Marilyn Otter for Thanksgiving were Greg and Tammy Otter and Seth and Alissa, Bridgett Otter, Dustin and Jon Shellito and girls, Oakley; and Zach Otter, Kansas City.

Roger and JoAnn Long spent Thanksgiving with their daughter, Joanie and Darin Winkel and girls, Norton.

Dennis Linden, McPherson, visited his father, Bob Linden on the weekend.

Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter for the Thanksgiving holidays were, Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe; Mark and Sheila Otter and family, Ulysses; Ashley Otter, Lenora; Jim and Jolene Moss and family, Jewell; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter Saige and Cury, Salina. On Thursday evening they were joined by Gary and Bertsie Bruinekool, Lenora; Renee Bruinekool and Kirk Persinger, Norton, Art and Karen Bates, Chad and Amy Bates and family, Edmond, Okla., for an evening meal and visiting. Will and Tina Ritter and family had Thanksgiving dinner with Will's parents, Vincent and Mary Ritter, Leoville. On Saturday, they visited with his grandmother, Anna Reinert, Se-

WILSONVILLE

By JOY STALDER

Allen and Connie Wilson, Bert and Laurie Jurey had a late afternoon Thanksgiving Day dinner with their parents, Sonny and Ella Wilson.

On Friday Connie was in Kearney to baby-sit with her grandson, Evan Townsend. Allen came to Kearney late Friday afternoon to bring her home. She had gone Kearney with Bert and Laurie Jurey Thursday night as they were going up to help their grandson Trace celebrate his 13th birthday.

Alice and Terry Joe Kasson were Thanksgiving Day guests of Karla Anderson, (Kim Kasson's mother) of Norton. Other guests were Kirk and Kim Kasson and family.

The Caring Group decorated the Baptist-Christian Church for Christmas on Sunday evening.

Bob and Suree Schilz and two babies of Milford, Johnny and Tina Urling, McCook, and their five daughters were Thanksgiv-

ing Day guests of Chester and Kathie Francis.

On Thanksgiving Day Mike and Roxey Lang had as their guests Lelia and Chris Lang, Kent Lang of Kearney, Jeremy and Nick Lang.

Darrel Palmer entered the McCook Hospital Friday for treatment of pneumonia. His wife, June, reported that he is feeling better and should be home soon.

Thanksgiving Day guests of Kenneth and Carla Holtze were their children Rhonda and LaVern Banzhaf, Cambridge; Brad and Renee Holtze, Josh and Drew, Russ and Kendra Hoagland, Travis, Jake and Trenton of Hastings.

Avis Wolfe had Thanksgiving Day dinner with her son Arlyn and wife Judy of Holdrege. Arlyn brought his mother, Avis, back to her home in Wilsonville on the 24th.

Saturday, Nov. 25, Avis was a Thanksgiving Day guest of her son and wife, Carl and Mary Wolfe of Cambridge.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Estate of Della L. Wright

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, December 1, 8, 15, 2006. (3T)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS
PROBATE DIVISION
Case No. 2006-PR-29

In the Matter of the Estate of DELLA L. WRIGHT, Deceased
NOTICE OF HEARING
THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a petition has been filed in this Court by Gwendolyn Pohlman Tanber, as daughter and one of the heirs of Della L. Wright, also known as Della Wright, Deceased, praying for the determination of the descent of the following described real estate:

An undivided one-eighth (1/8) interest in the Northeast Quarter (NE/4) and the East Half of the Southeast Quarter (E/2 SE/4) of Section Twenty-two (22), and the West Half of the Southwest Quarter (W/2 SW/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), all in Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West of the Sixth P.M.,

in Norton County, Kansas; and

An undivided one-eighth (1/8) interest in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section Twenty-three (23), Township Four (4) South, Range Twenty-four (24) West of the Sixth P.M. in Norton County, Kansas;

and all other property, real and personal, or interest therein owned by the decedent at the time of death and you are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before December 27, 2006, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. of said day in said Court, in the City of Norton, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Gwendolyn Pohlman Tanber, Petitioner
R. Douglas Sebelius #09157
SEBELIUS & GRIFFITHS, LLP
105 South Norton Street
P.O. Box 10
Norton, KS 67654-0010
(785) 877-5143
Attorneys for Petitioner

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