

Family

Relax expectations, be work in progress

BPWWMGINFWMY. Remember this? It was popular shorthand some years back for "Please Be Patient With Me; God Is Not Finished With Me Yet."



Carroll Morony

• From the Pulpit

It summarizes the simple, but profound truth that each of us is a "work in progress" in our personal journey of spiritual growth and maturity. And a "work in progress" means it is not finished yet - sometimes never finished.

It's a lot like a toddler learning to walk. One parent used this description of their experience with a 19-month-old who was fiercely independent but not as sure-footed as she thought she was: "As parents, we were delighted when she walked and ran, but she fell many times, often resulting in a scrape or bruise somewhere on her little body. In spite of these repetitive 'failures,' she always got up and tried again."

This parent went on to point out that the same relationship exists between God and his children. God is not discouraged with us when we stumble and fall. More importantly, God is delighted when we try - and keep on trying in spite of our failures. God will not give up on us, and we should not give up either.

This truth is reflected in Psalm 103:8 and 14: "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. ...he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust."

God has made a commitment of love to us, and God never slacks on his commitments. This love is like parents' love that recognizes the child's struggles and failure, but never gives up, and is merciful and gracious.

God is patient with us as we grow. He forgives us so we can keep on. God understands our human weaknesses and frailties as we try to grow up in Christ (as the Apostle Paul puts it). After all, God made us. He knows we are a work in progress and is not finished with us yet.

Sad to say, however, God is much more tolerant and under-

standing toward us and our stumbling, bumbling steps of growth than we often are of ourselves or of others. Consider the following scene: It's time for the second-grade math test. The students are ready with their pencils, but as the test sheets are handed out, they become totally confused. It's a college-level calculus test!

One kid tremulously raises a hand. "Uh, Miss Jones? We can't do these problems."

"What's wrong with you?" she barks. "You're supposed to be smart kids. If you ever want a degree in math, you'll have to solve problems like this. Get busy."

Ridiculous, you say? Of course it is. But some people seem to think God is like that over-demanding teacher, insisting on perfection when they keep slipping up. They worry about all the "bad grades" God must be giving them as they struggle to do the right thing.

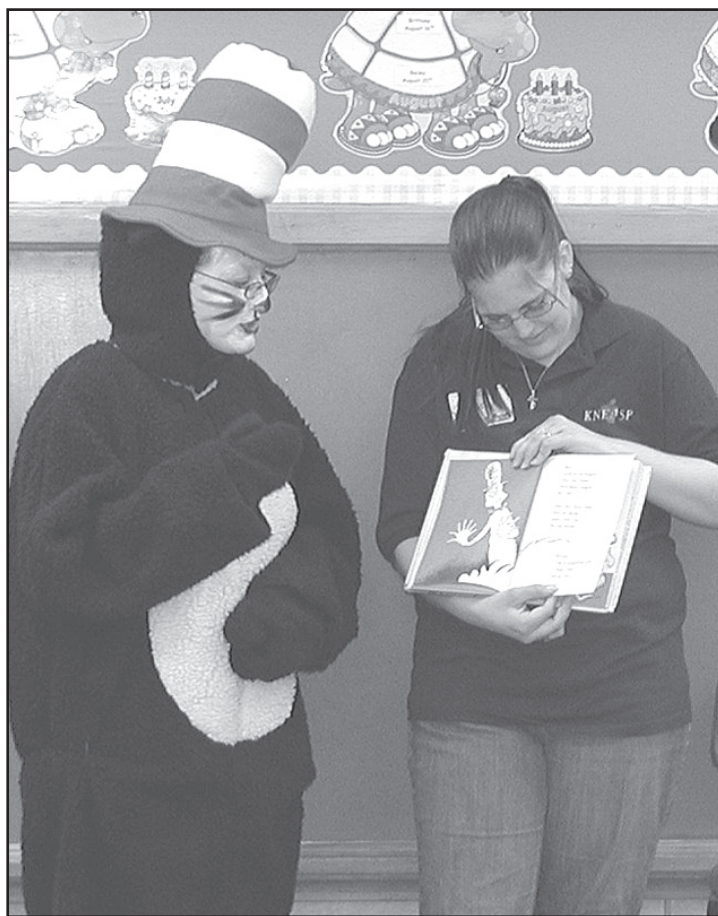
We can too easily act like that over-demanding teacher with one another, forgetting we are all works in progress.

The Apostle Paul describes our being "a work in progress" with a "64-dollar" word: sanctification. Sanctification simply means being holy - or more accurately, as Paul uses it, the process of becoming more like Christ as we grow in grace and love.

Just as we don't learn to walk and coordinate all the parts of our body or develop our skills easily or all at once, neither do we learn all at once to walk or run spiritually as God intends us to. It requires lots of patience, forgiveness and tolerance toward ourselves and one another.

We are always a work in progress under God's guidance. We demonstrate wisdom when we do not lose sight of this truth about ourselves and with one another.

Reading with the Cat



SHANE MUNOZ/Colby Free Press

Two students from Colby Community College entertained at the Colby Grade School on Dr. Seuss' birthday Monday, sharing the famous "Cat in the Hat."

Babies

Anna Juliette Kuhn

Brian and Christina Kuhn, Hays, are the parents of a daughter, Anna Juliette Kuhn, born Friday, Feb. 27, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 19 inches. She has a brother, Logan Elijah, 6, and a sister, Emma Danielle, 4. Grandparents are Roberta Rietcheck, Colby; Vernon Rietcheck, Hoxie; and the late Mary Frank and the late Albert Kuhn, Hays.



Anna Kuhn

Deaths

Shawn Eugene Spencer

Shawn Eugene Spencer, 36, Hays, formerly of Colby, died Tuesday, March 3, 2009, in Hays. He was born February 22, 1973, in Wichita. He was reared and attended school in Colby. Survivors include his mother and stepfather, Debra and Gerry Brown, and a brother, Chad Hanna, all of Grainfield; and grandparents Floyd and Mary Carter, Park. A private service is planned. Memorials may be made to the Shawn Spencer Memorial Fund in care of Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home, Hoxie.

Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.98
Corn (bushel)	\$3.29
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.78
Soybeans (bushel)	\$7.47

Thank You

A belated Thank You (I couldn't write due to a broken wrist) to all who have remembered me in any way since my 9/09/08 accident. A very much appreciate the many cards and well wishes, prayers, flowers, e-mails, visits, and phone calls. Special thanks to Lynette for answering my Life Line call so quickly. To my family for all you have done for me. I could not have survived at home without you, I ask the Good Lord to bless you richly. Special thanks to Hoxie EMS, doctors and nurses - you were great! To Dr. Saba for putting me back together. To the Doctors and Nurses at Colby Medical Center, Hays Rehab Center, and Hoxie LTC. To the Colby Physical Therapists and Home Health ladies, you were and are great!

Words cannot fully express my feelings of gratitude to so many who have done so much for me on my road to recovery from my fractures. A big heart-felt thanks to all of you. May God bless each of you richly.

Sincerely,
Rita Beckman

Thank You!

Ken and Helen Poland would like to thank the following for their service and kindness these last three months.

Dr. Baughman and the staff at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City; the doctors and staff at Logan County Hospital; Tina Harris and her staff in Colby; Dr. Birney and his staff in Denver; Pastor Carroll and Jan Morony, First Baptist Church, Colby; family and friends for your prayers, calls, cards, letters, email, flowers and food. Thank you, thank you, it was all appreciated.

A special thank you to our daughter, Carmen, and her husband, Kenny, and our grandson, Christopher. You were lifesavers with your escort service, valet service, and the loving care that came with those services.



Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

Schedule of church services

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday, Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby, Interim Pastor, Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages, Adults: choice of Fireproof, Crown Financial, or the Bible Class. 462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Wednesday at 3 and 7 p.m.; RC Club 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main/Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30 AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45 AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday

Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 462-6342, Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Jordan Barrett, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YMYW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10 a.m., Sunday worship, 11 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M. Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Interpretation for the deaf, Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net.

OURS AVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m. **TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat. 5:30

p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster, Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Puroell, 687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.

Lent study sessions will focus on false psychological beliefs

The First Baptist Church of Colby, Grant and Webster streets, plans a Sunday Lenten study on "False Assumptions: Christian Beliefs That Can Drive You Crazy," from a book by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend, Christian psychologists.

Cloud and Townsend, popular speakers who specialize in integrating scripture with psychology, have written several other books, including the popular "Boundaries."

"False Assumptions" identifies teachings that sound plausible because they contain a nugget of truth, but fail in application, resulting in needless suffering, shame and guilt. These include that it is selfish to have personal needs met, that being spiritual

will eliminate pain and that guilt and shame are good for you. The authors says the Bible is part of the solution, not part of the problem.

This series will meet at 7 p.m. on Sundays between March 8 and April 5 in the educational wing of the church. The pastor, and leader of the study, the Rev. Carroll Morony, invites anyone who's interested to attend. Participants will need a Bible; lesson materials will be provided. Call 462-2867 for questions.

American Youth Soccer Organization Presents:

A Soccer Skills Camp For Boys and Girls Ages 6-12

Sunday, March 8th 1:00-5:00 p.m.

Heartland Christian School Registration fee \$5.00

For more information contact Greg Griffin 460-0647 or Samantha Schnider 460-0661



Premier Designs Jewelry Fashion Show
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