

Family

Paul's conversion just the start

In this fourth part of a series on the life of Apostle Paul, we will look at Paul's life from his conversion experience until God called him as a missionary.

When a person has been suddenly converted to Christianity as Paul was, many times he will have a strong impulse to make known what has happened to him. Whether Paul yielded at once to this impulse or not, we do not know. In Acts, it is said, "Straightway he preached Christ in the synagogue." This verse would lead us to think so.

But we also learn from his writings that there was another powerful impulse influencing him at the same time; it is not clear which of the two he obeyed first. That was the desire to withdraw and think over the meaning of what had happened to him.

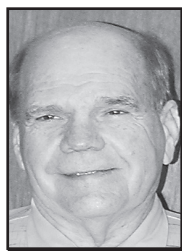
Paul had believed that destroying the Christian faith and persecuting Christians was what God wanted him to do. But on the Damascus road, when the voice called out to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" and he asked the question, "Who are you, Lord?" and the voice said, "I am Jesus whom you are persecuting" (Acts 9:4-5); these words must have devastated Paul. And they changed his life forever.

His former belief system was suddenly shattered, and he was severely shaken. This new truth came upon him as a flash of light, and he could not understand it all at one time. Paul was a born thinker. It was not enough for him just to experience something; he had to comprehend it and fit it into his beliefs and convictions. Immediately, after his conversion, therefore, he tells us that he withdraws into Arabia.

This is probably in Arabia where the Hebrews spent 40 years wandering, the place of Mount Sinai where Moses received the 10 Commandments, where manna was given to the Hebrews, and where Elijah spent some time.

It was a great place for Paul to meditate and pray; in this place the Holy Spirit helped him understand the gospel, and along with his knowledge of scriptures, he worked out his theology. It formed the gospel that he preached for the rest of his life.

In addition to this period of reflection, in 2 Corinthians 12:1-5, Paul writes that God honored him by taking him into the third heaven. (In Jewish theology, the first



Wes Barnett

• From the Pulpit

heaven is where the clouds are, the second heaven is where the moon, sun, and stars are, and the third heaven is where God dwells.)

Here he received spiritual revelation of divine truth. This revelation happened at this time in Paul's life, but no one knows exactly when. All of these experiences gave Paul a profound understanding of the plan of God. Paul wrote in Galatians 1:11-12: "But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ."

His stay in Arabia lasted a year, perhaps more, because between his conversion and leaving Damascus and his return to Damascus was a three-year period, at least one year of which was spent in Arabia.

Upon returning to Damascus, Paul began preaching but was immediately forced to leave because of the Jews who thought he was a traitor to his faith.

Paul had been a leader in trying to destroy the Christian faith, but now he was preaching Christ. In Acts 9:22-25, Luke relates how Paul escaped from Damascus: he was let down through a window in the city wall in a basket. He then went to Jerusalem and tried to preach there, but the Jews thought he was a traitor and the Christians did not trust him.

Paul was now in possession of the gospel and aware that his life's mission was to preach it. But he still had a long wait before doing so. While the Christians distrusted Paul in Jerusalem, a man by the name of Barnabas heard his story, believed him, and finally per-

sued the rest of the Christians to receive him. This only lasted a week or two because they feared Paul would be killed, so Paul left Jerusalem and went to his home town of Tarsus. Please read Acts 9:23-30.

But Barnabas had a profound impression of Paul and did not forget him. Paul stayed in Tarsus seven or eight years. We don't hear much about Paul in those years. There is some indication that he preached in the Tarsus area and witnessed to his own family.

During this period, Gentiles began receiving Christ (Acts 10). Persecution continued against the Christians, and so they were scattered.

One place they went was a city called Antioch, and a church was started there. The news of this new church reached the church in Jerusalem, and the church in Jerusalem sent Barnabas to Antioch to find out how they were faring.

Upon arriving in Antioch, Barnabas saw it was a true church which needed help, and it occurred to him that Paul was the man who was needed.

Tarsus was not far off, and so Barnabas went to find Paul and invited him to return to Antioch with him and Paul accepted (Acts 11:19-26). Next time, we will look at what happens at Antioch as Paul begins his missionary work.

Wes Barnett is pastor of College View Baptist Church. He can be reached at either 361-459-9348 or wesb@st-tel.net.

Deaths

William L. 'Bill' Jones

William L. Jones, 82, Colby, a retired produce salesman, died Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, at the Colby Care Center.

He was born Dec. 14, 1926, in Ellsworth, the son of John E. and Mary E. (Pegram) Jones.

He was a veteran of the Navy. He and his wife Olita were married on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 1944. She died May 20, 2008. Jones was a truck driver and salesman for Nikl Produce.

Survivors include three sons, Dennis Jones, Littleton, Colo.; Robert Jones, Concordia; and

Stanley Jones, Colby; five daughters, Cheryl Varwig, Aurora, Colo.; Sandra Wilson, Colby; Tamera Wallender, Westminster, Colo.; Valerie Miller, Franktown, Colo.; and Tina Stickel, Colby; three brothers, Oscar Jones and Harold Jones of Colby, and Lloyd Jones, North Liberty, Iowa; three sisters, Viola Svoboda, Denver; Mary Grace Poster, Arkansas; and Helen Thompson, Bell Flower, Calif.; 19 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren.

A funeral Mass will be at 10:30 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19, 2009, at

the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby, with Father Dana Clark officiating. Burial with military honors will be in the Sacred Heart Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 2 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, where a vigil and rosary will begin at 6 p.m.

The family suggests memorials in his name in care of the funeral home, 745 South Country Club Dr., Colby, Kan., 67701.

Alvin J. Johnson

Alvin J. Johnson of Abilene, 70, brother-in-law of Ray Imhof and Carol Thiel, Colby, and Loyde Imhof, Hays, died Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, at the Salina Regional Health Center.

He was born Nov. 15, 1938, in Beatrice, Neb., the son of John and Erna (Unbefunde) Johnson. After graduating from Courtland High School, Courtland, Neb., he received his bachelor's degree from Kansas State University in economic education and history.

On Aug. 11, 1963, he married Doris Imhof in Brewster. They

lived in Marysville from 1965 to 1998, owning and operating a Western Auto store for more than 25 years. After retiring, they lived in Burlington from 1998 to 2008, before moving to Abilene.

He was a member of the Faith Lutheran Church in Abilene, and a 35-year-member of Kiwanis Club.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Survivors include his wife of the home; two sons, Mark Johnson, Madison, Wis.; and Martin Johnson, Green; three daughters,

Martha Kelso, Odessa, Mo.; Sara Olberding, Abilene; and Michele Grieser, Douglas, Neb.; three brothers, Robert Johnson, Richard John, and Donald Johnson, and one sister, Bertha Johnson, all of Lincoln, Neb.; and 15 grandchildren.

Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 20, 2009, at the church, with Pastor Justin Panzer officiating. Burial in the Abilene Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 7 to 8 p.m. Monday at the Martin-Becker-Carlson Funeral Home in Abilene.

The family suggests contributions to the church's seminary student fund, St. John's Lutheran Church, Aliceville, or Mt. Calvary (Good Shepherd School), Marysville, in care of the funeral home, 414 Northwest Third St., Abilene, Kan., 67410.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.13
Corn (bushel)	\$3.23
Milo (hundredweight)	\$5.05

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.



SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.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.

Schedule of church services

- GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley, Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.
- COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, 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., 785-462-3041, 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. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday Nite Life at The Rock 5-6 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.
- BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.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, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.
- COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's.
- PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
- WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)
- MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30AM all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. 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**, 785-462-2179, 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, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m.
- WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, 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 - 785-460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 785-460-2656; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.
- REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com.
- COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, 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
- 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 - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net.
- OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.
- TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Don White and Rev. Tim Llewellyn, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:30 a.m.; Services, 11:00 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.
- LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.
- 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, 785-687-2565.
- REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
- BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, 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.

Due to unfortunate circumstances, I am no longer associated with Rasure Lumber, Inc.. I wish Kevin and the staff the best of luck in the future. Christie Rasure

Thank You!

The family of V.L. "Lew" Patten wishes a special Thank You to everyone who brought food to our homes and to the meal at the church. Also to all the ladies who helped serve the meal.

For the phone calls, visits, flowers, beautiful cards and the memorials given in Dad's name.

A special Thanks to the Prairie Senior Living Complex for all their Loving Care.

To Pastor Mike Pinkelman, Dale Hudon and Bill Shields for the wonderful service and to Greg Beiser, Gary Wiggins and Rachel Garcia for the beautiful music.

We gratefully appreciate all of your thoughtfulness and kindness. May God Bless each of you.

Bonnie and Jim Carpenter and family

Vernon and Sally Patten and Family

Thank You

THANK YOU to the following merchants, individuals & families who donated items, time, food, labor and distribution of flyers for the Rusti Hopper Benefit Auction that was held October 10, 2009. All of the monetary donations that were given that enabled Thrivent & Modern Woodmen of America to match funds. The host of ladies who prepared the food & helped to serve & cleanup. Karla Haggard, Monica Miller, Blake & Brandon McLemore & Tom Harrison for the music. Please forgive me if I have left anybody out.

Peggy Barton	Someplace Special
Diana Schiffler	Pottery By Gouloush
Elaine Hansen	Rock & Marilyn Walz
Service Master	Lana Johnson
Carousel	KRDQ FM & KXXX
Jeff Terrell	Kathy Higard
Office Works	Carole Raile
Farm Implement	Carla Latimer
Gary & Pat Sloan	Leon Woofler
Brice & Amber Barton	Leroy's Printing
Thomas County Cabinetry	PhotoGirl
Wagoner Repair	Unicel
J & J Tools	Inlow's
Daryl & Marilyn Meyer	Sears
LaDonna Sloan	Donelan's
Elva Livingston	Max George
Donna Schmidtberger	Beringer's
Robert & Dawn Beitz	Colby Implement
Cheryl Cooper	Horiacher's
Shawn Carney	Mac Tools
High Plains Printing	S & W Supply
Sunflower Kitchen Bakery	Subway
Colby Automotive	Arby's
T.O. Haas	Dillon's
Karen Hopper	Dale Deaver
Jesse Behrens	F & M Bank
Swartz Veterinary Clinic	Wendy's
John Brannick	Bev Biel
Colby Free Press	Bob Jones
Jenny Niblock	Oasis
Jennifer Selby	Paul Heskett
Vision Source	HomeLand Realty & Auction

And a huge **THANK YOU** to TNT Action, who donated the use of their building, equipment, utilities: Tom Harrison & Bob Jones who gave of their time to conduct the auction. Without their donation, this benefit would not have been possible.

Sharon Woofler

To become a sponsor, call Heather or Jasmine today at 462-3963.

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