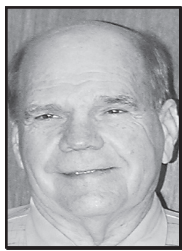


Family

Our heavenly Father cares

Today we will start a new series on "God's Answers to Our Needs," based on the Lord's Prayer in Matthew 6, starting with verse 9.



Wes Barnett

• From the Pulpit

I hope this series will answer two questions: "What are the needs of my life that God has promised to meet?" and, "How does he do it?"

Before we can answer these questions, however, we need to find out why God would be interested in us. The Bible tells us many times that God cares for each of us.

When Jesus came to earth, he did away with a lot of stereotypes about God. He showed us God is not some impersonal force. Do you remember some years ago, the phrase, "The force be with you"?

Neither is God some angry tyrant who wants to punish us, even though there will be a day of judgment on the world.

God is not a creator who does not care about what happens to earth - his creation. In fact, in the Lord's Prayer, Jesus defines God in two words - "our Father." Jesus said this is how we should begin our prayer - "our Father." God wants us to think about Him as a father. Jesus called God "father" over 70 times in the Gospel.

Unlike some earthly fathers, God is a perfect father, and the question we begin with is "What are some of our heavenly Father's characteristics?" The first is that God is a caring father. If you don't get anything else from this article, get this. God cares for us and He loves us. Please read 1 Peter 5:7; this is God's most outstanding characteristic. He is a caring, compassionate, loving father.

Once when the disciples were out in a boat with Jesus, a storm came up. The boat started taking on water. The disciples asked, "Lord don't you care, we are drowning?" Have you ever felt like that? "Lord I'm going under, don't you care?" Yes, God cares. Please read Psalm 35:27. For the children of God, he

is a caring father.

The second characteristic of our heavenly Father is that he is consistent. He is dependable and worthy of trust. Read James 1:17. Notice it says, "[God] does not change." Some fathers are unpredictable; some children say "I never know what to expect from my Dad." Many believe inconsistent fathers produce insecure children.

But God is consistent. He never has a bad day. He loves us just as much on our bad days as on our good days. 2 Timothy 2:13 is an incredible verse. It says even when we are faithless, he remains faithful. God can be counted on. That's good news, because everything in the world changes. Everything else may fall apart, but there is one thing we can count on. God is always caring and consistent.

The third characteristic of our heavenly Father is that he is always close to us. The Bible makes it clear God is nearby when we need him. Read Acts 17:27. He is not a million miles away; he is always close to his children. Here are several things that means to us.

• God is never too busy for us. When we need him, whenever we need his help, God doesn't say, "Not now, I'm busy" (Psalm 145:18). We can talk to him at any time.

• God wants to meet our needs (Matthew 7:11). If an earthly father, who is not perfect, wants to take care of the needs of his children, how much more does a perfect heavenly Father know how to take care of His children?

• Our heavenly Father is sympathetic to our hurts (Psalm 34:18). He knows what we go through. He is close to those who are broken hearted.

That's what it means to have a heavenly Father.

The fourth characteristic of our heavenly Father is that he is capable (Luke 1:37). Nothing is beyond his ability. Whatever problems we have, God can handle them. God wants to meet our needs. Read Ephesians 3:20 and Philippians 4:19.

Our Father in heaven is the way God wants us to relate to him. He is not just our creator. He cares about us. He can make a difference in our life. He is a caring father, a consistent father, a close father, and a capable father.

For the next few articles we will look at the Lord's Prayer and God meeting his children's needs.

Now, a logical question: is everyone God's child? Well, the answer is yes and no. Everyone is a child of God in the sense that we were all created by God. So, in the sense that God created everyone, every human is a child of God.

But not everyone has a relationship with God. Not everyone can call him Father. Then the question becomes: how does God become our Father? How is that relationship established? Galatians 3:26 tells us, "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus." It's that simple.

Going to church, tithing, always doing right are all good to do, but trusting Christ as our Savior is what makes us children of God. In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."

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

Brewster Prairie Gem 4-H Club

The Brewster Prairie Gem 4-H Club met at 7:30 p.m. on May 10, with 17 members and three guests.

President Rose Bear called the meeting to order with Nichelle Erskine leading the club in the flag salute. Song leaders Emeline Hutton and Weston Schmidt led in singing "The Alphabet."

Roll call was answered by members naming a county in Kansas. Answers were from all parts of the state.

Secretary Ben Baird's minutes were approved. Treasurer's report was given by Stefanie Eicher. Reporter Whitney Schultz reported that she was sick at the April meeting and did not get April's minutes turned in.

Rose Bear reported for 4-H Council. The council talked about lettering for hoodies to give for the winners at the fair. They discussed having clubs do their own floats for the fair parade. The council also talked about day camp and Family Fun Night. The next meeting was to be at 6:30 p.m. May 24.

Dorothy Bear reported the sewing group was getting ready to meet.

For new business, Rose Bear said Rex Jamison had asked if the club would serve food and help at the answer plot in August. The club decided to wait and talk more about this at the next meeting. The club also decided not to have a club float for the fair parade and to enter a float in the Brewster Alumni Parade instead. The Hutton and Roulier families

would be in charge. The fair booth and tour committees need to meet.

Stuart Schmidt reported on the Blood Drive.

Whitney Schultz said that Rabies Clinic went over well. Nine cats and 36 dogs received vaccinations.

The club received a Purple Seal, so President Rose Bear placed it on the club charter.

Parliamentarian Austin Burkholder gave a report on addressing the president. Wyatt Werth gave a project talk on his goat project and Whitney Schultz talked about her steer project. Justin Schmidt told the club about "chewing" snuff for his safety and health talk. For a demonstration, Emeline Hutton showed the basic place setting of dinnerware.

The Schmidt brothers had the members play "The Human Knot" for recreation.

The next meeting was to begin at 7:30 p.m. Monday<j14>. The program will be Austin Burkholder with a project talk; Colton Rundel, demonstration; Layton Werth, music and other; Michael Schmidt, safety and health. Justin Schmidt will be parliamentarian and Ben Baird will be in charge of recreation. Hosts will be the Rundel and Schultz families.

President Bear asked for a motion to adjourn. Nichelle Erskine made the motion and Austin Burkholder seconded. The 4-H pledge was said.

— Whitney Schultz

Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday with 28 members and guests.

Christy Gugelman was inducted into membership by her sponsor, Mike Tubbs.

Darryl Henry had the program, featuring Chase McNinch, Brock Wagoner and Gray Henry. The boys sang tunes from the recent Colby High School pop concert and played their instruments.

McNinch won Roto-Lotto. The club meets at noon each Tuesday in Room 106 of the Colby Community College Student Union.

— Relda Galli

Barton students earn A's

Levi Schlick of Colby and Lindsey Niermeier of Hoxie are among the 158 students named to the President's List at Barton Community College for the spring 2010 semester.

To qualify, students must have

been enrolled in a minimum of 12 credit hours and maintained a "straight-A" grade average of 4.0.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$3.55
Corn (bushel)	\$2.98
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.85
Soybeans (bushel)	\$8.84

High Plains Lions Club

Members of the High Plains Lions club got together for a sandwich supper before their Flag Day meeting on Monday, June 14. Donna Lawver was a guest.

Cheryl Brenn had attended the state convention and reported that Barbara Bickner, a Colby High School student, was a flutist in this year's band, which performed for the 59th consecutive year for the state convention.

Brenn gave the club information on the new penny design, and read a poem, "Freedom is not Free."

The club reviewed the Chautauqua concessions

sales, and president Burris thanked all the members who had worked in the stand. They sent a thank you note to Lobo Liquor for providing ice for the stand.

The club's next big activity will be the free hot dog feed and entertainment preceding the Kiwanis Club fireworks at the Thomas County Fair Grounds.

Burris also reminded club members the club will have a concession stand for the Thomas County Amusement Association at the Thomas County Fair the last week of July.

The next meeting will be a program of installation for new members on Monday, June 28.

Corrections

The caption for a photo from Picnic in the Park on Page 1 of the Thursday, June 17, *Colby Free Press*, misidentified the guitar player. Her name is Rachel Myers. The name of the church providing the watermelon was wrong as well. It was Heartland Chris-

tian School. These were reporting errors.

☆☆☆☆

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.

BEAD SHOW

JUNE 18 & 19 • FRI. 8 A.M. - 6 P.M. • SAT. 8 A.M. - 4 P.M.
FREE ADMISSION • OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
COLBY COMMUNITY CENTER, UPSTAIRS
 Huge selection of semi-precious beads, Czech glass beads, over 400 colors of seed beads, vintage German buttons and beads, cowboy crystal crosses, Swarovski crystal pearls, vintage Swarovski, Lampwork pendants, sterling silver and copper beads and findings, beading wire tools, and more. AND THE HOT NEW RED VELVET CRYSTAL!!! A room full of beads!
INFO: 520-907-5124 • Bead helper wanted • We buy old beads and jewelry!!

Twilight Saga
Double Feature
New Moon
 PG-13 2 hours, 10 Minutes
 Showing June 29th
 @ 9:30 PM

Eclipse
 PG-13 2 hours, 4 Minutes
 Showing June 30th
 @ 12:01 AM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!!!!
\$16 Both Movies
Colby Cinema
 1935 S. Range
 785-460-9600
 www.colbycinema.com

TICKET

SUMMER MATINEE

June 22
2 p.m.

NOW SHOWING

Every Tuesday

Admission: \$3.00

CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALS

PG 1 Hour, 30 Minutes

Colby Cinema

1935 S. Range • 785-460-9600
 www.colbycinema.com

2010 Rotary - Chamber Golf Tournament

The Colby Rotary Club and The Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce would like to thank all of our sponsors, players, volunteers and the Meadow Lake Golf course who have helped make this tournament a success. We appreciate you and thank you for your continued support.

Thank you to the following sponsors:

Hole Sponsors:

- Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball, CHTD.
- Allan Taylor Attorney at Law
- Bankwest
- Bosselman Travel Center
- Bottle Gallery
- Calvin K. Williams CHTD
- Cersovsky Insurance Agency
- Citizens Medical Center
- Colby Bowl & Fun Center
- Colby Canvas
- Colby Fertilizer Inc.
- Colby Free Press
- Colby Implement
- Comfort Inn
- Commercial Sign Co.
- Cornerstone Ag L.L.C.
- Culligan Water Conditioning
- Dan Keller Audio
- Dr. Larry Washburn
- Family Center for Healthcare
- Farm & Ranch Realty
- Farm Bureau Financial Services
- Farm Credit of Western Kansas
- Farm Implement & Supply
- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- G & S Tree Works L.L.C.
- Gambino's
- Great Western Tire of Colby, Inc.
- Harrison Chapel
- High Plains Printing
- High Plains Co-op Association
- Holiday Inn Express

- HomeLand Realty & Auction
- J&R Marketing
- Jim's Electric, Inc.
- Ken & Sheila Frahm
- KXXX-KRDQ Radio
- Leroy's Printing & Publishing
- Motor Town L.L.C.
- Nancy LePell, Accounting
- Northwest Decorating Center
- Ntronic
- Oasis Travel Center
- Office Works L.L.C.
- Overtime Liquor Store
- Palace Drug Store
- PeopleS State Bank
- Plum Creek
- Roofmasters
- S & T Communications
- Someplace Special
- Sonic Drive Inn
- Sharon & Paul Steele
- Stans Automotive Inc. - NAPA
- Stevens Construction
- Stramel Law Firm
- Sunflower Bakery
- Sunflower Bank
- T.O. Haas Tire Co. Inc.
- Taco Johns
- Tarbet Redi-Mix
- Teri's Tax & Accounting Services
- The Bank
- The Tool Box
- Tina Harris Physical Therapy
- Tubbs & Sons Ford Sales

- Unicel
- Van's Body & Frame, Inc.
- WalMart Supercenter
- Western Sprinklers
- Ron Evans

Prize Sponsors:

- Colby Community College
- Colby Furniture
- Donelan's Jewelry
- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- Horlacher Jewelers
- Kansas Quick Lube
- McDonald's
- Randy & Mary Lou Jones
- Sears Store
- The Sports Shoppe
- Tubbs Chiropractic
- Uptown Style

Hole in 1 Contest Sponsored By:
 MC Auto Outlet

Putting Contest Sponsored By
 F&M Insurance
 Prairie Land Insurance - Brewster

