

Are you willing to become less?

Jesus said, "Among those born of woman there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist."

The apostle John said this about John the Baptist, "He came for a witness of the Light, that all might believe through him. He was not the Light, but came that he might bear witness of the Light."

The greatness of John the Baptist can be found in the fact that he understood and accepted that last statement. He knew who the Light was, and he knew it wasn't himself.

God's sovereign purpose for John was very clear and simple. He was created to point men and women to the dawning light, and then like the morning mist to be burnt away by the greater glory of the rising Son. John was content with that. Thus he could say, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

As he meditated on these things the 19th century hymn writer, Horatius Bonar, wrote: "He must grow greater; I grow less and less; / I like the mist which o'er the mountain flies, / And in the rising glory vanishes; / He like the Sun in yon fair morning skies; / Amen, amen, I would not have it otherwise."

Note the phrase, "I would not have it otherwise." John could honestly say that. Can we?

We have been taught that our purpose in life is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. But what if glorifying Him means that like the mist, we too must melt away, unseen and forgotten, so that the greater glory of God can become visible? If that is the way it must be would we really say, "Amen, amen, I would



Mark Carlton

• From the Pulpit

not have it otherwise?

Some years ago I discussed these things with a young minister, one of the most spiritually gifted, multi-talented men I have ever known. He had only been in the ministry a short time when he began to see God bless in remarkable ways. His church was packed with people who wanted to hear him preach. People were responding to his messages and lives were being transformed. Revival was breaking out and God was using him. Overnight he was becoming a celebrity and as news of his success spread he began to be in demand as a special speaker.

But then problems began to develop. As a result the number of people coming to be ministered to by him dropped. Naturally, this was a discouraging time for my friend.

As we discussed the situation my friend said he would do anything he could to bring glory to God. Something - perhaps the Lord, perhaps my own orneriness - prompted me to ask, "What if God wants to bring glory to Himself through your failure? Are you willing to be a failure for Him?"

Suddenly my friend got terribly quiet. Af-

ter about a minute he answered, "I don't think so." I appreciated his honesty.

You see, my friend liked being used by God and the glory that came as he pointed men to the Son, but he didn't like it when he realized that it might please God to melt his glory so the greater glory of the Lord might shine the brighter.

Sometime later a mutual friend told me this same young minister challenged him with this question: "What if God were never to use you again? What if He were to say, 'I've used you all I can, you've preached your last sermon, all I'm to use you for has been accomplished.' Would that be enough for you?"

That he would be asking these questions told me he had been wrestling with the issues we discussed. It also told me he was growing.

I am glad to say God has continued to use this man in wonderful ways. He is presently enjoying a successful ministry. But what is most exciting to me is that he has changed his goals. He no longer seeks mere success. He now is striving for true greatness, the kind of greatness John the Baptist displayed when he said, "He must increase, but I must decrease."

By the way, when I first published his story I called my friend to ask for his permission. He gave me permission to share it - and he wept.

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. You can reach him at pastormark@colbyberean.com or 460-2763.

Deaths

Hilda Marie Moellering

Hilda Marie (Schwarz) Moellering, 90, Hoxie, a retired farm wife and mother of Marita (Gary) Schieck of Colby, died Thursday, Sept. 8, 2011, at Sheridan County Long Term Care, Hoxie.

She was born the youngest of ten children to Henry and Anna (Ostmeyer) Schwarz on June 23, 1921, on the family farm six miles north of Grinnell, in Sheridan County.

Her formal education was received at Angelus Grade School. On Aug. 21, 1945, she married Reynold Theodore Moellering at Angelus.

They lived on the Dickman place, seven miles south of Seguin and for 32 years ran a dairy and farming operation. In 1977, they semi-retired and moved to Oakley where she worked at the Colonial Steakhouse. In October 2005, they moved to the Sheridan Estates Apartments in Hoxie. Following her husband's death on Sept. 10, 2009, she lived at the Sheridan County Long Term Care.

A member of St. Paul's Catholic Church in Angelus, St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Oakley and finally St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in Hoxie, she enjoyed working outside, in the garden and growing flowers. After moving to town, she did crocheting and hand quilting.

She was preceded in death by her parents, nine siblings, her husband and a grandson, Kevin Zimmerman.

Survivors include five other daughters, Ann (Clem) Delzeit, Scranton; Betty (Louis) Grunewald, Casper, Wyo.; Pauline (Larry) Zimmerman, Oakley; Joyce (Kim) Tice, Hoxie; and Lucy (Steve) Zerr, Levant; 17 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

Services will be at 10 a.m. Monday, Sept. 12, 2011, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Oakley, with burial in the church cemetery.

Visitation will be from 1 to 6 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 3 p.m. Sunday at Mickey-Leopold Funeral Home, 1024 Sheridan Ave. in Hoxie. Additional visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday at the church in Oakley, with a vigil service at 7 p.m.

The family suggests memorials to the care center or Hospice Services Inc., in care of the funeral home, Box 235, Hoxie, Kan., 67740.

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.

Senior Progress Center

There will be no meals at the Senior Progress Center on Friday due to manager and cooks training.

Activities: **Monday:** 10:30 a.m. Skip Bo. **Tuesday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. Rummikub. **Wednesday:** snack day. **Thursday:** 10 a.m. exercise; 10:30 a.m. pinocle. **Friday:** Senior Progress Center will be closed.

Menus: **Monday:** beef and noodles, seasoned carrots, mandarin oranges, cook's choice complement. **Tuesday:** tuna salad, tomato soup, cantaloupe, crax, fruit

cobbler. **Wednesday:** hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, cook's choice vegetable, apricots. **Thursday:** ham, scalloped potatoes, rosy pears, birthday cake. **Friday:** Senior Progress Center will be closed.

The Thomas County Nutrition Center invites anyone 60 and older and guests to lunch at the senior center. Home delivery is available. A contribution of \$3 per meal is suggested for seniors, \$5.25 for others.

Make reservations at (784) 460-2901 by noon the day before.

Rexford writer needed

It's important to the Free Press to share the news of all the communities in the reading area, but we simply can't be everywhere. Vicki Allison, who has been the Rexford correspondent for the Colby Free Press for several years, has decided not to continue in the position. We will miss her.

At the same time, that leaves the position of Rexford correspondent open. We are looking for a replacement, so if you are interested we would be happy to hear from you. If you would like to write a short weekly piece about what's going on, let us know.

In the interim, we will print activities at the Red Barn as a separate item, as we do for the Senior Progress Center in Colby.

We have also been looking for a correspondent for the Brewster area for some time. Anyone who is able to fill that role is also encouraged to apply, as we know there are many events in the smaller towns that deserve notice.

To contact us, call Kevin Bottrell at (785) 462-3963; e-mail us at Colby.editor@nwkansas.com; or write us at Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

Red Barn

Activities for the week: **Monday:** 1:45 p.m. blood clinic; 2 p.m. Barnswallows. **Wednesday:** 10 a.m. ladies' Bible study. **Thursday:** 2 p.m. "Come on down;"

6:30 p.m. "Spud 'n Splits." **Friday:** 9:30 a.m. koffee klatch; 1:20 p.m. Red Barn leaves for Oakley; 2:30 p.m. "Stitch and Chatter."

Colorado dog's ears longest

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) - Harbor has over two feet of ears. Does that make him a 6-foot dog?

Probably not. But on Tuesday, the black-and-tan coonhound from Boulder, Colo., got the 2012 Guinness World Records title for "longest ears on a living dog."

His left ear is 12.25 inches long and his right is 13.5 inches long. Owner Jennifer Wert says when her 8-year-old was a puppy, he would trip on his ears and roll. These days, Wert says people

often stop them to ask questions, take photos or tug on his ears.

Coonhounds use their ears to help with scent.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$7.62
Corn (bushel)	\$7.29
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.30
Soybeans (bushel)	\$13.08

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Thank you to everyone who came out to our Open House on Wednesday September 7, 2011! We appreciate the community support and enjoyed meeting and visiting with everyone!

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Les Loker

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\$250 Chamber Bucks
Gracie Griffin

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Services Directory

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

Trinity Lutheran Church

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. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Worship 10:15 a.m. Kid's Church for Kindergarten-5th grade during Worship Service. Nursery available for kids birth - 5 yrs old. Wednesday night: Family night September - May. Meal served 6 - 6:30 p.m. CD Kidz for kids birth - 5th grade, Youth Group for 6th - 12th graders and Adult Bible Study at 7 p.m. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.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. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

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 Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

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. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website colbypres.org.

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 Andy Rose, 785-460-6807. 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, 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), 6p.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., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. www.colbychurch.com

OASIS WORSHIP CENTER, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

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. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 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 Dingworth, 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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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