

Know the peace of Christmas, whatever your life or world holds

In the Christmas story recorded in Luke 2:14 we read this message, proclaimed by angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, goodwill toward men."

There is a great deal of concern over the issue of international peace today - whether Afghanistan, Iran, Africa or the countries of the "Arab Spring."

In this election season, every candidate seems to be offering a plan for getting out of the armed conflicts in Iraq or Afghanistan. Everyone seems to be calling out for peace.

In reading Billy Graham's book "Approaching Hoofbeats," I came across this quote. "Throughout the world there is a longing for peace. There has never been a time when there have been more peace conferences, more discussions of peace, more demonstrations for peace."

Our world situation is bad and getting worse. It is not the Christian's place to ignore world events but to see events in biblical perspective and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ in context.

Jesus told us to be aware of the times and seasons. But he also reassured us that he would provide peace. John 16:33 says, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace." John 14:27



Eugene Rothfuss

• From the Pulpit

says, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you."

What is this peace Christ came to bring? I first heard these answers presented by Billy Graham.

Peace with God. Romans 5:1 says, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ." Colossians 1:20 says, "For God was pleased through Christ to reconcile to himself all things ... by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."

The peace of reconciliation - I'm a married man; I know how precious it is to be living at peace with my wife. Any parent who has had a rebellious child who has left their home in anger and bitterness can tell you how much they long for the peace of reconciliation.

God created us to have fellowship with him, but our sin separated us from God. Jesus' life and death paid the price for the peace of reconciliation of men to God.

But it wasn't just peace with God the angels were proclaiming.

It is also the peace of God. Philippians 4:6-7 says, "Have no anxiety about anything, And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus."

The peace of God is the calmness of a mind free from fear and worry.

The global economy is shaky. Our stock market vacillates; there are layoffs in local and global companies. Peace of mind - a valuable commodity - is the peace of God.

The peace of the angels' song is also peace among men.

In the Amplified version of the Bible, Luke 2:14 reads "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among men with whom he is well-pleased - [men upon whom his favor rests]."

Commitment to Christ will make a person into a peacemaker in his world. Matthew 5:9 says, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God."

The history of mankind is the history of war. But when Christ came, he made it possible for men

to live at peace. He taught us to "love our enemies and pray for those who spitefully use you." That's a radical departure from even the Jewish faith.

But Jesus said in Matthew 5:38-45, "You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.'" But I tell you, Do not resist an evil person. If someone strikes you on the right cheek, turn to him the other also.... Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven."

This has implications for us as Christians that are as yet not fully understood. What is the role of the Christian in a secular world of war and woe? We are to be peacemakers: peace-bringers.

There can never be peace among men until first men find the peace within themselves that comes from peace with God. It is our responsibility as peacemakers to introduce men to peace with God. If men are at peace with God, they will have the peace of God also, and those two together will create peace among men.

Gene Rothfuss is pastor of the Colby Wesleyan Church, 320 W. Pine. You can reach him at (785) 462-8391 or (785) 443-1448.

Babies

Brynnley Cait McLemore



Brynnley M.

Brynnley Cait McLemore, daughter of Ryan and Samantha McLemore of Redlands, Calif., formerly of Colby, was born Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, Calif. She weighed 6 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Grandparents are Ralph and Kim Wolf and Robert W. and Susan McLemore, all of Colby. Great-grandparents are Gary and Marilyn Reed, Jo Wolf and the late Sam Wolf, and Robert S. and Lottie McLemore, all of Colby. Pat Wolf of Colby is Brynnley's great-uncle.

Kaia Renae Kumer

Kaia Renae Kumer, daughter of David and Alicia Kumer of Colby, was born Wednesday, Dec. 14, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 6 pounds, 10 ounces and measured 19 3/4

inches. Grandparents are Charlie and Debbie Kumer of Kansas City, Mo., and Rudy and Dee Dee White of Cheyenne, Wyo.

Hailey Jo McMillan

Hailey Jo McMillan, daughter of Brandon and Kelsie McMillan of Oakley, was born Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. She weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces and measured

20 inches. Grandparents of the baby are Bernie and Mary Adam and Rod and Sharen McMillan, all of Garden City.

Paxon Glen Sanchez

Paxon Glen Sanchez, son of Pablo and Ashley Sanchez of Oberlin, was born Friday, Dec. 23, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 19 1/4 inches.

Brother Xavier Alexander Sanchez welcomed the baby home.

Grandparents of the baby are Judy Stragey and Mark Griffin of Norton, Glen and Kristin Stragey of Oberlin and Feliciano and Eugenia Sanchez of Rolla.

Colby eye doctor honored for service

Eleven eye doctors, including Mark Wahlmeier of Colby, were honored during the Kansas Optometric Association's Fall Eyecare Conference for participation in a program serving more than 1,000 Kansas students who remain enrolled in their home school districts despite severe vision impairment.

Doctors participating in the program, known as KanLovKids, provide early intervention through high school students with visual evaluations, specialized tests and other services and support.

"KanLovKids is about helping children attain and sustain independence even if they are legally blind," said R. Tracy Williams, optometrist and director, Low Vision Service at Loyola University Chicago, who presented plaques

during the meeting in Wichita. "When glasses or surgery no longer will help, KanLovKids helps students learn to cope so they can succeed in school and in life."

KanLovKids - the Kansas Lions Statewide Low Vision Program - is an initiative of the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation, which includes members of all Lions clubs in Kansas, the optometric association, the Kansas State School for the Blind, and KC Blind All-Stars Foundation.

The Lions of Kansas received the first-ever Lions Clubs International Foundation grant for low-vision services in the U.S., according to Kendall Krug, a Hays, optometrist who presented a program on low-vision services during the conference and who was one of the 11

eye doctors honored.

The \$71,000, two-year grant supports service to students and training for optometrists, assistants, school personnel, early childhood educators and parents.

KanLovKids helps students who have low vision or are legally blind, according to Anne Nielsen, outreach director at the Kansas State School for the Blind.

Unlike a standard eye exam, doctors delivering low-vision services use different evaluation equipment, different methods and special test charts scaled for those with only partial sight. The doctor may recommend specialty glasses, spectacle-mounted telescopes, special optical magnifi-

cation devices, or tinted lenses, among other things. The doctor also may recommend special training, instruction in the use of special electronic or computer devices or referral to other professional services such as orientation and mobility.

"We are very grateful to the Kansas Lions Sight Foundation for its support over the past five years and to the Lions Clubs International Foundation for its very generous grant recognizing our success serving Kansas children," Krug said. "The funds will enhance the KSSB's long-standing low vision program and help us reach even more students across the Sunflower State."

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day

Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$6.48
Corn (bushel)	\$6.25
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.64
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.52

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.

Wishing all a Happy New Year!

Fairview Estates Retirement Community
Independent & Assisted Living
1630 Sewell Ave. • Colby • (785) 462-2154

New Year's DJ Dance
Saturday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Skyline Ballroom
E. Hill Drive, Atwood

\$8 Couple BYOB
\$5 Individual Smoke Free
(No one under 21 admitted)

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

New Year's Celebration
Saturday, December 31st

Dining 6 - 9 p.m. • Dancing 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.

\$1.00 Drafts All Evening
Free Champagne Toast at Midnight
Free Biscuits & Gravy at 1 a.m.

MEADOW LAKE
GOLF COURSE & RESTAURANT
785-460-6443 1085 E Golf Club Rd., Colby

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

Services Directory

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.colbyborean.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.

FAITH FELLOWSHIP CHURCH, meeting at Community Building Sundays at 2 p.m. Pastor Dan Keel. (No service until the first week in January)

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 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. Shoponline 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

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 Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

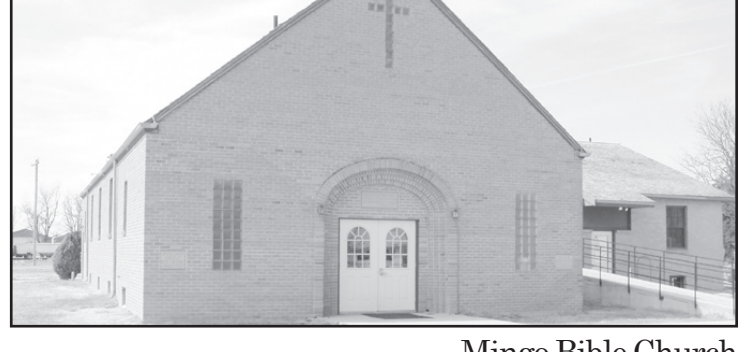
REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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Mingo Bible Church