

The Word of the Lord can light our path

The conversation happened several years ago. In fact it was about seven to be exact.

We had been dialoging with the leadership at Calvary about the Senior Pastor vacancy they had. I decided to call an individual who had some background to this community and the spiritual climate. He made a statement that I hadn't thought about much until this article.

There is truth to it, but I think it is a very true statement for most rural towns in our nation.

I know that you are dying to know what he said aren't you? Why is that? How come we are so curious to here peoples perspective?

Here is the deal. I am not going to tell you. At least not right here, perhaps by the end of today's column.

Let me ask you a question. What do you think would happen if the



steve rains

• moments from calvary

6,400 people in our county all went to church on Sunday? What do you think would happen in our community? Would it bring about any change at all if that were to occur?

For those of you that went this past weekend, is your life any different now?

As a pastor I think it would be pretty exciting if everyone decided to show up on church on Sundays.

But, I realize that just because a person passes through the doors of a church doesn't mean they are engaged in their faith. It doesn't mean they are living for the Lord, and

your life.

What could happen if that was the case? If we would live by the principles of God's Word instead of how we feel, or by what we think. Here is an example.

It was early 1945. As United States forces pushed deep into Okinawa they came across a village unlike any they had ever seen: At Shimabuku they were met and welcomed by two old men, who invited the troops in as fellow Christians.

Correspondent Clarence W. Hall described the hamlet like this: "We'd seen other Okinawan vil-

lages, uniformly down at the heels and despairing; by contrast, this one shone like a diamond in a dung heap. Everywhere we were greeted by smiles and dignified bows. Proudly the old men showed us their spotless homes, their terraced fields, fertile and neat, their storehouses and granaries, and their prized sugar mill."

Searching for answers to why this one village was so different from all the rest, Hall uncovered an incredible story.

Some 30 years before, an American missionary, on his way to Japan, had paused at Shimabuku and stayed only long enough to make two converts and leave them a Japanese Bible. The new converts, with only instructions to read the Bible and live by it, began sharing their faith with neighbors.

Before long the whole town had

accepted Christ and for 30 years had been following the Bible completely.

They adopted the Ten Commandments as their legal code, the Sermon on the Mount as their guide in social conduct.

In their schools they taught the Bible, and in their courts they made decisions on what God's Word said.

Hall noted that they managed to create a Christian democracy at it purest. The result was there were no jails, no bars, no drunkenness, no divorce and a high level of happiness.

Fifteen years after the war had ended; Hall began to wonder what happened to this tiny hamlet. He returned to find that spiritual influence of that little community was still intact.

On leaving the town his jeep

driver said, "So this is what comes out of only a Bible and a couple of old guys who wanted to live like Jesus."

Then with a glance at a shell hole, Hall recalled the driver as murmuring, "Maybe we are using the wrong weapons to make this world over." (Strand, Robert, Take a Break (Springfield: GPH, 1992), 130.

As it has been said many of times, the goal isn't to get through the Word or through the sermon. The goal is to allow the Word to go through you.

The Bible declares, "Your Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalms 119:105)

Steve Rains is the pastor at the Calvary Gospel Church, Fourth and Colledge. Go to the church's web site at calvarygospel.net or e-mail Rains at calvarycolumn@st-tel.net.

Bus brings friends to visit Senior Center

The Prairie Living Center brought over a bus load of Senior Citizens to visit Brewster.

Troy Dillinger and Lewis Patten visited the men at

the Frontier Ag and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wilcox, Jany Hohson, Clarice Blakeley, Lucille Smith and Velma Lee Cooper visited the Senior Center. We had a lot of visitors come into visit them. Had cookies furnished by Nadine Kammer and drinks. All had a good time.

Barbara Springteen stopped by the Center, Thursday morning. We all enjoyed visiting with her.

The Methodist Church's Turkey Supper was well attended and the food was very good, as usual. Thanks for doing this supper for the community once again. Around 200 suppers were served.

The Brewster Drama Club had



betty jo baird

• brewster news

their play on Saturday night and again on Sunday. Understand they all did an outstanding job.

My son, Pat O'Brien of Parker, Colo., who is a fireman got home last Friday, after spending three weeks helping fight the forest fires near San Diego, Calif. I didn't even know he had gone till he was safe at home, which I guess is a good thing. You know how Moms worry. They will be in Brewster for Thanksgiving.

See the inevitable changes not as threats but as opportunities that can deepen our understanding and bring us wisdom and growth.

matters of record

Marriages

The following marriage licenses have been issued in the Sherman County District Court:

Abraham Flores and Marie Carmen Sandoval, both of Goodland. Alan Dean Query of Brewster and Ardith Ann Showalter of Goodland.

Eric Wayne Corke and Amber Christine Gagliardo, both of Good-

land.

Real Estate

These real estate transactions have been reported by the Sherman County register of deeds:

Anthony S. Duraso and Katrina J. Duraso of Sherman County to Billy L. Buss Jr. and Crystal G. Buss of Floyd County, Texas, Lot 20, Block 1, Eastridge Subdivision of Academy Addition to Goodland.

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Worship warms the heart

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| <p>Calvary Gospel Church Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor Fourth & Colledge • 890-3605 Sunday: Kid's Church: 10:30 am Morning Service: 10:30 am Evening Service: 5:00 p.m. Wednesday: Royal Rangers Missionettes 6:30 p.m. Adult mid-week service: 7:00 p.m. Youth @ the Rock House: 7:00 p.m. Small Group Ministries meets through out the week. www.calvarygospel.net</p> | <p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Pastor: Father Norbert Dlabal 307 W. 13th • 890-7205 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule: Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: Sunday: 12:30 pm</p> |
| <p>Word of Life A Foursquare Church 10th & Clark • 899-5250 Pastor: John Coumerilh Associate Pastor: Ben Coumerilh Sunday: Worship Celebration and Kids' Church: 10:30 am Life Groups - call for times and locations www.wordoflifegoodland.org</p> | <p>Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community for over 100 years Rt. 1, Box 180 • 694-2807 • 3190 Road 70 Pastor: Charlie Busch 694-2242 Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Bible Baptist Church Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Morning Service: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p> | <p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.</p> |
| <p>United Methodist Church Brewster: Pastor: Dorine Chambers Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p> | <p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Ted Amos Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m. Activities: Junior High & High School Youth Groups, Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups, Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship Special Notice: Handicap Accessible, Hearing Assistance Equipment and Infant and Toddler Nurseries Available</p> |
| <p>Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p> | <p>First United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631 Pastor: Rev. Kasey Crosby Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages</p> |
| <p>First Baptist Church Pastor: Travis Blake Bateman's Funeral Home, 211 E. 11th 890-3450 Sunday: Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m. (Child care provided) Morning Worship: 10:30 a.m. Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m. Wheatridge Center</p> | <p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church 13th & Center Church 890-2115 or Rectory 890-6969 Priest: Father Hal Lycett Holy Eucharist: 10:00 a.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m. Thursday Morning Prayer: Daily, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday For emergencies 890-6969</p> |
| <p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Mike Larson Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p> | <p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church 13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m. Wednesday: Confirmation: 6 p.m.</p> |
| <p>Goodland Bible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400 Pastor: Chad DeJong Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. Evening Worship: 6 p.m. Wednesday: AWANA (Winter) and prayer: 7 p.m.</p> | <p>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.</p> |
| <p>Harvest Evangelical Free Church 104 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-7918 Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Youth group meets at 7 p.m. at Scherlings', 827 Caldwell.</p> | <p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p> |

The following sponsors urge YOU to attend your chosen House of Worship this Sabbath:

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