

There is nothing as sweet as your name

The other day, I got into one of those deep conversations with one of my boys about why something is called what it is. Which lead to why is my name what it is? Which lead to me saying stop asking all those questions; I am your father and I said so!

I know that is a cop out, and I really didn't say that, but if you're a parent you have been there! As I thought about today's column and Christmas being a few weeks away now. I couldn't help but think about the names of God.

This time of year we know Him as Immanuel. God with us. But, in the pages of Scripture God goes by more than 400 names.

Each name reveals something about His character. Names like Elohim — strong and great power. El Olam — Everlasting God. Jehovah Jireh — The Lord will



steve rains

• moments from calvary

provide. Jehovah Shalom — The Lord is peace. Those are just a few of them.

Author A.W. Tozer made this statement, "What comes to mind when you think about God is the most important thing about you." Why? Because the most important thing about you is who you think God is.

When you study the names of God your faith is stretched and strengthened. It is stretched because we like to measure things!

The ability to measure provides some sense of control. In other

words if we can measure it we think we can manage it. Let's be honest we like control! If you don't think so, who would you

rather have behind the wheel on an icy road, you or your spouse?

We are able to measure so much because of technology, and that is not bad. We can measure everything but God. We try to measure Him, and when we think we have Him all figured out we get a God in our image, which isn't much of a God. That reminds me of a funny little story of a guy who asked God how long is a million years to you? God replied, "A million years is like a second." The man asked, "How much is a million dollars to you?" God said, "A million dollars is like a penny?"

The man said, "Could you spare a penny?" God said, "Sure, just wait a second."

What happens when we box God into our image?

Well, A.W. Tozer put it well, "You get a God who can never surprise you, never astonish you, never overwhelm you, and never transcend you."

Let me try to tie that into the Christmas story. You can find it recorded in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38. There is a lot to be excited about this Christmas season. Family, Friends, living where we live — you and I are blessed people! But, I want to be most excited about Immanuel — God with us. Think about this, this is a big thought. God exists outside of space and time, but He became Immanuel and existed with in our space and time. The God who hung the stars, and created

the laws that govern the universe (spiritual and physical laws) was subject to those same laws like you and I. Jesus was fully God, but He was fully human.

Many struggle with that so they just say he wasn't God. Friend, we don't serve a scarless God. We serve a God with scarred hands and feet (Isaiah 52:14). Scars tell us where we got hurt, but also where we got healed.

Part of the majesty of Christmas is that God downsized himself. How else do you describe God coming in a form of a baby (Phil 2:6-11)? God put skin on. He became touchable and approachable. He became nothing in the words of Philippians 2 so that we could become something.

It is all about trading places and trading spaces. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we

might become the righteousness of God." In other words, Jesus makes us a deal you can't refuse. He says, "Give me all your sin. I'll give you all my righteousness. And we will call it even."

Friend that is the best Christmas gift you could ever receive, can I encourage you to receive it!

I love Christmas, because as Dick Foth puts it, "He came to our place. He took our place. And He invites us back to His place." I don't know about you, but I am going.

Merry Christmas, and may you experience the fullness of His love for you.

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

club news

The Goodland Lions Club was called to order by President Cinda Hatcher on Monday, Nov. 26. Lion Wallace Hansen led the flag salute. The invocation was given by Lion Paul Chaffin. What is a project of 59 percent of the U.S. Lion clubs? Lion Lawrence Tedford got the correct answer, collecting eyeglasses.

Joy Hayden gave the program on Genesis and the Salvation Army. She gave the history of Genesis and who is involved in the program today. Also members signed up to ring the bell at WalMart for the Salvation Army.

Lion Ed Carlton gave an updated on the new Lions shelter. Lion Carol

Guyer reported on the nut sale. The group was informed that they still had three sprays and one garland from the greenery sales left to sell.

A letter was received from the Goodland Churches Thrift Shop seeking donations for wrapping paper, tape, batteries for toys or sponsors for children who may not be able to pay even the minimal cost for gifts.

The drawing was won by Lion Butch Vandiver, who donated the money to Genesis.

The next meeting will be the Christmas party at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 10, at the Northwest Kansas Technical College.

Submitted by Cinda Hatcher

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Worship warms the heart

Calvary Gospel Church
Pastor: Steve Rains, Ben Coats, youth pastor
 Fourth & College • 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

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

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

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.

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.

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.

Iglesia Del Dios Vivo
 La Luz Del Mundo
 Spanish Speaking Church
Minister: Esteban Ortiz B.
 1601 Texas • 899-5275
Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m.
Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.

United Methodist Church
Brewster:
Pastor: Dorine Chambers
 Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST
 Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST
Winona:
Minister: Sheryl Johnson
 Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST
 Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

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

Kanorado United Methodist Church
Pastor: Leonard Cox
 399-2468
Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m.
 Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

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.

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

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.

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

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

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.

Seventh Day Adventist Church
 1160 Cattletrail
Pastor: Mike Larson
Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m.
 Worship Service: 11 a.m.

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.

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.

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

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 208 W. 2nd

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 1002 Broadway, Goodland 899-3654

4th Annual Craft Fair
 Sponsored by the Outback Arts Council
Saturday
December 1st
 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
 at the
Burlington Community Center
 340 South 14th Street

Admission is FREE
 Also, bring the kids for a free photo with Santa from 1:00-3:00 pm, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce

Everyone is Welcome!!!