

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

BY CODY SHEPHERD, YOUTH MINISTER, NORTON CHRISTIAN CHURCH

It is always important for any ministry to keep things in perspective. In times of great change and excitement with the dawning of an expansion, we always need to reflect and truly see the purpose of these changes, namely the drawing of people closer to the heart of God and seizing his passion and vision for this world in which we live. We need to continue to draw to the foot of the cross and what it symbolizes.

Through my own Jr. High and Sr. High years, I have watched as popularity in Christianity has actually grown. We now have Christian music played on secular stations (such as "I Can Only Imagine"). Consumer places have noticed a growing demand of Christian things and have marketed Christian clothing. Bookstores and music stores have special sections devoted to Christian topics. Even non-Christians wear crosses around though they might have no idea what it truly means. But then again, do we?

Even though the topic of Christianity has become quite normal in our culture, it has also become quite passive. We look at the cross and see a beautiful symbol of Christianity. We place it on our walls and on our cars. We look at it with great love because it held the Savior who took away our sins. And though that is correct, I want us to look at it a little differently.

The beauty of the cross

is not in what it holds, but in what it molds. Don't get me wrong, the cross is special because it held our Savior, but that does not make it beautiful. The cross is the place where the most horrific thing was done to the most perfect one. Along with the death of our Savior, the cross was the darkest place on earth because it held our sins. Truthfully, the cross was a brutally ugly thing that held all of the worst things we could do. However, in the midst of all of this, Christ used this ugly piece of wood to make something beautiful because he used it to mold the destiny of us all. He used the worst moment in history to mold our lives into something that is not bent on laws and limits and physical foundations, but solely on our relationship with the one who bled on that cross.

In our youth ministry we seek not only to create an environment that is fun and programs and ministries in which the youth can take ownership, we seek to connect them to Christ and to the cross that molds their lives and changes the outcome of their eternity. We encourage every youth to get involved with our youth ministries. If you have any questions or interest in the ministries of the Calvary youth, please give us a call.



Time for Two

What precious, irreplaceable time this mother and son are sharing; the sea and the sky spread out before them as if the world were at their fingertips. As for this young boy, "the world is his oyster" in a manner of speaking. With encouragement from his family, the possibilities for the future stretch as far before him as his imagination and his determination will allow. The famous author, Pearl S. Buck, said, "I do not believe in a child world... I believe the child should be taught from the very first that the whole world is his world, that adult and child share one world, that all generations are needed."

Indeed, our children are the future. Our new cars will rust...our houses fall to decay, yet we still have the possibility of a strong and shining future when we educate our children to believe in themselves and in the wisdom of their Heavenly Father

Won't you take time to worship as a family this week? Our future is in your hands. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." [Proverbs 22:6]

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Hebrews 11:1-22	Hebrews 11:23-40	Hebrews 12:1-13	Hebrews 12:14-29	Genesis 4:1-26	Genesis 6:1-22	Genesis 12:1-20

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Phyllene (Hansen) Weets wrote in to the Norcatatur News: "I especially like the chart of precipitation by Rodney New. We still have pasture land in your area. Here in the Black Hills, S.D., we have been real dry also. We do enjoy it here and it is a nice place to retire. We are both in good health for our age. My brother Ted Hansen in Mesquite, Nev., is receiving good reports on his cancer. He just had surgery for double hernia, which he says is very painful."

Birthdays and anniversaries: Doris Auken - July 27; Kaitlyn Stapp - July 28; Fern Mapes - July 30; Carolyn Kelley-Plotts - Aug. 1; Claire Leslie - Aug. 2.

Beth Sebaugh drove to Garden City on Thursday, July 8, and spent the night with Tammy and Jim Sebaugh. Friday morning Tammy, Jim and Beth drove to Kansas City to visit Tom, Telia and Joslyn Gilcrest. Jill Bunney of New York City flew to Kansas City Friday night and also spent the night. Jill works in the marketing department of General Electric, in Rockefeller Plaza.

Sunday, July 25, Mr. and Mrs. Art Polak of Gothenburg, Neb., were guests of Beth Sebaugh. Art and Tony spent all their army years in the 635th Tank Destroyers Battalion, and their wives lived and worked together during those years. The Polaks are feeling pretty good, considering their age.

A letter from Phyllis (Eckhart) Leichliter said she is "so glad someone is taking steps to preserve St. Mark's Lutheran Church. The Eckhart family was very involved in the church's organization and leadership through the years when there was an active membership."

Goldie Brewer and Veda Wood were Sunday evening supper guests of LaVerne and Oran Milner. An evening of visiting and dominoes followed.

Monday, July 19, Vera Bishop and Minnie Ruth Bailey, Denver, stopped by the Milner's on their way to Norton. Minnie Ruth came especially to attend the funeral of Rex Wendel on Tuesday. She and Rex were classmates, graduating in 1939 from the Norcatatur high school. Vera and Minnie Ruth enjoyed visiting friends in Norton. Oran and LaVerne Milner joined them on several occasions. They attended the Christmas Tea at Whispering Pines, where they saw many friends, and later went to the Andbe Home to visit. Vera and Minnie Ruth returned to Denver on Friday, July 23.

Guests at the Virgil Price home Thursday through Saturday, July 22-24, were their grandson and his family, Jason, Kathy, Connor and MacKinze Jurey of Kennard, Neb. They were en route to a family vacation in Colorado. The Prices had a great time visiting and playing with the

great-grandchildren.

Lowell Sebaugh was a guest of Mark and Terry Cross last week in Olathe to attend the wedding of their son, Ryan and Sara Tirrell of Lenexa, on July 23. He attended pre-wedding activities that week with the family. Mary and Kayla Lough of Wamego and Brooklyn, and McKenna O'Hare of Oberlin, arrived on Wednesday. The girls were flower girls in the wedding. Scott and Kaden O'Hare came from Hillsboro on Thursday. Janice O'Hare, Linda and Monty Hunt from Norcatatur, and Melissa Hunt and friend, Seth, from St. Louis, all arrived Friday. Other guests at the Cross home that weekend were daughter Heather and Rob Mogolov, and Parker, also of Olathe. There was a houseful of visitors, but all had a wonderful time sharing this family event. Everyone enjoyed the reception and dance as well, and even Lowell kept up with the young girls on the dance floor. Everyone left for their respective homes on Saturday.

Kaitlyn Stapp participated in a volleyball team camp at the University of Nebraska at Kearney on July 23 and 24. Her team consisted of herself and 5 Oberlin girls. Her parents, Dave and Patty Stapp, took her up Friday and all returned home on Saturday. Sam Stapp was a Friday and Saturday overnight guest of his aunt and uncle, Dave and Linda Schleip of McCook.

The week of July 19, Larry Sumner stayed at the Malone's for a couple of days, then went on to Alaska to see Roy Auken. He said to tell everyone "hi". He is recovering as well as can be expected from cancer surgery. Bill Malone took Larry to Denver International Airport. Larry went to see Dennis Kasson when he returned home, and has him in his prayers.

The awards for the summer reading program will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 4, at 10 a.m. There should be more entertaining stories about Norcatatur life in the "good old days", gathered by the children as part of their assignments.

The Norcatatur Pre-school is looking for kids to enroll for the 2004-05 school year. Contact Deb Marshall at (785) 693-4344.

Items recently donated to the Norcatatur mini-museum include pictures of the Norcatatur Rural High School's Class of 1926 reunion pictures and the diploma of Pearl Alexander, donated by Ivah Alexander. Betsy Jakowski has brought high school pictures and a school program. We need help identifying some of the people in at least one photograph, so stop by some time and check out what's in the museum now.

Weekend guests at R.D. Thornton's were Ralph, Lynn, Jesse and Jacob Streit of Larned. Ralph attended his 20th class reunion in Norton. The boys enjoyed riding their 4-wheelers with Uncle Doug.

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