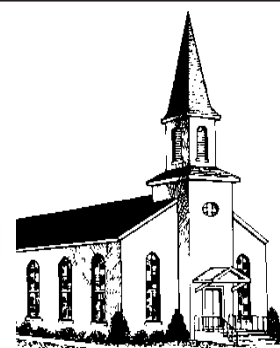


Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily



WEEKLY SERMONETTE

“Crown of Thorns”, By Pastor Terry Laughlin, CrossRoads Church

Nearly thirty years ago on Saturday night I sat in an indoor arena excitedly watching a beautiful Arabian stallion receive the very high honor of “Legion of Merit.”

The lights were turned off and a large spotlight appeared at the entrance gate.

Music played as this beautiful bay stallion entered at a gallop. The spotlight followed him as he loped throughout the arena while an announcer proclaimed all the achievements accomplished by this horse.

While standing in the spotlight, a coronet of roses was fastened around the stallion's neck. Then came a lengthy standing ovation as this horse was led from the arena.

In contrast was the coronation day of Christ nearly 2000 years ago. Jesus, the perfect man went about accomplishing the complete will of God, healing the sick, feeding the multitudes and raising the dead. If anyone is worthy of honor, it is Him.

But, He was not greeted with lights, music and cheering. An unnatural darkness came over the land as He hung on the cross. (Luke 23:44) He heard “Crucify Him!” (Matthew 27: 23) “They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe on Him. They put a staff in His

right hand and knelt in front of Him and mocked Him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” He did not receive a coronet of roses but a crown of thorns was shoved onto His head. (Matthew 27: 28-30)

The first result of sin was a curse and thorns came in as a part of that curse. (Gen. 3: 17, 18)

Suffering accompanies sin and thorns signify affliction. “God made Him [Jesus] who had no sin to be sin for us...” (2 Cor. 5: 21) Christ was given a crown of thorns by the Roman soldiers, which was symbolic to Him being given the sins of us all. The prophet Isaiah gives us a very de-

scriptive picture of what Christ suffered for us. “Just as there were many who were appalled at Him - His appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and His form marred beyond human likeness.” (Isaiah 52:14)

Jesus came and allowed the priests and teachers of the law to hand Him over to wicked men to be crucified, (Matthew 20:17-19) because God's Word says, “...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.” (Hebrews 9:22) Ephesians 1:7 tells us, “In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins...” This is the gospel; Christ died for you.

Knowledge creates responsibility. My friend, hearing the gospel yet choosing not to surrender your life to Christ is to treat the blood of Christ as something you despise.

Paul wrote, “...there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award me on that day — and not only me, but all who have longed for His appearing.” (2 Timothy 4: 8)

This world honors their kings with coronations of roses, lights and standing ovations. Christ received a crown of thorns, so you, if you accept Him, can have a crown of righteousness.

Will you crown Jesus as King and Lord of your life?

Sometimes the store is out of our favorite item and we wonder when the next truckload will arrive. When that truck pulls up at the curb, it will be “bearing” our special treat! We're counting on it! Maybe someone you know can be counted on to deliver a hug or a smile or a special treat for no particular reason. We can be “bearers”, too. We can be “bearers” of the light of God's love. Visit your house of worship this week and learn to “...Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth)...” (Ephesians 5:8-9). Go out into the world as a “bearer of the light”; the light and love of God.

Bearers of the Light



SUNDAY Isaiah 43:1-28	MONDAY Isaiah 44:1-28	TUESDAY Isaiah 45:1-19	WEDNESDAY Isaiah 48:1-22	THURSDAY Isaiah 49:1-26	FRIDAY Isaiah 52:1-12	SATURDAY Isaiah 52:13 - 53:12
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Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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WHISPERING PINES

By CYNTHIA KINDALL

Visiting Beth Bryant on March 3 were Dennis and Carla and Jacob McClelland of Glade. They also visited with Elton Bryant at the Norton County Hospital.

Debbie Kootz visited her dad, Merle Applegate, on March 4 and 5.

Bob and Norma Gramzow of Goodland, Jean Williams of Norton and Virginia and Bernard Kinnick of Greeley, Colo., visited Carrie Malcolm on March 4. Beth Bryant was also a caller.

Residents from the Andbe Home that came for morning coffee with old friends were: Bill Wright, Gisela Harrington, Della Connell, Ruth Rusink, Eula Heikes, Irene Wray, Dawn Risewick and Roseanne Miller. Whispering Pines residents were: Beth Bryant, Lucille Stackhouse, Margaret Richards, Elfriede Kelly, Hazel Bates, Betty Reid, Carrie Malcolm, Violet Volgamore, Melvin Hanchett, Elva Lindenman, Marie Ritter, Lois Hildebrand, Alice Vogt, Phileda Nelson, Priscilla Johnson, Doris Stump, Mabel Malcolm and Donna Millan.

Busy Beavers 4-H Club joined the residents for penny ante bingo on March 10. Those attending were Jace Ruder, Joy Johnson, Jonah Ruder, Jennifer Ruder, Wes Georgeson, Johnnye Ruder, Katelyn Engelbert, Wyatt Harding, Kolton Harting, Austin Hager, Adrienne Hager, Nancy Hager, Shelby Harting, Weston Harting, Mindy and Chris Harting. Residents playing were Elma Yunt, Violet Volgamore, Lucille Stackhouse, Doris Stump, Betty Reid, Melvin Hanchett and Alice Vogt.

The staff showed slides of St. Paddy's Day and Easter the evening of the March 17. Those attending were Aggie and John Vehige, Phileda Nelson, Priscilla Johnson, Elva Lindenman, Lois Hildebrand, Marie Ritter, Violet Volgamore, Mabel and Carrie

Malcolm, Elfriede Kelly, Beth Bryant, Doris Stump, Lucille Stackhouse, Betty Reid and Dorothy Bernard.

John and Debbie Lindenman and grandson Brent visited with Elva Lindenman on March 18 and took her out for supper. On March 25 Cory and Beth Lindenman visited their grandmother and she got to see her new great-grandson for the first time. Also visiting that day were John and Debbie and grandson Brent Lindenman.

If you missed Sunday March 26, for our monthly coffee you missed a treat! It is not often you can be an armchair resident and visit Burma as Phileda Nelson and her daughters Lois Myers and Karen Cox saw it. Residents learned about their lives in Burma before WWII. When her husband was shown with a plank in their vehicle to help the car get out of ruts - you might have thought you were in Kansas except for the mountains and the people. Residents that came were Violet Volgamore, Carrie and Mabel Malcolm, Melvin Hanchett, Doris Stump, Elva Lindenman, Marie Ritter, Hazel Bates, Lucille Stackhouse, Elfriede Kelly, Phileda Nelson, Dorothy Bernard, Betty Reid, Alice Vogt. Guests from town were Mabel Nyland, Zeta Zellmer, Dorothy Stuvick, Rita Bieber, Helen McVay, Maxine Brooks, Mary Ellen Posson, Joan Colip, Jen and Roman Hauser, Karen and Barnet Cox, John and Debbie Lindenman and Leslie Van Loenen, Connie Sanko, Lois Myers, Ida Mae Drommer, Ray and Ruth Mizell and Allen Kindall.

March birthdays were: Melvin Hanchett, March 2; Jenni Glennemeier March 3; Robert Hanson March 17; Evelyn Hall, March 18; Kerri Donahey March 28; and Allen Tacha March 29.

The only April birthday is Lucille Stackhouse on April 11.

The “Church Ladies” entertained residents April 4.

WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE and LAURIE LAWS

Clean up began with a vengeance on Ron and Dee Anderson's property on Saturday. The Anderson's son, Rick, was accompanied by his crew from Cargill at Heartwell to help with the demolition to the burned home. The helpers who gave up their weekend to help out the Anderson family were; Scott Nelson, Shawn Lupkes, Travis Gewecke, LeRoy Finnigsmier, (all of Cargill at Heartwell), Jason and Wyatt Anderson, Kevin Anderson, Jonathan Schritter, Eldon Earley, Delbert Laws. Eldon Earley and his bob cat were able to help tear down the walls and ceiling while other loaded the debris to be hauled off.

This past week visitors to Laurie Laws while she has been recuperating at home have been; Carla and Kenny Holtze, Connie Wilson, Danny and Mary Alice Cook, Velma Holtze, Rick, Shelly and

Austin Anderson of Minden. Laurie's sister Gina Kuwamura stayed with the Laws' the first week Laurie was home from the hospital she has now returned home to Colorado.

Several Wilsonville people have attended activities in Cambridge this past week. On Friday, March 30, they attended the retirement open house for Mary Kay Sexton at the bank. On Sunday, they enjoyed the monthly roast beef dinner at the Senior Center.

On Saturday evening a large number of Wilsonville people were also in McCook to attend the Barbershop music program which everyone reported as outstanding.

Kendall Rice from this area is one of the group. Nadeane Haag especially felt favored to get to attend as her son, Charles D. Haag and his wife, Betsy, came to Wilsonville from their home in Oberlin to take her and returned her home after the performance.

NEW ALMELO

By BETTY OTTER

A surprise 80th birthday party was held for Doris Linden, Norton on March 19 at the John and Becky Linden farm home. Those attending were John, Becky, Brett and Brian Linden; Kevin and Rosella Ryser, Kylie and Jaden, Sharon Springs; Frank and Sheryl Linden, Brandon and Emily, Goodland; Doris' sister, Dorothy and husband Francis Morford, Almema; Doris' brothers, Dean Gerald and wife Anita Shearer; along with friends, Rita Nelson, Lenora and Mary Lee Brooks, Norton.

Sunday, March 26, a parish potluck supper was held at the St. Joseph Parish Hall at New Almelo.

Father Vincent Thu laing gave a presentation of his country of Burma, and his village. It was an evening enjoyed by all.

Bill and Rita Barker, Hays, were weekend visitors at the home of her parents, Marion and Lorraine Long.

Arnold Bates, Grand Island, Neb., was house guest at the home of Gary and Bertie Bruinekoool on March 26. He and his brother, Rodney Bates, Oakley, planted trees on Monday.

Sunday afternoon, Connie and Charlotte Otter, McPherson, visited with Alfred and Betty Otter. They were returning from Colby where they had attended a wedding on Saturday.

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