# Norton priest's family safe in Myanmar



Father Vincent Thu Laing sat in the midst of his family in Burma in 1999. His brothers and sisters are behind him (from left) Maria, Gregory, Christina and Cyril. His parents Reny and Nita are seated beside him.

By Cynthia Haynes

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Father Vincent Thu Laing stands in front of the altar at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Norton and thanks God for the deliverance of his family in Burma.

In Oberlin Father Henry Saw Lone also prays for his family without knowing if they are homeless, sick, hungry or even alive.

Both men are from Burma, also known as Myanmar, which was hit in the early morning hours of May 3 by Cyclone Nargis, a category 4 hurricane packing winds of 120 miles per hour.

Father Saw Lone is from Karen in the north. His people are farmers and small businessmen. They live in a rural area, where it is difficult to communicate with them in the best of circumstances.

Father. Thu Laing is from the Delta area, one of the hardest hit sections of the country, but while there has seen damage to his parent's and brothers' and sisters' homes and property, and everyone is fine, he said, during an interview on Monday.

News from Myanmar, more commonly known as Burma, has been sketchy but it is believed that more than 10,000 people are dead and another 100,000 missing.

The military junta, which runs Burma, has been reluctant to allow foreign aid into the country. At first the government seized all aid saying that it would distribute the supplies. However in the last

few days with pressure from the United Nations, aid is slowly flowing into the mostly rural, agrarian

Father Thu Laing has been in the U.S. since 1999 and in Norton since 2002. He has gone home three times since moving here in 2003, 2006 and again in Febru-

Since getting anything into Burma to help the people was difficult even before the cyclone, Father Thu Laing said when he goes home he takes what he can to help out including money, clothes, medicines and vitamins plus caps, pens and beauty supplies for his nieces and nephews. And that got him in trouble on his first trip.

On his first trip, he said, he took

from other people for their relatives. Unfortunately, he said, he didn't count the cash and he had more than the \$10,000 the U.S. government allows. The money was taken away he said, and it took four months and payment of a \$500 fine to get it back.

Since then, he said, he has been very careful to not carry more than the 50 pounds of luggage the airlines allow or more cash than the government allows.

Father Thu Laing said that his mother Nita, his sister Maria and call them, he said. However, the

money to help out his family and brothers Cyril and Gregory all priest said, he has a friend with the community and carried money live in the Delta region. His sis- a phone and was able to get hold worker, lives in Yangon, the capital city. He has four nieces and four nephews ranging in age from 4 to 19.

When the cyclone hit, he said, his mother and brother Cyril were in Yangon visiting his sister and going to the doctor.

Both of his brothers are rice farmers, who use oxen instead of tractors to till the soil, he said. Since most of the family lives in the country and don't have a phone father Reny, a retired farmer, his or Internet access, it is difficult to

ter Christina, an ice cream factory of him to find out how the family fared after the storm.

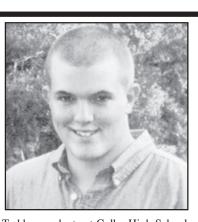
There was some property damage, he said, but no one was in-

iured.

Father Thu Laing said that he has been offered help for his family but there is little that can be done right now. Bishop Paul Coakley is gathering money, he said, which will be sent to help the Burmese people as soon as possible.

There are five Burmese priests serving in the Salina Diocese, which includes all of northwest

# Scholarship Wi



### **TODD ZIEGELMEIER**

Parents: Matt & Stella Ziegelmeier

Todd, a graduate at Colby High School, was the Colby Rotary November Student of the Month and has been awarded the 2008 Colby Rotary Scholarship Award. Todd was involved in Football, Basketball, Golf, C-Club, FCA, SADD and NHS. He was also involved in 4-H and CYO.

His honors included 4 yr. Varsity Letterman in Football, 3 yr. NWKL All League Football Team, NWKL All Academic Team, Honor Roll Student and National Honor Society Member. His academic emphasis is in agriculture, ranching and business.

After Colby High School, Todd plans on pursuing a degree in ag-business or Agronomy at CCC and K-State. Then returning to N.W. Kansas to be involved in agriculture.

Sponsored by: Colby Rotary

### **Kennedy Family Medical Expense Fundraiser**

## 49¢ Hamburger 59¢ Cheeseburger May 19th 5:00-8:00pm

McDonald's team member. Justin Kennedy, and his sister, Jessica, have been diagnosed with Cushing's disease. It is a rare endocrine problem caused by too much cortisol in the body. Both siblings have a pituitary tumor that causes excess cortisol production. The tumors will be removed this month during surgery in Houston, TX.



A portion of the proceeds from these May 19th sales will be donated to the Justin Kennedy family. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

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### •• CORRECTION ••

Due to a production error, we had the parents incorrect for Kyle Cox in our Graduation Section. We are sorry about the error.

### **KYLE LYNN COX**



I plan on attending CCC then transfer to a 4 yr. university to pursue a career in agriculture. Parents: Jon & Dee Olson

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FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

### Schedule of church services

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E.** 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 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., 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

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD,** 

Pastor, Jeremy Gundling, 245 W. College Dr. - 462-8234, Early Service - 8:00 a.m.; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 460-2763, www.colbyberean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday evening: 7:00 p.m.; Wednesday Bible Study: 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.; RC Club: 2nd & 4th Sunday: 2:00 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pastor Tom Huffman, 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services,

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 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, 462-6342, Worship, 9:00 a.m.; Adult Sunday school, following worship.; Sept. thru May: Kid's Club for kids age 3-5th grade meets first Wednesday of the month from 5:15-6:45 p.m.; Youth Group for 6th-9th grade meets the first Wednesday of the month 6:30-8:00 p.m., and the second Wednesday 7:00-8:00 p.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 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 - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 460-2656; Rocky Robbins, 1st counselor, 460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. 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 to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 462-3571.

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James** Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 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

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com

CHURCH OF CHRIST, 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Sunday Eve. Worship 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Pat Stuart and Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fcccolby@st-tel.net

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.: Services.10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.

**OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday** worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Charlie Busch, 694-2242, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Evening service, 6:00 p.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m.

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250. Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers. 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service,

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 687-2565

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

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 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, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study

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