

Family

What made Stalin turn into monster?

Several years ago I read two books by Simon Sebag Montefiore, "Young Stalin" and "Stalin: The Court of the Red Tsar."

Stalin was truly one of history's greatest villains, but what is not generally known about him is that he was also a first class intellectual, a voracious reader, a poet and a gifted singer. He could be so charming it was hard for people to really believe he would be responsible for the non-stop bloodletting that marked his reign. But he was indeed responsible for it. Not only so, he reveled in it.

Particularly fascinating to me was Montefiore's picture of Stalin's court. After the Russian revolution, the victorious leaders of the Bolshevik revolution, led by Lenin, formed a close-knit community. We know this community as the Kremlin.

It is important to understand that not everyone in the commune was a monster. There clearly were monsters among them, but most of the men and women in the commune were kind and gentle souls, loving and full of integrity.

They were starry-eyed idealists who were attempting to create a heaven on earth. They were trying to do this because they did not believe there was a heaven anywhere else. You see, they all were atheists.

In a few years, most of these gentle souls were eliminated. Many were killed; others were imprisoned, sent into exile or cowed into silence. Instead of a heaven on earth they created a hell, and before the evil empire they created collapsed on the ash-heap of history an estimated 20 to 50 million of their countrymen would die – not as a result of war, but at the hands of their own government in times of peace.

So, how could this happen? How could an experiment begun with such hope and promise fail so miserably? The answer is simple. A monster, Stalin, took control of the community. But how did Stalin, a gifted and pious choir boy, become a monster? According to Montefiore, it began when he read Charles Darwin's "The Origin of the Species." It was after reading this book that he became an atheist. More ominously, after reading Darwin the choir boy began to evolve into a monster.

Darwin's theories do not do this to everyone who reads or accepts them, but they did have this effect on Stalin. For him the law

Mark Carlton

From the Pulpit

of God was replaced with natural selection, and he was quick to realize that natural selection favored him. You see, in a world without God natural selection does not favor kind and gentle choir boys. It favors the lion, not the lamb. In the commune that was the Kremlin, it favored Stalin because he was the most vicious lion in the jungle.

Reflecting on this terrible time in Russia's history, the late Alexander Solzhenitsyn made this observation:

"Over a half century ago, while I was still a child, I recall hearing a number of old people offer the following explanation for the great disasters that had befallen Russia: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened. Since then I have spent well-nigh 50 years working on the history of our revolution; in the process I have read hundreds of books, collected hundreds of personal testimonies, and have already contributed eight volumes of my own toward the effort of clearing away the rubble left by that upheaval. But if I were asked today to formulate as concisely as possible the main cause of the ruinous revolution that swallowed some 60 million of our people, I could not put it more accurately than to repeat: "Men have forgotten God; that's why all this has happened."

The psalmist David made a similar observation: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God." – Psalm 9:17

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. You can reach him at [pastormark@colby-berean.com](mailto:pastormark@colby-berean.com) or 460-2763.

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Holly Ann Anthony and Chad Michael Baalman

Oakley, Sterling grads plan June wedding

Holly Ann Anthony of Sterling and Chad Michael Baalman of Oakley plan to marry Saturday, June 11, 2011, at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Lyons.

The bride is the daughter of Kent and Cindy Anthony of Sterling and the granddaughter of Dean and Marie Ann Mantooth of Hutchinson and Earl and Norma Anthony of Sterling. She graduated from Sterling High School in 2007 and is a senior at Bethel College of

North Newton. She graduates in May with a degree in elementary education.

The groom is the son of Duane and Michaela Baalman of Oakley and grandson of Lee Ann (McInay) and the late Joe Rehmer of Grinnell and the late Johnnie and Ruth Baalman. He is a 2005 graduate of Oakley High School and a 2010 graduate of Kansas State University with a degree in human nutrition.

Meadow Lake Bridge Club

The Meadow Lake bridge winners for Tuesday, May 10 are Elaine Ptacek, first; Jean Snyder, second; Thelma Shalz and Joy Da-

vis, third; Mary Molstad and Margaret Denneler, fourth and Katie Melvin, fifth.

Deaths

'Ellie' Irons

Eleanor Irons, 78, a retired secretary formerly of Colby, sister of Donna Schwindt of Colby, died Thursday, May 12, 2011, in Topeka.

She was born Oct. 8, 1932, in Colby, the daughter of Arthur and Mable (Strait) Epard.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a brother, George

Epard.

Survivors include two sons, Gregory Wolf, Gering, Neb.; and Rod Wolf, Florida; a daughter, Judy Rusiecki, Ilwaco, Wash.; four stepsons, Martin Irons, Shawn Irons, Doyle Irons and L.J. Irons; and 11 grandchildren.

There will be no services; there was cremation.

Tracking system to help fight meth production

For Kansas meth cooks, getting a key ingredient for making the illegal drug is about to get more difficult. A new electronic tracking system will keep pharmacies and police informed on who is going store to store, buying the products containing pseudoephedrine, and block the sale for those over the legal limit.

Kansas is the sixth state to adopt the electronic tracking system known as the National Precursor Log Exchange, or NPLEx.

The Kansas Board of Pharmacy has entered into an agreement with Appriss Inc., of Louisville, Ky., to deploy the system in Kansas, at no cost to the state. The move to electronic tracking is the result of the

recommendation of a task force formed in 2008 in response to the growth in illegal over-the-counter purchases of cold medicines for use in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt welcomed the announcement as a step forward in the fight against methamphetamine production.

The system is connected to approximately one-third of the nation's pharmacies so far. Launched in Kentucky two years ago, it tracks the sale of more than 344,000 boxes of over-the-counter cold and allergy medicines a month in pharmacies across the country. Since the database is multi-state, illegal purchases are blocked across state lines.

For information, go to [www.nplexservice.com](http://www.nplexservice.com).

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day  
Hi-Plains Co-op

Wheat (bushel)	\$7.61
Corn (bushel)	\$6.12
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.46
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.12

PLEASE RECYCLE!

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, 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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

Schedule of church services

**GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP**, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

**COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH**, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, 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., 785-462-3041, 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 through May.

**COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**, 245 W. College Dr., Colby. Pastor Steve Todd. Worship Service 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages. Wednesday Youth at The Rock 3:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday evening services at 6:30 p.m. on all Sundays except the 5th Sunday of every month. 785-462-8234. [cdag@st-tel.net](mailto:cdag@st-tel.net).

**BEREAN CHURCH**, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, [www.colbyberean.com](http://www.colbyberean.com); Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m and Saturday, 5:30 p.m.. Pastor Mark Carlton, Senior Pastor and Pastor Jason Purdy, Youth Pastor. Middle School Group Wednesday 7 p.m. at the Attic and High School Youth Group Sunday 6 p.m. at the Attic. AWANA Wednesdays at 7 p.m. at the church.

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Rev. Craig Crossman, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

**COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH** (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's. Contemporary Evening Service at 4 p.m. through the semester.

**PLEASANT HOME CHURCH**, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-728-7380, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m. (MST)

**WINONA METHODIST CHURCH**, 501 Bellview Ave. Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

**MINGO BIBLE CHURCH**, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Pastor Tom Peyton. Sunday School: 9:30AM - all ages. Worship Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Evenings 6:30. 3rd Sunday informal fellowship - bring a snack to share! First Sunday of month - carry-in dinner following morning worship.

**SACRED HEART CATHOLIC**, 785-462-2179, 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, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m. Podcasts of the worship services are available at the church website [colbypres.org](http://colbypres.org).

**WESLEYAN CHURCH**, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, 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 - 785-460-6605, President Andy Rose, 785-460-6807; Erwin Mitchell, 1st counselor, 785-460-1952; Calvin Haverfield, 2nd counselor, 785-953-1043. 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, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

**REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC.**, 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 9 a.m., Sunday worship, 10 a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 6p.m. Shoponline at: [www.rlmregionalchurch.com](http://www.rlmregionalchurch.com).

**COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, 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](http://www.colbyumc.org)

**CHURCH OF CHRIST**, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m. [www.colbychurch.com](http://www.colbychurch.com)

**OASIS WORSHIP CENTER**, Colby, Pastor J. Curry, 785-462-0913. Sunday Service at 2 p.m.

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church at 10:00 a.m.

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

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**, Rev. Robert Alexander. East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:00 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at [www.trinitycolby.com](http://www.trinitycolby.com).

**LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**, 205 1st St., Pastor Charles Taff, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

**THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD**, Joan Dingwirth, Director, 785-687-2565.

**REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

**BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, 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, Tue. 5:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.

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