

Family

Christians forget God, too

Last month's column was an abbreviated version of an article I published several years ago when I was blogging and engaging in on-line debates with atheists. My point was that terrible things happen when people forget God. My illustration was the commune set up in the Kremlin after the Russian Revolution and the man who eventually came to rule it with an iron fist, Joseph Stalin.

When I published my original article an atheist reader challenged me. He had majored in Russian history at Georgetown, so you can imagine we had a very interesting debate.

He did not really want to talk about the experiment in godlessness that was the Kremlin; in fact he wanted to try to avoid that discussion. Instead, as a new atheist, he wanted to talk about the men and women who have committed monstrous crimes in the name of God.

I freely acknowledged his point, but I'm afraid he missed mine. In fact, most of our lengthy debate was spent trying to help him see what I was saying.

My point was that when individuals or societies forget God, bad things begin to happen (Psalm 9:17: "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.")

I chose Stalin's Kremlin as my illustration because it was a completely homogeneous culture, comprised entirely of atheists and philosophical soul mates. Also, the community's short history gives us a unique opportunity to



Mark Carlton

• From the Pulpit

observe its evolution from start to finish.

The atheists in the Kremlin deliberately set out to create a godless culture. Thus the Kremlin experiment provides us with a unique opportunity to put the claims of new atheists such as Richard Dawkins to the test.

However, my point was not that atheists are bad and religious people are good. I don't think that for a moment. I've known atheists whose standards of morality and whose basic decency would put many believers to shame.

In fact, I would trust some of my atheist friends more than I would trust many of the Christians I have known. My study of history and my personal experience have taught me a person does not have to be an atheist to forget God. Moreover, some of history's most godless cultures and subcultures have been religious.

You see, it is possible for a people who believe in God to become ungodly. It has often happened. This lies at the heart of the warning of Psalms 9:17. To forget God a nation must

once have known him, and it is possible for a people to forget God while still going through the motions of worshipping Him.

The ancient Israelites were warned of this danger before they entered the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 6:10-12a). Once they entered the land they ignored the warning and forgot God repeatedly.

Often the most godless men in Israel were also the most religious men in Israel. For example, Malachi ended the Old Testament canon with a rebuke of the godless priests of Israel. Speaking on behalf of God, he went so far as to wish that someone would shut down the temple rather than to continue to insult God with the hypocritical worship that was being conducted there (Malachi 1:10-14).

Unfortunately, then, it is possible for a person who claims to believe in God to forget Him. It is even possible for nations which claim to believe in Him to forget him.

History has shown us that men and women who claim to believe in God can evolve into monsters every bit as frightening as Stalin and his henchmen. But the cause is the same in both cases.

When people and nations forget God bad things happen.

Mark Carlton is pastor of the Colby Berean Church. You can reach him at pastormark@colbyberean.com or 462-2763.

Babies

Jackson James Morton

Jackson James Morton, son of Lorraine Morton of Colby, was born Tuesday, May 31, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 6 pounds, 6 ounces and measured 19 inches.

Brother Keeyon Morton welcomed the baby home.

Grandparents are Thomas Morton of Bradshaw, Neb., and Teresa Quakenbush of Hoxie.



Jackson M.

Koen Abel Schaben



Koen S.

Koen Abel Schaben, son of Nate and Jaelyn Schaben of Selden, was born Wednesday, May 25, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby. He weighed 8 pounds, 3 ounces and measured 21 1/2 inches.

Sisters Kaylie and Karri Schaben welcomed the baby home.

Grandparents are Nick and Elaine Koeperich of Selden and Lennie and Susan Schaben of Aurora, Colo.

Carter Jud Starns

Carter Jud Starns, son of Eric and Libby Starns of Sharon Springs, was born Friday, May 27, 2011, at Citizens Medical Center. He weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 18 1/2 inches.

Sisters Jady and Brooke welcomed the baby home.

Grandparents are Kim Wood-

all of Overland Park, Doug and Jacque Dupy of Castle Pines, Colo., Jon and Carrie Starns of Winona and Terry Starns of Brewster. Great-grandparents are Jud and Lois Dupy of Salina, Ruth McRell of Salina and Warren and Lois Starns of Green Valley, Ariz.

Website will allow tracking of transportation projects

Kansans will be able to view scheduled transportation work in their area thanks to a new website, www.ksdot.org/tworks launched by the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The T-WORKS website displays all highway, transit, rail, and aviation work that is scheduled under the state's transportation program, T-WORKS. This site will enable Kansans to see how much money has been invested in their county, when projects are scheduled to be completed, maps of the projects and the latest news in Kansas transportation. It also allows users

to create customizable project lists and maps based on their interests.

Since T-WORKS is a 10-year program and not all projects have been selected, the site will be updated continuously with any new projects. It will also provide timely updates on existing projects as they develop. Information about most city street and county road projects will not be available on this site.

Another key feature of the T-WORKS site is that it allows for Kansans to provide comments or ask questions regarding any project or issue.

Corrections

The golf scores on Page 4 of the Thursday, June 9, edition of the *Colby Free Press* should have read Brice and Amber Barton, second; and in the second flight, Brittany Bange and Tanner Kriss, second. This was a transcription error.

☆☆☆☆☆
The story "State money shift forces center to close," on Page

1 of the same paper listed an old address for the Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center. The center's address is 140 W. Fourth St. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆☆
The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake bridge winners for May 31 were Elaine Ptacek, first; Larry Barrett, second; Mary Molstad, third; Mary Kersenbrock, fourth; Margaret Denneler, fifth; and Lyle Worthy, sixth.

Winners Tuesday were first, Margaret Denneler; second, Mary Molstad; third, Gail Vacca; and fourth, Cookie Koenig.

Markets

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

Wheat (bushel)	\$7.86
Corn (bushel)	\$7.47
Milo (hundredweight)	\$12.68
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.71

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Mirror Image Studios
Specializing in Weddings and Senior Portraits
Call 785-443-3837 to schedule an appointment

End-of-the-Season Closeout
at
Moonlight Gardens Greenhouse
Mon., Tue., Wed., June 13-1525% Off
Thur., Fri., Sat. & Sun., June 16-1950% Off
Includes all flowers, baskets, veg, roses, trees, shrubs and grass
Last day to be open: Sunday, June 19!
Located: 3 miles N. or Hwy. 25, 1/2 mile west of Colby
Hours: Mon.-Sat. 9:35-5:30
Tues. & Thur. til 8 p.m. Sunday - Noon-4 p.m.
Moonlight Gardens
785-462-6355

Maurice & Ruth Annis
of Oakley, will celebrate their **50th Wedding Anniversary**
Saturday, June 18th, 2011 at the Oakley Country Chapel from 1:30 - 5:00 pm.
(5 miles south and 1/2 mile west of Oakley on Hwy 83.)
Their children, Thomas & Suzy Annis of Oakley, Douglas & Denise Annis of Omaha, NE and 4 grandchildren would like to invite all to the Come and Go Reception.
Cards may be mailed to P.O. Box 189, Oakley, KS 67748.

SERVICES DIRECTORY
Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.

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.

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.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, 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.

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. 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.

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

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

OASIS WORSHIP CENTER, Colby, Pastor J. Curry,

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.

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 Dingwerth, 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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