

Attend Church Regularly

...and read your Bible daily

WEEKLY SERMONETTE

BY KIRK KASSON, ALMENA CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Why do bad things happen? I've heard Christians and non-Christians ask that question, and I used to be uncomfortable answering it. It's a question, which expresses doubt in God. The thinking usually goes something like this: If God is good and all-powerful, then bad things won't happen. Since bad things do happen, God must not be good, or God must not be all-powerful.

Actually, the Bible explains the problem of evil very clearly.

The Bible has 1189 chapters. In the first two chapters we see a beautiful world, the way God intended it. In that world, God placed man and woman, and He gave them the job of tending the beautiful Garden of Eden.

Now I want you to skip to the last two chapters. Once again, the scene is beautiful. You can't get more idyllic than Heaven itself.

The key to understanding our problem with pain is to see what the Bible says between these two sections of scripture, specifically Genesis chapter 3 and Revelation Chapter 20 (three from the end). In Genesis 3, Satan con-

vinces the man and the woman to sin against God. In Revelation 20, Satan meets his eternal doom.

There are 1189 chapters in the Bible. The first two and the last two show God's creation in its sinless state. All of the chapters in between show that life in a world with sin is hard. You and I live in that world, and as long as we do, we will never truly feel at home.

Here is the good news: Jesus changes things. In Genesis chapter 3, following God's explanation of the problems sin will cause in the world, He proclaims that one day His Son will crush the serpent's head with his heel. Satan was defeated through Christ's death and resurrection, and his eternal punishment is forthcoming.

You and I live in a broken world, and we should remember that this is not our true home. Trust God. He is good, and He has a wonderful plan for you. You were meant for another world, and that world will be yours through faith in Christ Jesus.



The Right Ingredients

If you cook, this scenario might sound familiar. You are trying a new cake recipe. You combine the ingredients and pour the batter in baking pans. When the time arrives to remove the finished product, your face falls as you discover something resembling a pancake! Then you remember. You left out an ingredient. Just one ingredient would have made all the difference.

Do you ever feel that way...that something is missing from your life? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could find the right ingredient... one that could make your spirit rise to new heights?

We read in Psalm 121:1-2... "I lift up my eyes to the hills. From whence does my help come? My help comes from the Lord, Who made heaven and earth."

Is the Lord missing from your life? Won't you worship this week at your local House of worship? Let your spirit soar.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Genesis 13:1-18	Genesis 15:1-21	Genesis 16:1-16	Genesis 17:1-27	Genesis 18:1-15	Genesis 21:1-21	Genesis 22:1-19

Scriptures Selected by The American Bible Society
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NORTON MANOR

By DORIS MIZELL

Eileen Kunz of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, came Aug. 17 to visit her mother, Marie Delimont, for the weekend. Mrs. Kunz and her husband, Bob, returned from a 2 1/2 month sabbatical leave July 1. They spent two months visiting six countries in Europe. On their return they went to their daughter's home (Tammy, Shaun and twin boys, Jonathon and Isaac) in Lincoln, Neb. They received a call the next day that Bob's mother, Ellen Pipkn, of Vancouver, Wash., had a fall. Bob, Eileen, and Tammy flew to Washington and stayed until after the funeral. Eileen and Marie, after having lunch on Monday with their sister and daughter, Judy VanDerVeen of Prairie View area, went to Lincoln. Marie had a doctors appointment on Tuesday after which Eileen took her to Grand Island to meet Judy. Marie stayed overnight with the VanDerVeens. Judy later brought her home.

Shirley Gallentine, Rapid City, S. D., was a visitor of her mother Maxine Brooks on Sunday.

Mary Keith went with Diana Greving to North Platte, Neb., Saturday to attend a shower for Nicole and Jacob Nesvaras.

Company Saturday at Delpha Steinmetz were granddaughter Amanda Grafel, Kel and Reese from Oberlin. Sister and husband, Judy and Tom Kimball, Manhat-

tan visited in the afternoon. They were here for Judy's 40th class reunion.

Ryan and Karman Keith picked up Mary Keith and they went to Oakley to visit Wendy, Tegan and new baby William Jon Schmidt. Others visiting were Ed and Linda Keith, Todd and Amy Slavik, Royce, Sheena, Riley and Kyle.

Doris Mizell and Arlene and Doyle Foss hosted a supper Monday evening for the women's neice and husband Jim and Alice Tobin, Jr. Dayton, Ohio, and four of their friends. They were spending the night in Norton on their way to Colorado Springs, the next day. They were traveling on motorcycles and were meeting a group in Colorado. From there they were going to tour the western half of the United States. They would stop or, at least touch 22 states, before returning to Dayton on the 25th. Others attending were Roberta and Dennis McAllister, Clayton; Patty, Jerry and Peggy Foster, Jennings; Connie and Marilyn Lillich, Atwood; Ray and Ruth Mizell, Aaron, David and Jacob, Norton and Priscilla VanDerWeele, Prairie View.

Wednesday afternoon visitors of Doris Mizell were Patty and Peggy Foster, Jennings. Doris helped them tie a comfortor that was to be a gift for Peggy's brother Jared.

NORCATUR NEWS

By NORCATUR NEWSLETTER VOLUNTEERS

Birthdays and anniversaries: Marguerite Clark - Aug. 3; Dwight and Mary Wentz - Aug. 6; Wyatt Wentz, Les Ward, Agnes Pruitt, Darren and Lois Wentz, Bob and Kay Strevey, Stan and Carol Miller - Aug. 7.

Beth Johnson sent in the following: On July 10 at 3 a.m. I boarded the California Zephyr in McCook. I traveled to Chicago (the train was 3 hours late), where I met David, Jennifer and Zoie Johnson. We drove to Tomale, Wisc. On Sunday evening we met Jennifer Mon in Grand Forks, N.D. Kaitlin and Brittany had been at Sioux Outlook, Ontario, with Jennifer's mom and grandma. We traveled to Camp Perkins, near Sun Valley, Idaho, where we attended the Clason reunion from July 13-16. There were nine states represented, with 51 in attendance. The oldest was Shirley Clason Cramer, 91, and the youngest a great-grandson, Russell Scott, three weeks old. We visited Craters of the Moon, Yellowstone Park, Mount Rushmore and Crazy Horse Monument. We spent ten days with John and Carmella Groebe and Frances Lindley at their cabin at Sioux Lookout, Ontario. I got back to McCook on July 31.

Oran and Lavern Milner and Goldie Brewer attended Fern Mapes' 94th birthday celebration at the Good Samaritan Center in Oberlin July 30.

Saturday evening, July 31, supper guests of Oran and LaVerne Milner were Goldie Brewer and Veda Woods.

Guests of Dorothy and Kenneth Ward July 25, through Tuesday morning, July 27, were Sharon and Spiros Coven and his sister Eva, of Veneta, Ore. Sharon is a niece of Kenneth (Jarrod Ward's daughter). They stayed in their huge camper at the lake at Norton and ran back and forth to Norcatur. Lora Linn Leichliter was also a guest.

Bill and Bee Nelson arrived home from Independence, Mo., July 28, and will be home till Wednesday, Aug. 4. Bill has two doctor appointments on Aug. 6 and 10, after which they plan to return home for 2 weeks. They said it was great to see things so green, and they enjoyed the rain.

The Magers reunion was held in the Methodist Educational Building on Aug. 1. Seventeen people gathered to enjoy the potluck and visiting.

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

Margaret Magers, and Jeff Magers and Joy had supper with Jeff's parents, Rea and Dee Magers, on July 27 in honor of Jeff's birthday. Joining them for the evening were Ursula and Bill Stephens of South Turkey Creek, Colo. Ursula worked at the Bureau of Mines in Denver while Jeff was employed there.

There were 20 attending Senior Citizens July 30. Winners were Clent Hatfield, Veda Wood and Elden Long.

J. Bishop, Houston, visited Oran and LaVerne Milner Wednesday, July 28. They had lunch at The County Line Café.

WILSONVILLE

By VELMA HOLTZE

Lyndzie Claus of Arapahoe, Margene Holtze and Brian Holtze were guests of Brian's grandmother, Velma Holtze at the Cambridge Senior Center on Sunday. This is a popular eating-place the first Sunday of each month. There were at least 10 or 12 others from Wilsonville there on Sunday.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday at the Cambridge Methodist Church for 82 year-old Ilene Ruf who died on Thursday. She was buried at Bartley where she had grown up graduating from high school in 1939. She married a Wilsonville farmer, John Ruf, and after a few years they moved to the farm they had purchased southwest of Wilsonville. When their son, Randy, married they retired and moved into Wilsonville, to the present Dick McLaughlin home. A few years ago they moved to Cambridge, where she continued to make her home since John passed away. Ilene was next to the youngest child of a family of seven, but had outlived all of the others. She was a small child, when her father passed away so had learned at a young age that it

took hard work to survive. That characteristic stayed with her throughout her lifetime. She worked hard, cooking, canning, etc. as a homemaker for her husband, her two children, Marilyn Moore now of Lincoln and Randy on the home farm, and many a hired man. She worked just as hard teaching school, being school secretary for 19 years, teaching an adult Sunday School class and serving as church treasurer as well as always doing her part in the Help Others Club, the Woman's Club, Double Eight Club and the Legion Auxiliary. Ilene was an avid reader and did beautiful, handiwork until a few years ago when she began loosing her eyesight. Besides her children Marilyn's husband, Dave, survives her. Randy's wife, Brenda and two grandchildren, Tyler and Chelsa Ruf besides many in-laws and a host of friends.

For those who remember Beth Overhalsen who graduated here in 1939 you will be interested to know that her only daughter, JoAnn, Dahlkoetter will be appearing on "Today Show" either on August 13th or 16th.

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