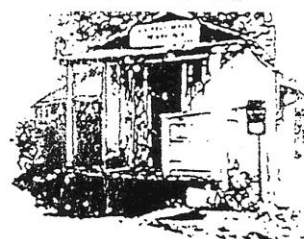




The Acmar Soul Miner

Searching for wisdom
As for hidden treasures...
For the Lord gives wisdom



Acmar United Methodist Church April 2024 Vol. 25 Issue 4 Acmar Post Office

Goldilocks Zone

Goldilocks and the Three Bears is a short story by English author Robert Southey. It was published in 1837 and is a Fairy Tale.

Goldilocks was an innocent girl with golden locks of hair who was walking in the forest and discovered the cottage of three bears.

With the three bowls of porridge on the table Papa Bear's was too hot, Mama Bear's was too cold, but Baby Bear's was just right.

With the three chairs, Papa Bear's was too hard, Mama Bear's was too soft but Baby Bear's was just right.

With the three beds, Papa Bear's was too high at the head, Mama Bear's was too high at the foot but Baby Bear's was just right.

As with most stories that have been around for a while, there are different adaptations. Yet, they all have a common element. There are always three with only one being "just right."

As with many stories which become common in a culture, certain elements may find themselves being used in other situations.

In the world of science, there is what is known as the "Goldilocks" zone. It is "just right."

Discover magazine suggests that there are around 700 quintillion (7 followed by 20 zeros) planets in the universe, but only one like Earth.

Astrophysicist Erik Zackrisson said that one of the requirements for a planet to sustain life is to orbit in the "Goldilocks" zone, where the temperature is just right, and water can exist.

Out of 700 quintillion planets, Earth seems to be one planet where conditions are just right. Zackrisson concluded that Earth somehow had been dealt a "fairly lucky hand."

The Apostle Paul wrote in Colossians 1:16-17

By Christ all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.

Paul assured the Colossian believers that the universe existed, not because of Lady Luck, but because of the work of Jesus.

The apostle presents Christ as the creator of the world and that in Him all things hold together in a world that's not too hot and not too cold, but one that's just right for human existence.

As we participate and enjoy the beauty of creation, let's choose not to point to the random activity of Lady Luck, but to the purposeful, sovereign, powerful and loving One who possesses "all God's fullness."¹

April is the 4th month in our calendar year. It probably derives its name from the Latin word *aperire* which means "to open." It is a possible reference to plant buds opening at this time of year in Rome.

The opening of plants in North America also falls in the month of April. Let us marvel in the beauty of our world and remind ourselves that Christ created Earth and holds it together.

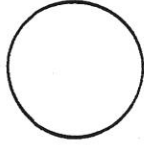
¹ Williams, Marvin. *Our Daily Bread*. February 25, 2024. "Not Luck, But Christ."

Children's Camp

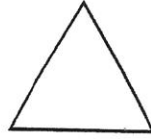
Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles #2.



Trace each shape with your finger and say its name.



circle



triangle

Color the ○s YELLOW. Color the △s GREEN.



The wisdom of God.
We see it in verses but sometimes we have
to dig to uncover the meaning.

Look Here:
***By Jesus all things were created and He
holds all things together.***
(Colossians 1:16)

Digging In:
Jesus is God with the Father.
Jesus was in the beginning.
He created our world and keeps it going.

Our world is just right for people, plants, birds,
animals and all of creation to live.
We thank God for everything in our world.

The Acmar Community Quilt

When the Soul Miner first began in 2001, we included short articles about the early years of the Acmar community. A recent inquiry has prompted the idea of writing a summary that many of our newer readers may find interesting.

Henry F. DeBardeleben was very knowledgeable of the mineral resources in our state. He found areas in St. Clair County and Shelby County that some geologists had considered “unworkable” and secured long leases. He was able to convince the Central of Georgia and L & N Railroads to cover the cost to install spur tracks to the areas. He began looking for investors to fund his idea of mining coal in these areas and met J.M. Overton from Nashville, Tennessee. Together, they organized the Alabama Fuel & Steel Company in early 1905.

Henry’s son, Charles F. DeBardeleben served as vice-president of the company. They opened the Margaret mines and the Acton Mine. The operation in Margaret was named after Charles DeBardeleben’s wife. In 1908, they wanted to expand, so they brought in New York investors: James Colgate, V. Everit Macy, and Eugene Hawkins; reorganized, and changed the name to Alabama Fuel & Iron Company. DeBardeleben developed a new operation in St. Clair County and called it “Acmar” using the beginnings of the names of the other two operations since it was between the two. Acmar had access to a creek, so a coal washing facility was built there. The railroads built spur tracks that could bring coal from the Margaret mines as well as the Acmar mines to the washer facility. The Colgate Power Plant was also built near the coal washer.







The DeBardelebens wanted their mining camps to be more like communities instead of many typical mining camps of that time. There was a main commissary, (or company store), a gas station nearby built from coal from the Acton mine, and a company office near the commissary. There were also many other buildings to provide a variety of needs for a community. Houses were built for families that later rented for \$6.70 a month. There was a boarding house where some single miners lived. This was a time during racial segregation. The ratio of black miners to white was about 60% to 40%. Churches and schools were built by the company in each community of white workers and black workers. Each church served both Baptist and Methodist congregations together, with pastors alternating Sundays.

Henry DeBardeleben died in 1910 and Charles took over the company. He was often referred to as “Uncle Charlie”. He was well liked by some – disliked by others. He had strict rules about miners maintaining their homes and yards. He had signs with “The Golden Rule” posted around the communities. He was against the United Mine Workers and felt if miners were treated fairly and had what they needed; there would be no need for the union. He wanted the employees to be self-sufficient. Each household was required to have a garden. C.C. Garrison was brought in to teach about plowing, growing, and preserving food. Seed and hogs were available at cost and company mules could be used for preparing gardens. Many miners were unhappy about this to begin with, but during the Great Depression, folks at Acmar had plenty of food for themselves and enough food to share.

Altogether 63 miners died in the Acmar mines. A list of names, dates, and how they died is located at the church with photographs of various aspects of the company and community.

The Alabama Fuel & Iron Company closed the end of November 1950. The reasons are not clearly known. Some say the coal had gotten too deep and too expensive to continue mining. Some people say miners wanted to join the union and DeBardeleben had always said he would close the company before he would let it be union. The company’s assets were sold. Some people had to move on to find work while many chose to buy their houses and stay in Acmar. Many of the company houses that have been maintained well over the years are still in use. The churches were deeded over to trustees of the churches. The congregations at our church separated in 1967, and the Black church in 1977. The schools became part of the St. Clair County School System.

April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3  MCA 3-5 pm White's Chapel	4	5  Lester Gable	6
7 CHURCH 9 a Communion  Darrell Wolfe	8	9  Helen Gable	10  Church Supper 6 p	11  MOODY BINGO 10 a	12	13
14  CHURCH 9 am	15  TAX DAY	16	17 MCA 3-5 p White's Chapel  Bonnie Goodner	18	19	20
21  CHURCH 9 am	22	23	24	25	26	27  Daniel Baker
28 CHURCH 9 a  Acmar/MCA Picnic 12-2 Moody Park	29	30  Brooklynn Smith		Audio Sermon Podcasts On Website	Soul Miner on the Website in Gallery	

Soul Food for April

Mon., April 1
Tue., April 2
Wed., April 3
Thur., April 4
Fri., April 5
Sat., April 6

Acts 4:32-35
Psalm 133
1 John 1:1 – 2:2
John 20:19-31
Mark 9:14-29
Joshua 1:7-9

Acmar UMC / P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road
Moody, AL 35004 Phone: 205 640 4325
Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. Rd. 10
Take County Rd. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;
Travel 1 mile; Turn right on Acmar Rd.; travel 2 miles;
Left onto Old Acton Rd., Church is on the left

Mon., April 8
Tue., April 9
Wed., April 10
Thur., April 11
Fri., April 12
Sat., April 13

Acts 3:12-19
Psalm 4
1 John 3:1-7
Luke 24:36-48
Matthew 25:31-40
John 8:1-11



Mon., April 22
Tue., April 23
Wed., April 24
Thur., April 25
Fri., April 26
Sat., April 27

Acts 8:26-40
Psalm 22:25-31
1 John 4:7-21
John 15:1-8
Matthew 14:13-21
Psalm 71:7-18

Mon., April 15
Tue., April 16
Wed., April 17
Thur., April 18
Fri., April 19
Sat., April 20

Acts 4:5-12
Psalm 23
1 John 3:16-24
John 10:11-18
1 Peter 5:1-10
Colossians 4:2-6

Mon., April 29
Tue., April 30
Wed., May 1
Thur., May 2
Fri., May 3
Sat., May 4

Acts 10:44-48
Psalm 98
1 John 5:1-6
John 15:9-17