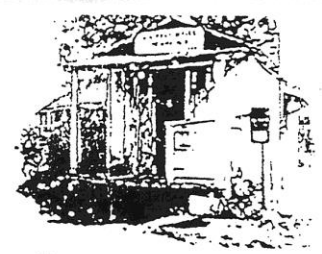




The Acmar Soul Miner

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



Acmar United Methodist Church March 2023 Vol. 24 Issue 3 Acmar Post Office

Spirit of a Home

"The woman is the spirit of a home," Mummy had always said.¹

Mummy's daughter and the lead character in the Christian fiction book, *The Moon in the Mango Tree*, which is based on a true story, feels the pressure as she correctly asserts that "this is a big responsibility."

Whether Mummy's assertion is true or not, we all have a role in helping to determine the spirit of the home in which we dwell, the place in which we work, the community in which we live, the stores in which we shop, the church in which we worship and anywhere we are.

As Christians, we look to Jesus Christ to consider how He influenced and transformed the spirit of the places and people He visited.

When He visited Martha's home and she was worried and annoyed that her sister sat at Jesus' feet listening to Him rather than helping her, Jesus lovingly extended a spirit of grace.

"Martha, Martha, you are worried and troubled about many things.

"But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her." (Luke 10:41-42)

When a storm arose on the sea and the huge waves beat upon the boat and began to fill it with water, the disciples had a spirit of fear.

Jesus was calm and filled with peace. He replaced a spirit of fear with a spirit of faith.

Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. They awoke Him saying, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" The wind ceased and there was a great calm.

But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" (Mark 4:38-40)

When confronted with death, Jesus groaned in His spirit and was troubled. Yes, He wept. Then, He transformed death into life.

Jesus said to Martha, "Your brother will rise again."

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

"And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:23-26)

In the midst of His own suffering and shame on the cross for the sins of humanity, Jesus summoned a spirit of forgiveness.

When they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Jesus, and the criminals one on the right hand and the other on the left.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do." (Luke 23:33-34)

It is not always easy to set a spirit of Christ. Sometimes we will be able to bring a sweet, sweet spirit and revive the spirit of others. We may be able to face death and see beyond to life. Other times our spirit of good will be confronted by evil. Then, we bring a spirit of forgiveness and hope for a resurrected life.

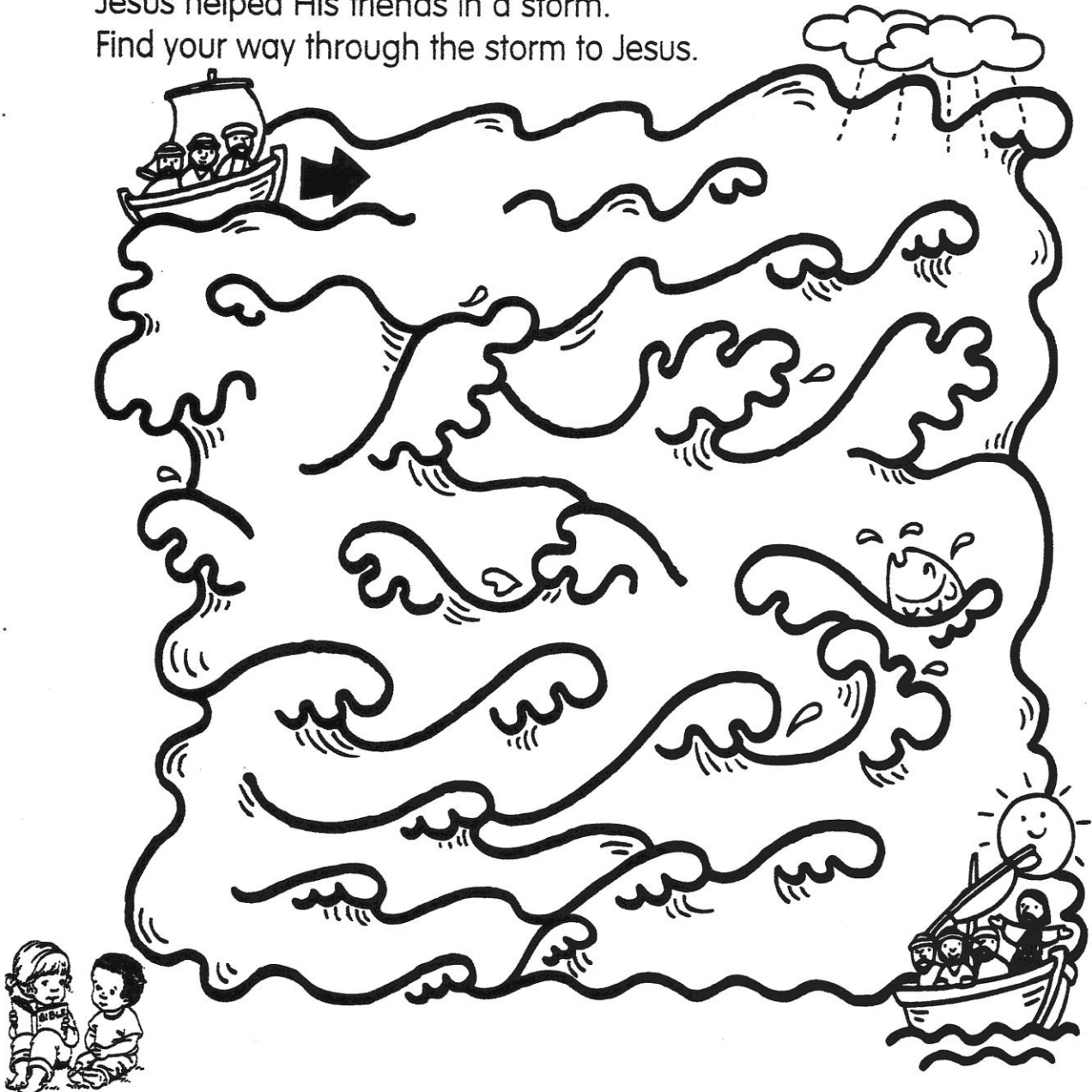
¹ Ewen, Pamela Binnings. *The Moon in the Mango Tree*. Nashville, TN: B&H Publishing, 2008, page 60.

Children's Camp

Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles.

Puzzle 37

Jesus helped His friends in a storm.
Find your way through the storm to Jesus.



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

Look Here:

***Jesus arose and rebuked the wind, and
said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" The wind
ceased and there was a great calm.***

Digging In:

Jesus was asleep in the boat.
A storm of strong wind and waves came.
The boat began to fill with water.
The disciples with Jesus were afraid.
They awoke Jesus; He calmed the winds.
Jesus told the disciples to have more faith
and believe that God would care for them.

The Acmar Community Quilt

Right after Thanksgiving 2022, folks in the Acmar community began smelling smoke and learned there was a fire at the Environmental (or “Green”) landfill located near the corner of Annie Lee Road and Blackjack Road (near the old washer camp and Colgate Power Plant area). Dump trucks loaded with tree stumps and limbs have been seen for decades headed that way. The wide swath of trees surrounding the landfill made it impossible to see the extent of the landfill area. Until the fire burned many of the trees and brush, few of us were aware the landfill covered approximately 25 acres and possibly 100 feet deep in some places.

But soon it became clear that the smell from the thick black smoke could not have come from just the burning of limbs, brush, and stumps. Many people found that the smoke irritated their respiratory system. It was obvious that old tires and other unknown substances might be burning. The Moody Fire Department and some other agencies worked tirelessly trying to extinguish the fire, but were only able to contain it and prevent it from spreading further. It was an eerie feeling to see the glow of the fire from your front porch in the evenings. It was hoped that the torrential rainstorms we had would extinguish the fire, but it didn't.

Everyone had questions about how the fire started, how it could be extinguished, and why wasn't more being done about it as the days turned to weeks and months! We were told there were limitations as to what could be done about it since it was on private property. It became apparent that much of the fire and smoke was coming from burning underground, making it potentially hazardous to firefighters and other responders. The fire gained more and more news coverage as issues with the smoke spread for miles each day, depending on which way the wind was blowing, affecting more people than just the Acmar community. Besides the air quality, there is also great concern for water quality as runoff from the fire can flow into nearby Big Black Creek, which flows into the Cahaba River.

Mid-January, the St. Clair County Commission appealed to Alabama Department of Environmental Management and on January 18, 2023, Governor Kay Ivey declared the site a limited state of emergency making it possible to access funding for the monumental job of completely putting out the fire. The Environmental Protection Agency provided a contractor who handles work of this kind and quickly began the process of carrying up to 200 dump trucks' loads of dirt each day if weather permitted.

Just how the fire started is still unknown. It was reported that an investigation into how it started can't begin until the fire is out. The contractor estimated it may take a month before the fire is completely out.

From ADEM - “It is not known at this point how long it will take to put out the fire, or who ultimately will be responsible for paying the EPA's costs. The EPA is expected to seek recovery costs from the private operator of the site. Once the fire is out, ADEM will take appropriate enforcement actions against the operator. Such actions could involve penalties for impacts to air quality and open burning violations.”

You can check <https://adem.alabama.gov/moody.cnt> for frequent updates on the landfill fire.

(On an ironic note, a “No Dumping” sign was posted at the site February 8.)

| March 2023 | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| Spring clock forward 1 hour Sunday, March 12 | Audio Sermon Podcasts On Website | | 1 Bible Study Church 10 a MCA 3-5 pm White's Chapel | 2  Emily Turner Sims | 3 | 4  Dava Walker |
| 5  CHURCH 9 am | 6 | 7 | 8 Bible Study 10 am Church SUPPER 6 p | 9  Moody BINGO 10 a | 10 | 11 |
| 12 CHURCH 9 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME | 13 | 14  Ron Smith | 15 Bible Study Church 10 a MCA 3-5 White's Chapel | 16 | 17  ST. PATRICK'S DAY | 18 |
| 19  CHURCH 9 am | 20  FIRST DAY OF SPRING | 21  Chloe Byrd | 22  Bible Study 10a | 23  Melody June Lamphear | 24 | 25 |
| 26  CHURCH 9 am | 27 | 28  Steven Lamphear | 29  Deb Bosworth Michael Wilson | 30 | 31 | <i>Soul Miner</i> on the Website in Gallery |

Soul Food for March

Mon. February 27
Tue., February 28
Wed., March 1
Thur., March 2
Fri., March 3
Sat., March 4

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17
John 14:15-21
1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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., March 6
Tue., March 7
Wed., March 8
Thur., March 9
Fri., March 10
Sat., March 11

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42
Matthew 19:13-15
2 Corinthians 1:3-7



Mon., March 20
Tue., March 21
Wed., March 22
Thur., March 23
Fri., March 24
Sat., March 25

Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130
Romans 8:6-11
John 11:1-45
Isaiah 55:6-13
Jeremiah 18:1-5

Mon., March 13
Tue., March 14
Wed., March 15
Thur., March 16
Fri., March 17
Sat., March 18

1 Samuel 16:1-13
Psalm 23
Ephesians 5:8-14
John 9:1-41
Matthew 6:8-15
Luke 19:1-10

Mon., March 27
Tue., March 28
Wed., March 29
Thur., March 30
Fri., March 31
Sat., April 1

Zechariah 9:9
Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 21:1-11
John 1:19-28
Matthew 5:14-16