



The Acmar Soul Miner

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



Acmar United Methodist Church, January 2019 Vol. 20 Issue 1 Acmar Post Office

Why a Manger?

In the book, *Why a Manger?*, by Bodie and Brock Thoene (pronounced Tay-nee), one of the authors told a family story.

It was 1945, the first post-World War II Christmas in America. My mother, a grief-stricken single mom with a little daughter, boarded a train in her hometown of Akron, Ohio, and traveled to the end of the line in Bakersfield, California.

Alone and friendless in a strange city, Mama rented a tiny furnished apartment behind a garage. She found a job as a waitress in the dining room of the Padre Hotel.

She did not have enough money to buy a Christmas tree. But each day after work with coins from tips, she walked a mile to the dime store and purchased one piece of a manger scene.

One angel, 15 cents. Kneeling Mary, 20 cents. Joseph, 20 cents. Baby Jesus in manger, 25 cents. Wise Man on camel, 30 cents. Walking Wise Man, 25 cents. Sheep, 10 cents per head.

Mama and my sister celebrated that first Christmas far from home with the manger scene arranged on an upturned box. That day was the loneliest day of her life.

Flash-forward fifteen years to Christmas 1960. Mama was still in Bakersfield, but she was no longer lonely. She was happily married to Papa, had a house full of kids, and friends.

A chipped Wise Man was placed on the cotton snow. Sheep and a donkey seemed to be studying Mary and Joseph and the smiling infant lying in the feed trough. Gazing at the Nativity scene, her child asked her a question, "Why a manger?"

"I had to make a choice," Mama said plainly. "I couldn't afford to buy a tree, a manger scene and a Christmas dinner."

"Because I only had so much money from tips. A nickel for serving breakfast. A dime if I was lucky. A quarter was a big tip. When I considered the cost, I knew only the manger scene would last.

"Mary and Joseph. Gabriel, the archangel. The Wise Men and camels. Shepherds and lambs. All gathered to adore the baby Jesus lying in the manger. A little beat up with time, but there they are. It's still the same story."

Mama continued, "The manger tells the true story about the birth of God's Son on earth. How Jesus came from heaven and was born in a stable, with a feed trough for His bed. The baby in the manger is what started Christmas. It is Christmas. That's why the manger will last on and on, long after the tree is thrown away and the toys wear out."

"Why a manger?" she asked. "No room in the inn, the story goes. Honey, I guess they just didn't know who Jesus was ..."

Why a manger?

For God so loved the world (you) that he gave his only begotten Son (Jesus), so that whoever believes in him will not perish, but have eternal life! (John 3:16)

God loved you so much He was born in a stable, lived, died, and rose from the dead for your sake. One baby birthed in straw. That same person, Jesus Christ, wants to be born in every heart that each one might have life. ¹

¹ Thoene, Bodie & Brock. *Why a Manger?* San Luis, CA: Parable, 2006. Pages vii-xii, 76, 81.

Children's Camp

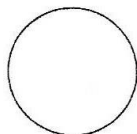
Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles.

Puzzle 33

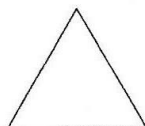
Trace each shape with your finger and say its name.



square



circle

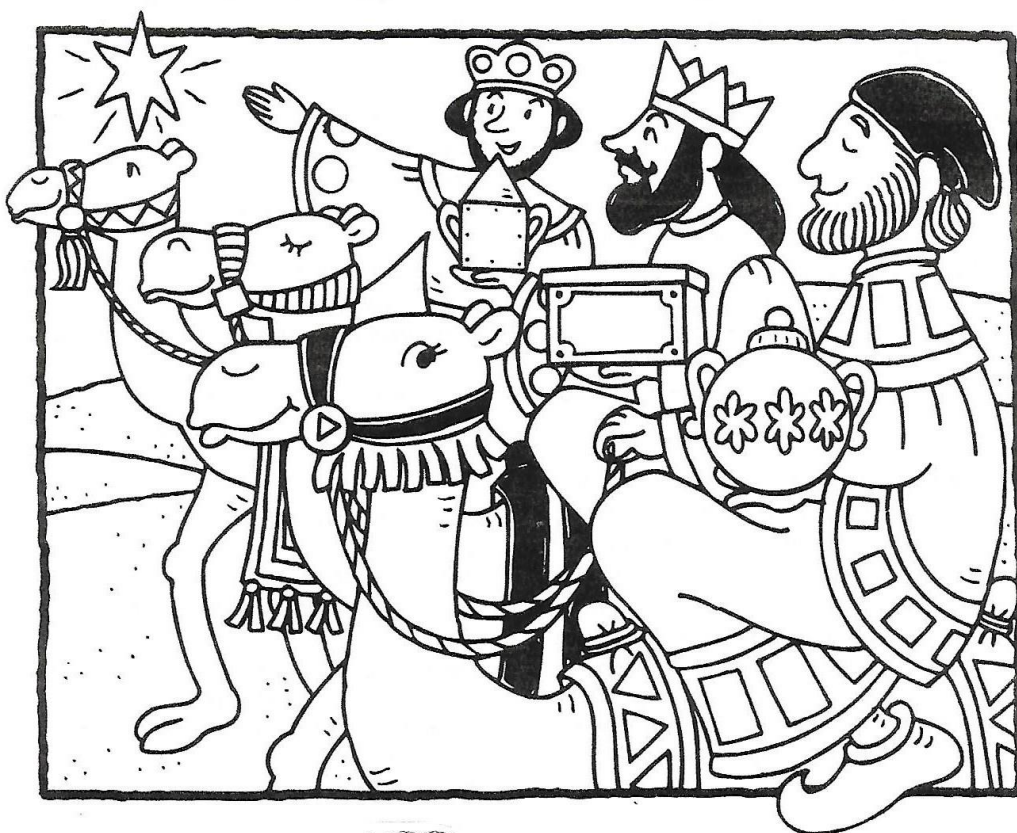


triangle



rectangle

Find each shape in the picture. Color each shape a different color.



The wisdom of God.

We see it in verses but sometimes we have to dig to uncover the meaning.

Look Here:

*"Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the East and have come to worship Him."
(Matthew 2:2)*

Digging In:

Wise men who lived east of where Jesus was born saw a star in the sky.

They saw the star as an announcement of the birth of a new Jewish king.

They traveled to Jerusalem and asked King Herod where to find the new king.

The wise men then saw the star over where Jesus was. They bowed giving Him gold, frankincense and myrrh.



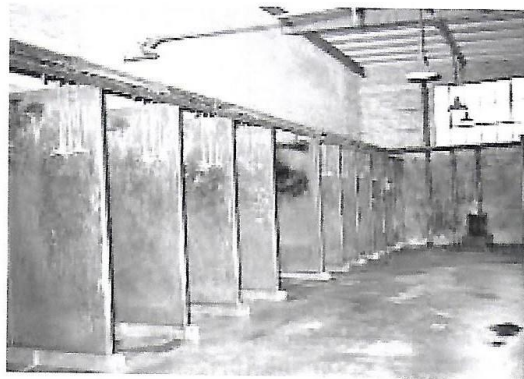
The Acmar Community Quilt

An important part of the Acmar mining community may surprise you at first, but, just like many other aspects the company created, having bath houses for the miners made a big difference from some mining camps. Being able to clean up and change clothes at the end of a shift meant that the miners were not taking the black dusty, often muddy and wet clothes into their homes. The Acmar miners had the option of paying 75 cents each month to use the bath houses and most miners chose to do that. It was certainly worth it to the mothers and wives who took care of maintaining the home for the family. Access to bath houses may well have influenced some miners in their decision to move to work in Acmar.























Most bath houses worked in the same way. There were metal baskets hung from the ceiling with chains or ropes on a pulley system. A miner coming in to work would lower his designated basket and put his clean clothes in it. At the end of his shift, he'd lower his basket, remove his dirty clothes, shower, and put his clean clothes back on. Some miners would just leave their dirty work clothes in the basket or hanging from the basket to be put on for his next shift.

The bath house was also a bit of a social place. Many miners enjoyed the camaraderie and the chance to talk with each other about all sorts of topics. There are also many stories about the harmless pranks the miners would pull on their fellow laborers. They would do things like hide a person's clean clothes, or lower their basket and tie the miner's pants legs into knots. Most coal miners seemed to have stories of pranks in the bath houses that made them smile in the telling.

The bath houses shown below are from a DeBardeleben company facility, but there is no indication of exactly where they were located. The photo of a young girl is of Edith McLaughlin in front of the bath house at Mine No. 6 which was located near White's Chapel.



January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1  NEW YEAR'S DAY	2  MCA 3-5 pm White's Chapel	3	4	5
6  CHURCH 9 am Communion EPIPHANY OF LORD 	7  Zac Goodner	8	9  Church Supper 6:30 pm 	10	11	12  Jeani Navert
13  CHURCH 9 Scott Skinner  Sonja Baker	14  Marsha Ramsden	15  BINGO Moody 10:30 am	16 MCA 3-5 White's Chapel Carpenetti's 6 pm  Gudrun Tamm	17 	18  Karen Byers	19  David Wimberly
20  CHURCH 9 am	21  MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY	22	23  Grace Howard	24  BINGO Leeds 10am	25	26 Amelia Earhart Luncheon 11 am Sharon Turner 
27  CHURCH 9 am	28	29	30	31	Earhart Luncheon: 11 am Southern Museum Flight 4343 73 rd St. N., B'ham Nancy 256-538-2672	

Soul Food for January

Mon., December 31 **Isaiah 60:1-6**
 Tue., January 1 **Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14**
 Wed., January 2 **Ephesians 3:1-12**
 Thur., January 3 **Matthew 2:1-12**
 Fri., January 4 **Jeremiah 31:12-14**
 Sat., January 5 **Romans 10:12-18**



Mon., January 7 **Isaiah 43:1-7**
 Tue., January 8 **Psalms 29**
 Wed., January 9 **Acts 8:14-17**
 Thur., January 10 **Luke 3:15-17, 21-22**
 Fri., January 11 **2 Corinthians 2:14-17**
 Sat., January 12 **Matthew 7:7-11**

Mon., January 14 **Isaiah 62:1-5**
 Tue., January 15 **Psalms 36:5-10**
 Wed., January 16 **1 Corinthians 12:1-11**
 Thur., January 17 **John 2:1-11**
 Fri., January 18 **Matthew 28:1-10, 16-20**
 Sat., January 19 **Acts 3:1-10**

Acmar United Methodist Church

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

Mon., January 21 **Nehemiah 8:1-10**
 Tue., January 22 **Psalms 19**
 Wed., January 23 **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**
 Thur., January 24 **Luke 4:14-21**
 Fri., January 25 **Luke 15:11-24**
 Sat., January 26 **John 7:37-39**

Mon., January 28 **Jeremiah 1:4-10**
 Tue., January 29 **Psalms 71:1-6**
 Wed., January 30 **1 Corinthians 13:1-13**
 Thur., January 31 **Luke 4:21-30**
 Fri., February 1 **Proverbs 3:5-6**
 Sat., February 2 **Psalms 36:5-9**