



The Acmar Soul Miner

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



Acmar United Methodist Church January 2018 Vol. 19 Issue 1 Acmar Post Office

A Tandem Ride with God

I used to think of God as my observer, my judge keeping track of the things I did wrong, so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die. He was out there, sort of like a president. I recognized His picture when I saw it, but I didn't really know Him.

But later on, when I met Jesus, it seemed as though life was rather like a bike, but it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Jesus was in the back helping me pedal. I don't know just when it was He suggested we change, but life has not been the same since I took the backseat to Jesus, my Lord. He makes life exciting. When I had control, I thought I knew the way. It was rather boring but predictable. It was the shortest distance between two points.

But when He took the lead, He knew delightful long cuts, up mountains, and through rocky place and at breakthrough speeds; it was all I could do to hang on! Even though it often looked like madness, he said, "Pedal!" I was worried and anxious and asked, "Where are You taking me?" He laughed and didn't answer and I learned to trust. I forgot my boring life and entered into adventure. And when I'd say, "I'm scared," He'd lean back and touch my hand.

He took me to people with gifts that I needed, gifts of healing, acceptance of joy. They gave me their gifts to take on my journey, our journey, my Lord's and mine. And we were off again. He said, "Give the gift away; they're extra baggage, too much weight." So I did, to the people we met and I found in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first, in control of my life. I thought He'd wreck it, but He knows bike secrets, knows how to make it bend to take sharp corners, jump to clear high rocks, fly to shorten scary passages.

And I'm learning to shut up and pedal in the strangest places, and I'm beginning to enjoy the view and the cool breeze on my face with my delightful constant companion, Jesus. And when I'm sure I just can't do any more, He just smiles and says, "Pedal."

~ Author Unknown

The freshness of a new year is a good time to begin anew with God. This is possible because God is a God of new mercy and compassion every morning and every year.

**Through the LORD'S mercies we are not consumed,
Because His compassions fail not.**

**They are new every morning;
Great is Your faithfulness.
(Lamentations 3:22-23)**

Last year may have been "the best year ever" or it may have been "the worst year ever." With God, it doesn't have to keep this year from being a good year with new beginnings.

**Do not remember the former things,
Nor consider the things of old.
Behold, I will do a new thing,
Now it shall spring forth;
Shall you not know it? (Isaiah 43:18-19)**

Regardless of our former bike riding days or even if we never learned to ride a bike, we can begin a new adventurous journey with a delightful, constant companion, Jesus Christ.

In his book, *Trusting God In the Journey*, on page 154, Gary Christopher quotes, John Eldredge from his book, *Wild at Heart*.

"Don't ask yourself what the world needs. Ask yourself what makes you come alive and go do that because what the world needs is people who come alive." Happy New Year!

Children's Camp

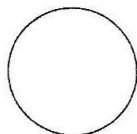
Gospel Light's Big Book of Kindergarten Puzzles.

Puzzle 33

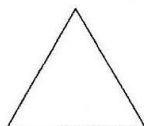
Trace each shape with your finger and say its name.



square



circle

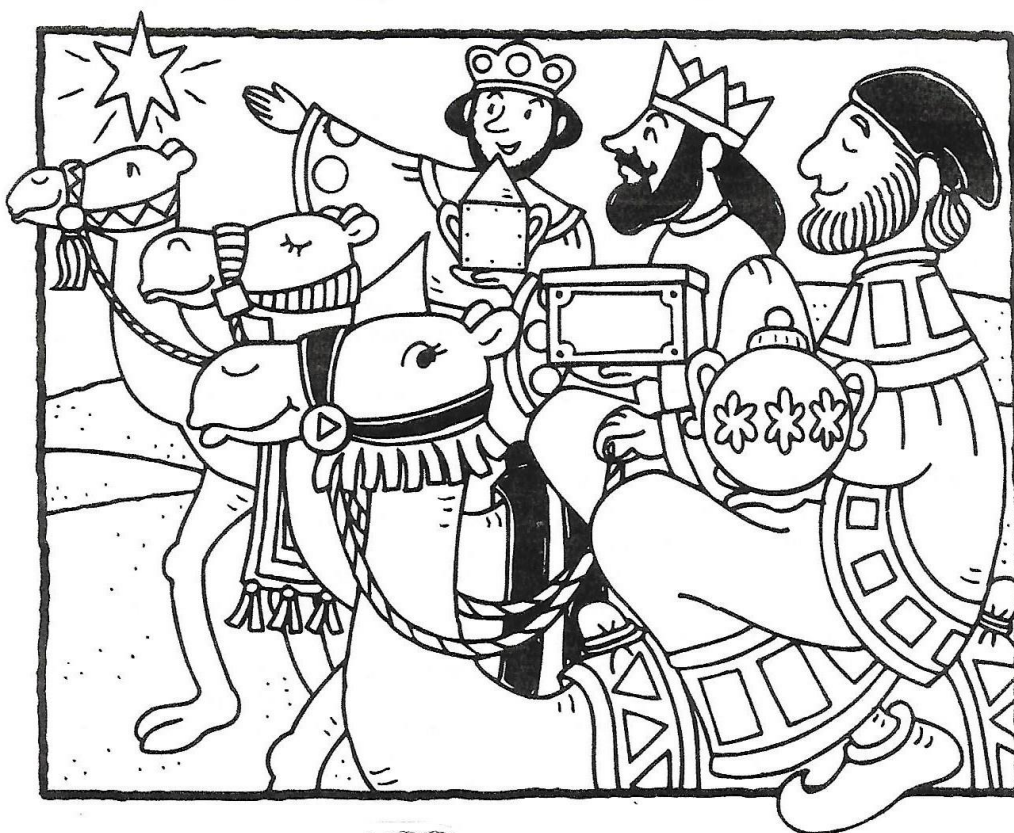


triangle



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.



Alabama Fuel & Iron Co. looks down that long, long road toward oblivion

What will happen to idled employees no one knows yet

By Robert W. Kinsey news staff writer

There is no more Alabama Fuel & Iron Company – at least not as a growing concern. Its president, Prince DeBardeleben whose forebears pioneered in development of the coal industry in this state, sits behind a big desk at 205 North 32nd Street and draws the loose ends of a one-time industrial empire into shape for the final curtain.

Alabama Fuel & Iron Company is being liquidated. Margaret Mine, its last remaining operation, went down several days ago. Acmar ceased to exist as a producing mine early in November. Overton, newest of the company's three operations, was written off in 1935. Coal, Mr. DeBardeleben says, has priced itself out of the market. The mines were virtually worked out; costs were prohibitive. It was a matter of get out or be forced out, and Mr. DeBardeleben said he and his directors chose the former way while there was still money left to pay off the 600-odd stockholders.

What will become of the employees nobody knows as yet. As the once thriving villages with their churches, schools, commissaries, water works and electric light systems – they have already been sold. Overton was disposed of long ago. Marc Levine, a West Virginian, recently bought Acmar. He is dickering with Mr. DeBardeleben for Margaret- lock, stock, and barrel. That is, all but the mines themselves. What will happen to them is problematical. Mr. DeBardeleben said he wasn't certain whether they bring more "as is" or as scrap, in view of today's scrap market.




Margaret and Acmar, while still largely populated with the men and their families who worked and lived there for years, are rather forlorn and forsaken looking. The hustle and bustle is gone. Community affairs are neglected. School functions have ceased, and church socials are few and far between. The reason is that the men folks have had to hustle around to find work elsewhere. Some have; many have not. And there is no prosperity at Acmar or Margaret. It's the stark reality of a company that has quit business staring these people in the face. And there is a mixture of understanding and bitterness about it all.

What will these people do? That is a problem strictly up to them as groups and as individuals. The new owner of Acmar is selling the neat little houses to former employees as far as possible. Those who buy the houses will get the accompanying plot of land. Mr. DeBardeleben said those who stay on until they can work their problems out are welcome to till the soil. Moreover, the company, although in the process of liquidation, is still contributing to the pay of 20-odd teachers in the three white and two Negro schools at Acmar and Margaret. That cannot continue indefinitely, he said. But it will continue as long as it can be managed.

And now these men who lived and brought their children into the world under the paternal hand of the late Charles DeBardeleben – who opposed unionism at gunpoint, and who worked away while every other mine in the state was on strike – not once but many a time – are members of the United Mine Workers of America.

(To be continued in our next Soul Miner)

January 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  NEW YEAR'S DAY	2	3  MCA 3-5 pm White's Chapel	4	5	6  Epiphany of the Lord
7  CHURCH Communion 9 am  Zac Goodner	8	9 	10  Church Supper 6:30 pm	11	12  Jeani Navert	13  Scott Skinner  Sonja Baker
14  CHURCH 9 am  Marsha Ramsden	15  Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	16  BINGO Moody 10:30 Gudrun Rominger Tamm	17  MCA 3-5 pm White's Chapel Church at Carpenetti's 6 pm 	18  Karen Byers	19  David Wimberly	20 AMELIA EARHART LUNCHEON 11 am Shannon Byers
21  CHURCH 9 am	22	23  Bible Study Church 10:30 Byers 6:30 p Grace Howard 	24	25  BINGO Leeds Sr. Center 10 a	26	27
28  CHURCH 9 am  Meeting 10:15	29	30	31	AMELIA EARHART LUNCHEON. Tickets \$30 Nancy Miller-Borg 256-538-2672 Southern Museum of Flight 4343 73 rd St. N., Birmingham 35206		

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

Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11
Psalm 23:1-6
Revelation 21:1-5

Acmar United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road / Moody 35004
Moody Crossroads / Intersection Hwy. 411/Cty. 10
Take Cty. 10 W. (Park Ave.) toward Trussville;
Travel 1 mile; Right onto Acmar Rd; Travel 2 mi.
Left onto Old Acton Road. Phone: 640-4325

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

1 Samuel 3:1-10
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51
Psalm 34:1-8
Acts 12:1-6



Food for the Soul

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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
James 5:13-16
Matthew 11:28-30

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

Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Matthew 1:14-20
Ephesians 1:15-23
Acts 2:41-42

Mon., January 29
Tue., January 30
Wed., January 31
Thur., February 1
Fri., February 2
Sat., February 3

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm 111
1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Mark 1:21-28
Matthew 28:16-20
Deuteronomy 31:1-8