



## The Acmar Soul Miner

*Searching for wisdom*

*As for hidden treasures...*

*For the Lord gives wisdom*



*Acmar United Methodist Church February 2022 Vol. 23 Issue 2 Acmar Post Office*

\*\*\*\*\*

### The Price

A story worth repeating comes from two islands in the South Pacific. The wonderful islanders of Nurabandi and Kiniwata hold to the custom of a young man offering a dowry to a girl's family for her hand in marriage.

Johnny Lingo from Nurabandi was handsome, rich and a smart business man. This bachelor could have his pick of about any single girl.

Johnny only had eyes for Sarita, who lived on Kiniwata. Most could not understand it. Sarita was plain and homely. Her shoulders slumped and her head ducked down when she walked. Still, Johnny loved her.

Johnny made arrangements to meet Sarita's father, Sam Karoo, to ask for her hand in marriage and to discuss a proper dowry.

The dowry was always paid in live cows because the animals were at such a premium. History showed that some of the most beautiful girls went for a dowry of four cows or in a really rare instance, five.

While Johnny was noted for being a shrewd trader, Sarita's daddy, bless his heart, was one of the worst on his island. He sat down with the family the night before the meeting to plot out his strategy. He'd ask Johnny for three cows, but hold out for two until they were sure Johnny would give one.

The next day, at the very start of the meeting, Johnny looked Sam right in the eye and said, "I would like to offer you eight cows as I ask your daughter, Sarita, to marry me."

Sam stammered, "Well, that is just fine."

There was a dandy wedding but nobody on the islands could figure out why on earth Johnny gave eight cows for Sarita.

Six months later, Pat McGerr, an American writer, visited the island of Kiniwata. She heard the villagers giggling over the fact that stupid ol' Sam had duped wise Johnny out of eight cows for the homely and plain Sarita.

Pat met with Johnny Lingo at his beautiful home on the island of Nurabandi and asked about the eight cows. Right then, a beautiful woman came into the room to put flowers on the table. Her shoulders were square and her chin was straight. When her eyes caught Johnny's there was an undeniable spark.

Johnny smiled, "This is my wife, Sarita."

After Sarita left the room, Johnny explained. "Do you think what it must mean to a woman to know her husband settled on the lowest price for her which she could be bought?"

"When women talk among themselves, they boast. One says four cows, another says three. But how does the woman feel who is bought for only one?" asked Johnny.

Johnny continued, "I wasn't going to let that happen to my Sarita. Many things change a woman. What's most important is what she thinks about herself. In Kiniwata, Sarita believed she was worth nothing, but now she knows she is worth more than any woman."<sup>1</sup>

***Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit ... (2 Corinthians 6:19-20)***

For you, God paid the highest price – His Son.

---

<sup>1</sup> Exum, Roy. "The Dowry." *A Second Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul*. Deerfield, FL: Health Communications, 1998, pages 134-6.

# Children's Camp

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

Color each ○ you find in this picture of Eliezer and Rebekah.



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

## Look Here:

**Eliezer prayed, "O Lord God, please show me the young woman you would have to marry Abraham's son. May she give me water to drink and my camel also."**

**(Genesis 24:12-14)**

## Digging In:

Abraham and Sarah had moved away.  
They had a son named Isaac.  
It became time for Isaac to get married.

Abraham sent his servant to their homeland.

Eliezer prayed for God's help.

Rebekah gave water to Eliezer and his camel.  
Eliezer knew that she was the right woman.



## *The Acmar Community Quilt*

Marie West Cromer, once wrote an article for a section of the *Daily Home* newspaper called, "Travelin'the Backroads" about C.C.Garrison. (Date was unavailable, but possibly 1980s.) She wrote a brief history of the Alabama Fuel & Iron Company, and then focused on Mr. C.C. Garrison., and his connection to the company. Excerpts from that article are below.



... To better provide for his employees during the harsh days of the Depression, DeBardleben hired C.C. Garrison, an agronomist with a degree from Clemson University, to improve the general appearance of the mine properties with landscaping. But perhaps the thing for which Garrison is most remembered and for which he drew the greatest amount of appreciation was how he taught miners how to grow fruit and vegetables to better provide for their families.

"It was necessary for each employee to have a garden. Fruits and vegetables were canned and preserved. The company brought in hogs and sold them to employees at cost, 5 cents a pound," Garrison said. "The hogs were slaughtered each fall and the meat preserved."

Garrison's wife, Margaret, served as supervisor of instruction for St. Clair County schools until her death in the 1970s. Garrison attended Howard College (now Samford) to update his teaching certificate and later earned a Master's degree from the University of Alabama in education supervision and administration. All three of the Garrisons' daughters entered education or education administration. While other schools in the county were once only open seven months a year, the AF&I Company schools always remained opened for nine months. Garrison served as superintendent of the seven schools until 1950.

There have been several reasons for the closing of the Acmar and Margaret mines in 1950, but Garrison, a management employee, said the mines were closed because petroleum-based products replaced coal as fuel.

"Coal mining was a dangerous job," Garrison said, "and several men were killed or injured at the mines by falling rocks, floods, or methane gas explosions. The DeBardelabens were in constant conflict with the United Mine Workers. When union coal miners in neighboring counties went on strike, they did not want us working at the mines. There had been some reported incidents of violence, so the company posted armed guards (reportedly with machine guns) at checkpoints around the mining properties." Garrison said. "There were even sentries on top of the water towers."

Garrison said that the AF&I Company had been sued several times for allegedly polluting a creek in the community, used to wash down the coal. The creek became known as Black Creek, and Garrison, the agronomist, set out to prove a point that ultimately halted the lawsuits. He planted a garden along the banks of the creek, rich in coal sediments, and corn grew almost 10 feet high.

Garrison likes to tell this story about coal mining:

"Some men came out to the mine one day to paint the tower on the steam plant. They watched the miners board a railway car that carried them into the mouth of the mine where they suddenly disappeared down a steep incline, and commented, "I wouldn't go in that hole for a million dollars." When the miners returned, they saw the painters up on rope ladders painting the tall tower. The ladders were swaying back and forth in a pretty strong breeze, and the miners commented, "You couldn't pay me a million dollars to go up there!"

## February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 <b>GROUND-HOG DAY</b>  MCA 3-5 p	3  Amy Gable	4	5
6  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	7  Serenity Johnson	8 Micah Patrick Roof Candice Turner 	9  Walker Sims	10  Moody <b>BINGO 10 a</b> Ashley Anderson 	11	12
13  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	14  <b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b> 	15	16  MCA 3-5 p White's Chapel	17  Jim Anderson	18  Brent Bonham	19
20  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	21  <b>PRESIDENT'S DAY</b>  Johnny Lee	22  Sandi Nicholson	23	24 Brenda Cash Jessie Turner  	25	26
27  <b>CHURCH</b> 9 am	28				Audio Sermon Podcasts on Acmar Website	Soul Miner Newsletter on Acmar Website in the Gallery

### Soul Food for February

Mon., January 31  
Tue., February 1  
Wed., February 2  
Thur., February 3  
Fri., February 4  
Sat., February 5

Isaiah 6:1-8  
Psalm 138  
1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
Luke 5:1-11  
Proverbs 3:5-6  
Psalm 147:1-11



Mon., February 7  
Tue., February 8  
Wed., February 9  
Thur., February 10  
Fri., February 11  
Sat., February 12

Jeremiah 17:5-10  
Psalm 1  
1 Corinthians 15:12-20  
Luke 6:17-26  
Isaiah 6:1-8  
John 11:38-44

Mon., February 14  
Tue., February 15  
Wed., February 16  
Thur., February 17  
Fri., February 18  
Sat., February 19

Genesis 45:3-11, 15  
Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40  
1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50  
Luke 6:27-38  
Psalm 63:1-8  
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13

Acmar UMC / P.O. Box 85 / 4107 Old Acton Road  
Moody, AL 35004 Phone: 205 640 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., February 21  
Tue., February 22  
Wed., February 23  
Thur., February 24  
Fri., February 25  
Sat., February 26

Exodus 34:29-35  
Psalm 99  
2 Corinthians 3:12 - 4:2  
Luke 9:28-44  
Colossians 1:9-14  
Matthew 25:35-40

Mon., February 28  
Tue., March 1  
Wed., March 2  
Thur., March 3  
Fri., March 4  
Sat., March 5

Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
Romans 10:8-13  
Luke 4:1-13