

The Acmar Soul Miner

Searching for wisdom

As for hidden treasures...

For the Lord gives wisdom



Acmar United Methodist Church October 2020 Vol. 21 Issue 10 Acmar Post Office

My Dog's Smarter than Yours

In his "Dear Reader" *Reader's Digest* column in February, 2020, Editor-in-Chief, Bruce Kelley challenged: If your dog is as smart as our Sadie, I'll grant you a year's subscription."

Kelley didn't expect much from his tongue-in-cheek wager. After 400 submitted stories, he realized he'd seriously underestimated the situation. In the September, 2020 *Reader's Digest*, they shared some of these stories.

There is Skippy, a Welsh corgi, who lives in a family home with several deaf members. She nudges, nudges, nudges the deaf members when someone is at the door or she needs to go out. To get the attention of the family member who can hear, she goes to him and barks. No use wasting your bark!

McKenzie is a fantastic actor. Growing up at a farmhouse with an old fence, McKenzie greeted the family from the backyard every afternoon when they came home. One day his master stopped by during the day. He was surprised to see McKenzie outside of the fence dancing with a butterfly in the daisies.

Suddenly, McKenzie realized he wasn't alone. He hightailed it to a hole under the fence and wriggled back into the yard. McKenzie came around the corner of the house, stretching as if he had just woken up. He looked up as if he had just noticed his owner was home and excitedly came up to the fence in his "proud boy" stance as if he had been good all day.

Opening the gate with a laugh, McKenzie's master put his hands on his hips, frowned and asked the little faker, "Where's the hole?"

To his owner's surprise, McKenzie lowered his ears and dejectedly walked over to the spot in the fence he had earlier wriggled through. He sat down and looked at his master.

While these dogs and others were great companions, the winner of a one-year subscription to *Reader's Digest* was the family of Colby, a retired guide dog. As Colby was lying down in the living room, one-year-old Rachel crawled over and pushed herself up so that she was leaning on his back. She started rocking back and forth. Colby slowly got up. Rachel stood with him holding on to his back.

Colby slowly started walking. Rachel took a few steps with him and then plopped down. Colby sank to the floor. Again, Rachel started leaning on his back. He rose and started walking. Rachel took a few steps, wobbled and sank to the floor. The scenario was repeated as Colby taught a toddler to walk.¹

Though Colby won, Bruce Kelley insists, "Let's be clear: Sadie is still co-champ."

Many of you may have a dog, cat, bird, horse, llama, bearded dragon or other creature that win's your vote as smartest of its kind. It's for sure that they have already won your heart.

October is often a month that people give thanks to God for their pets and all of creation. St. Francis of Assisi who lived from 1182 to October 3, 1226 was a great lover of God's creation. God created the world good and beautiful. It needs redemption because of human sin. God forgives us and blesses us.

God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

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Acmar will return to in-house worship on Sun., October 18 at 9 am. We will wear masks and practice social distancing. No singing, Children's Church, Sunday School or snacks.

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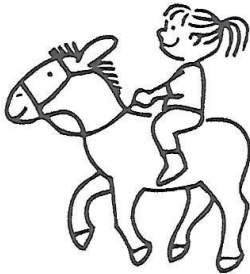
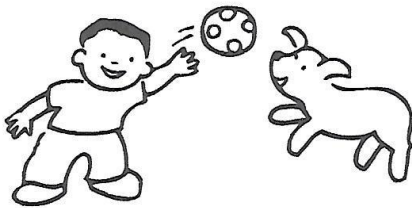
<sup>1</sup> *Reader's Digest* September 2020.

Kelley, Bruce. "The Smartest Dog in America Is ...", pages 90-99.

# Children's Camp

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

Draw a line to match each animal with its tail.



What animal are you thankful God made? Draw a picture of it!



**Look Here:**  
God saw everything that He had made,  
and it was very good. (Genesis 1:31)

**Digging In:**  
God made water creatures and birds that fly.  
God made animals and creeping things.  
We can be thankful for all that God made.



## *The Acmar Community Quilt*

Sometimes we receive letters or notes of family stories from Acmar. The following information was provided by Billy Coupland, providing another perspective on life in Acmar based on information from his mother, Jewel.

My grandparents, James Crethes Mayfield and Pearl White Mayfield were married in May of 1913. My grandfather was an electrician and mechanic for Alabama Fuel & Iron, so he moved often. They lived in Acmar when my mother, Jewel, was born. She was the oldest of seven children, four girls and three boys. They moved to Overton when Mother was seven years old. They moved into a new house. In fact, the doors were hung the day they moved in. Mother started school there at a one room church with grades 1 – 8. The desks were church pews. The new school was ready by Christmas so they left the church and went into the new school. They moved from Overton to Acton when she was about 8 years old and then moved back to Acmar two years later. They only lived there a year before moving back to Acton. They stayed in Acton about 18 months and then moved back to Acmar in the Washer Camp where the coal was washed and loaded onto railroad cars.

Mother started to Moody Jr. High while she lived there. She had to walk about a mile to catch the bus. She told me one time they had to get off the bus so the bus could climb the hill by the Cahaba River, (the only way the driver was able to climb the hill was to back up the hill.) Sometimes she was able to ride the work train which carried miners to different mines. She went to St. Clair County High School. She didn't need to walk as they had moved again to another house in what was called #3 Camp. She graduated in 1933 in a class of 28. The State of Alabama had closed the schools in the spring of that year because of the Depression. The only students who could go to school were the seniors, who had to pay tuition in order to graduate. The Depression was getting bad in 1933. Alabama Fuel & Iron was a non-union company so the Union was trying to organize the men. They were having meetings at different places. My grandfather was a salary person, so he wasn't eligible to join the union. Some of his friends came to his house and wanted him to drive them to a Union meeting, so he took them. One of his neighbors reported this to the Superintendent, so my grandfather was fired.











My grandfather had bought some land and built a house in White's Chapel so they had a place to move to. Times were really hard. My grandfather bought an old truck and hauled lumber to make a few dollars. Grandmother made all their clothes and canned stuff from their garden. My grandfather bought a mule and planted a garden. He had a sorghum patch and carried the cane to a place where they made sorghum syrup. They had corn meal and made a grist mill, they had to work hard to make a living. Mother's cousin opened a small store nearby and she worked there for a few months. This added a few dollars to help. She met my father, James Coupland, in the summer of 1933. He lived on a farm near Bethel Church and worked in the mines.

United Mine Workers were still trying to organize the miners, so it was a tough time. The St. Chair Times had an article, "The Battle of White's Chapel" I read on the Internet. The tragic happenings of October 28, were not, as many think, an isolated incident. They were the climax to a long series of attempts by organized gangs of armed men to invade the homes and menace the lives of employees and their families in an unsuccessful effort to compel them, by threats and violence, to join the United Mine Workers of America. My father's car was parked in front of the store where my mother worked. My grandfather went to see what was going on as the Union men were coming up the hill near the Cahaba River. Shots were exchanged and one union man was killed. My father was in the group of six Acmar men there. They were arrested, tried, and released. Their lawyer was named Borden Burr. My father told him he would name his first son after him. (James Borden Coupland) My dad left the mines when World War II started. He worked at Goslins where they made shells for the Army; therefore he was exempt from the draft as he was too old at that time and had three kids.

The incident at White's Chapel bothered my dad so much. A few days before he died 24 years later, he said it was the worst thing he had ever done and to pray for God to forgive him.

# October 2020

## In-House Worship at Acmar Beginning on October 18 at 9 am

| Sunday                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Monday                                                                                                         | Tuesday | Wednesday                                                                                              | Thursday                                                                                                 | Friday                                                                                                     | Saturday                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Acmar In-House Worship / Returns Sun., Oct. 18 / 9 am</b><br><b>On-site temperature check, masks and social distancing</b><br><b>No singing, Children's Church, snacks or Sunday School</b><br><b>Audio sermon podcasts will still be on Acmar's Website</b> |                                                                                                                |         |                                                                                                        | 1                                                                                                        | 2<br><br>Jeff Baker     | 3                                                                                                               |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 5                                                                                                              | 6       | 7<br><br>Midge Turner | 8<br><br>Greg Bosworth | 9                                                                                                          | 10                                                                                                              |
| 11<br><br>Donna Turner                                                                                                                                                         | 12<br><br><b>COLUMBUS DAY</b> | 13      | 14                                                                                                     | 15                                                                                                       | 16<br><br>Lauren Howard | 17                                                                                                              |
| 18<br><br>Church 9 am                                                                                                                                                         | 19                                                                                                             | 20      | 21                                                                                                     | 22<br><br>Matt Byers  | 23                                                                                                         | 24                                                                                                              |
| 25<br>Church 9 am<br>Blake Howard<br>                                                                                                                                        | 26                                                                                                             | 27      | 28                                                                                                     | 29                                                                                                       | 30                                                                                                         | 31<br><br><b>HALLOWEEN</b> |

### Soul Food for October

Mon., September 28 **Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20**  
 Tue., September 29 **Psalms 19**  
 Wed., September 30 **Philippians 3:4b-14**  
 Thur., October 1 **Matthew 21:33-46**  
 Fri., October 2 **Romans 8:5-14**  
 Sat., October 3 **1 Samuel 16:1-13**



Food for the Soul

Mon., October 5 **Exodus 32:1-14**  
 Tue., October 6 **Psalms 106:1-6, 19-23**  
 Wed., October 7 **Philippians 4:1-9**  
 Thur., October 8 **Matthew 22:1-14**  
 Fri., October 9 **Mark 4:35-41**  
 Sat., October 10 **Isaiah 61:1-7**

Mon., October 12 **Exodus 33:12-23**  
 Tue., October 13 **Psalms 99**  
 Wed., October 14 **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**  
 Thur., October 15 **Matthew 22:15-22**  
 Fri., October 16 **Hebrews 11:1-29**  
 Sat., October 17 **Psalms 1:1-3**

**Acmar UMC / 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., October 19 **Deuteronomy 34:1-12**  
 Tue., October 20 **Psalms 90:1-6, 13-17**  
 Wed., October 21 **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**  
 Thur., October 22 **Matthew 22:34-46**  
 Fri., October 23 **Psalms 27:1-5**  
 Sat., October 24 **1 Corinthians 15:50-58**

Mon., October 26 **Joshua 3:7-17**  
 Tue., October 27 **Psalms 107:1-7, 33-37**  
 Wed., October 28 **1 Thessalonians 2:9-13**  
 Thur., October 29 **Matthew 23:1-12**  
 Fri., October 30 **Matthew 20:20-28**  
 Sat., October 31 **Psalms 30:4-12**