



The Acmar Soul Miner

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



Acmar United Methodist Church December 2025 Vol. 27 Issue 12 Acmar Post Office

A Baby Changes Everything

O little town of Bethlehem
how still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary
and gathered all above.
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
to proclaim the holy birth.
And praises sing to God the King
and Peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive Him still
the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem
descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us
our Lord Emmanuel.
Amen.

~ Philip Brooks
1868

Jesus Christ was born to abide with us, die for us, and rise again to grant us eternal life. May God change your heart and your life forever.

*You are invited to
Celebrate the
Birth of Jesus Christ!*

*Acmar Community Christmas
&
Children's Play*

*Sunday, December 7, 2025
at 2 pm*

*Nativity
Singing
Jingle Bells*

*Prizes
Refreshments
Casual Dress*

*Acmar United Methodist Church
4107 Old Acton Road
Moody, AL 35004*

*Belinda Wilson
205 640 6719*

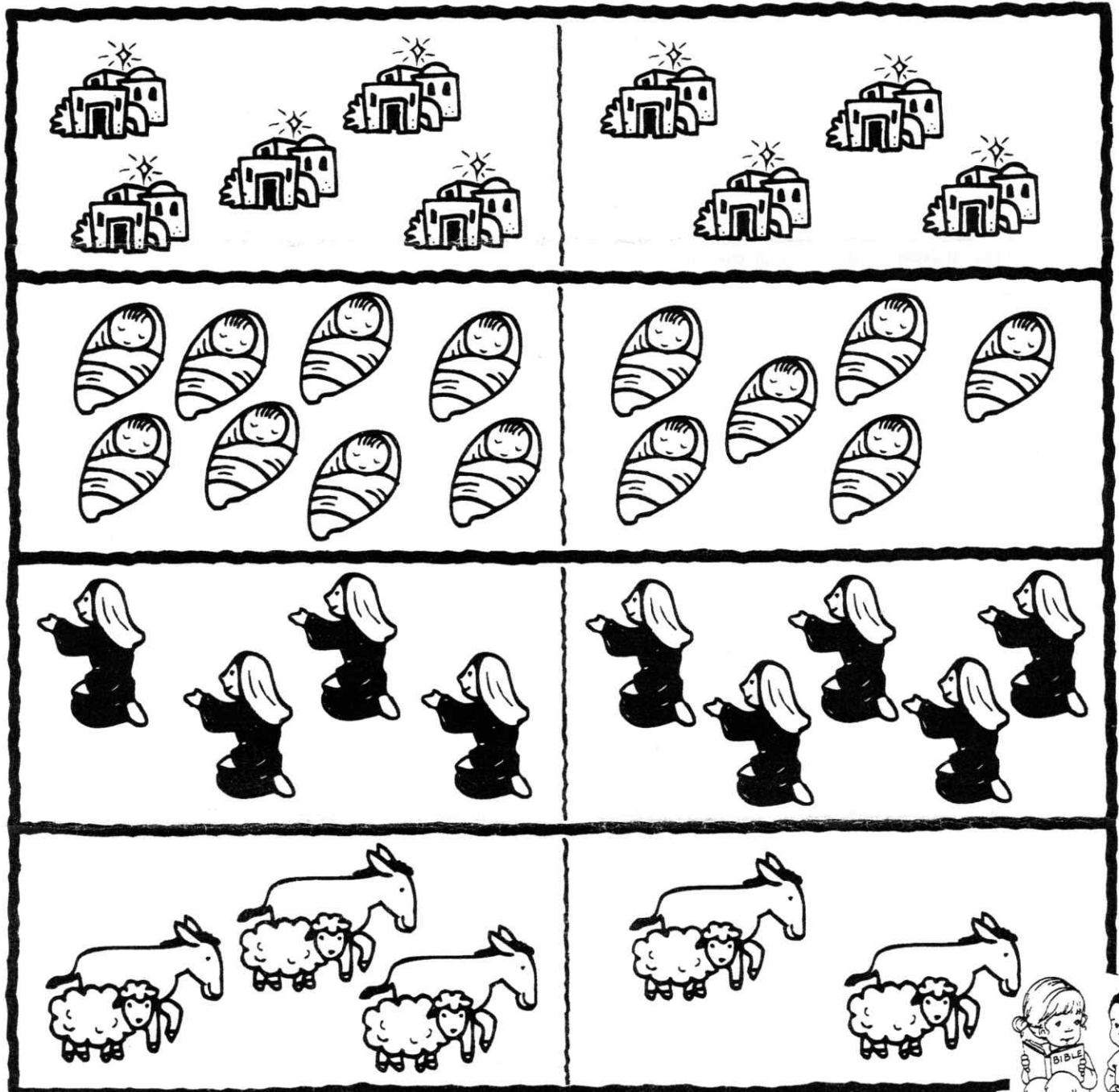
Children's Camp

Puzzle 29

Look at the pictures about Jesus' birth.

Draw a ○ around the set in each box that has **less**, not more.

(**Less** means a smaller number).



The wisdom of God.

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

Look Here:

The angel said, "I bring good tidings of great joy for all people. Jesus Christ, the Lord, is born in Bethlehem." (Luke 2:10-11)

Digging In:

Mary traveled with Joseph to Bethlehem.

There was no room in the inn.

They stayed in a stable and Mary gave birth.

She wrapped Jesus and laid Him in a manger.

An angel told shepherds a Savior was born.

They hurried to go see Baby Jesus.



The Acmar Community Quilt

Austin Stone has shared his family story which is in the dedication in his upcoming book, **Ghosts of An Empire**. This book is dedicated to the lives and memory of John Dwight Lawley and Vivian Isabelle Lawley, just two in the millions of hardworking, honest Americans that weathered two world wars, the Great Depression, and the massive changes the world experienced as it entered the 21st century. It is a very well researched, detailed account of the people and events that led to the creation of the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company and its work in St. Clair County, and will be released sometime in 2026.


John Lawley, known as JD, was born in 1907 and his wife, Vivian Newton, in 1912, both in St. Clair County. The two met later in life and were married in 1930, standing by the banks of the Cahaba River. The couple had five children: John, Carolyn, Helen, Brenda, and my grandmother, Imojean. JD found employment in the nearby Markeeta Mine in 1928, and as many men in the area did to survive, rented a small house across from the company commissary in Markeeta. He was working a job at the tippie, above ground and out of the mine.

In 1930, newly married JD transferred employment to the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company, working in the Acmar Division and being sent underground to load coal by means of pick and shovel. Working grueling shifts in nightmarish conditions, facing asphyxiation, rock falls, explosions, and mine car accidents while Vivian raised the children, kept the house, prepared food (often times grown from gardens tended by the family and livestock raised) and kept the family's lives together.

Despite raising five children (one child being handicapped) on a miner's pay in the midst of the Great Depression, JD and Vivian scraped together enough money to purchase a tract of land not far from their rented home in Markeeta and provide a new home for the family with plenty of acreage to farm and feed mouths the old-fashioned way. As the years went on and the world around him changed, coal miner JD found himself obsolete and out of a job as the Alabama Fuel and Iron Company shut down in 1950. The company's idyllic and tightly run model towns faded into the kudzu, and the era of an empire came to a close.

Men and their families, desperate for work, left Acmar and Markeeta in droves. But JD and Vivian, ever resilient, remained in the family home and JD found employment with the Western Grain Company (later Jim Dandy) and worked for another 19 years, finally retiring in 1970 and being diagnosed with black lung. JD and Vivian remained together until 1993, when Vivian left this mortal life at the age of 80. JD continued to live with his daughter Carolyn on his property in Markeeta until his own death in 2000 at the age of 93. At the time of this writing, the descendants of JD and Vivian have been living on the property earned by the sweat of their brow and blood of their hands for four additional generations, and I am proud to pen this writing from the same ground my great-grandparents toiled their entire lives to earn, and this will be a reminder for my daughter, Margaret, to grow up knowing where she came from.

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Terrie Denny	2	3 MCA 3-5 White's Chapel  Nora Howard	4	5 Volunteer "Money/Life" St. Clair Multi Center Odenville 7:45 - 2:30	6
7 CHURCH 9 ACMAR COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS & CHILDREN'S PLAY 2 pm	8  Sis Bosworth	9	10 LUNCH 11 Logan's in Moody/Leeds  Yvonne Howard Michael Wolfe	11  BINGO Moody Sr. Center 10 a	12  Jimmy Byers Elliott Lowery	13 Ladies at Nancy's 11 Moody Parade 5 p  Christine Garrett Joseph Howard
14  CHURCH 9 am	15	16	17  MCA 3-5 White's Chapel	18  Ava Anderson Lenae Wimberly	19 Col. Robert Howard Veteran's Home Party Pell City 2 p	20
21 CHURCH 9 am  Jane Byers	22	23  Debbie Kendrick	24  CHRISTMAS EVE	25  CHRISTMAS DAY	26  Ti Carpenter	27
28 CHURCH 9 a	29	30	31  NEW YEAR'S EVE	Website www.acmarumc.org	Audio Sermon Podcasts On Website	Soul Miner on the Website in Gallery

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

Isaiah 11:1-10
Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Romans 15:4-13
Luke 1:26-38
John 20:19-23
Luke 2:1-7

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

Isaiah 35:1-10
Luke 1:46b-55
James 5:7-10
Matthew 1:18-25
John 14:15-27
Matthew 18:1-5



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

Isaiah 52:7-10
Psalm 98
Hebrews 1:1-12
John 1:1-14
1 Thessalonians 5:12-24
Psalm 150:1-6

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

Isaiah 7:10-16
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Romans 1:1-7
Luke 2:1-20
Matthew 16:13-20
Luke 2:15-20

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

Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18
Philippians 1:1-11
Matthew 7:7-8