

Your Community. Your News.

www.mocotoday.com Volume 10 Number 42 Tuesday, October 22, 2024



Football Score Card Community Calendar Biblical Thought Weather History

10 Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness.





Morgan County Today Your Community. Your News.

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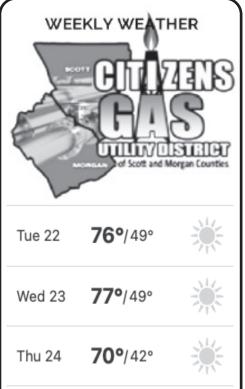
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Ms. Avery Pearl

Pet Columnist

### Pet Perspective with Ms. Avery Pearl

#### Mimi & Pap Went to a Glorious Place

Mimi and Pap went to that glorious place called the grocery store. You know how I have always wanted to go there! Hey, a girl can dream.

Any-woof, it was stressful because Walmart has moved every thing round. Mimi said they were so frustrated because they couldn't find anything. Well, she and

Pap finally found the stuff they needed and decided to come home. Then it happened. While on their way out, a couple came in with their big dog and put it in

the buggy! Mimi was mad. Because the people had put this dogs, big ol' nasty hiney in the grocery cart where people put their food! She said that those pet parents are inconsiderate of others. You see, that's why Ms Ivory and me have only get to go into a grocery store when it was



an absolutely necessity. When we did get to go in, I was in my bag or we were carried.

It's hard to believe but, Pap says everyone doesn't like pets and that some people are allergic to us. So we only go in when we have had surgery or something like that and Mimi never never puts us into the cart where people put their food, ever.

Now, we do get to go into Lowe's and places sometimes but, that's different because there's no people food in the carts there.

So, the moral of the story. Don't put animals in the carts where people put their food, unless we are in a carrier because:

1. That can be bacteria from leaking meat and stuff, that can make us fur babies sick.

2. We can leave behind bacteria that can make people sick.

3. Some people are very allergic to animals and they can have an allergy attack because we were in the cart.

Hope you guys have a good week.

For more of my Pet Perspective like and follow me on Facebook at Ms Avery Pearl.

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

#### Early Voting for Nov. 5 State and Federal General Election Continues in Morgan County through Oct. 31

MORGAN, COUNTY Tenn. – Morgan County voters can continue to utilize the convenience of the early voting period to cast a ballot for the Nov. 5 State and Federal General Election.

"During early voting, Morgan County residents have the convenience and flexibility of evening and Saturday hours", says Tim Sweat the Morgan Administrator of Elections. "I encourage voters to take advantage of this early voting opportunity and cast their ballot."

Early voting runs through Thursday, Oct. 31. Morgan County residents can find hours, and polling locations and



view sample ballots on MorganElections.com. or the Secretary of State's website <u>GoVoteTN.gov</u> and the <u>GoVo-teTN app</u>. The <u>GoVoteTN app</u> is free in the App Store or Google Play.

"We want all eligible Tennessee voters to cast a ballot during the early voting period," said Secretary of State Tre Hargett. "Tennessee and our nation are stronger when every eligible voter participates. Head to the polls now and make your voice be heard."

Morgan County voters need to bring valid photo identification to the polls. A driver's license or photo ID issued by the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, Tennessee state government, or the federal government is acceptable even if expired. A student ID or out-of-state driver's license is not acceptable. For more information about what types of IDs are permitted, visit <u>GoVoteTN.gov</u>.

For more information about early voting and other election information, visit your trusted source for election information, <u>**GoVoteTN.gov**</u>, or contact the Morgan County Election Commission at (423) 346-3190.

Tennessee College of Applied Technology Oneida/Huntsville is hiring for the following positions:

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### Re-Elect ED BUTLER State Representative **DISTRICT** 41 **Early Voting** October 16th-31st **Election Day** November 5th A Christian, Navy Veteran, Conservative, 2nd Amendment supporter, Proven servant leader, husband, father, small business owner, farmer, that brings fresh, new &



### — In Loving Memory —

#### Evelyn Kamer Crass, 83



With heavy hearts we announce the passing of our cherished Evelyn Kamer Crass, age 83 of Oakdale. She passed suddenly and peacefully on Monday, October 14, 2024 at Courtyards Assistant Living in Oak Ridge. Evelyn was a former member of Master Gardeners of Roane County. She loved working in her flowers and gardening. She had a unique love for all living creatures. Evelyn was devout Christian and former member of Mt. Pisgah Church.

Evelyn is preceded in death by

her husband Dean H. Crass;

parents Henry and Dorothy Kamer; brothers David, Carl

dean, Marvin and Edwin Kamer;

sisters in law Karen, Linda and Kim Kamer.

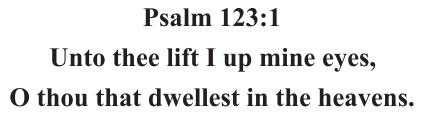
Evelyn is survived by her brothers Dale and wife Sheila Kamer, Gary Kamer and sister in law Barbara Kamer; and a host of nieces, nephews and friends; daughters Tracy Miller and family and Barbie Barber and family.

The family will receive friends Friday, October 18, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 1:00-3:00 p.m. with the funeral to follow at 3:00 p.m. with Bro. Lee Hickman officiating. Interment will follow in the Pine Orchard Cemetery in Oakdale.

We will always carry your memory in our hearts.

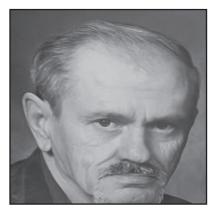
Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Evelyn Kamer Crass.

Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.





#### **Clifton Clowers Jr., 76**



Mr. Clifton Clowers, Jr, age 76 of Wartburg, went to be with the Lord at his home Monday, October 14th, 2024 surrounded by loved ones. Junior was a born-again Christian, loving husband, father, and grandfather. He loved working with his hands and enjoyed his career as a sawyer. After retirement he became a dedicated volunteer for Morgan Scott Project leading mission teams with home repair needs. Junior was often seen cruising through town in his white and tan ford truck.

He is preceded in death by his wife of 45 years Phyllis, mother Geneva Clowers Armes, sister Kathy Bertram; brother and sister in-laws: Ralph Morgan, Jane, Sammy, Johnny, Emma, James, Robert, Sally (Robinson), L.A.(Kathryn), M.D. (Letta) and Glenn McCartt; A.D. (June) Kelly, Parley McCann, Ralph (Betty) Fulks, and Lynn Swint.

He is survived by his two daughters Crystal (Bobby) Tompkins, Tina (Derrick) Sexton; 6 grandchildren: Jacob (Megan) Sexton, Jessie Tompkins, Lucas Sexton, Justin (Abby) Tompkins, Tisha (Diego) Munguia, and Rylenn. Five great grandchildren: Asher, Liam, Wrenly, Hayes, Remi; Sister Maggie Morgan; brother and sister in-laws: Bill and Ella Smith, P.J. McCartt, Sue and Robert Moore, Gladys Miller, Eva Swint, Mickey Robertson; Special friend Bill Jones; and a host of nieces and nephews.

Family will receive friends Wednesday, Oct. 16th 5:00pm to 7:00pm, funeral to follow, Malcom Strong, officiating. Graveside will be Thursday, 17th, 11:00am in the Lane Cemetery.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Mr. Clifton Clowers, Jr..



Mrs. Shirley Ann Young, age 88, passed away October 10, 2024 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville, TN. She was a very loving woman who loved her family and an amazing Christian who loved her God and her church. She always put herself last and everyone else first.

#### Shirley Ann Young, 88

Shirley leaves behind daughters: Deborah (Ron) Weiler and Tammie Thomas; son Gary (Nancy) Young; grandchildren: Jason Young, Jennifer (Charles) Kostuck, Michael Weiler, Sarah Weiler, David Weiler, Chelsea (Jonathon) Beasley, and Chucky (Jamie) Thomas; great-grandchildren: Isaiah Trent, Ellie Thomas, Rowen and Freyja Kostuck, Elijah Beasley, and Kylie Thomas; nephew, Jerry Thompkins; and sister, Betty Thompkins.

The family will receive friends Monday, October 14, 2024 at Schubert Funeral Home in Wartburg from 12:00-1:00 p.m. Graveside service will follow at the Black Creek/Cross Roads Cemetery in Robbins, TN.

Shirley is preceded in death by her husband, Noble Granville Young; parents, Elsie and Dillard Phillips; and brothers: Ken and Paul Phillips.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Shirley Young.



### In Loving Memory -

Emali Denai Sage, 34



On October 2, 2024, the world lost a truly remarkable soul, Emali Denai Sage, who passed away at the age of 34 at Tennova North Medical Center in Powell, Tennessee. Born on March 13, 1990, in Knoxville, Tennessee, Emali lived a life filled with love, resilience, and an indomitable spirit that touched everyone she met.

Emali was a wild horse with a free spirit and a heart of pure gold. Throughout her life, she faced immense hardships and loss, yet she never allowed these tragedies to define her. Instead, she was a fighter, embodying strength and compassion even in moments of adversity. Her unexpected passing from an unknown illness was a shock to all who knew her, leaving a void that can never truly be filled.

Emali was the beloved daughter of Tracy James Sage and the late Donna Lynn James. She was preceded in death by her dear mother, as well as her brothers Richard and Gregory Sage, grandfathers James Sage and William James, and uncles Nathan and Michael James. Despite these profound losses, Emali's life was rich with love and connection.

She is survived by her devoted fiancé. Mark Jones. and her six cherished children: Emani, Drae, Gabe, Kohlsen, Aiden, and Gracie, who will carry forward her legacy of love and resilience. Emali was also a treasured sister to Nichole and her husband Justin Beard, Kaitlen and her husband Josh Harvey, and Tessa and her husband Trent Mingie. Her adopted parents, Lynn and Randy Fowler,

along with her adopted sisters Lyndsey and her husband Jamie Spangler, and Kelsey Fowler, held a special place in her heart. Emali's family extended further to include numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, and uncles, alongside a very special friend, Daniel Hughett.

Emali's legacy of generosity and kindness transcends her earthly life. Her selfless gift of organ donation saved the lives of five individuals across the United States. Her heart continues to beat, her lungs breathe new life, her kidneys provide health, and her liver offers a renewed future for those who received her incredible gifts. Her recipients will forever be grateful for the lifeline she extended to them, a testament to her enduring spirit of giving.

In these difficult times, the family extends their heartfelt gratitude to the medical staff at Tennova North Medical Center and Organ Donation Coordinator Angela, for their compassion

and support. Their kindness brought comfort during an otherwise difficult time.

Family and friends will celebrate her life and the profound impact she had on others on a later date as they are awaiting letters from Emali's donor recipients. She will be missed beyond measure, but her life and legacy will continue to inspire all who had the privilege to know her.

Emali's memory will forever be cherished, and her spirit will remain a guiding light to her family and friends. Her life, though brief, was a testament to the power of love, resilience, and the human spirit. Rest in peace, dear Emali, knowing you have left the world a better place.

Schubert Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Emali Denai Sage.

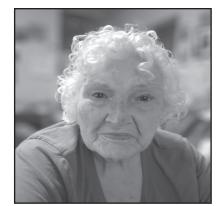
Obituaries must come from a funeral home to be in the newspaper.

#### **Psalm 86:4-5**

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. 5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.



#### **Ethelene Phillips, 88**



lie Conner; and brother John Harris; son-in-law Arvil Brandenburg.

She leaves behind to mourn her passing her children Cindy Phillips, Glenna Brandenburg, Doug (Arlene) Phillips, Crystal (Jody) Jones, and Susan (Joel) Scarbrough; sister Betty Bunch; and a host of grand and great grandchildren, nieces, neph-



Tom Redmon

Columnist

**Recommendations for the November Election** 

I highly recommend the following candidates in the coming election in November.

**For President – Donald J. Trump:** We all know that Donald Trump was our president from 2016-2020 and all during those four years he was not a danger to our democracy. What Trump does show is a love for his country. The liberals are using all kinds of lies to hurt Mr. Trump. One thing we should remember about Trump is he is a family

man and he saw where our country was headed. Do we want that?

Another thing we should remember is that during his presidency inflation was down. Under Biden's presidency food prices are up over 20%, energy prices are even higher. Our borders are wide open and millions have entered our country illegally. We don't know how many terrorists and criminals have come in at our southern border. Crime is up and Harris is wanting to get rid of the police.

Tulsi Gabbard, former Congress Lady, and a democrat for twenty-years has switched over to Donald Trump. She believes that if we don't elect Trump we are headed for disaster. Christians and governors are in trouble. This country now reminds me of a communist country. People are going to jail because they disagree with the ruling party.

The liberal party has tried every way to get rid of Trump with lies and made-up charges. Many of us fear for his life but he keeps going, trying to save his county, our country. *Vote for President Trump*.

Senator Marsha Blackburn: I don't think they come any better than Senator Blackburn. She not only fights for the state of Tennessee, but she is fighting to save America. She has started some good programs and she has given us some warnings about the democrats. *Vote for Senator Blackburn*. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann: Fleischmann is also standing up for us. I don't know as much about him but I think he is helping our district. *Vote for Chuck Fleischmann*.

**State Senator Ken Yager:** I really think that the people of our district of Tennessee are lucky to have Ken Yager as their State Senator. Ken seems to always be on the job, trying to get things done for his district. I know when the tornadoes hit Sunbright in April of this year, he was there to do everything he could to help his people out. *Be sure to vote for Ken Yager*.

**State Representative Ed Butler:** Ed Butler is one of our new State Representatives and I feel that he is doing a good job. He got right on the Sunbright tornado problems back in April of this year, and I believe he works on many other problems that we have. I know Ed is a veteran and I believe he will help vets all he can. *Vote for Ed Butler*.

It is so important that you vote in November 2024. One party has gone so far left I'm afraid we could be in World War III if the liberals get back in. We need the borders closed, we need to get our oil from our own country and we need to reduce crime.

The above candidates are the ones who love America. We have already lost some of our freedoms. Do you want to lose more? Let's try to get our country back to where it was four years ago or even back when Ronald Reagan was our president. Do you like your faith (religion)? Do you like your gun rights? Well, if you love your freedoms, then vote for Trump, Blackburn, Yager, Butler, and Fleischmann in November.

#### "Let's make America great again"

with your VOTE!



**Donald J. Trump for President** 





U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn



State Senator Ken Yager

U.S. Congressman Chuck Fleischmann



State Representative Ed Bulter



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Proverbs 22:1



David Zubler Columnist

#### Use the IRS tool to avoid hurricane charity scams

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Milton and Helene, many people want to donate to charities to help victims of the disaster. Unfortunately, con artists create fake charities to take advantage of these donors.

The IRS issued a caution regarding scammers who prey on the kindness of Americans interested in contributing to the relief of victims. Fraudsters often set up bogus charities to exploit peoples' generosity during natural disasters and other tragic events.

Anyone who gives money or goods to a charity can claim a deduction. However, keep in mind that these donations only count if given to a qualified tax-exempt organization recognized by the IRS.

It's crucial to verify the charitable organization before donating. In addition to fraudulently taking your money, they often gather sensitive personal and financial data from unsuspecting donors.

Pleas for money may come door-to-door, through emails and texts, on the phone, through popular social media platforms, or even at grocery stores and other places with donation buckets.

The IRS has a tool to help you determine whether a charity is legitimate. The Tax-Exempt Organization Search (TEOS) tool can be used at **IRS.gov**.

The IRS tool can be used to:

- Verify the legitimacy of a charity

- Check its eligibility to receive tax-deductible charitable contributions

- Search for information about an organization's tax-exempt status and filings

Scammers frequently use names that sound like well-known charities to confuse people. Fake charity promoters may use emails, fake websites, or alter or "spoof" their caller ID to make it look like an actual charity is calling to solicit donations. Potential donors should ask the fundraiser for the charity's name, website, and mailing address to independently confirm the information.

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ALERCIN

Be cautious about how a donation is requested. Never work with charities that request donations by giving numbers from a gift card or wiring money. That's a scam. It's safest to pay by credit card or check, and only after verifying the charity is legitimate.

Don't share too much information. Scammers are on the lookout for both money and personal information. Never disclose Social Security, credit card, or personal identification numbers.

- Never click on links or open attachments in unsolicited emails, texts, or social media posts.

- Beware of organizations with names similar to, but not the same as, those of reputable charities.

- Know that most legitimate charity websites end in ".org" rather than ".com."

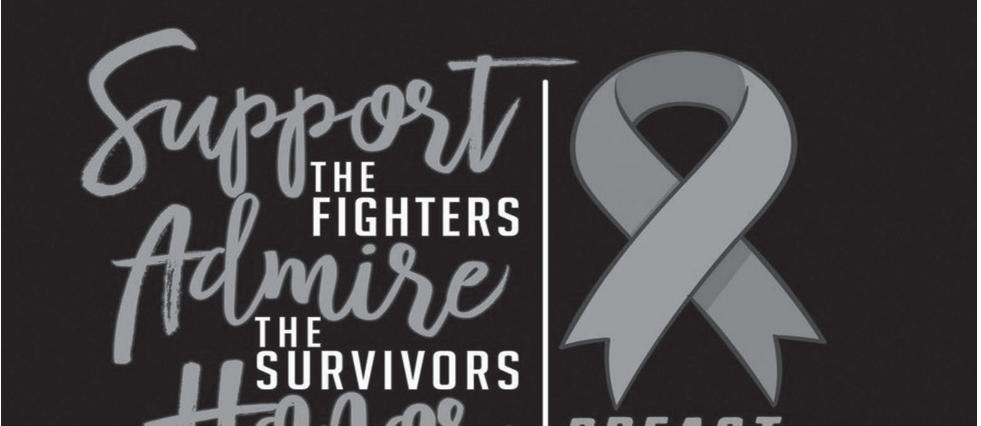
- Don't give in to pressure. Scammers often pressure people to make an immediate payment.

To avoid giving your money and personal information to con artists, always use the IRS TEOS tool to verify if an organization is a legitimate tax-exempt charity.

The IRS also encourages individuals who have encountered a fake or suspicious charity to contact the FBI.

If you believe you have been a victim or have information about these types of schemes, it's important to take action. The FBI and IRS recommend that you report fraud to the FBI at tips.fbi.gov. By doing so, you're not only protecting yourself but also helping to prevent others from falling victim to these scams.

David Zubler is a nationally known tax accountant and Enrolled Agent that resides in East Tennessee. He is the author of six tax books and a syndicated columnist who has shared tax advice on podcasts and national TV and has been referred to as America's Tax Guru. He is the founder and president of Your Tax Care. He represents clients nationwide before the IRS and provides tax strategies, and tax education, including David's one-minute tax tip radio recordings at YourTaxCare.com. David can be reached at (865)363-3019 or by email at david@yourtaxcare.com.



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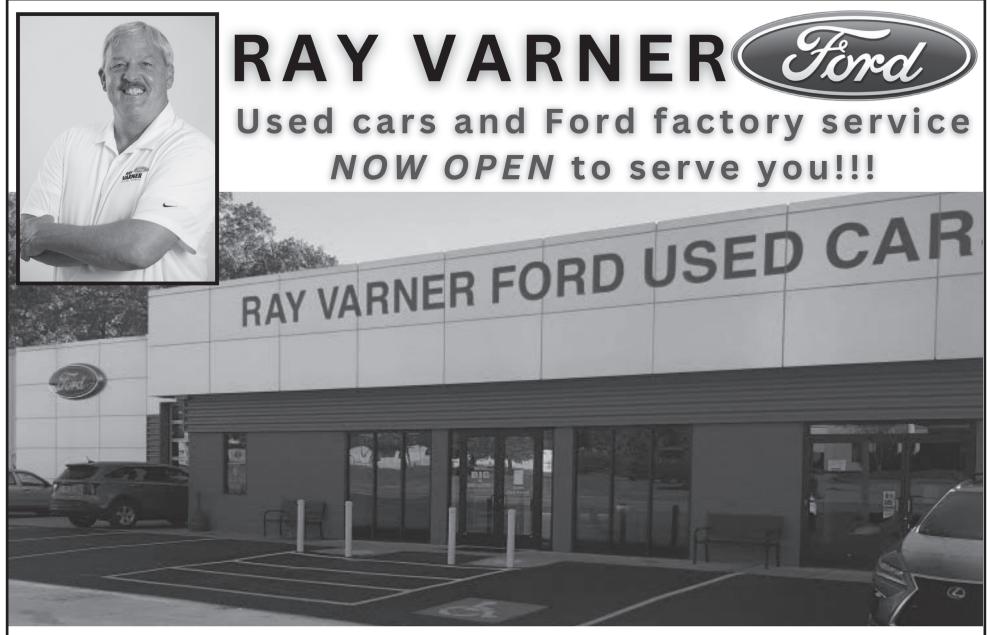
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### Erika Lynch Nurse Practitioner

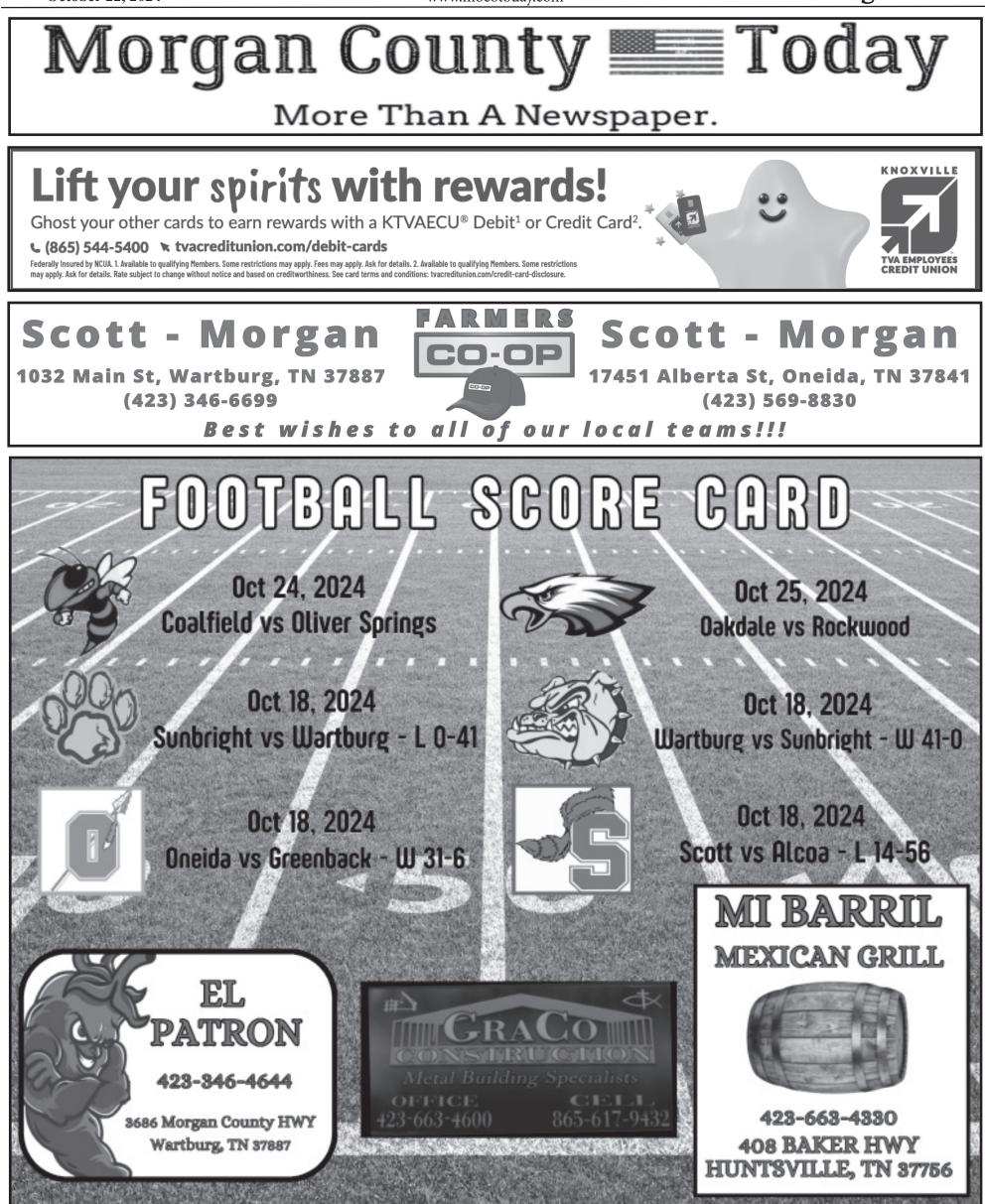
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Erika is a Nurse Practitioner with 13 years of combined nursing experience. Erika has been with the Circle of Life for over a year and sees patients of all ages Monday-Thursday 0700-1730. She has a diverse background of experience including: primary care, addiction medicine, obstetrics/women's health, pediatrics, and acute care in both the emergency room and intensive care unit. She began her nursing career as a LPN after graduating from TCAT Oneida in 2012. She completed her undergraduate at Lincoln Memorial University in 2019 and graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 2023 with her MSN.



Erika is native to Scott County and lives here with her two sons, Greyson and Emerson. When she is not in the clinic, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and coaching little league soccer. She is excited to continue to serve her hometown and looks forward to seeing new and familiar faces. Erika is currently accepting new patients and accepts most insurances.

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Historically Speaking Weinberg exhibit opens Oct. 27 at Children's Museum -Ribbon cutting at 2 p.m. By Ray Smith - Oak Ridge City Historian

Carolyn Krause brings us exciting news about the Alvin Weinberg exhibit at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge!

An exhibit that celebrates the life and achievements of Alvin Weinberg (1915-2006), director of Oak Ridge National Laboratory from 1955 to 1973, will be officially open to the public on Sunday, Oct. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge, 461 W. Outer Dr.

A long-time resident of Oak Ridge, Weinberg was an internationally recognized scientist who authored nine books and made contributions to science, energy production and policy, scientific administration and our understanding of how human activity impacts climate.

A ribbon cutting for the exhibit, often affectionately referred to as the Weinberg Corner, will take place at 2 p.m. in the museum's Discovery Room. Among the people participating in the ribbon cutting will be Richard Weinberg, Alvin Weinberg's son, and Rhonda (Ronnie) Bogard, leader of the Alvin Weinberg Papers Archive Project.

The Weinberg Corner is a colorful display that features a life-size painting of Weinberg. It also includes on two walls information about his life and achievements and a kiosk that features videos of people who worked with him and newspaper articles on his contributions to science and technology, including radioisotopes for nuclear medicine, nuclear reactors and nuclear power plants.

"My job has been to preserve Alvin Weinberg's papers and share Oak Ridge's colorful history through his life and work," Bogard said of the project that has lasted seven years. "The goal of the exhibit is to preserve Alvin's legacy and introduce him to the public and the next generations."

Volunteers working with her have created the website, publicized the project, raised more than \$143,000 through corporate and private donations, and provided information about Weinberg that was used as part of the Weinberg Corner display.

"The Weinberg Corner is a way to introduce the Alvin Weinberg Papers Archive Project and will be followed by a much larger exhibit including STEM activities once grants are obtained," she added.

For more information on the Alvin Weinberg Papers Archive Project, which involved dig itizing Weinberg's papers and making the collection open to the public, please visit the https:// childrensmuseumofoakridge.org/weinberg/ website. It includes newspaper articles on Weinberg, a documentary on his life and videos featuring him and colleagues who knew him well and tell personal stories about him. Several called him "quiet, modest and brilliant." The inspiration for Bogard's decision to make videos for the website came from her friend, Bonnie Carroll, who was the founder and chief data officer for Information International Associates, an Oak Ridge company she sold a few years ago. Carroll was the first to make a personal-story video for the website; in it she talked about how Weinberg's published document on managing the increasing amount of scientific information for the President's Science Advisory Committee under President John F. Kennedy helped shape her career.

#### www.mocotoday.com ma Shapiro, founder and long-time executive

director of the Children's Museum (first start-

ed by the Girl Scouts) and Bogard's mother,

to preserve in an archive more than 200 box-

es of papers. Weinberg published nine books

and more than 540 journal papers; many of his

reports and their drafts, speeches (including

commencement addresses to college graduates)

and correspondence with famous scientists and

leaders of scientific institutions can be found in a

itself. A soft opening of the Weinberg Corner, which included a taco dinner, was held for the project volunteers in late September, and the official opening was planned for Oct. 27.

Bogard credits the following volunteers who helped her with different aspects of the Weinberg Project, including the archive database, the "Tribute to Alvin Weinberg," the website complete with videos and the new exhibit: Beth Shea (director of the Children's Museum),



Ray Smith and Rhonda Bogard at the exhibit kiosk

collections database accessible from the website.

Starting in 2017, Bogard worked with a team of people to digitize and organize the papers so researchers, scholars and the public could access online Weinberg's ideas, scientific contributions, recommendations and decisions as a scientific administrator during his storied career.

Bogard listed some of the project's accomplishments at a recent team celebration.

The opening of the archives database was announced in March 2021. On April 20, 2021, during the COVID pandemic, a "Tribute to Alvin Weinberg" organized by Bogard and her team was broadcast over Zoom to people across the nation. One of the speakers was Richard Weinberg, Alvin's son. A video recording of the tribute is available on the website. By the end of the year, all digital scans of the contents of most of the 200 boxes of Weinberg papers were completed.

In 2022 the third and final batch load of the digital files was uploaded to the Archivera collections database. After the digital archive was complete, planning began for the Weinberg Corner exhibit.

Michael Holz of Oak Ridge Associated Universities made a podcast in which Bogard de-

Syd Ball, David Henderson, Michael Holz, Harold and Sherry Ketterer, Carolyn Krause, Connor Matthews, Dennis Miller, James Rushton and Ray Smith.

Other important members of the team were the late Steve Stow and two project archivists, Kittie Crittenden and Courtney Ferrell.

Contributing to the success of the project, Bogard said, was the software, ArchivEra, used to build the easy-to-navigate database of more than 1,400 files containing Weinberg's documents. They included papers and letters written in 1940-1989 including when he was a research director and director of ORNL, as well as director of the Institute for Energy Analysis that he founded at Oak Ridge Associated Universities. \*\*\*

Thank you, Carolyn. Be sure and mark your calendar for Sunday, October 27, 2024, from 1 to 4 p.m., to join us at the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge and enjoy the exhibit describing Alvin Weinberg's legacy through a colorful display and a kiosk featuring videos and newspaper articles on him, as well as other interesting aspects of Oak Ridge's most famous scientist.

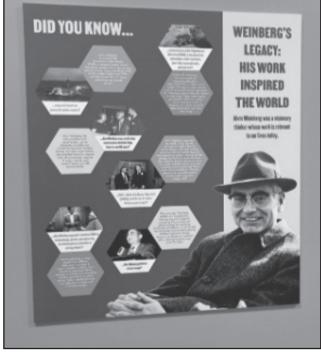
In 1986 Weinberg asked his friend Sel-

scribed Weinberg's life and achievements and the Alvin Weinberg Papers Archive Project. Bogard also talked about the project during an Oak Ridge Rotary club meeting, STEM Night at Robertsville Middle School and a class she taught for the Oak Ridge Institute for Continued Learning.

In 2023 a contract for the design of Weinberg Corner was signed. Bogard described the archives project in an interview with Keith Mc-Daniel and Ray Smith for their Hidden History: Stories from the Secret City video cast. https:// youtu.be/pc5jdK\_IVcE?si=tdCFzN-fmmsmxk17

Inventory of all the papers in boxes was completed, and Weinberg's slides were scanned and loaded as digital files to a computer disk drive for future use.

This year, the design of the kiosk was approved, and digital data, ranging from videos to newspaper articles, was loaded into the kiosk. A subset of the information from the digital archive is included along with a QR code to the archive



At the exhibit you are sure to learn things you never knew about Alvin www.mocotoday.com

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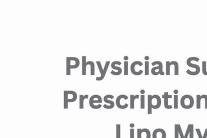
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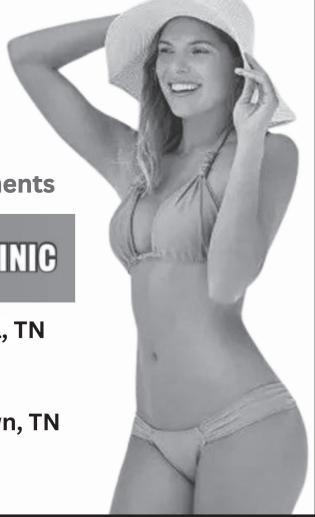


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### Becoming the Tzaddi, Psalm 119 Vs. 137-144



John Burns Opinion Columnist

Vs. 137 Righteous art thou, Oh Lord, and upright are thy judgements.

Vs. 138 Thy testimonies that thou has commanded, are righteous and very faithful.

Vs. 139 My zeal has consumed me, because thine enemies have forgotten thy word.

Vs. 140 Thy word is very pure, therefore thy servant loves it.

Vs. 141 I am small and despised, yet I do not forget thy precepts.

Vs. 142 Thy righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, and thy law is thy truth.

Vs. 143 Trouble and anguish have taken hold on me: Yet thy commandments are my delights.

Vs. 144 The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting; Give me understanding and I shall live.

Today, we encounter the 18th letter of the Hebrew alphabet, the Tzaddi. { pronounced Zah-Dee}. It has a numerical value of 90. It is defined as a righteous one. Tzaddi determines how you see what Christ alone has done for all of humanity.

This section of the incredible acrostic psalm of King David, begins with the admonition that God alone is righteous. Elohim is the righteous one. This is pertinent to your foundational belief system. Is your faith in Christ's righteousness or in your own ability to act right?

Is my righteousness a product of works, or is my righteousness imputed by Jesus Christ? Is justification the product of my cry for the unending mercy of God? Does my state of being change when I accept the most preposterous debt payment plan in human history? Am I still in the flesh?

Faith is based upon total surrender to the entire plan of God as outlined in the entire Bible. There is no partial surrender that produces mercy. Mercy is to understand that I deserve death for my sin nature, but the gift of grace in my life, began when God revealed the Son to me.

As a believer, dearly loved by God, I am required to undergo scriptural correction if I am truly the virgin bride of Christ. My dowry has been paid by Jesus Christ my risen bridegroom. He has returned to the Father's house to build my mansion in eternity.

He will soon be asked by the Father to go retrieve your promised bride. We exist in the engagement stage. Those who eagerly await the return of Messiah, begin to submit to scriptural correction in their own lives. God doesn't need any more preachers reminding people of what ails them.

God needs good shepherds, willing to lead the sheep. The shepherd is required to take on the divine attributes of Jesus Christ if he has been truly called to lead Jesus Christ's flock. Unending mercy is the foundation that leads to unwavering grace.

King David is revealing that sin surrounds him, while the righteousness of God sustains him. Jesus Christ reminds us there is none righteous apart from God. Elohim alone is Holy, Holy, Holy. Elohim is the righteous one. He is the trinity of creation and his righteousness alone matters.

Only the blood of the Lamb of God can cover our filthy flesh covered in unrighteousness.

A fresh cry each day for Christ's unending mercy, guarantees that grace will appear in the lives of all those I encounter. To be born again, I am a new creation who requires new mercy each day. Only then does the free gift of God, permeate my existence.

God empowers no man with the ability to judge righteousness. His word clearly states that only Christ as man is perfect. We are being perfec-

Before we knew Christ we were separated from the knowledge of righteousness. We were separated from the knowledge of the complete biblical plan of God. After God sows the seeds of mercy into our lives, we must submit to correction to prepare to rule with him in his coming kingdom.

This is king David's testimony throughout Psalm 119. David establishes that he has made the word of God his pearl of great price. He is teaching the mercy and grace of God as revealed to him through the incredible acrostic psalm he is penning under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Faith was always about being betrothed to a promised bridegroom. We are to learn to become his virgin bride while separated from him in the flesh. One day the marriage will be consummated in heaven at the end of the Laodicean Church age.

No one knows the slightest thing about marriage until they become engaged. We are in our training period to learn how to love Jesus Christ alone. He is the King of Righteousness. His righteousness is your promised reward. His righteousness alone brings comfort.

We have accepted Christ's offer of marriage. We have accepted his forgiveness as bridegroom over creation and God's single righteous judge. Now we must surrender to the sanctifying work of the Spirit to free us all from religious pre-suppositions and traditions of our ancestors.

We must eagerly await his return as the virgin bride eagerly awaits her promised bridegroom. The time to submit to scriptural correction is now. We are being prepared to rule and reign with Messiah in his promised coming 1,000 millennial kingdom.

Christ is not concerned with external religion for he alone focuses on our individual conviction. Tzaddi teaches us that God's righteousness is contained within the revelation of his son as both Messiah and coming King.

Tzaddi points to our flesh being eternally corrupt, hence the need for a new glorified body in heaven. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed in an instant. In the twinkling of an eye we shall be changed. For we shall see him as he is, and we shall be like him.

After Christ's resurrection, he was only seen by loving eyes and only touched by loving hands. The grave could not hold him. He could enter and leave a room without going through a door or a window. Our future is to be exactly like him.

Let him who has ears hear what the spirit is saying. John Burns 9-29-2024

Staff Sergeant John Burns enlisted into the United States Army on September 23, 1987 as an 11C Infantry Mortarman. He graduated from the 7th Infantry Division, Ranger Class 11/89 and served in the invasion of Panama, Desert Storm and the Battle of Mogadishu while assigned to the 75th Rangers.

Some of his many decorations, awards and badges include; Bronze Star Medal for Valor, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal, Sniper Badge, Pathfinder Badge, Master Parachutist Badge, Combat Infantry Badge and Expert Infantry Badge. Throughout his prestigious military career, he traveled to forty-five countries on five continents and all but two states while serving in the military.

He currently serves as the Chaplain for the Special Operations Warrior Foundation. His devout faith demonstrates to all he comes into contact with that he believes nothing but the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse us from all unrighteousness. He enjoys writing and teaching God's Word

ted not by our good works, but by God's mercy and grace alone. And only *while sharing his faith with a dying world.* if we submit to daily scriptural correction.



### Luke Chapter 1



Melvin Howard

(Luke 1:1-4) The opening statement: Luke begins by acknowledging that many previous writers have produced documents regarding the Christian faith, going back to eyewitnesses and ministers of the word. As one of scholarly caliber, he felt compelled himself to research the record and provide an accurate account for a friend, Theophilus, that he might know with "certainty" that the doctrine to which he had committed was true. The expression, "most excellent," may indicate that this brother held an

important post in the empire. The fact that Luke is open about his research and does not claim to be an eyewitness, reveals his integrity. He is, of course, writing under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

(Luke 1:5-7) Historical background: In the administration of Herod the Great (37-4 B.C.), a Hebrew priest, Zacharias, and his wife, Elizabeth, were a godly couple who honored the Lord by obeying his commandments. They are represented as "blameless," which does not mean "sinless," but very devout people. But they had no children, and being old, is seemed unlikely they ever would.

(Luke 1:8-25) Birth of John the Baptist foretold: Zacharias was executing the priest's function (a twice-per-year rotation [1 Chron. 24:1-19]). Incense was being burned in the holy place as the people outside prayed. An angel appeared and Zacharias was frightened. The angel, Gabriel, informed him that he and his wife would have a son who would bring rejoicing to the people. His name was to be called "John" (v. 13-14). He would refrain from all alcoholic beverages and be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from (out of) his mother's womb. Even as a fetus, John would be the prophet foreshadowed by Elijah, and his task would be to turn the hearts of the people to God, preparing them for the Messiah (v. 16-17).

Since Zacharias and Elizabeth were aged, he asked for a sign. He was informed that he would be unable to speak until the birth of the child. The God who can cause the mute to speak can turn speech into silence! It was a benevolent penalty for the priest's lack of faith (v. 20). Zacharias came out of the temple, but he could not inform the anxious people about what happened. Presently, the aged Elizabeth conceived, but kept her pregnancy hidden for five months, which was natural considering the circumstances. Note that the physician-author (Col. 4:14) does not hesitate to record the supernatural nature of the conception, because he is recording facts he had checked.

(Luke 1:26-38) The announcement of Jesus' birth: In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, Gabriel appeared in Nazareth (due west of the southern end of the Sea of Galilee) to Mary, a virgin who was "betrothed" to Joseph. A Jewish betrothal was much stronger than a modern engagement; it could be dissolved only by divorce. It was a "marriage" but without the intimacy. The angel greeted the young virgin (who likely was in her early teens), informing her that she was "highly favored" by the Lord. One can only imagine the quality of this girl who was chosen above all the virgins of Israel! Mary was worried, not understanding the nature of the announcement. It was explained to her that she would conceive and bear a male child who would be named "Jesus" (Matt. 1:21).

The child would be "great" and called the Son of the Most High. "Son" was a future title (v. 35). Prior to his human conception, Jesus was the eternal Word (Jn. 1:1), not the "Son of God." Ultimately, he would be given the "throne" of his ancestor, David (2 Sam. 7:12), and would "reign over the house of Jacob" and his "kingdom" forever. The "house of David" was the new, coming spiritual Israel (Gal. 6:16; 1 Pet. 2:9), the equivalent of the BIBLETALK.TV Mike Mazzalongo church (Mt. 16:18-19). This could not be the so-called "millennial" kingdom (as commonly alleged), for supposedly that is to last only a thousand years, not "forever" and without end" (v. 32-33). One must be born again to enter the kingdom of Christ (Jn. 3:5; Eph. 5:5). Jesus began to reign in His kingdom (Acts 2) Pentecost day. Yes, it is an eternal spirit kingdom. Stop looking for an earthly physical reign. Mary was deeply perplexed: how could this possibly be, since she had never been intimate with a man? Modern critics say it could not happen because they dismiss anything of a supernatural nature. Why they even bother with the Bible is a mystery! The angel responded that her conception would be miraculous, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the one conceived would be the Son of God, one who partakes of the very nature of deity (v.35). Mary also was informed of Elizabeth's condition (Elizabeth being a kinswoman; hence, John and Jesus were related), and was encouraged to be confident because God has the power to accomplish his will (v. 37). The faith of the young virgin is truly astounding. She surrendered herself unto God as a "slave"---one who has surrendered all personal rights. And she accepted her role as the mother of the world's Savior. What a young lady! Yet never was to be worshipped!

(Luke. 1:39-45) Mary visits Elizabeth: Subsequently, Mary leaves Nazareth and travels into the hill country of Judah. (The liberal theory that Joseph sent Mary away, angry about her impending conception, is utterly without basis.) When Elizabeth heard that Mary was to be the mother of the Messiah, the Holy Spirit came upon her in a supernatural way, and the fetal John lunged with joy in his mother's womb---a divinely orchestrated acknowledgement of the greatness of the soon-to-be-born Son of God (v. 41). Note that John, in his mother's womb, is designated as a "baby"---not a mere blob of flesh. In his writings, Luck will give special emphasis to the role of the Holy Spirit.

Elizabeth acknowledges her role as subordinate to the mission of her kinswoman, who will be "the mother of my Lord." She cries out: Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb" (v. 42). One recognizes this statement as that incorporated into Catholic ritual of the rosary---a practice entirely without justification. Elizabeth commends Mary's faith and expresses confidence that God's promise to her will be fulfilled (v. 45). One cannot but admire Elizabeth. She happily accepts the lower station with no expression of envy whatever.

(Luke 1:46-56) Mary's hymn of praise: Mary's song has roots in Old Testament literature and reveals how deeply her soul has been steeped in Scripture. Some have suggested that there are remnants of some twenty-three Old Testament texts in the lyrics. She praises the Lord, and her spirit rejoices that God is her Savior. She is no materialist; she possesses a spirit. Too, she acknowledges she needs God as her Savior. The passage refutes the Catholic notion that Mary never sinned. She humbly confesses her low estate as a fallen being, but with keen insight realizes that her role will identify her as a blessed person for generations (v. 46-48). This does not mean she is soliciting worship, which is due only God (Mt. 4:10). Mary recognizes the Lord's power, holiness, and mercy; he is worthy of reverential fear (v. 49-50). He does not tolerate evil, and he disperses those who swagger with pride. In his sovereignty, he deals with the arrogant (v. 51). He rules in the kingdoms of men (Dan. 2:21; 4:17), brings down the proud, but exalts the humble (v. 52). He rules with equity; "hungry" and "rich" are used in spiritual senses (v. 53). The Lord has used Israel to bring about his plan, and his promise to Abraham remains intact (v. 54-55).

(Luke 1:57-66) The birth of John the Baptist: Mary has returned to Nazareth, and Elizabeth gives birth to John. At eight days, the rite of circumcision (a seal of a covenant relationship with God) is performed according to Moses' law (Lev. 12:3). The child was named "John," not Zacharias---as had been anticipated. The name suggested: "God is merciful."

(Luke 1:37-80) Zacharias praises God: As with Mary's song, Zacharias weaves together numerous sentiments extracted from Old Testament literature. His long silence has ended and, filled with the Spirit he praises God for the anticipated "visit" in the form of the "redemption" (the first use of this word in Scripture). Note the parallelism between "redemption" and "salvation" (v. 68-69). Jehovah has "remembered" his promise to Abraham and deliverance from the enemy is on the way. This is not a political deliverance, but redemption from sin (v. 71-74); such a blessing obligates one to a holy and righteous life (v. 75). Zacharias recognizes that John's birth is the fulfillment of prophecy (Isa. 40:1; Lk. 24:27). O the wickedness of those who contend that the Old Testament contains no specific messianic prophecies! Because of the Lord's mercy, remission of sins (on a complete basis) will be available soon. Men will come out of darkness into peace (v. 77-79). John grew physically and was strong in spirit; he spent a preparatory period in the isolated region west of the Dead Sea.

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