

# Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxendine

## More About "mystery Kitten"

The cute little kitten that turned up on my steps turned out to belong to our neighbors, the Oxendine cousins. We didn't need any more animals, but I sort of hated to tell it "good-bye."

## Mrs. Rogers' Neighborhood

It was interesting to catch a TV interview with the widow of "Mr. Rogers" who had been his wife for 59 years. She said that Fred Rogers was her ICON before he was anybody else's. They must have had a really good marriage and family life. I had heard her (on TV) say about her husband, "What you see is what you get!" Wouldn't it be great if that could be said about all of us?

Mrs. Rogers has compiled a new book about her husband, which includes his ideas and saying.

The Methodist Church has been a Very Special organization for me for more than seven and a half decades, particularly during the six and a half years I served as a rural worker in Northern Montana, Caswell County, the Robeson County area, supported by "my" childhood church.

As you know, I am one of many UM members who have been "raking our church over the coals" for a number of years because of its movement so far away from what we "renewers" believe are truly the basic principles of the Bible, and of life, for us human beings, here on this earth.

I considered leaving for awhile. But I don't want to watch it (and our other mainline churches, like the Episcopal Church) go down the drain as a Christian institution, part of the bulwark of this nation in earlier days.

It was the mid-1940s. I was 19. My sociology professor was one of my revered "authority figures" at Montana State University. (Only years later, in the early '80s, did I discover he was an "avowed member of the Communist Party.") A class room debate for or against Communism convinced me that Communism was a lot like Christianity! That must have been the purpose of the debate, since our professor had us switch sides, and offered to provide the info we needed, at least for those of us who had started out with misgivings about Communism.

Many things in the Communist world are not what they appear to be! What you (and what you are told) are not what you get!

From the beginning, one of Communism's main goals, like that of Hitler, has been to rid the world of GOD! Lenin, Stalin, Mao, and more recent Marxist-Leninist leaders, have all used deception to spread their

atheistic "substitute religion."

Flirting with Communist Party leaders is like playing with fire. Or like a girl dating man who is SECRETLY bent on rape, for the purpose of reforming him.

Communists were NOT born to be bad people! They are merely human beings brainwashed to manipulate people and situations, using an assortment of means (including such evil methods as Terrorism and the training of terrorists) to achieve an evil end, a world without God, where human plans reign supreme!

10 years ago-in a memorandum to the CIA, Anatoliy Gollitsyn described himself as a "KGB defector" who came to the United States in 1961...to convey to the U.S. Government a warning about the Soviet long-range political strategy for the defeat of the United States." (This is one of many memorandums sent by Gollitsyn as a result of his concern for informing the CIA, as reported in his second book, *The Perestroika Deception*, published in 1995.

50 years ago Methodist missionary Annie Pittman took me aside at Scarritt College to share what she had observed before, then after, the Communist takeover in China. Young Christians she had disciplined had to decide whether to reject their faith for Communism, or be persecuted. More recently, my cousin, a missionary in Ethiopia for four decades, described the effect of Communist control there, with some Christians even converting to Communism.

The world's biggest, most deadly battle of the past century, as I see it, has been an ongoing conflict between Communism and our Judeo-Christian faith. Often, Communism has won out!

A 1962 Christian herald article, "How the Communist Plan to Conquer America," by former missionary to China, E. Pearce Hayes, described Communism's plans for the future, as related to Hayes in 1951, through the atypically open boasting of a brash young Chinese Communist. That young man was one of 40 Communist men and women who had moved in, and taken possession of, the house in Foodchow where Hayes and his wife were living.

One day this brilliant young leader explained to the missionary the pattern Communism would follow in order to gradually destroy America, without a war, by first destroying "the great superstition which you call religion."

In 1988, when I asked a dissenter from Moscow if she had heard of God, she said: "My mother believes in God."

(We now know that many courageous Christians have continued to worship secretly in Russia, China, and other communist controlled countries.)

The greatest current deception (as Gollitsyn and others like former Romanian pastor, Richard Wurmbrand, have tried for years to warn us) is the prevailing notion that, over a decade ago, Communism suddenly keeled over and died!

The Berlin Wall did finally come down. Capitalism has been tried in Russia, as well as China. And we have watched changes taking place in one Communist-controlled country after another, all around the world.

But Outward changes do not equal death!

## Thinking About Thanksgiving

Like Christmas and Easter, for most Americans Thanksgiving seems to

be simply a holiday break, for rest, or celebrating. Thankfully, many still consider it to be a family get-together!

We tend to think of Thanksgiving as a day apart in the month of November, proclaimed by past presidents. Many of us, however, are still reminded of the first Thanksgiving feast and get-together between the Pilgrims who had recently found refuge and settled in what is now Massachusetts, and Native Indian neighbors who had befriended them, and taught them how to survive.

### This in itself is something to celebrate!

But, today, one of the Christian radio programs I listen to reminded me that the act of "thanksgiving" or "giving thanks" is described in various Old Testament stories, as well as in many of the Psalms.

Psalm 100 would be a good poem, or song, to read this week! Perhaps one or more family members could read it aloud on Thanksgiving day. Since it is short, it could also become a choral reading for the entire family, using the Bible version agreed upon by family members. The King James version is still the most poetic. But another version may be easier for us to understand, since our language has changed so much over the past four centuries.

And, let's remember the Person, our Creator and God, who is so deserving of our praise and thanksgiving on this day, once a year, and on every other day of the year!

My mother taught me, as a young child, to begin each prayer to God (my heavenly Father, with a list of things to be thankful for. Instead, so often our prayers are limited to requests, or cries for help. Let's try to remember: first, to take at least a few moments each day (10 minutes or more at one time, preferably in the morning, or 2-3 minutes each hour or two throughout the day) to thank God for the blessings we usually take for granted, and for special blessings bestowed upon us during the past 24 hours (including those we may not even be aware of.) Then, to keep and "attitude of gratitude" so that we can notice and express our thanks throughout the day.

In talking about tragedies, I often remind myself and others that God gives us so many blessings all the time, that (even after a loss like ours--or yours) there are still more blessings left than we will ever fully realize!!

Thanksgiving is not just a day set aside once a year, or once a month, or once a week, to say "thanks!" It is a mental, emotional attitude that finds many ways to express our ongoing appreciation for our Maker Each and Every day of the Year!

A couple of weeks ago my dermatologist took several skin tissue samples to church for skin cancer. No big deal, I thought, even though Mother had many, many skin cancers in her later years, including one melanoma. But the "wound" on my leg became infected. My leg started hurting. And I wondered what it would be like to lose my leg, or even my life, due to infection, the way so many others have done. However, after taking an antibiotic, my leg is now nearly healed. And the report came back that I do not have cancer. I am so blessed!

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## Swett High Happenings

### Rotc News

Under the guidance of BN Commander LTC Ryan Kennedy, the rifle team placed first at the Scotland County Drill Meet. Cadets and their leaders visited the Veterans Hospital and Home, and participated in the Veteran's Day Parade. Citizenship Ed. Mr. Pamell's class participated for twelve weeks of tutoring at Prospect School. The class is presently putting together a promotional tape for Swett's One Stop which aired on Nov. 14th. The entire class passed the 10 hour Reading for Success workshop and are now certified reading tutors.

### English III

Miss Kim Locklear's class created shadowboxes, scrapbooks, and patchwork quilt squares depicting the history, life, literature, and language period of 1750-1850. The Honor class also participated in literature circles while reading selected novels. Currently, students are engaged in a study of political speeches, analyzing persuasive techniques.

### AP English

AP English Language students read *Inherit the Wind* by Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee, a

novel based on the infamous "Monkey Trial" in Dayton, Tennessee, in July 1925. The students have researched other famous trials including the Trial of Socrates, the Salem Witch Trial, and the trial of Susan B. Anthony. They also read *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, and *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy.

### Theatre Department

October 30th Mr. Tyner's class Theater Arts I presented a program of five one-act plays, directed by Senior Justin Jacobs. The plays dealt with teenage themes such as teenage pregnancy, peer pressure, adolescence, sexual relations and racial prejudice.

### NTC Regional Play Festival

A small group of theater students traveled to West Columbus High School on Saturday Nov. 22, to compete in the North Carolina Regional Play Festival for Middle and High Schools.

The group will compete against a dozen other schools for a chance to go to state competition in December.

### Chorus News

The PSHS Band Chorus and Strings Concert is scheduled for December 8th in the PSHS Com-

mons at 7:00 PM. The admission is free and everyone is encouraged to come and enjoy the music.

### Indian Heritage Month

In celebration of Indian Heritage Month, The Native American Student Association has scheduled some events for the month. The first activity was held November 11. Mr. Brian Graham spoke on domestic violence prevention. The following week, Ms. April Whitmore and Miss Morgan B. Hunt attended the events. On Nov 18, Mrs. Mary Sue Locklear discussed herb use and the impor-

tance of them to our culture and health.

### Math News

B. Catrina Bailey, David Emanuel, Sara McGirt and Steve Woods participated in the North Carolina Council of Mathematics Conference in Greensboro, NC. Mrs. Connie Locklear's Algebra Class completed a project about their dream home. Mrs. Sara McGirt's class has been busy working on various projects. They did a poster on vocabulary. They also did a hands on activity on parallel lines and proofs.

## A Commoner Comments

by Robert C. Currie, Jr.

### Is our "Federal Parent Favoring Pets?"

A November 12, 2003 Associated Press article began: "Thomasville Furniture Industries will cut 200 jobs in the next two to three months as it continues to suffer under competition from imports, the company says." As parents, when our children suffer we human beings seek remedies. Therefore, why aren't we asking ourselves why our national socioeconomic "parent" our federal government, isn't seeking a remedy for our ailing industries, since they are suffering? The article stated: "The company, like many from China, have been putting the squeeze on American furniture-making operations." As parents, if we learn that the school bully is "putting the squeeze" on our children, we human beings take action immediately. Therefore, why aren't we asking ourselves why our "federal parent" is not taking steps to prevent the current socioeconomic "squeeze" on American worker's quality of life?

The article stated: "To compete, Thomasville Furniture, a subsidiary of St. Louis-based Furniture Brands International, has shifted a growing portion of its production overseas." To compete with whom? If "international" companies are shifting portions of their production overseas, who owns the finished goods once they are produced? Are goods manufactured by American owned "international" corporations operating in foreign goods, or U.S. goods manufactured in foreign countries? Whose brand names are on those "foreign products?" The article stated: "Thomasville Furniture is applying for U.S. Trade Adjustment Act benefits for the workers and will ask for assistance this week from the N.C. Employment Security Commission." Why is Thomasville Furniture asking for benefits and assistance for the displaced workers, rather than a reversal of the policies, which displaced the workers?

Executive vice president Paul Dascoli said: "Thomasville has been planning to reduce its workforce before the parent company's Oct. 24 announcement that it would accelerate plans to reduce manufacturing capacity in its six divisions before Jan. 1." Does reduction of manufacturing capacity in those six divisions really mean a production in the company's workforce, or an increase in their workforce overseas? The closing began: "With the latest Thomasville Furniture

cuts, there has been about 2,262 furniture jobs eliminated, since February 2002 according to the N.C. Employment Security Commission. The Triad as a whole has lost about 3,462 furniture jobs in that time span." Have these thousands of jobs really been "lost," or might they be "found" in foreign countries where U.S. "international" corporations exploit cheap labor working under lax, if any, safety and environmental regulations?

But the foremost question is why does our "federal parent" allow U.S. corporations to exploit foreign labor and our markets simultaneously under the deceptive guise of free trade with countries that have no commodities to trade? Why does our "federal parent" allow U.S. Corporations that abandon their U.S. workers and our nation, thereby avoid paying living wages and U.S. taxes, to market their products here? If they chose to operate in another nation, why not let them market their products where they are manufactured? Of course, we all know the answer is lobbyists dictated policy to our legislators from the corporations which finance their campaigns. But as I have written so many times, the United States of America became the most successful economic power in human history by regulating trade with fair and reasonable tariffs. Less than a decade of so-called "free trade" with U.S. corporations operating in countries, which have nothing to trade, has brought our nation to its economic knees, and thrown the Carolinas on our economic faces. While our "federal parent" caters to its special interest "pets," Think about it please!

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## These Women Fought Cancer On Common Ground.

Lynette Bisbee, Marie Hester and Brenda Smith know those dreaded words, "you have cancer." And for Lynette, a busy teacher and mother, Marie, an administrator with Chesterfield Convalescent Center in Cheraw, and Brenda, an assistant at the NC Department of Transportation, cancer was the last thing they were prepared to face. But fortunately, the staff of **Scotland Cancer Treatment Center** was fully prepared.

Each woman chose **Scotland Cancer Treatment Center** for her chemotherapy. "I am so proud there is a facility like this in Scotland County," says Lynette, who also participated in an important clinical trial as part of her treatment. "Having chemotherapy in Laurinburg meant I wasn't away from my young daughter and my husband for long periods of time."

Marie, a busy professional and a registered nurse, appreciated the skill of the nursing staff in starting intravenous lines - often an uncomfortable part of treatment. Brenda, who also had cancer surgery at Scotland Memorial, says the staff always looked for ways to make treatment easier and called her at home to see how she was feeling. "I couldn't have gotten better care anywhere else," says Brenda.

Although these women appreciated having cancer treatment facilities close to home, it was the cancer center's staff and expertise that made them feel more like a person and less like a number. "The staff sat with me many times just to talk to me during treatment," says Lynette, "and they kept me upbeat. For someone fighting cancer, that's important."

To learn more about the **Scotland Cancer Treatment Center** and the addition of our radiation therapy services, call 910-291-7630.

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