

The Christian Courier

November, 2010

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A Successful Business Man Who Failed



Luke 12:16-21, "*And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*"

If there is anything in this world that we should hate to be, it is that we should be a failure. But the rich fool of whom we have just read in the text was a real failure. He was, in one sense, a great success; he was a successful business man. He was not a little farmer, but he owned and operated a large estate.

If I were an artist, I would paint a picture of this successful man and place him on a huge Texas farm. Near the top of the picture, away off in the distance, I would paint some beautiful rolling hills covered with green grass upon which were Texas white-faced Hereford cattle grazing. Closer, I would paint some fields of beautiful grain. Next to that I would depict a beautiful home — a mansion. Nearby, I would portray a large red barn with a massive silo beside it. Somewhere in the picture, I would place this successful farmer

sitting upon a large horse looking over his vast estate.

In naming the title of this picture, I would print at the bottom of the picture these words: "A successful Man." But God takes the brush from my hand and instead writes the words, "A miserable Failure."

In the eyes of the world, this man was a glorious success, but in the eyes of God he was a miserable failure. As the world looks at him and declares that he is rich, God pronounces him a pauper. The world would call him a genius, but God called him a fool.

Why was he a foolish man? Let us consider why.

He left God out of his life. Psalms 9:17, "*The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.*"

In all his planning, he deliberately left God out. He talked about "*my fruits*", "*my barns*", "*my goods*". God had given this man all he needed to become a success: A strong and healthy body, the sunshine and the rain, the rotation of the seasons, and the fertility of the soil. All of which made his success possible. He had thrown some seed in the ground, and for every handful God had given him a bushel in return. God had given him everything and he was not willing to give God anything in return.

It's like the attitude Napoleon had. Napoleon had planned to invade Russia and defeat the Czar. Someone said in his presence, "Man proposes, but God disposes." On hearing this remark, Napoleon replied, "I propose, and I dispose." He deliberately left God out of the reckoning, and it proved fatal. For God dealt with Napoleon through one of His smallest and most fragile creations — the snowflake. His Corsican army was not prepared for the snows of Russia, and he was defeated. "Russia shall be mine," his proud heart had said, but God was there to intervene.

The man who goes into business and leaves out God makes a miserable failure. If he fails to take the God of heaven as a partner and a counselor, he is doomed for failure, for in God's book there are to be found the safest of all rules and principles of economy and industry. The foolish man left his fellow men out of his life. This foolish man who forgot God also forgot his neighbor.

He did not say to his wife, "We have more grain, corn, fruit, and vegetables that we can ever use. We ought to take some of it to our neighbors who have no crops." He simply said, "*What shall I do with my goods?*"

Jesus taught about His "*first and great commandment*" in Matt. 22:37-39, "*Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.*"

But this foolish man violated both of these great commandments.

The following is a true story of brotherly love. Madame Chiang Kai-shek told of the story of a hero of the Chinese rice fields during an earthquake. From his hilltop farm he felt the quake and saw in the distance the ocean swiftly withdrawn from the old shore line. He knew that the ocean would leap back in a tidal wave. In the valleys below, he saw his neighbors working low fields that would be destroyed by the rapid rush of water. He knew that their only safety was to be on the hilltop where he stood, and that they had to get there quickly. It was useless to call them, for they could not hear in that distance. He quickly ran to his nearby barns of rice which were dry as tinder. With a torch he set fire to his

own barns. His neighbors saw the smoke and rushed up the hill to help him. Then from their safe perch on the hill they looked in the direction of the ocean as he pointed. They saw the waters cover over the fields they had just left. In a flash they knew their salvation and what it cost the man who warned them. The monument they erected to his memory is still standing, bearing the motto, "He gave us all he had, and gave it gladly."

The foolish man of whom Jesus spoke thought the human soul could be satisfied with material things. Luke 12:19, "*And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*"

There is something about the soul of man that cannot be satisfied with the things that are material and perishable. Matt. 4:4, "*But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.*"

The greatest happiness of earth is not always among those that are clad in purple and fine linen and fare sumptuously every day. Many a man living in a humble little shack sleeps in a gentle peace, while others living in their luxury and wealth are experiencing a problem in their sleep. Money cannot bring complete happiness and fulfil all our desires. Eccl. 5:10, "*He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.*" Eccl. 4:6, "*Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit.*"

The foolish man thought that he had a perpetual lease on life. Luke 12:19, "*And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*"

We don't know what awaits us on the morrow. Prov. 27:1, "*Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.*" James 4:14, "*Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*"

There isn't a person among us who expects to be in his grave within the next 6 months. Perhaps you don't expect to be in your grave within the next 6 years. Yet, it is possible that the casket is already made into which the body of some one of us may soon be laid.

So, God said to this man, "*Thou fool.*" Yet, he was not one ready for an insane asylum; he did not need someone to constantly guard him from society. Still, God declared him to be a fool.

God further said to him, "*This night thy soul shall be required of thee.*" This man talked about tomorrow; but God talked about NOW.

God also said to him, "*Then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*" The house in which you now live will one day be occupied by others, saving the second coming of Christ. The stocks and bonds and the money in your bank, which you now claim as your own, will be possessed by another after you leave this world, for they will be left behind. 1 Tim. 6:6-10, "*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*"

Finally, God says to us in Luke 12:21, "*So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.*" "*So is he*" — He whom? Anybody; you; me; all those who trust in the

things of the world and are "not rich toward God." Matt. 6:19-20, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:*" 1 Tim. 6:17-19, "*Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.*"

Eccl. 12:13-14, "*Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.*"

If you are making the same mistakes this man made of presuming that you have a lease on life; of presuming that there is plenty of time to accept Christ; of thinking that there is plenty of time to prepare for eternity; I warn you to profit by the sad experience of this man.

Written in Christian love,
Ellis Forsman
6718 Santa Fe Dr
Lubbock, TX 79407

Precious Memories

***The Christian Courier*, November, 1970.** Bro. Marion Warford, Baron, OK, announced a meeting in November with guest speakers. The Modesto, CA, congregation reports several had recently been hospitalized: Bro. & Sis. Bert Weakley, Sis. Mae Johnson, Sis. Allie Baxley, Sis. June Paioni, Sis. Dousia Arnett, and Bro. F H Logan; and the following had recent illnesses: Bro. & Sis. Renzo Stephens, Bro. Doyle Ivy, Sis. Lucy Condor, and Sis. Fern Logan. Also mentioned: Sis. Marietta Bryant's granddaughter, Lynn Bryant, 16, was taken in an accident in October.

***The Christian Courier*, November, 1990.** The Selah, WA, congregation reports that Bro. Robert Farley has had a lot of problems with his back. They also announced a meeting in August with speakers to be announced later. Bro. Harry Davis, Yuma, AZ, reported on the passing of Sis. Valerie Davis on September 30th. Bro Gerald Brockman, Bellflower, CA, reported on the passing of Sis. Burdette Perigen. He also mentioned that Bro. Al Way (AJ) was hospitalized with either flu or acute appendicitis (the doctors weren't sure at his admittance), Bro. Al Way, Sr. was recovering after severely injuring his back while working on a fence at the church building.

Would like for you and yours to join them at the

Cypress Lake Camp

For a weekend of
Christian fellowship - Spiritual singing - and - Gospel preaching.

On November the 12th, 13th and 14th, 2010
We will hear some good gospel sermons from Guest Speakers.

Friday evening, Saturday evening and Sunday morning services!!!
PLEASE let us know when you can be with us.

Contacts:
Danny Treat ---------- 405-436-9636
Mike and Melissa Harcrow ---------- 580-212-4587 or 580-212-4588
Phyllis and Doug Ferguson ---------- 580-306-1758

In Christian love,
The members of --- "The Broken Bow, Ok. - Church of Christ"

PLEASE NOTE, Other actives that may be enjoyed.

Beavers Bend Folk Festival & Craft Show

November 12-14, 2010
Festival Hours
Fri. & Sat 9 am - 5 pm
Sun 10 am - 4 pm

Cypress Lake Campground



Broken Bow, Oklahoma

We are planning on you being with us, and you having a wonderful time, at Church Camp 2011. There will be wonderful fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ from across the country. There will be activities for all. Come one come all; see who can bring the most people with them. Please note we want everyone to be able to attend the camp meeting at Cypress Lake Campground. We are trying to make the dates so as many people as possible can attend. (PLEASE note a change of dates that came out in the September Christian Courier)

We will be blessed with many good sermons from guest speakers.

---See you at camp---

June 19-26, 2011

Cards and Letters

Harlingen, TX

Dear brethren in Christ Jesus:

Receive our gratefulness in the name of the Lord Jesus by your communion and participation with us in the predication of the gospel and the salvation of many souls in Mexico and Central America.

I comment that during same days of September I had several studies of the Bible in Central Mexico. In Green River City (500 miles from Harlingen) I studied 3 days with some Pentecostals that were interested in the truth of the gospel. One of these people (teacher in the sect) said that he wants to understand the truth and obey it. I have hopes that in my next visit this person and others will obey the truth and be converted. The church in this city continues to grow and are very animated in the evangelization. In August and September in this area we distributed 1000 booklets and 100 CD's with studies of the Bible.



In the city of Vallermoso (frontier with USA) we evangelized for two days and delivered 500 booklets and 50 CD's. We had evening meetings and several people visited us. The evangelizing work in this city is very difficult because it is very dangerous because of the insecurity in this area of the frontier.

In the city of Brownsville, TX, after studying with some families for some time, one person was baptized. There were some new families that visited the meetings on Sunday and we have confidence that soon they will obey the gospel.

The church at Matamoros, Mexico, (frontier with USA) because of the dangers in this area at night has changed their meetings and studies in their homes. Only the Sunday morning meeting is normal.

Also, the churches in Southern Mexico and Guatemala continue firm in the faith and sound doctrine. I have plans to visit this area during December or January if the Lord permits me. In this area I distributed 200 CD's with biblical studies for the brethren and 100 CD's on the plan of salvation to those interested in the gospel. I also sent printed material and CD's to the brethren in Colombia and I have hope that all this material will help the church in this country to grow.

This work of sending printed studies and CD's to help in the evangelization and edification of the brethren I consider to be important because I CAN NOT constantly visit all these places to teach and encourage the brethren. I have plans of continuing to produce this material (booklets, books, and CD's).

I send a photo of a new member in Brownsville, TX.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,
Otto Alvarez
PO Box 532514
Harlingen, TX 78553

Lorenzo, TX

Greetings to our Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Some news from Lorenzo, TX, at this time includes:

Bro. Jerry & Sis. Wynetta McCay did some traveling for a few weeks with Bro. Richard & Sis. Monica Johnston. They were sorely missed as it seems like they were gone for a long time.

There were a number from here who went to the Oklahoma City, OK, meeting to hear Bro. Kevin Lamb. It was great!

Sis. Amy Orendorff went to Seattle, WA, for the birth of her new grandson, Ryder Daniel Flugence. He was born September 28th to Lawrence & Shaya Flugence.

Bro. Ellis & Sis. Lynell and Bro. Evart Forsman went to North Carolina on business and got a chance to see Bro. Ellis' & Bro. Evart's sister in Greenville, SC. While back east the Forsman's worshipped with the folks at Canton, GA. They all send their love to all of you.

Bro. Larry Wood, Bro. Matt & Sis. Kim Matlock, and Bro. Shiloh Boling also attended the business meeting in North Carolina, however they worshipped with the folks in Douglasville, GA.

Sis. Olene Howe was away for three weeks. She went to Valparaiso, IN, where she spent a few weeks with her daughter Sis. Earlene and Bro. Bill Jared.

While those were away, those remaining had an opportunity to hear Bro. Tony Brister from the Citrus City, AZ, congregation speak on October 24th.

Lynell's sister, Sis. Jackie McCay, Spokane, WA, is still having problems after her intestinal surgery.

Sis. Joan Boling was hospitalized this morning (Nov. 7th). She was diagnosed as having heart rate irregularities and fluctuating blood pressure; they are trying to determine the cause. They suspect medication conflicts.

Be sure to mark our next summer's meeting dates on your calendar:

Lorenzo, TX Meeting – July 3-10, 2011. The speaker is yet to be determined.

May the good Lord be with you all.

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

Yakima, WA

Dear Brethren:

There's not a whole lot to report from here. We are happy to have Richard and Monica Johnston back with us after their six week travel around these United States. They report that they had a great time as they visited several congregations on their journey.

We have had a baptism since I last wrote. Chase Dougan made that Good Confession and was baptized on September the 12th. He is the son of Mike and Heather Smith and grandson of Tony and Cheryl Heckart, which makes him Veda's and my great-great nephew.

We have all been fairly healthy except for the colds and flu, which have been quite nasty. Our Cinde has been having more trouble with her Parkinson's. The doctors keep trying new medication and hopefully they will come up with the right formula. Veda still has trouble breathing, but it has stayed pretty much the same.

We are truly sorry to hear of all the sickness and tragedy in the Brotherhood. I guess we will just have to pray harder.

The weather here is unpredictable at this time as it varies from just above freezing to just below freezing at night. There has been quite a bit of snow in the mountains, in fact Chinook and Cayuse passes were closed this week, and don't know if this is permanent for this winter or possibly might reopen for awhile, At least it hasn't gotten down to the valley yet.

Except for the usual problems that we all have, there isn't anything a whole lot different to report at this time.

We are happy to see so many Gospel meeting dates reported this early. It makes it easier to plan ahead.

We have been happy to have Brady, Kyla, and Ty home with us for a little while, and will be sad to see them leave shortly. They will fly back to San Diego and then drive to Cherry Point Marine Air Station, North Carolina, where Brady has been transferred.

Please keep all of us in your prayers as we do you.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McCay, Sr.

Yuma, AZ

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Sorry that I missed the publication for the *Courier* for the last edition, there are no good excuses that I could give so I won't give you one. Susie and I just got back from Albuquerque, NM, after attending our oldest Granddaughter's wedding there. The wedding was on the 23rd of October; it was nice to be able to be there and see her get married. We took Susie's mother along with us (Florence, the Great Grandmother) and she had some physical problems relating to her diabetes after the long trip up there. We had planned when we left to leave after the wedding and go about three hours north to Flora Vista, NM, and have services with the congregation up there but due to her health problems it became necessary to return to Yuma. It isn't a whole lot of fun being afflicted with that disease; I can attest to that fact myself. Anyway, we are back home for now and Florence is doing a lot better now that she is home.

We had a surprise visitor this past Sunday, Brother Billy Martin snuck in and we tagged him for a lesson. Are we fair weather friends? Our brother spoke about whether or not that we are always the friend that believes and serves the Lord or do we fold and give up when the going gets to be too tough for us. He referenced Daniel and how it would have been so easy for Daniel to have bowed to Nebuchadnezzar's demands and policies and decrees. What strength and faith Daniel and his friends showed in the face of such danger. Would our faith in God be as strong as theirs and deliver us from evil; pray to God for that strength. We thank the brother and invite any that are traveling to stop by and visit with us.

Robert Davis and Harry Davis are on a trip this week hunting deer but should be back in time for Sunday services. Our brother Harry Dye is still meeting with us for bible study on Wednesdays. We are so glad that he drives that 25 miles or so on those nights to study with us and impart his knowledge with us. Bro. Carl Carlson seems to be doing pretty good. My Aunt Ruth Duncan was in the hospital recently because of an infection but is back home now. Our sister Florence, though she is doing better since our return from New Mexico stills has problems with her diabetes, we try to keep a close watch over her.

I would like to extend the invitation to all that can to be at our yearly meeting in March beginning on the 13th and ending on the 19th. That is the second to the last full week in March, the weather usually stays pretty cool during that time. We always have so much fun during the meeting. Our crowds are pretty good in size even though it's during the school year and it's difficult for families with children in school to come; though we would love to see the kids here as well. Memories of church meetings! I hear about those special memories from brothers and

sisters from all over the country that had gone to meetings with their parents when they were children. Plan for it if you can. God be with you all.

In Christian Love,
Denny and Susie Davis,
For the Yuma Congregation

HIDDEN BIBLE BOOKS

Twenty-nine books of the Bible are hidden in this story.
See how many you can find. Example: Donna hummed.

A Trip To Ai

I went to visit my cousin Donna in the city Ai last week. As Donna hummed, I asked her, "Is this Ai a holy city?" She said that it wasn't and silently pointed to the letter "J" on a high cliff. A "J"; Oh now I knew why everyone was so frightened. Ai was ruled by a wicked chief named Jezebel.

As I turned around, I saw a sedan coming down the street driven by Philipp. As I approached the sedan, I elbowed by several people in order to speak with the driver. Someone asked me the driver's name. "Philipp," I answered. His job was to drive the chief of the city wherever she wanted to go. The passenger inside was as dismal a chief as I had ever seen. She was wearing blue hose and the brew she was drinking was green in color.

From answers I got from Philipp, I found out that she always acts strange and that he was thinking of quitting. He said that the old hag gained the office by committing dishonest deeds. She even has her pet ermine living in the palace. Whenever she sees anyone with money, she pumps alms from them saying that it's for the poor. The last time she got some alms money, she bought an oil well, a banjo, elephant, a Moses picture, an encyclopedia set, and a giraffe. If she hears anyone mocking, she sends them to jail. When Philipp's brother Jud expressed his feelings about her, she sent him to the prison across the street. Jud gestured to me as we passed.

I told Philipp I had better be getting on my way to meet my wife. "Where is your gal at?" I answered Philipp by explaining that she was to meet me at the well.

"I am at the well every day from noon to three if you wish to visit again."

I went on toward the well and I saw as comic a hat as I had ever seen. I felt like I was getting the flu and began to walk slower. The flu kept me from getting to the well sooner than I did. My wife had bought a jar of jam especially for me, and also a long silver object. It was a bit; it usually goes in a camel's mouth.

My wife asked if I wanted to buy a camel's hair coat this year. "Not I; moth, you know, eats camel hair," I answered. I then told my wife we were getting in a rut here, and I had decided we should go home.

My wife replied, "Too bad, I a home in Ai had planned."

In Loving Memory of Sis. Margie Andrews

Dear ones,

The Christian Courier received a call from Gene Barrett concerning the passing of Sis. Margie Andrews. Sis. Margie had been fighting cancer for some time, but finally succumbed not to the cancer but from a heart attack on October 21st at the age of 84. She was born on August 1st, 1926 and she was baptized either in 1972 or 1973. Bro. Gene Barrett performed the funeral service. Sis. Margie was laid to rest at the Buckeye Cemetery in Hindsville, AR.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Nov. 12-14, 2010	Broken Bow, OK	Fall Meeting - guest speakers
Nov. 26-28, 2010	Pine Mountain, AR	Terry Warford
March 13-19, 2011	Yuma, AZ	Guest speakers
June 19-26, 2011	Broken Bow, OK	Cypress Lake Camp - guest speakers
July 3-10, 2010	Lorenzo, TX	TBA

Baptisms

Chase Dougan	Yakima, WA	September, 12, 2010

Births

Ryder Daniel to Lawrence & Shaya Flugence	Seattle, WA	September, 28, 2010
Andrew Garret to Garret & Marcella Smith	Sacramento, CA	October 9, 2010

Passings

Margie Andrews	Adair, OK	October 21,2010

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Jackie Brown	Baron, OK	Serious lung problems
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Lung infection
Jake Hollan	Baron, OK	Lip cancer
Talan Hollan's relatives	Baron, OK (etc.)	Grieving
Darlene Warford	Baron, OK	Low sodium
Doyle Wilson	Baron, OK	Severe headaches
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Arthritic problems
Al Way	Bellflower, CA	Heart attack
Minnie Davis	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Ruth Johnson	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Louise Brister	Citrus City, AZ	Health issues
Lou Dye	Citrus Ciry, AZ	Health issues
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Ericka Ferguson	Clinton, NJ	In prison
Noah McCay (age 11)	Farmington, NM	Fighting cancer
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Don Hammett	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Heart, & diabetes problems
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Severe aching joints - age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections & extreme pain
Bob Stacy	Glenwood, WA	Fighting cancer
Bonnie Stacy's relatives	Glenwood, WA (etc.)	Grieving
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & financial hardship
Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & spinal problems
Joan Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Heart problems & blood clots
Brenda Casarez	Lorenzo, TX	High blood pressure, eye problems
Evart Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Stomach problems
Borden Mullens	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Ed Tate's relatives	Newcastle, TX (etc.)	Grieving
Robert Fuson, Jr.	Pleasant View, OK	Spinal Bifida
Reba Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Serious Lupus & gall stone surgery
Jackie McCay	Spokane, WA	Intestine surgery
Christine Burkhart	Springdale, AR	Health issues & financial need
Jack Warford's relatives	Stilwell, OK (etc.)	Grieving
Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Ill for some time
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer & diabetes
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	In nursing home