The Christian
COURIER

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OUR FIRST EDITION

For some time it has been apparent that the faithful congregations heed a better means of communication than at the present. We, at Modesto, have been asked by many of the brethren to assume the task of publishing the small monthly paper which was formerly published at La Habra, Calif.

It is with much apprehension that we begin this work, realizing our own inexperience in these matters. So, with the help of God and the patience of our brethren, we intend to do our best.

Everyone can help

We ask all of the brethren to support us in this endeavor. There are various ways this can be done.

FIRST: Write to us. This is important, inasmuch as this is YOUR paper. It is intended to and should carry news of the local congregations each month. Make your news informative brief and above all, timely. This can include news concerning the congregation's work, meetings, teaching programs, etc. Baptisms, marriages, deaths, etc. are also timely items of interest.

SECOND: Write good, brief Scriptural articles. Avoid trafficking in controversy. It is true that almost every subject in the Bible is controversial to someone, but in the small space afforded us, we can ill afford to engage in public debate on subjects that should be settled between brethren in private. Naturally, if there is a subject which vitally affects the brotherhood in work or worship it should be aired and discussed thoroughly.

Above all, let us not fall into the error into which so many fall. Many today feel is something is written in a religious paper, it must be scriptural.

This is not necessarily true. Although brethren strive conscientiously to write scriptural articles, they can and will make mistakes. The paper only reflects the attitudes and thoughts of those writing it. Thus, it certainly cannot be considered to be infallible. Be patient with us. When we make mistakes, let us know, and we will try to correct them.

Voluntary contributions

There will be no subscription fee. Support of the paper will be on a voluntary basis. Those of the brethren wishing to contribute to the work may do so by sending all donations to the Church of Christ, P. O. Box 1342 Modesto, California 95353.

Important points

If an article is written in the wrong spirit, or with the obvious intent to be argumentive, we will not publish it but will return it entirely to the sender.

We will publish each article in it's entirety or not all. If an article is too long, we may write to the sender for permission to shorten it, but will not do so without the author's permission. Do not be offended if we correct punctuation or spelling. This will be done only to make the article more legible.

Our concern is the good of the faithful congregations of the Lord, and all of our efforts will be aimed in that direction. We ask your help, your good will, and your prayers to this end.

In love of the truth which is in Christ Jesus,
The Christian Courier Staff,

Homer Bryant John Logan
Al Burtis, Dean Guyer

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ON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Do you have a question you would like to have answered ? Write it down and send it in. We will have one of our writers answer it for you. We have several writers who are capable men, and will be glad to assist you with your queries.

Include your name and address in your letter. These will be witheld, if requested.

The summer is fast drawing to a close. The past several months have seen a quickening of activity in the Lord's vinyard, and the results have been heartening.

The Fields are White"

Many of our faithful preachers are or have been in the field this summer engaged in Gospel activities with a good number of congregations which have resulted in good response, both in additions to the fold, and restoration of many gone atray.

Brother Howard McCay of Yakima, Washington recently concluded a three months tour of several Western and Southern States preaching almost continuously. We hppe to run his complete account of this tour later.

Meanwhile Brother Tom Broadway of Grant's Pass, Oregon worked for one week with the church at Yakima, Washington, with three baptisms.

The writer was priviledged to be for one week with the church at Grant's Pass, Oregon, where two were baptized. We heard only recently that two more were baptized and we are sure the brethren were made to rejoice.

Earlier, in July Brother Jerry McCay was for one week working for one week with the church at Bellflower Calif. I was priviledged to hear a very fine lesson on the closing day of this meeting, and enjoyed it very much. It is always a pleasure to be with the brethren at Bellflower.

Brother Claude Perigen, and son Jerry worked with the brethren at Furnish Canyon, Colorado, the results of which I do not know at this time, but I am sure the brethren were strengthened in the faith.

Going back earlier, we in Modesto enjoyed having Brother Bill McCay, and family of Yakima, Wash. with us for our Easter Week meeting. Bill, Jr and Mike, his two sons assisted in the meeting. Two were baptized, and the church was much encouraged by the lessons.

Early in Spring, the writer was priviledged to attend over one Lord's Day at the congregation at Chico, Calir. During this visit, two were baptized and shortly after, we were informed another obeyed her Lord in the same manner. These brethren are sincere, and appreciate the opportunity to have visitors among them. We are always enriched in spirit when we are able to be with them.

Late in July we were happy to be able to attend the annual camp meeting at Kelta, Colo. We were priviledged to renew former acquaintances, and make new ones. We heard some very fine lessons, witnessed, I believe six baptisms, and numerous restorations. There was a general revival of spirits among those who attended, and I am sure all who can will plan to attend next year.

In later issues, we hope to discuss plans for a camp meeting next Summer on the West Coast, which we are attempting to finalixe at the present time.

Let us know of your intended plans for later this year, and also next year, and we will publish them, so all who can may attend.

Yours, in Christ, J D Logan

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THREE MONTH'S WORK IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

by Howard E. McCay

The brethren asked that I write a summary of my trip this summer for the paper.

My son-in-law, Ellis, Lynell, and family; my son, Jerry; daughter, Sammy, and I left home June 6th for Peoria, Arizona. We stopped at Stockton, California, and picked up Lloyd Logan. We started the meeting at Peoria on June 9th. Brethren from Tucson, Kingman, and Yuma, Arizona; Aztec, New Mexico; Bellflower, and Lakeside, California, attended the meeting.

Ellis' family and Jerry left that Thursday night after services for Lorenzo. The Lorenzo meeting was attended by brethren from Abilene, and Seymour, Texas, and Carlsbad, New Mexico. Ellis' family and Jerry returned home after the meeting, but Lloyd and Sammy went on with me to Stillwell and Baron, Oklahoma.

These congregations are about 12 miles apart and always attend each other's meetings. We also had brethren from Goshen and Bohannan Mountain, Arkansas.

After the Baron meeting closed, Lloyd and Sammy left for California to attend the Bellflower meeting which Jerry held while I went on to Broken Bow, Okla. This meeting was attended by some of the brethren from Tiner and Baron.

After a week of personal work in Oklahoma, I went to Comanche, Oklahoma, where on Saturday night I received a phone call from Roy Snoderly, saying Texas City had asked for help. I preached Sunday morning at Loco, Oklahoma, then went to Ringold, Texas, Sunday night, where I heard Bro. Paul Ferguson who was holding a weekend meeting there. There were brethren there from about six different congregations whom I was glad to meet.

Monday I picked up Jerry at Lorenzo (He had come back after the Bellflower meeting) and we left for Texas City. We were 3 years too late. The digressive building-up that had continued for several years had overwhelmed the church. The digressive brethren had taken over the building and there was no way to get it back. If we had supported a preacher in there 3 years ago when they first asked for help, this would not have happened. Now, the few loyal ones meet in Bro Paul Bruce's home.

While in this area we spent 2 evenings (one night) in the home of Bro John Bedingfield whom we love dearly and made the acquaintance of Sister Pearl and their daughter, Sister Lou, who is 18. I was benifited by my visit as John's mind is as sharp as ever. I believe he probably knows the Bible as well as any of the Brotherhood. It was a sad day for the Lord's work when we failed to support John adequately while he was working in the Lord's Vinyard. We need him back and working.

After getting back to Lorenzo we picked up Meg (Jerry's wife) and baby, and Caroline Loftis, and left for Seymour, Texas, where I preached Sunday morning. Then on to Comanche, Mangum, and Reydon, Oklahoma. We stopped a day and 2 nights at Furnish Canyon, Colorado on the way to the Delta meeting, where Brethren Claude and Jerry Perigen were holding a meeting. We stopped at Springfield, Colorado, where we met Bro and Sister Lackey.

The Delta meeting was again a success as the largest number yet were there. We heard many good speakers both old and young. Many were there who had never attended before. We had a number of interesting discussions on the Bible after services. There was a lot of rain this year, but this did not dampen the spirits of those interested in discussing the Bible with brethren.

My wife Nell (who had joined me at Delta) and I left Monday after the meeting closed and went to Aztec, New Mexico. We saw Bro. Roy Dabbs who is under treat-

ment for throat cancer, then went on to Bellflower where we discussed the paper with the Brethren and arrangements were made for the equipment for the printing of the paper. All the Brethern cooperated very well. As you can see the equipment is in use. We also discussed the Texas City situtation and now we have failed so much in our responsibility to the Lord's work.

Nell and I left early Saturday morning for Grass Valley, California, where I held a meeting at the Indian Spring School house. This meeting was attended by Brethren from San Pablo, Modesto, Sacramento, Chico, California; and Yakima, Washington. Sammy came down with Ellis and Lynell; and Nell, then staded with me when the rest went back as the cannery work was starting.

Sammy and I left Saturday night after services for Chico where we started the meeting August 18. This meeting was attended by Brethren from Modesto, Bellflower, Grass Valley, California, and Grants Pass, Oregon.

After closing at Chico, I went back to Modesto where some of us went over to Boonville to see about the church camp there for early in the spring. We were very ompressed with the possiblelities here for a camp meeting like Delta, for people who would be able to go to the Delta meeting because of distance or time.

From Boonville I went on to Grant's Pass where I spoke Sunday morning. We heard Bro. C M Brockman of Chich speak Sunday evening. Monday, Sept 2, I arrived back home after being gone almost 3 months and travelling 11,509 miles. I started back on the job Sept 3.

As you have probably noticed, I have mentioned few names as I met so many fine Christians and did not want to slight any by mentioning some and not others. I must say that everywhere I went the hospitality was great, but no more than I expected from Brothers and Sisters of Christ. We met so many fine Christians, and learned to love all with whom we got acquainted. Probably the most good was accomplished in myself and those who were with me.

Everywhere I went, both in the meetings I held, and meetings we stopped at that other Brethren held, also those which I didn't get to attend but which was told me by others, I saw the cooperation of Brethren in supporting the meetings of each other. Some were traveling great distances and giving of time and money to try to help and encourage the congregations and speakers. As long as this increases, the work of the Lord will abound more and more. Also, so many of the young members are showing a greater interest in the work for which we are very thankful because the future of the

church rests with them. The individual congregations will probably write of their own meetings so I have just mentioned them briefly. I might say that we baptized 6 this summer and many came forward for the prayers of the church. Also, some came back who had been out of duty. Especially one Brother who had at one time been a strong worker for the Lord, but fell by the wayside some 15 years or so ago came back.

Altogether I know of some 32 who have been baptized this year. We are really happy for this but grieve when we think of the thousands who have died unprepared to meet Christ. Yes, the harvest is white, but the laborers are few.

While in the Lorenzo meeting, Ellis, Jerry, and I went up and spent a day with Bro. Claude Mickey at Tulia. We discussed our difference, and I feel that we may have come to a closer understanding. I feel that Claude had misjudged us in some things, and I know some of the Brethren have misjudged him in some. I have tried to make this right as far as is possible. Instead of seeing how far we are apart we should strive to come together and unite on those teachings and principles which we can unite on, striving for the Unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

If we can unite and work together, so much more good can be done for the Lord and His cause. The only difference between Claude and I, that I know of, is a matter of Law or Liberty. But, it is possible to unite on that which all agree is scriptural.

Brethren, I wish to thank all of you who cooperated so well in your support of me this summer; both financially, and with your prayers, and also those who could, with your presence. I hope our efforts have met with your satisfaction. I feel that good was done everywhere we went, and I do not believe any harm was done. Hope to see you all again in this life, but if not, surely in the life to come.

Yours, in Christ,

Howard D. McCay

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We, who have been priviledged to know, work with, and enjoy the company of Bro Howard McCay, can only add our hearty amen to what he has written above.

He went to extreme expense and labor this summer to do this work, and God surely will bless him for it.

THE SECRET OF SPIRITUAL GREATNESS
by Dean Guyer

Thoughts that come forth from a study of the eighth chapter of John.

John 8: 12 Jesus spoke unto them saying, "I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Jesus is the light of the world--men who follow Him will walk in the light and show forth the light. This means they live as He desires them to live. In his dealing with the sinful women he was kind and forgiving, and so must his followers be. Men often make laws where God has made none, and where He is forgiving, men often refuse to forgive. This is not the light of Christ.

Those who turn their backs to Him walk in darkness. John 3: 19 says men love darkness because their deeds are evil.

These are they of whom the Lord spoke; those who follow Christ's commands. This light does not emanate from the individual but is reflected from Christ as a person follows the Saviour. A Christian, in language and conduct, in his daily walks among people is an influence for good. He who sins not only harms himself, but drags down those whom he meets. On the other hand, those who live for Christ help to raise men to a higher life.

John 8: 31-32 "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed, and ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." The most rewarding thing that can be imagined is true discipleship of Christ. According to Jesus, His true disciples receive the priceless blessing of knowledge, truth, freedom, and divine fellowship. Expressed in other words by the Apostle Paul in Romans 8: 28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them that are the called according to his purpose." Infinite good comes to Jesus' true disciples.

BUT WHAT IS TRUE DISCIPLESHIP ?

Jesus' answer is, "It is to abide in my word." In other words, it is to accept Christ's teachings completely--not in part--not adding to--but to strive to live by them. This is truly to be Christ's disciple. Those who fully accept and faithfully live the Lord's teaching, shall know the truth that makes for freedom and spiritual greatness.

Jesus made this statement to a group of proud Jews; John 8: 32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free". The Jews answered Him "Abraham is our Father, we have never been in bondage to any man." "After all", they reasoned, "we have kept the traditions of the elders". Mark 2 This was not enough for people of this age. They had lost their spiritual freedom by surrendering to sin. Neither Godly ancestors nor traditional ceremony are sufficient to be spiritually free.

"God is our Father" was the claim of the Jews. Then they added a vicious insult at Jesus's virgin birth, by saying, "We were not born of fornication. But if God were their father, they would not have rejected, but would have loved Christ. They did because they were not of God. Those who reject Christ's authority are not God's Children. They do not know God.

The Jews, as many today make the claim, "God is our Father", yet they boast a blue blood pedigree of godly ancestry and hold to traditional ceremony. But their works proove them not to be the children of God.

Often we sing, "I want to be more like Jesus". To be like Jesus, we must be kind and forgiving. To be like Jesus, we must abide in His words and truths, and be in obedience to them.

Our church worship must be as the Bible instructs--not adding to or taking from the word of God.

If these things just mentioned are found to be in our Christian life, then we have found the secret of spiritual greatness.

We can claim God as our Father, and Jesus as our Saviour.

Written in love of the Truth

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A NEW ARRIVAL

We received news today of a new arrival in the family of Brother and Sister Ellis Forsman, of Yakima, Washington

A girl, named Lori Jenell, weight 7½ pounds.

Congratulations on your happy occasion !

THE WAY WHICH SEEMETH RIGHT
By Homer Bryant

I'm sure that this subject has been brought up many times before, but with world conditions as they are today, we need to review again the standards that God has set up for us.

Deception is common practice today in many of the denominational agencies, and in the world. It is so easy to be misled if we don't have a standard to go by. It's so easy to sit back and let someone else dictate how we should live and how we should worship God. Deception in any sense, whether it pertains to our physical body and life, or our spiritual life, if heeded, is is error. In my own life, I have found deception sometimes comes from being stubborn and selfish and not wanting to listen to the truth, or not wanting to accept the truth, but just sit back and let my own ego, or what ever you want to call it, sort of wonder at random. This is not what God wants us to do. This is not even what our physical bodies wants us to do. If we don't get the proper sleep or food, our bodies suffer. And if we don't get the proper Spiritual food and comdort our souls suffer. And if we don't do the things that God wants us to do, how can we please Him?

In our daily lives we have standards. We arise at the same time each morning for work. If we are late, does this please our employer? This is a standard. We have a certain time that we eat our meals. This is a standard. We have our own sizes of clothes and shoes. Would we ever think of wearing a larger size of any of our clothing? Not at all. Iwe did we would look as though we couldn't find the proper sizes, and people would laugh at us, and we don't want that. If we wore a smaller size shoe that our feet were acustomed to, our feet would eventually cause us much pain. These standards only pertain to our physical life. But what about;the standards that God has set up for us? What about our Spiritual lives? There is some disagreement on this subject. What seems right to one is completly wrong to another. Some dO what they think is right and forget God, while others try to do God's will.

Should we take man's teachings and put them into practice when we come together to worship God? Should we take man's teachings and put them into practice when we come together to worship? Or should we look to God's word to find out what He wants us to do in the worship and in our daily lives? "Ye shall not do after all the things that we do here this day, every man whatsoever

is right in his own eyes". It is human to think that whatsoever we do is right. We can't see our own faults, and, especially, we can't see that we are wrong in what we think, whether it pertains to this life, or our spiritual life.

We, as Christians must not feel this way because: "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah55: 9 "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jeremiah 10: 23 "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." Pro. 30: 12

"And He said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselvesbefore men: but God knoweth your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God." Luke 16: 15

We will also find some that believe their own way so strong that: "They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service." Jno 16: 3

Just as they did Jesus on the cross: "And these things will they do unto you, because they have not known the Father, nor me." John 16: 3. We remember that many times, when Jesus was teaching, the people tried to stone Him, and to trap Him, so they could do away with Him because they thought that He was teaching not the truth. They thought He was placing Himself above Caesar.

WHY ??

Because they knew Him not nor his Father. "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of God's rfghteousness, and going about to establish their own rfghteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. Romans 10: 2-3 Be not deceived, God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6: 7

The Bible, God's word, is a true guide only if we follow it. There can be no other. That is, there can be no other if we intend to receive our crown of life.

If we are only honest and sincere in what we believe, it is a delusion. We all know that poison is used in many ways. If we firmly believe that the poison will not harm us if we, say, just swallow it and

not let our system absorb it, it will not kill us. Now anyone who uses common sense knows that this is not so. Anyone knows that poison will kill you. But we know that in some medicines there is contained a great amount of substance, that when taken by itself, could be poisonous to the human body, and yet when used in a formula, and taken as directed, it cures the ailment for which it was intended. In some ways God's word is used this way. If we read it and they go ahead and do what we think, or what someone tells us, then it can become poisonous to the Spiritual body. But if we read it carefully, and do exactly what God prescribes for the soul, then it too will remove the spiritual ailment, and cure the soul. Thus we reap a healthy spirit, and a life eternal.

Some one once said; "The voice of the people, the voice of God". Or, as I translate it, what ever the people speak, so says God. Is this so ? In the days of Noah the people thought differently than God. 'And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually". Gen 6: 5 Did God say that what these people thought and spoke were his words ? Listen to verses 6-7 "And it repented the Lord that He had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth--" But Noah, being of one mind and sacrificing everything he had, pleased God, and "found grace in the eyes of the Lord". Verse 8.

Had it not been for Noah and his unending faith, perhaps God would have totally eliminated mankind. Do we want this fate to befall us today ? Do we want to be disallowed from life eternal ?

There is only one way to be assured of life eternal, and that is to be like Noah; find "grace" in the eyes of the Lord.

HOW CAN WE DO THIS ?

"Take up thy cross and follow me". Matt 16: 24 We all have a cross if we are Christians. It may be easy, or it may be a very hard cross to bear, but if we love God and follow Him, He will bear most of the load, and we will have great peace in our hearts.

Written in love of the Truth

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DON'T FORGET TO SEND US ALL YOUR NEWS