The Christian
COURIER

Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353
Published Monthly, by Brethren of the Church of Christ
JANUARY, 1969

DATELINE:
GRANT'S PASS, OREGON

We are very happy to report Bro Estle Buckner is able to be home and appears to be well on the road to recovery from a very serious lung operation. He appreciates the thoughtfulness shown in his behalf both in cards sent and especially in the prayers of all.

A happy occasion! Bro and Sis Harry Wegley are the proud grandparents for the first time. A daughter born to their son Harry Wegley and his wife Arlene. New papa Harry is at present serving in the United States Air Force in Texas.

Bro and Sis Eldred Peyton and Daughters worshipped with us Thanksgiving weekend. Also we were pleased to meet Gary Langor, fiance of Miss Barbara Peyton.

A little reminiscence! We have had quite a year in Church activities with meetings, visiting, and a camp meeting in Cedaredge, Colorado. This type of work was enjoyed in many parts of the country, and it is encouraging to see so many enthusiastic endeavors that are helping the Church to grow, and helping to bring many Christians together. A hearty "WELL DONE" to those who made an extra effort to serve!

"A time to Work and a time to Rest". NOW is the time to start planning activities for 1969! NOW! RIGHT NOW! Phil 3: 13.....this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Heb 6: 3.....and this will we do, if God permit.

Tom Broadway

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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren and Church at Modesto:
I am glad to be receiving the paper again, and we here think it is good. Cont'd on page 2

We need a means of contact so bad among the churches. It is good to hear what others are doing: we want it to continue.

We here at Broken Bow are doing very well and hope all out that way are fine. The news here is not too plentiful as there is not much going on. All the members are as well as common, except colds.

We were made sad to hear about Bro Roy Dabbs' illness, and hope he is well at this writing. We hope Bro Logan's daughter is a lot better, and will soon be around again.

I saw Bro Melvin Daniels on Thanksgiving Day, and he had baptized one up in Kansas where they meet, which is good news. Keep up the good work.

In love of the truth, Lloyd Treat.

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SOMERTON, ARIZONA

We were happy to get the paper; find a check enclosed to help with the expenses.

We do hope Bro F H Logan and Patricia Logan are improving.

Sis Carrie Long is confined to her bed at the home of her son, Donnie, and his wife. Anyone wishing to send her a card, the address is: Rt 1, Box 627, Yuma, Arizona 85364.

The flu and colds are bad among our members. The Harold Smith Family, the Robert Morris Family, Sister Verda Mae Nelson, and Sis Willie Mae Davis are about all sick at this time.

Bro and Sis Curt McCluskey (From Sacramento, Cal) were here in our midst visiting for two weeks. He preached for us several services, as well as a few night meetings. We all enjoyed the visit and the preaching.

W A Nelson.

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HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren in Christ:

Just a few lines to let you hear from the Ozarks. The church here are few in number, but strong in Christ.

Our son is home and brought us a very good lesson. He preached on the "Living God".

Bro Ulyesses Laney went to Goshen to preach today.

Hope all is well out your way. We enjoy the paper so much. If only all the brethren would write in so we could hear from all the different churches.

Bro and Sis McCoy's house burned down Friday, Dec 12th. They were able to save nothing except the clothes they had on. Help of any kind would be greatly appreciated. They are loyal members. Bro McCoy is unable to work. Their address is Rt 1, Wesley, Arkansas.

Your Brother in Christ,

George Vanderpool

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers in Christ:

I'm no hand at writing, but just wanted to mention that the church at Waterford has had a lot of sickness lately. Otherwise, all are getting along O K.

We want to invite anyone passing this way to stop in and worship with us. Our building is located at 11844 Yosemite Blvd, Waterford, California.

Yours in Christ,
L E Arnett.

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CHESTERTON, INDIANA

Dear Brethren:

We were happy to receive the Christian Courier and to hear from many of our Christian friends.

We appreciate hearing of those who are in need of prayers and financial aid.

Anyone coming to the Chicago area, stop and see us. We meet with the church at 219 South 15th Street, Chesterton, Indiana.

With Christian Love,
J L Jared

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

We are happy to report the baptism of 2 young people here at Yakima, Roger Sauve and Lynette Meek.

We were sorry to hear of the loss of Bro and Sis McCoy's home, in Arkansas, by fire. We understand that the rebuilding is being undertaken by the brethren in that area, with Bro Paul Ferguson in charge. Any help that can be given to them would be appreciated, I am sure.

Christian Love,
Bill McCay

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brethren:

Received the Christian Courier and all of us here at Happy Hollow Church of Christ enjoy getting it, even tho we are a little slow about letting you know.

We read Bro Ronnie Berry's letter in the Courier, and happy to hear he is having worship in his home. Our son, Bro Terry Wilkerson, is stationed at Ft Gordon, Ga., which is close to Augusta. So we are just hoping Terry can or will be able to worship with them on Lord's Day. If any of the young folks wishes to write Terry, his address is: Pvt Terry L Wilkerson,
R A 68030445 Co E. 5 BN Stu. Bde.
Ft Gordon, Georgia 30905

Cont'd on page 4

Anyone coming thru Delta, be sure and stop for a visit and attend services with us.

With Christian love,
James E Wilkerson, and Family

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

To the Brethren:

We received the copies of the courier. We enjoy it very much and look forward to each edition.

The members here are all fine

Enclosed is a contribution for the paper. Keep up the good work.

Yours in Christ,
Gene McKinney

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY

The following are excerpts from letters and phone calls we received in the past weeks from several brethren, and containing news interesting to the brotherhood.

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

Brother Roy Dabbs is progressing as well as can be expected. It will be three months the eighth of January since he underwent surgery. He is able to eat, and is regaining his speech. His recovery will continue for some time, but is coming along well. Our prayers are for his speedy and complete recovery.

STANTON, TEXAS

Received a call from Bro N E Bergstrom. There had been some flu, but were coming along better. Sister Bergstrom's mother, Sis Fisher, is in the hospital ill. We were saddened to hear of the death of Sis Bergstrom's nephew, killed in an accident near San Francisco. He was the husband of Sis Myrtle Kellams' neice. (Sorry, we didn't get the name.) Our deepest sympathy to all the bereaved.

STILLWELL, OKLAHOMA

Bro Daniels and wife are well, and the congregation at Stillwell is doing fine.

They are happy to have Bro Hayse Morris in their midst.

LORENZO, TEXAS

Bro R H Peel, of Crosbyton, is not too well. As most know, who are acquainted with him, he is getting along in years, and his wife, Linda, hasn't been well for some time. She is able to be up some now. The church at Lorenzo is doing well. Sis Olene How is reported doing well, following her operation some months ago.

IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

Word also comes to us that young Bro Larry Spurlin is living with his sister and brother in Idaho Falls, Idaho. They worship in their home. He had been meeting with the brethren at San Pablo, Calif. until a short time ago. At present, his address is: John L Spurlin, 302 Hill St., Idaho Falls, Idaho. Anyone passing thru would be welcomed and of great encouragement to them.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

Sister Mary Harris reported the congregation at Springfield (Eugene) Oregon is doing well, as of about two weeks ago.

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Brothers:

We were very happy to read in the paper of the brethren in Oklahoma who have started conducting midweek services with the young men taking part.

We are instructed in 2 Peter 3: 18 to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." Realizing that we grow physically and mentally thru the use of our limbs and other faculties we add Paul's instruction to Timothy's in 1 Tim 4: 7-8 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and excercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily excercise profiteth little; but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.

Dropping on down to the 12th verse, we find "Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." The way that we grow in Christ then is thru the use of what abilities and knowledge we have in working for him.

We find in 2 Pet. 1 that we can grow in Christ by adding to ourselves the attributes that He would have us attain. 2 Peter. 1: 5-9 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temerance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly-kindness; and to brotherly-kindness charity. For if these things be in you and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins."

There is work to be done--not just those of us who are older in Christ, but for each and every member of the body of Christ, each with their own abilities as instructed in the word of God.

Respectfully submitted in love
Bill McCay

HIS PEOPLE

By Lloyd Treat

Matt 1: 21 "and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins." In this writing we notice this saying, "HIS PEOPLE" and we begin to wonder just who his people are, so we read farther in the book.

In Matt 11: 28, "Come unto me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Here we see the invitation given to come to him, and those who come to him would surely be his people. But how do we know who has come to him? Again, in Heb 5: 8-9 we learn that all who obey him have come to him. He is the author and finisher of their faith, or, to put it another way, he is their saviour, Matt 1: 21. We might ask, what do we mean by "OBEY" ? We must go to St Jno 14: 15, where Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Keeping his commandments is the same as obeying him as he commanded. In Matt 28: 18-20, to teach and baptize all nations, must be observed, or we fail to keep his commandments.

But he also said to hear, Mark 12: 29; believe, St Jno8: 24; repent, Luke 13: 3; confess Christ, Matt 10: 32; be baptized, Mark 16: 15-16; for the forgiveness of sins, Acts 2: 38; washing your sins away, Acts 22: 16.

This we know will have to be done to be his people. After being saved from your sins, then continue in his word, and you shall be his people, indeed..

In love of the truth and for saving your soul,

Lloyd Treat

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Fellow members:

The earth is full of violence, and this is not according to God's will. The Gospel of Jesus Christ teaches love, so it is our duty to warn others that we never get to heaven by hating and despising. Having this in mind, I offer this letter for print.

Heino Stolnake,
1208 So 9th
Yakima, Washington 98901

We read in 1 Jno 3: 1 "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. For while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom 5: 8 The gospel of Jesus Christ teaches love--that he that dwelleth in love, dwelleth in God.

We read in 1 Jno 3: 17 "But whoso hath this world's goods, and seeth his brother have need and hardens his heart, (will not help him) how dwelleth the love of God in him?" (What will Jesus do with him?) He said what

he will do in Matt 25: 42-46.

"I was hungry, thirsty, naked, sick, in prison, and a stranger, and ye knew me not; depart ye hence. These shall go into everlasting punishment. Love thy neighbor (as thyself) and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Who is thy neighbor? In Luke 10: 29-37 Jesus began to say, as a certain man was on his way to Jericho, he was robbed and left wounded on the roadside. A priest came by and, seeing him, he passed by on the other side of the road. Likewise did a Levite. Then a Samaritan came by and helped him. Jesus said, Do ye likewise.

Now, imagine there is a stranger in need of help, but if I, not knowing him, pass him by, Jesus will say to me, "Depart, I know ye not!" The gospel of Christ warns, be not forgetful to enterain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." Heb 13: 2

Jesus said, Love ye your enemies. Why? That ye may be the children of your heavenly Father, for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil as on the good, and he warns in Matt 5: 48, "Be ye therefore perfect, as your Father which is in heaven is perfect. In Mark 11: 25-26 Jesus tells us that if we have aught against ANY, God will not forgive us unless we forgive them first. He warns us in Rev 2: 23 "I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works." We read of this happening in Matt 25: 31-46 where he was speaking of the last judgement, when he will separate the sheep from the goats. There is where the righteous will part forever.

1 Cor 13: 13 "faith, hope, and charity, but the greatest of these is charity." Faith without works is dead. The five foolish virgins also were living in hope (they had the lamps but not enough oil). They were unprepared. But charity never fails, 1 Cor 13: 8. 1 Cor 13: 4-8 explains what charity is. Charity covers a multitude of sins, 1 Peter 4: 8

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BRETHREN!

We are gratified with the response thus far. Many good articles, and letters containing news of church activities. However, some congregations have not responded in any way.

This is the beginning of a new year. We feel last year was a good year, but 1969 can be better. What we need is more cooperation. We second the admonishment by Bro Broadway in his letter. Start planning now! RIGHT NOW!

Let us all strive together to make 1969 another big step foreward in our work for the Lord.

The Courier Staff.

WE ARE ALL TIME TRAVELLERS

By Tom Broadway

Alloted a short span of years in time, man's days are few and full of trouble. In the Bible we find revealed how man has responded to the commandments of Jehovah. Some lived by them faithfully while others rejected them. In the Holy Scriptures we read of the ORIGEN of man, the PURPOSE of man, and the DESTINY of man. We are all travelling toward ETERNITY. Where we spend it is dedermined by the way we run our race. If we are to run in a way acceptable to God we must enter the race and run it according to HIS rules. Please take your Bible and read Hebrews 12: 1-6.

We find it is no use to run on the outside or to run by man made rules. In Matt 7: 14 we find it is a narrow way. Our new life begins after baptism (Rom 6: 3-4) and we must continue to run in the race until we are called from this life. (Rev 14: 13

To be successful in our effort we must have a scriptural start, proper Scriptural training, and Bible guided ZEAL. A DILIGENT effort!

Phil 3: 13-14! A GOOD NEW YEARS RESOLUTION! "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgettingthose things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

We are frequently tempted to forsake the right way by Satan's influence (1 Jno 2: 16) in the world; the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

2 Tim 4: 7-8 we learn a Crown of Righteousness will be our reward if we finish the course and have kept the faith. Jas 1: 12 calls it a Crown of Life and in 1 Pet 5: 4 it is referred to as a crown of Glory.

We all wish to gain entrance into God's rest. There is only ONE way! GOD'S WAY.

Rom 12: 1-2. "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Now, reflect and meditate upon those thoughts for a moment

A SCRIPTURAL START

FAITH-Mtt 11: 29 Jesus says, "Take my yoke upon you and learn of me."
Heb 11: 6, "Without FAITH it is impossible to please Him; for he that comes to God must BELIEVE (faith) that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that DILIGENTLY seek Him.

REPENTANCE-Lk 13: 3 Jesus says, "I tell you nay; but except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."
Acts 17: 30 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commands all men to REPENT.

CONFESS HIM-Mtt 10: 32, "Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I CONFESS before my Father which is in Heaven.
Rom 10:10, "For with the HEART man believeth unto righteousness, and with the mouth CONFESSION is made unto Salvation.

BAPTISM-Acts 2: 38 (what shall we do?) "Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized, EVERY ONE of you, in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins."
1 Pet 3: 21, "The like figure whereunto even BAPTISM doeth also now SAVE US...

You believe HEAVEN will be a wonderful place to spend ETERNITY. The BIBLE lovingly and urgently states in many places we must WORK to gain entrance into HEAVENS PORTALES. You KNOW TIME is swiftly passing!! WE also URGE YOU, fellow TIME TRAVELLER, to use the Bible as your MAP to guide you to a Heavenly mansion by the way of the Cross! Please START now.

SECURE PROPER SCRIPTURAL TRAINING

2 Pet 1: 4-8 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises; that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world thru lust. And beside this giving all diligence, add to your FAITH virtue, and to VIRTUE knowledge, and to KNOWLEDGE temperance, and to temperance PATIENCE, and to PATIENCE godliness, and to GODLINESS brotherly kindness, and to BROTHERLY KINDNESS charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren (idle) nor unfruitful in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us all "kneel at the cross" and "be not weary in well doing" for "in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." Gal 6: 9

Where you will spend eternity? THIS AND ALL RELIGIOUS QUESTIONS ARE ANSWERED IN HIS "WORD".

in HIM, Tom Broadway

THE SABBATH

By F H Logan

Continued from December issue

Gal 3: 10-14 "For by the works of the Law shall no flesh be justified." Again in Eph 2: 15 "(Christ) Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace. And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby."

MADE NOTHING PERFECT

Heb 7: 19-22 "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a perfect hope." Verse 22, "By so much was Jesus made a surity of a better testament." Why should we wish to keep a law which makes nothing perfect??

SHADOW

In Heb 10 Chapt Paul said the law was only a shadow of good things that were to come and that those sacrifices which they offered under the old law year by year continually, could not make the people perfect. In verse 3 he said those sacrifices only rolled foreward their sins for twelve months. Then they were remembered again, and again, etc.: Thus they were never made perfect, for it was not possible for the blood of animal sacrifices to take away sins. Verses 8-10 "Above when he said, Sacrifice and offerings and burnt offerings and offerings for sin thou wouldst not, neither hadst pleasure therein; which are offered by the law.

TAKETH AWAY THE FIRST

Paul said of Christ, "Lo, I come to do thy will, O God, He taketh away the first (law) that He may establish the second." "By the which will we are sanctified through the offerings of the body of Jesus Christ, once for all." Verses 17-18 He said, "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these are, there is no more offerings for sins. Quite a contrast!! When a Christian sins under the Law of Christ, he must repent, and pray to our heavenly Father for forgiveness. Acts 8: 1-4 Those under the law of Moses could not do this. They could only offer burnt offerings for sins which would be remembered again twelve months hence. This is why Paul said he found fault with them. See Heb 8: 6-9 also Col 2: 12-17. Paul is here writing to Christians.

For those that have not obeyed the gospel, but are

yet in sin, under the law of Christ they must first hear and learn of God. St Jno 6: 44-45. They must then believe on God's word, St Jno 8: 24. Next they must repent, see Acts 17: 30. Following, they must confess Christ, Matt 10: 32-33. Finally, they must submit to baptism which brings them into Christ, which is is into his Church, and there is but one baptism, Eph 4: 4-6. They are then purified, 1 Pet 1: 22-23, and heirs of eternal salvation, Heb 5: 8-9.

This is not contained in the old testament, nor was it commanded of men under that dispensation. Why then teach people to observe the sabbath and keep the law?? This is merely attempting to Judaize the Christian law, which can only bind the people again in the "yoke of bondage".

PART FULFILLED

Some contend all of the law was carried over and incorporated into the law of Christ, except the sabbath law. This seems quite improbable in light of what the Saviour said, recorded in Matt 5: 17-18, "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets; I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill. For verily I say unto you, till Heaven and Earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law TILL ALL BE FULFILLED". This seems very plain; first ALL of the law was to be fulfilled, then all to PASS AWAY. If this be so, and I am persuaded it is, WHICH PART WAS LEFT TO BE INCORPORATED INTO CHRIST'S LAW??

CHRIST NAILED TO HIS CROSS

Col 2: 14-17 Paul said Christ fulfilled the old law, and nailed it to his cross. This was when the law was fulfilled, and also when it passed away. But Christ said it would ALL pass away. This seems conclusive enough for all sincere Christians.

A LAW OF THE FLESH

The law of Moses was a fleshly law, and necessarily weak, as a result. Rom 8: 1-5 This necessitated a fleshly punishment for the offenders of the law. Those who violated the law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. There were no exceptions. How could we incorporate any of the law into the law of Christ, without also incorporating the physical penalties ?? Christ's Law is a law of "spirit" and Life, demanding different punishment. (eternal)

I trust this study, breif as it is, has been of benifit to someone. Submitted in love, F H Logan

The following was submitted by a Sister in Arizona, and is well worth consideration.

THE CHRISTIAN WORSHIP

The Christian in worship today
should be reverant to God always,
In spirit and truth worship more
as stated in John 4: 24,
Sing and make melody in the heart
with real interest as we start,
Not play on something to be seen
do as commanded in Ephesians 5: 19,
All should pray truly sincere now
as to God we humbly bow,
This will help our souls to fix
doing as is said in Phil 4: 6,
Teaching is very essential to all
both the young, old, large and small,
Continue in it all the way through
as it says in Acts 2: 42,
Take the bread and the fruit of the vine
each first day of the week is the time,
This will prepare you for heaven
acting as said in Acts 20: 7,
We should make a sacrifice to give
for the cause of God in whom we live,
Even when things look dark and blue
we are to carry out 1 Cor 16: 2,
If we worship doing God's will
toward him our duty we'll fulfill,
Worshipping God as said by His Son
obeying what is said in John 9: 31,
Let us not worship for some earthly gain
for we know that will be all in vain,
Worship God only and it will be then
following correctly Matt 4: 10,
Study the Bible to know His plan
do what He says in all you can,
Be faithful so He will say, "well done"
"Enter the joys" as in Matt 25: 21.

Selected

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CHURCH ETIQUETTE

1. Come early.
2. Never pass up the aisle during reading, or lesson.
3. If the sermon has begun, take a seat near the door.
4. Be devout in every attitude--the church is not a theatre.
5. Help make visitors welcome--share your book with them if they have none.
6. Never rush for the door after the benediction as if the house were on fire.
7. REMEMBER AT ALL TIMES YOU ARE IN THE LORD'S HOUSE.

Bears consideration---think it over, folks.