The Christian
COURIER

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FAR WEST CAMP MEETING

We are pleased to announce that we have made arrangements for the use of the facilities of a summer camp on the West Coast for one week early Summer, 1969.

We have made reference to this in past issues, but until now have been unable to state anything definite concerning the project. However, last Lord's Day (after services) we accompanied Al and Charlotte Burtis and son and journied north to make arrangements.

This coming June 15 through 22 the Rio Rancheria camp meeting will be in session. The facilities are located 22 miles northwest of Cloverdale, California on State Highway 128 in scenic Mendocino County.

We have striven to set the date early in the Summer so schools will be out all over, and also so that it would not conflict with the Delta, Colorado camp meeting. Our purpose is to complement the Delta Meeting and all the various congregational meetings with this effort.

We have much to discuss concerning the camp and its facilities, but this can wait for the time being. We will notify you all in plenty of time of the particulars. We will say that the cost will not be prohibitive; probably no more than the cost of living at home the same amount of time.

We need to have some idea of how many to expect. So, when you complete your plans for vacations, let us know right away, so we can plan accordingly.

Also, don't forget the Delta meeting. It will be coming along later in the summer. Both these meetings are important because of the good which they can accomplish. We plan to send everyone our complete plans and particulars at a later date for the Far West Camp and also for Delta. Be looking for them.

The Courier Staff

GOD'S WILL

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;" Heb. 1:1-3. Here we see that God has spoken to us by his Son, Jesus Christ. He (Jesus) is the heir of all things and we are his subjects; we are the ones who will reap the reward if we continue faithful. Rev. 22:14

Since he has spoken to us, what has he said? Hear him in Matt. 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Here we see just exactly what he has said to us: DO HIS WILL!!

One might ask what is his will? We can all see that it is the written commands of God, as we find in Heb. 10:7 "I come(in the volume of the book it is written of me,) to do thy will, O God." We see here the will of God is written so we do not have to guess what he wants us to do.

In this will we find he commanded us to be born again. Jno.3:3-5. But some say that he did not say just how we are to be born again. I believe he stated the terms just how (if you will take his word for it)John 6:43-45, Matt. 28:18-20, Jno. 8:24, Luke 13:3, Matt.10:32, Acts 22:6, here we can see the things Jesus said for us to do to come to him or to be born again. 1Peter 1:23. And there is no other way Acts 4:12, Jno. 14:6.When you are born again this way, you are then the children of God. Gal.3:26-28. Then the word of God is to dwell in us richly in all wisdom. Col. 3:16-17, by adding to our faith, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly-kindness and charity, 11Peter 1:5-11. By doing this we shall never fall. What is the reward we will reap if we continue faithful? The reward is ETERNAL LIFE. Rev. 2:10 We shall live forever and rest from our labor. Rev. 14:13.

If we wear the name he gave us to wear. Rom.16:16, and there is no divisions or different types of religion John 1..:6, Jer. 32:39, the prayer of Jesus will be answered. John 17th. Chapter.

Yours in Christ,
Lloyd Treat

"FALSE TEACHERS"
2 Peter 2: 1-3 18-19

In Heb 2: 1-3 there is a warning by the Apostle Paul that I am afraid at times we more or less overlook the meaning of, and the dire consequence that will befall us for doing so, and I quote, "Therefore we aught to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; how shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him." Also, in 2 Tim 2: 13-15 Paul tells an easy way of escaping this warning of disobedience to God's word. "Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

If we, as Christians, would only do this, I am sure there would be no hatred, dissension, or division in the Church today. But too many of us, (notice that I include myself), have a wrong interpretation or an improper understanding of a verse, a chapter, or sometimes an entire book of God's own truths. We sometimes think that perhaps our zeal is greater than others' and, because of this, we have found something new, and it has been shown or revealed to us to be different, maybe, from anyone. Right then is when we had better stop and examine ourselves whether we be in the faith, 1 Cor 11: 28. "For no prophesy of the scripture is of any private interpretation."

If our understanding, therefore, is different from that of our brother, we could be wrong, or perhaps both of us. To listen to the word of God is the only way we can stand corrected and be profited by the correction. If, however, we are the type which the Apostles Peter, John, and Paul warns us of, we press words and meanings and thereby change the entire meaning of a phrase, a verse, or an entire chapter.

Then what happens? We are teaching for doctrine the commandments of men, and the Apostle Paul said in Gal 1: 8 "Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Also, if we, as listeners, know that a brother is trying to pervert the gospel and we allow him to go ahead, we are partakers of his evil deeds. (2 John 10)

In 2 Peter 2, Peter tells us about these false teachers and how we will know them. We who try to teach

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and preach the gospel should study this chapter for we could have already strayed aside from the teachings of Christ. The Apostle Peter states: "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you; whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not."

Now these teachers, as we see, are Sons of God, or so-called,(supposed to be ministers of the Lord), for as the Apostle John said in 1 John 2: 19 "They went out from us, but they were not of us, for if they had been of us they no doubt would have continued therein." Too many of us do our watching on the outside instead of on the inside, for this is a trait that has always been since the creation. But one devil undisturbed within, can do more harm than a legion without, and as that old saying goes, sometimes we can't see the forest for the trees.

This teacher could very easily be you or me, for we might be teaching our own theory, or hobby, or trying to teach some inference for a fact, which we can't proove as such by the word of God. For instance, we can't proove that Jesus wept aloud, or that He wept silently in John 11: 35, for all it says is that "Jesus Wept". You see what I am trying to say is this; We can sin presumptiously just as easily as we can any other way.

The false prophets to which Christ referred in Matt 17: 15-16 were the ones that came in sheeps' clothing, but inwardly they were ravening wolves. Today they are the ones Paul warned about in 1 Tim 4: 1"Now the spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils, speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron." In 2 Cor 11: 13-14 the same writer says, "For such are false apostles, decietful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ, and no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." This 15th verse absolutely includes you and me, and I quote, "Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works." You see, anything that is taught that cannot absolutely be proven by the word of God will not be the Spirit of God doing so, but an evil one, teaching and perhaps leading brothers

and sisters to follow a false doctrine.

What is damnable heresy? A damnable heresy is an opinion held in opposition to the doctrine of our Lord.

A seducing spirit is a spirit that will lead or drew away into an evil, corrupt, and disastrous way.

Let us not think that this would not happen to us or that we cannot be enticed and drawn away through our own deceit or by some so-called loyal Gospel preacher. Man has always been enticed through vain words and the glamorous oratory of a perverter.

The Apostle Paul said to those people in Gal 1: 6-7, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gosple, which is not another, but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the gospel of Christ." By this passage of scripture we see Christians who had been removed from the gospel of Christ through a perversion of the gospel.

What is covetousness? To covet means to be greedy and desiring something that belongs to another. Covetousness here means the desire longed for is evil within itself or will lead to evil.

Feign means to imagine form or to relate something untrue.

Merchandise is something that can be used in barter or trade, bought, sold, or trafficked in.

To be presumptious means believing something probable but not conclusive; an inference as to the existence of fact not certainly known from the existence of other fact.

Let me close by saying that in the 18th verse of this chapter Peter says, "--for when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantoness, those that were cleane escaped from error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption; for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage." So let us not say this has not happened or cannot happen to us, but let us pray to God it will not happen.

In Brotherly Love,
Bert Weakly

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Brethren: We have received some mail recently which was unsigned. We cannot publish anonymus letters or articles and also have no address or name to which to return them. Please be sure to signify your name on all mail.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE!

The summer season is fast approaching. Summer is traditionally the time of work and activity. We plan our work for the future and our vacations with enthusiasm. How much more should we plan our time to devote to the service of the Lord?

We give so little of our time to His service and so much to ourselves. Just stop and think! About 3 hours each Lord's day; perhaps 2 more Wednesday Night; and then, how much more?

This summer, God willing, the various congregations will be pursuing their usual activities. Let us know of your plans ahead of time. There are many brethren who would like to attend and help. Also, there are others who may be in your area at the time, and would appreciate knowing. Let us know the dates of your meetings and also the name of the speaker, and we will publish them.

And you preachers, don't be shy. Speak up and let us know of your future activities. It may be that you will accomplish what some congregation should, but has not done.

Don't forget the two camp meetings. Far West at Boonville, and Delta, Colorado. Plan to be there, and make these camp meetings a success. It may be that in the future, we may be able to have more of this type meeting.

I would like to urge all of all congregations who have not written as yet to do so. We need to have contributions each month. When you get home in the evening, tired from the day's work, and angry at the world, sit down and write a few thoughts. Do this for a few days, and before you know it, you have something worth considering.

All of you young brethren: I would like to speak to you. Many of you have been fortunate to receive a good education and we are justifiably proud of your accomplishments, but why not put what you have to a good use, The Lord's. I know many of you myself, personally, and know of your talents for speaking, etc. I know of several offhand that can do as well at writing as any of our brethren who are contributing regularly, but you are not doing anything to help. I do not say this to reproove you, but to encourage you to more efforts.

Don't let another day go by without a beginning! Let us remember that "The day is far spent, the night is at hand", we must be "--up and about our Father's business".

In Christian Love,
J D Lovan

SEEKING THE LORD

"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts. And let him return unto the Lord for he will have mercy upon him,& to our God for he will abundantly pardon." Isa.55:6-7.

In seeking the Lord and doing his will we are safe. But, did you know that you are being sought after if you are not living in grace? We read in I Peter 5:8, "Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil,as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

A word of caution brethren, Do you have on the WHOLE armor of God??

WHY DO SOME SEEK GOD AND FAIL TO FIND HIM ??

(1) They seek him in the wrong way.
If you turn to Prov. 14:12 you will see why--- "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man,but the end thereof are the ways of death."

(2) They seek him in the wrong place.
We read in Exo. 20:24, that we are to seek him where he has recorded his name. "In all places where I record my name, I will come unto thee and I will bless thee."

But what will all these people say in the day of judgement? Let us read in Matt. 7, beginning at the22nd. verse reading down to the 23rd. verse...
"Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?"

"And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

If a man sincerely seeks the Lord in the wrong way or in the wrong place, will he not find him anyway? We might put this another way....If a man sincerely digs a well, where there is no water, will he find water anyway?

I leave this for your consideration brethren,hoping you are seeking the Lord while he may yet be found.

In Christian Faith,
Gene E. McKinney

STILLWELL, OKLA.

Dear Brethren;
We here of the Pleasant View Church of Christ are about an average congregation in number and all in the low income bracket. But we trust we are rich in the faith and earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

So far this winter we have had no serious illness among the members, for which we are thankful. Our attendance has been fair to good.

We do hope the churches everywhere are in good health both spiritually and physically. If, however, some are not, we are always ready and willing to assist anywhere in any way we can. We feel we are all brethren, though we be far apart in distance.

We invite all who might be passing through this way to stop, visit, and worship with us. We assure the worship will be as thus saith the Lord.

For the Pleasant View Church of Christ, Stillwell, Oklahoma.

W.E. Daniels

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NEWCASTLE, TEXAS

Dear Brethren;
We are enjoying the Courier very much.

Enclosed is a check to help with the expenses of the paper.

We have had very little sickness so far in the congregation. Bro. & Sis. Ray Bishop's son, Harvey, passed away Dec. 9,1968 of a stroke.

We meet each Lord's Day morning at 10:30. Bro.Jack White of Munday, Texas, preached for us the first Sunday in January. Anyone coming our way is welcome.

With Christian Love,
California Creek Church,
Bro. Ed. Tate

(Our deepest sympathy goes to Bro. & Sis. Bishop)
The Staff

BELLFLOWER, CALIF.

Dear Brethren:

We have had a considerable amount of sickness this past month due to the flu. Sis. Meadows is able to attend quite regularly now, after trouble with her neck and back.

Sunday Dec. 15th., the church gave a wedding shower for Bro. & Sis. Dick Taylor. Visitors in attendance were: Sis. Minnie Willingham, Bro. Bill Taylor, Bro. Don Taylor & Family, and Nina Johnson.

Sunday A.M. Jan. 12th., we had the privilege of listening, for the first time at Bellflower, to Bro. Donald Dabbs of the Phoenix congregation. He is a very able speaker indeed. His plans ar to be with us another Sunday, if his job permits.

Bro. Bill Taylor will be returning home from active duty in the Air Force in Feb. It will be good to have him back again and working with us.

Sunday Jan. 5th., Bro. Roy Snoderly visited in Arisona with the brethren at the Yuma and Somerton congregations.

Brother Jerry Perigen

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SACRAMENTO, CALIF.

Dear Brethren;

We here at Sacramento are glad to be receiving the Christian Courier. We enjoy the letters from the other Church of Christ groups and the short passages of scriptures.

Two of the Sisters that had strayed away have returned, and we welcame them back to the fold.

We are happy to report that one of our young people has been baptized this Lord's Day, Jan. 12th. Toby Lawder.

Here is a small contribution to help to support the Christian Courier.

Everyone here is up and well, after a few cases of the flu.

Yours in Christ,
John D. Usrey

DELTA, COLO.

Dear Ones in Christ:

Thanks for the Christian Courier. We look forward to getting it each month. You all are doing a fine job.

We here at Happy Hollow Church of Christ, are all fine and want to thank each & every one of you that attended the Delta Camp Meeting in 1968. Your wonderful fellowship, help and traveling the miles you did made it a very successful and spiritual meeting. We feel very close to each and every one of you and our prayers are that you will come back again in 1969. Our Delta Camp dates for 1969 are JULY 27th. through AUGUST 3rd. Same place and same arrangements as always.

Our prayers are that Pat is really doing good and will soon be well and up and going. We hope also that Connie Burtis is doing real good from her accident en route to Delta.

Give our love to all always,
Ken & Verlie Baldwin

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MODESTO, CALIF.

Dear Brethren;

The congregation here has come illness. Bro. and Sis. Renzo Stephens had the flu and are still suffering from the after-effects, unable to attend services at this time. Sis. Beth Stark, too, is unable to attend because of after-effects of the flu.

Two young members of our congregation are doing quite well after their accidents. Connie Burtis was burned in a camp-fire accident en route to Delta. She has undergone a skin graft on her hip and is able to lead a normal life again, but still under doctors care. Pat Logan was in an auto accident latter of October, she too, is leading a normal life and hopes to be released from the doctor in April. Thanks to every one for the prayers on behalf of each of these girls.

We wish to invite anyone passing our way to stop and worship with us. Worship is at 10:30 A.M. and at 6:30 P.M. each Lord's Day at the corner of Glenn and Dallas Streets, Modesto, Calif.

With Christian Love,
Bro. J.D. Logan

STANTON, TEXAS

Dear Brethren;

With much saddness we have to report the passing of Willie Ann Fisher. At the age of 83 years and 2 days. Mother Fisher passed away Jan.1,3:20 A.M. 1969 after about 3 months of illness. All but one child was at her passing. Mother Fisher was my wife's mother and she stayed with us some We enjoyed her very much. She loved Bible reading and good singing, was a member of the Church of Christ for more than 60 years. We hope that being absent from the body,she is present with the Lord.

Our nephew which was reported killed in the last edition of the paper was Ross Fisher, Mother Fisher's oldest grandson. Ross and Evelyn Kellems were married some 14 years. She was the daughter of Randy Kellems. They had 2 children, a boy and a girl.

Well, the flu seems to be subsiding and we are glad for that although we are still not up to our health standard. Wife and I are still taking some chiropractic treatments and feel much better. The shots and medicine did not seem to do me any good.

We had all our members here last Sun. and I hope all can be here tomorrow.We have 2 young members, Bro. Barker's boys. They are a great help to us, both in singing and waiting on the table. Bro. & Sis. Barker have 3 children, 2 boys and a six year old girl. Sis. Birth has 2 boys. So we have five young people and we enjoy them so very much.

"The Sabbath, by Bro. F.H. Logan, was enjoyed to its fullest. We always enjoyed any writing that he ever wrote to the paper.

So I better close for now. May the Lord's blessings be with all of you.

As ever in christian love,
N.E. & Alice Bergstrom

(the above letter was sent to our family Jan.11th.,but due to the contents decided to share it with the rest of the brotherhood, we are sure Bro. Bergstrom won't object. Our deepest sympathy goes to this family & all connected withthe losses. Sis.Edna Roberson, of Monterey Park, Calif., is a daughter of the late Sister Fisher and she too has our deepest sympathy.)

SAN PABLO, CALIF.

Dear Brethren;
The congregation here is doing fine. Only Sister Freeman has been ill with the flu. We sure miss her as there aren't many of us.

We had a visit from Bro. J.D.Logan & Family last Lord's Day. It was nice to have them worship with us.

We would like to invite anyone passing our way to meet with us. Our address is: Church of Christ,1433 Market Ave., San Pablo, Calif.

We are sending our contribution for the paper.
Yours in Christ,
Bro. Gene McKinney

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SOMERTON, ARIZ.

Dear Brethren:
We hope the sick at the other places are doing better. A number of the members here have been out sick. They are: W.B. Nelson, Willie Mae Davis, Sis.Granny Long and Sis. Hunter. Sis. Renick is in the hospital with the flu. We have discontinued all night services until the flu rage is over.

Last week Granny Long had a visitor from Oregon, which brought her much joy. She is able to sit up some and walk to the table for her meals with help at this time.

Bro. and Sis. Earl Broadway are in Maynard, Ark. while Sister Broadway's father is very ill in a Jonesboro, Ark. hospital. Their address is, Rt. 2 Box 4, Maynard, Ark.

Bro. Roy Snoderly & a friend of his came down in Roy's plane and met at Somerton Sunday Jan.5th.Bro. Roy Snoderly gave us a very good sermon and everyone was made glad of his visit. Nice to have you with us, Roy. Surprise us again soon!

We had a letter from the K.M. Baldwins at Delta, Colo. Ken had been to the hospital early one morning recently for a shot for his heart condition. We haven't heard anymore since. We hope he is better now.

W.A. Nelson