The Christian
COURIER

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AUGUST, 1969

AN APOLOGY

As all must know by now, the July issue of the Courier was not published. This was not for lack of funds or a lack of material, but rather a combination of circumstances over which we had no control.

We were forced to move the latter part of June, and almost immediately we had to leave on our preaching trip in Texas and Oklahoma. Unfortunately, there was not enough time in between to attend to all the chores necessary to getting the paper out.

We hope you will be patient with us, and maybe in the future we will be able to make better arrangements.

However, while we have opportunity, please allow us a few words on behalf of the several congregations. There have been quite a number of meetings in the last two months, and you leaders should be diligent to report on the news from each.

While in Oklahoma, we received news (by word of mouth) of the passing of a brother in that state. However, we have not received news of this by any other means.

Brethren, it doesn't take much time or effort to write news to the paper, and we are all interested in what has happened in all the congregations.

There are several meetings coming up soon, among which is the Delta, Colorado camp meeting. We urge you to give them your fullest support. We also hope that all the leaders will take time to write us news of the meetings.

We have much to report from our trip, and this will appear elsewhere in the paper. While on the trip, we had occasion to talk with several brethren from numerous congregations, some of which agreed to write.

DON'T LET US DOWN BRETHREN

HOW ARE WE SAVED BY FAITH?

The heading of this article is a very important question. Should we ask many persons this question, we would probably get many different answers, so the wise thing to do is to let God's holy word answer it for us. Then and only then can we be sure of a correct answer.

Let us start with Heb 11: 6, "But without faith it is impossible to please him. For he that cometh to God must believe that he is and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." (emphasis mine) We learn from the above scripture that we must believe more than just believing that there is a God. We must believe that he is able to, and will accomplish his promise.

But one might ask, 'how do we get faith?' Now if we believe God as the above scripture teaches, we will let him answer that question for us. Rom 10: 17, "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." It remains we must hear the word of God, and believe the word of God, believing God is able and will accomplish his word.

If we stop here we would still not know just how we are saved by faith. We must search God's holy word for more light on the matter. James 2: 17, "Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead being alone." Dear reader, do you want a dead faith?

We all know that a dead thing cannot accomplish anything. If our faith is a dead faith it would be equal to no faith, but we will read on. James 2: 18, Yea a man may say thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." WORKS MUST ACCOMPANY FAITH.

James 2: 20, "But will thou know, O vain man that faith without works is dead." James 2: 24, "--ye see then how that by works a man is justified and not by faith only. James 2: 26, "--For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

One might ask what are these works? Well, I believe we can find some bible cases that will answer that question for us. Heb 11: 7, "By faith Noah being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house." What exactly did Noah do? For that answer let us turn to Gen 6: 22, "--thus did Noah: according to all that God commanded him so did he." We learn that Noah did the things God commanded him; thus his faith was accompanied with works.

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James 2: 21, "Was not Abraham, our father justified by works when he had offered Isaac, his son upon the altar?" We note in Heb, Speaking of Moses, "Through faith he kept the passover, and the sprinkling of blood." Heb 11: 28 Of the Children of Israel, Heb 11: 30, By faith they passed through the red sea as by dry land." "By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they were compassed about seven days." Heb 11: 30.

We note in all these cases which were by faith that there was a performance of action, not just mere believing. They believed God's word and did the thing God commanded them to do. James seems to clarify the whole matter of faith and works. James 1: 22, "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Those faithful men of old which we read of doing things by faith were doers of the word, not just hearers. This is just a sprinkling of what could be said on the subject of faith and works, but should give us a little insight of what the scriptures teach on the subject.

Written in the spirit of meekness, hoping it will be read in the same.

Your Brother in Christ, W E Daniels
Stilwell, Okla.

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ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

(The following is the remainder of an article printed in part in the June, Courier. Since there was no July edition, this completes the article.)

Further, from the article, "There are those who would kill the church school; others have already given it up as dead." It seems that the original inventors of this institution are having "second thoughts"on the subject, while some have gone so far as to reject it entirely. How I wish my brethren would take a good hard "second look" at the practice as well, and as one, reject it for what it is; a denominational innovation.

The truth of the matter is, both the Sunday School with-in the Church of Christ and the Sunday School in the denominational churches share much in common.

A COMMON BEGINNING: (Until relatively recent times they were not reluctant to call it the Sunday School, and so identify it formally in their advertisements. Of course they now insist on rejecting the original name, Sunday

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School, and call it "Bible Study", "Classes", etc.) "The crow may don the peacock feathers, but he cannot disguise his voice." Let us be honest; it is truly the "Sunday School" and no amount of semantical juggling can change that fact.

A COMMON PATTERN Go into almost any denominational Sunday School and also the Sunday School of your local "Church of Christ" and observe the practice. Women (almost) invariably are doing most of the teaching, with the congregation divided into classes. WHERE, IN THE NAME OF COMMON SENSE, DO YOU FIND SUCH PRACTICE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT? On the one hand, (women teaching) we find positive condemnation in the word of God, while on the other hand, (class division) we find a total lack of authority. Nothing is stated, or even inferred concerning this practice which many of my brethren hold so dear. Some in the past have held it so dear they were willing to create a schism in the Body of the Lord in order to have it, while today those who insist upon it are perpetuating the schism created by their fathers.

I have never met a man in the Church of Christ who insisted that a congregation must practice a division of classes and employ the use of women in the congregation as teachers, in order to worship God in a scriptural manner. Why, then, will they not give it up and help to heal the abominable rift in the Church?

The Church of Christ borrowed the Sunday School practice from the denominations (although it necessitated many years of struggle and bitter opposition by the Church almost everywhere before the job was completed as it is today). Today, the original inventors are observing the bankruptcy of their "Frankenstein Monster" and are abandoning it. Our brethren, on the other hand are happy with it, and try to defend it at every opportunity. HOW STRANGE!

Brethren, whereever you may be who are upholding this practice, I urge you, GIVE IT UP! It has caused division and like Babylon of old, it will not only destroy itself, but all of its children as well. It is the creation of the world; LET'S GIVE IT BACK TO THEM AND INSIST ON THE PURITY OF THE WORSHIP AS IT WAS PRACTICED IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES!

Yours, for the one Faith in Christ,

J D Logan
3703 Mission Rd,
Stockton, California 95204

IN APPRECIATION

My family and I recently returned from a three week trip through the southwestern states during which I was privilidged to be able to speak for the brethren at Lorenzo, Texas and Stilwell, Oklahoma. I would like to take this opportunity to express my most sincere appreciation to all the brethren in all the places we stopped for their wonderful hospitality. I can certainly say to any of the brethren who may have opportunity to journey to either of these localaties that you will receive a most gracious welcome among the brethren. Time and space would not permit me to name all the brethren, so I'll just say, We appreciated the welcome, enjoyed the hospitality, and were strengthened by the fellowship of all the brethren.

We also had opportunity to stop off at Stanton, Texas and renew"old acquaintences" we had not seen in twenty-six years, Brother and Sister N E Bergstrom, and their son, Stanley. We were happy to find them still fighting the good fight.

During the meeting at Lorenzo, we were able to meet some brethren from Carlsbad, New Mexico, and while in Stilwell we were visited by some of the brethren from Bohannon Mountain (Huntsville) Arkansas. It was a rare priveledge to meet these brethren and we look foreward to returning some day and renewing "old acquaintance".

I will only say further that we cordially invite you to the West Coast to our homes and congregation. We will try to show you the splendid hospitality you showed us while we were among you.

Yours, in Christ,
J D Logan

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ODESSA, TEXAS

While in Texas recently, I had occasion to speak with some of the brethren meeting in Stanton in the home of Bro N E Bergstrom. They have been meeting in their home for some time, but the congregation has purchased some property in Odessa, which is nearby for the purpose of building a house of worship.

These brethren have bought the lots, but their funds are quite low. Brethren, here is a very good opportunity to show our Christian Spirit. Are we willing to "communicate"? Do we wish to share the burden with this small band of brethren who are struggling under a heavy load?

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Permit me to state here brethren that I am acquainted with some of these brethren, (some for many years) and can assure you that any help that will be sent will be used correctly and wisely.

Other times before we have been called upon to help our brethren in their efforts to build a place of worship, and we should respond now with an outpouring of financial help. Let us remember these brethren in our prayers, but not forget them with our pocketbooks.

Please send all help to N E Bergstrom, Rt 1, Box 36 Stratton, Texas 79782. ANY AMOUNT YOU CAN SEND WILL HELP.

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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

We here at Broken Bow are doing fine except for the hot weather. We certainly are enjoying the fine paper you are publishing each month. It helps us to learn more about our brethren and sisters in Christ. Our congregation here at Broken Bow is not very large but we all love Christ and also one another. You know the Lord said where two or three are gathered together in my name I will be in the midst of them. Matt 18: 20

In Luke 13: 24-30 the Lord said, "Strive to enter in at the strait gate, for many, I say unto you will seek to enter in and shall not be able." "When the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord Lord open unto us, and he shall answer and say unto you, I know not whence ye are.

Then shall ye begin to say, we have eaten and drunk in thy presence and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know not whence ye are: depart from me all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves are thrust out.

And they shall come from the east, and from the west and from the north and from the south, and shall sit down in the Kingdom of God. And behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

Friends, it is quite a thought if we will think on those things. Strive to enter in at the strait gate. How hard do we strive? Do we "give all diligence to make our calling and election sure? 2 Pet 1: 1-11 Do we really do our best? How many times have we failed to keep the commandments? St Jno 14: 15

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Those words of Jesus which mean so much to us, Matt 11: 28. Jesus said do the will of the Father Matt 7: 21 Only the blessed of the Father will enter therein Rev 22: 14, and all the rest in the lake of fire Rev 20: 15

So let us strive to enter in as it is written, Matt 4: 4, and there will be no condemnation, Rom 8: 1-4

In love of the truth,
Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, Oklahoma

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VALLEY CENTER, KANSAS

The Church in Wichita is doing just fine. We have lost R E Goldsmith and his fine family, but our loss was another congregation's gain as he moved to Arkansas and will meet with the Goshen, Ark. Congregation. They will be missed a lot. Two of their children are members and their son, Bob was beginning to help in services.

Brother Melbin Daniels,
V lley Center, Kansas

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SEYMOUR, TEXAS

(The following ordinarily would have been in July's paper. We are printing it anyway, as it has information valuable to all the brethren. The date is June 10)

Editor of the Courier:

Since so many of the Brethren and Sisters have met my dad, Bro Howard Studer, of Lorenzo, Texas I thought some might be interested to know he had a bad heart attack on May 27. The doctor says he is doing real good. He is in the Methodist Hospital at Lubbock, Texas. (Ed. note: Bro Studer is out and doing better at last word. He was able to attend the meeting at Lorenzo in July.)

The congregation here at Seymour are happy to announce an addition this past Sunday. We are few in number and would enjoy anyone stopping with us at anytime. We would love also to have you visit in our home. Our meeting house is at the corner of East Belknap and South East St. Sunday morning worship is at ten O'Clock.

Toodler hasn't been able to work for about 18 mos. but we are very thankful he is able to be up and get around most of the time.

We enjoy the Courier and hope to be able to send some financial help soon.

In Christian Love,
Bro and Sis Toodler Goodwin

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

(The church at Bellflower concluded a successful meeting July 13 through July 20. The reports we have are good, and the meeting was well attended. We will probably have a report from the Church soon. The following was received prior to the meeting.)

We are now having Thursday night services, starting at seven o'clock and we'd like to thank the brethren at La Habra for helping us out with their attendance. We have had a very good turnout since we started.

The visitors these past eight weeks have been Brothers Abram Labato and Johnny Shephard and their families from Peoria, Ariz.; Brother and Sister Dick Taylor and Nina Johnson from San Diego; Bro Halo Serrano, La Habra; Bro Ray Shea and family, La Habra; Bro Roy Snodderly, La Habra and Bro Jack Wiggins and family from Kenton, Oklahoma. Bros Don Dabbs and Claude Perigen have recently given lessons at La Habra.

Most all of the members are active in attendance after various illnesses. Bro George Meadows has been on the desert off and on these past two months at doctor's orders, but is now back with us and doing better.

Enclosed is a check for the church paper sent by Robert L. Gray with a request for two more names to be added to the mailing list, which are to be given to the editors. Thank you Robert, for helping us out.

Yours in Christ,
Jerry Perigen

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WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

We have two weddings to announce which have taken place within the last month. Among the ranks of the newly-weds are Brother and Sister Bill Taylor, of the Bellflower, Calif. Congregation, and Bro and Sis Don Foundation of the Modesto, California Congregation.

Bro Bill Taylor and his bride, the former Debra Dabbs were Married July 19.

Bro Don Foundation and his bride, the former Patricia Logan were married in Stockton, July 26.

We wish to offer our heartiest congratulations to both couples, and wish them many years of happiness together.

A LETTER OF THANKS

To the Brethren in Christ;

We are the ones that got our house and all we had burned up. It was with the help of the Christians we now have a new house and are living in it. We want to thank each and every one for their kind deeds.

We won't ever forget any of you for without your help we wouldn't have gotten a home. It's through the love of you Christians we now have a good house. May God bless each and every one. It is our prayer that everyone get help when they need it.

We thank every one again for our good friends in Christ.

Mr and Mrs Curtis McCoy

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HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS

To the Brethren in Christ:

Greetings! Just a few lines from the Bohannan Mountain Church of Christ.

The Church here is moving along in one accord. There has been a lot of sickness but all are able to come to church.

We have no plans as yet for a meeting. The Brother we were depending on has sickness in his family. If any loyal Brother is planning a trip in the Ozarks and could hold us a meeting, please contact us.

Yours, in Christ
George Vanderpool.

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EUGENE, OREGON

Dear Brethren:

Sis. Way from Bellflower met with us several Lord's days along with her daughter from Corvallis and husband. We enjoyed meeting them and hope that they will continue to meet with us.

We have also been blessed by other visitors from different congregations. Some of them are: Bro. and Sis Ted Loveland of Yakima, Washington, their daughter and son-in-law and children, Bro. and Sis. Milton Evans of Albany, Oregon, Bro. and Sis. Elmer Hunt, and Bro. and Sis Gene McKinney and children from Brentwood, California.

Fine lessons were brought by Bro. Loveland, Bro. Hunt, and Bro. McKinney.

There are so few of us here in Springfield that we are glad to have others and thank our Heavenly Father for all the help we can get.

Sis. Rilla Van Devender has been real sick and recently asked for the prayers of the Church. She is 81 and was baptized in 1968.

In Faith, Hope, and Love,
Earl L. Jones
Rt. 4 Box 58 Eugene, Ore. 97405

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FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

We were gone from our home during the month of June. We met many fine people and we want to take this opportunity to thank each member for the love and courtesy shown to us.

We left home June 1 and met in Oklahoma City for the first time. Our next stop was Delta, Colorado where we visited with the brethren during the week. From there we spent a week in Yakima, Washington in a meeting. We left there and stopped for a short while in Grant's Pass, Oregon, and from there to the Boonville Camp Meeting for two services. Our next stop was Yuma, Arizona for a week meeting with co-operation from the brethren at Somerton. After Yuma, we stopped in Lorenzo, Texas for Church and visited with the brethren for a short while. We returned home June 30 with 6000 miles behind us.

Also, Bro. J. D. Logan just finished a weeks meeting in our home congregation at Stilwell, Oklahoma. We enjoyed the fellowship we had with J. D. and family and much good was done.

In Christian Love,
Sammy and Barbara and Boys

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LORENZO, TEXAS

Bro. J. D. Logan held a weeks meeting for us here. Seven came forward for the prayers of the Church and Miss Marsha White was baptized during the meeting. There were good crowds nightly throughout the week.

Bro. Studer is home able to attend Church and Bro. Bill Clements was restored to the Faith last Sunday.

WESTVILLE, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Much has taken place since I made the last report. We had a ten-night meeting here at Baron with a different speaker each night. The speakers were from the Stilwell congregation and from our own congregation here at Baron. We had one guest speaker, Bro. Jack Morris, who was here visiting his parents. We had a wonderful meeting with great results. One made that noble confession and was baptized, and one was restored to the Faith after being out of duty for some time. Several came forth asking the prayers of the Church. All in all we had a wonderful meeting.

For the past week we have enjoyed some wonderful preaching by Bro. J. D. Logan at the Stilwell congregation, which closed last night. We had an enjoyable visit with J. D. and Fern in our home. The only thing was that it was too short, but we realize there were many more who wanted them also. We are looking forward to such a time when they can return.

Bro. Boles, who is confined to a wheelchair and bed because of a sudded illness was in the hospital for nearly a week. He is home again and feeling better. I'm sure he would appreciate the Prayers of the Brethren everywhere.

If you plan a trip back this way at any time, we welcome you to meet in our congregations and visit with us in our home. We meet at Baron Church of Christ which is on Oklahoma highway 59 about five miles south of Westville, Oklahoma.

Yours in Christ,
L. E. Atchley
for Baron Church of Christ

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BOONVILLE REPORT:

The Far West Camp Meeting was held in Boonville, California from June 15 to June 22. This was the first year for this camp. There were approximately 130 people in attendance during the time with about 80 there all the time. Congregations were represented from Oklahoma, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, Arkansas, and California. There were many forms of recreation such as softball, volleyball, basketball, tennis, table tennis, and swimming. Three services were held on the first Sunday with morning services on Wednesday and Saturday. Services were held nightly with a different speaker each evening. The last Sunday, only one ser-

vice was held because the camp had to be vacated by 1:30.

There was much Christian fellowship enjoyed throughout the week and wonderful singing and fellowship around a big campfire each evening after Church.

We had a great group of young people all eager to participate in sports and the young men so ably conducted services. It is very rewarding to see such young people participate as they will be our future leaders of the Church.

This camp was the first venture of the Churches on the west coast for this type of meeting. Of course this was trial and error and we hope to improve each year. We, in the Modesto congregation, feel it was a success and well worth the efforts put forth. This is the expressed feeling of others who attended that the camp here in California should be continued.

We would like to thank all those who attended for their co-operation. We would like to urge all those who can attend either Boonville or Delta, Colorado camps or both to do so next year. Although there was only one baptism at the Boonville Camp, Jo Ann Simmon of Yakima, Washington, we, the staff, feel that this type of fellowship draws Christians closer together and strengthens us as congregations and as individuals.

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The congregation here in Modesto is getting along about as well as normal. There is no bad news to report but plenty of good news. The Al Burtis family attended both weekends of the meeting in Bellflower, California held by Bro. Bill McCay, Sr. of Yakima, Washington. The J. D. Logan family, except for Pat, were absent for three weeks. Bro. J. D. held two meetings; one week in Lorenzo, Texas and one week in Stilwell, Oklahoma.

Sis. Jewell Cadwell is visiting relatives in Oklahoma and will return home on July 30.

We have newlyweds also. Pat Logan and Don Foundation were married in Stockton July 26, 1969.

We have three new additions to the Church. They are Linda and Brenda Shuvoy, twins age 14 from Modesto and their sister Sandy, age 16.

Bro. Earl Broadway was a guest speaker here on June 15, the first Sunday of the Boonville Camp

Lloyd Logan
for the Modesto Church of Christ

To the Brethren at Valley Center Kansas: Sorry that your presence at Stilwell was not mentioned. Your attendance was greatly appreciated!