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A GOD OF LOVE IN A WORLD OF HATE

(The following was submitted by a brother. I do not know the author, but it is a good article. Let us know if you like articles of this type. We live in a modern world which is not pretty on occasion, and it behooves us to be knowledgeable of the forces which surround us.

Billy Ray Hooper is 20, a high school dropout, unemployed, with a long record in juvenile courts. His nickname is "Scorpion" in his motorcycle gang that prowls the streets at night looking for trouble...his motto is "Hate", and he will put it in practice tonight, spelling it out in terror.

Richard Floyd Hoyt is 34, a part time house painter, a full-time hater. He hates people for their religious beliefs, their color, their national origin, their station in life, or for any reason, or lack of reason, that enters his head. He has two children in whom he instills his prejudices and bigotry.

Eloise Marshak is a housewife; her age is a secret, but no other secret is valid with her. She moves in elite circles, and malicious gossip follows in her wake in a hundred devious ways designed to hurt and destroy.

Cramer Nelson, past 40, is a businessman. He likes to think of himself as enterprising, hard-hitting, or even dedicated; but his consuming hatred for successful competitors has made the real meaning of these terms "ruthless", tyrannical, and merciless."

Accompanied by those insidious partners, suspicion, avarice, and selfishness, hate always moves in two directions. It is so deadly a device that no man can use it with impunity. Hate that destroys life or property or reputation of the hated will also destroy the character of the hater. While mercy "blesses him that gives and him that takes", hate curses the hater beyond any

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possible hurt of the hated. Hate has been called the acid that "destroys the vessel in which it is stored as well as those upon whom it is poured".

We are living in a world of hate--a world that seems bent on destroying itself--but there is a God of love in this world of hate, and let us carefully consider the life-or-death alternatives:

Men on every continent and virtually every isle in the sea are wallowing in hate. In "trouble" areas that comprise more than half the world's surface, hate has boiled over into war; insurrection; rioting; political, racial, religious, or social violence; terrorism; and threats of war--and these are only the MAJOR incidents of bloodshed and upheaval; they do not include all the skirmishes between smaller nations or jungle tribes or all the millions of incidents of crime, murder, and unorganized mayhem.

The picture is not pretty; it is not overdrawn. If anything, we have understated the real face of hatred that exists among all peoples of the world. We cannot depict the universal fear of a total world war that would ring down the curtain on civilization as we know it. The human situation is frightening, but all hope has not been vanquished. There is a God of love in this world of hate. Love is stronger than hate, and this is man's hope.

Hate tears down; love builds up. Hate is darkness and gloom; love is light and good cheer. Hate is foreboding and misery; love is peace and contentment. Hate is of Satan; love is of God. Hate is for time; love is for eternity.

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3: 16).

Hate has much to feed on in our modern materialistic society. The premium on success at any price, justified by any means, has elicited an ugly corruption of the golden rule: "Do to others BEFORE they do to you".

In the mad scramble to get to the top, ambition and avarice often drive men to petty meanness, needless cruelty, and ruthless contempt for the individual as a person, except as a tool for getting higher up the ladder. Hatred, jealousy, and suspicion undermine the very foundations of many large corporations, turning able and efficient employees into warped and self-seeking plotters.

There is a wonderfully revealing account in the book of Esther in the Bible about the effect of hate on man's physical and mental outlook. A man named Haman had everything going for him. As prime minister under Ahasuerus, or Xerxes, King of Persia, his office brought him power, wealth, and prestige. But he allowed a fes-

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tering sore of hate to ruin his prospects and, finally, to snuff out his life.

Originally, Haman went forth "joyful and glad of heart" (Esther 5: 9). But his joy turned to wrath for a man he hated named Mordecai. In his consuming hatred Haman built a gallows 75 feet high on which to hang Mordecai; but instead, Haman himself died on his own gallows--and the term "hanged as high as Haman" was added to the many ironies that accompany hatred.

Many men build their own personal gallows out of hatreds, animosities, and bitterness. Ulcers, heart attacks, alcoholism, and nervous disorders that account for loss of time, loss of happiness, and loss of life are just a few of the fruits of rancor and spite. And while these widespread diseases do not always stem from hurtful, negative emotions, many, many times they do.

Love is the key to heaven; hate is the combination to hell. The role of love in the human heart cannot be over-emphasized. It takes the drudgery out of work, the dread and anxiety out of everyday living. It makes the neighborhood a wonderful place to come home to, and brightens every home with warmth and affection. It dispels the bickering, the pettiness, the aggravations that make life seem almost unbearable at times.

But genuine love cannot be separated from the word of God. The man who insists on the preeminence of love apart from divinely revealed principles misses the meaning of love. Love cannot be separated from these divinely revealed rules of conduct. "If a man love me," Jesus said, "he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my words.." John 14: 23-24.

Love and morality go hand in hand. A man does not violate that which he loves. Does a young man love a young woman? Then let him refuse so much as to entertain a thought about anything that would cheapen or degrade that love.

The nationally syndicated columnist Phyllis Battelle wrote, "America in seige has developed new orders to replace the dead and dying. Sex, crime, violence, drugs...dirty songs, dirty books, dirty movies--you name it--America's got it." (San Francisco Examiner, Sept 25 1967) She commented further, in thoroughly modern terms "And love, baby, have we ever got love! Love right out there in the open where you can grasp at it or gasp at it!"

If these comments do not frighten us, it is not because we are brave; it is because we fail to see the gravest dangers right before our eyes. "None is so blind as he who will not see," and he who will not see or face

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up to the decline of morality and the decay of human conduct in our nation and the world is blindest of all.

Scorn for God and hatred for the principles of human guidance laid down by God are not isolated attitudes; they are flourishing; they are gaining ground, even among the elect, those who are expected to carry the fight for righteousness (Matt 24: 24). We find apologists for evil among those who should be engaging in an all-out, last ditch battle in behalf of the saving gospel of our Lord. We find them even in the high courts of the land.

Of such deserters we read a chilling passage in the Hebrew letter: "For as touching those who were once enlightened and tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, and then fell away, it is impossible to renew them again unto repentence: seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame" (Heb 6: 4-6). There can be "no hope" for those who are "without God in the world" (Eph 2: 12)

But even as millions throughout the world are driven by hate, there is a "quiet movement going on": an opposing force comprising those who are motivated by love, love for God and love for their fellow man. Recently the editor of a religious journal wrote: "There is no doubt about it, there is a quiet movement going on... which history may call the period of great religious revival. The worm has turned. Materialism and the scientific craze have turned the corner, and the masses are once again thinking in terms of the dignity of the human spirit" (FIRM FOUNDATION, Oct 17, 1967)

While the writer describes "blind souls trying to mold an image of God," it is heartening to see those whose spiritual sight is improved in spite of the blind hatreds they see around them--whose quiet dedication os strengthened by the loud clamor of discontent. They find courage and illumination in these words:"...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life"(John 8: 12).

The man whose heart is filled with hate cannot give himself to God. Actually, he cannot give himself to anything worthwhile. He is trapped between idleness and indifference and a restless urge to lash out at society in ways that will wound his neighbors, hurt his community and his family, and eventually destroy himself.

There are many apostles of hate who have beconed to the malcontent, the misfits, the habitual losers of all generations. Hate spawned Hitler, who wrote in MEIN KAMPF: "Hate is more lasting than dislike..." More than six-million men, women, and children were murdered and butchered in his reign of terror that lasted 12 years.

WE WILL CONTINUE WITH THIS ARTICLE IN OCTOBER COURIER

WHAT MORE CAN WE DO ?

Every month we, of the Modesto congregation put out the Christian Courier. Every month we send copies to every congregation who desires. They are free; brethren support this effort with free-will offerings. This is a labour of love: there is nothing we would rather do.

We also feel that it is a good work. We have tried to keep it free from harmful debating and partisanship which we feel can only hurt and further divide the loyal congregations. Before we would do it this way, we would never print another word.

However, lately, we can only wonder at the actions of the brotherhood in general. When we first undertook the publishing of the Courier, we received encouragement from many fronts. Many it was who spoke well of the need for the paper, offering their encouragements and offers of help. However, the end product is far different from the original words.

What is the matter, brethren? Is there not enough time in the evenings to sit down and, for a few minutes write a worthwhile article to be published? There is one thing for sure: THOSE WHO WISH ONLY TO CONTINUE DISCONTENT IN THE BODY OF CHRIST HAVE NO SUCH RESTRAINT. THEIR TYPEWRITERS ARE BUSY. It might surprise you, brethren, to read some of the mail we get, most of which is simply not worthy to be printed.

Now, brethren, we cannot be constrained to believe that among our ranks there are none who can write for the good of the Body of Christ. We have many able men, all with good understanding of the word of God. We have received nothing from several congregations. We feel that this can only be an admission of lack of interest, or some other reason which we cannot understand.

You will notice that pages 6 and 7 are blank. They were deliberately left so. In order to fill them, we would have had to re-use copy from past editions, or use other peoples' work, and we did not want to do that. Remember; THE SMALLEST DEED IS BETTER THAN THE BIGGEST INTENTION.

We are sure that there are many who say to themselves,'I'm going to write an article, but tonight I'm too tired, or some other excuse. THAT IS NO WAY TO RUN A PAPER-----OR A CONGREGATION. Help us brethren; we'll do our best.

Yours, in Christ, The Courier Staff

AZTEC, NEW MEXICO

We have received word that Sister Armesa Smith of Aztec, New Mexico passed from this life September 31, 1969. Sister Smith was the Mother of Sister Roy Dabbs of Aztec.

May the Lord comfort those who remain. "Blessed are those that die in the Lord.....they rest from their labours and their works do follow them".

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THE CHRISTIAN AND CARNAL WARFARE

As I look at the above caption and wonder how best to start this article I am deeply impressed with the utter antagonism existing between its two factors. How the idea ever came into the mind of man that Christianity and carnal warfare are compatible is beyond my comprehension. The word of God assures us that a tree is known by by its fruit. That alone is sufficient to settle the question for every true child of God. The true animus of every Christian is derived from the Holy Spirit dwelling within. Paul says, "the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance." Can there be a mind so perverted as to imagine one possessed with such attributes engaging in carnal warefare where every heart-throb is energized with hatred, malice, vengeance and the desire to kill? No human government has the right to demand that its citizens should discard every feature of Christianity in obedience to its behest. To do so is to doom the bodies of our enemies to a bloody death and the souls of our loved ones to eternal fire.

Visiting the fatherless and widows in their affliction is called pure and undefiled religion, but tell me how one would feel visiting the fatherless and widows of those whom he had himself slain and giving them the details of his bloody act? What are the surroundings of the soldier in camp? Is there anything ennobling or conducive to that gentleness and lovableness of the Christian character there? Every influence to which they are subjected is degrading and demoralizing and few indeed are those who have come out of the fiery furnace of a military camp unscathed.

Jesus said: "Let the dead bury their dead" (Matt 8: 22), and my slogan should be, "Let those who believe in carnal warefare do the fighting." This he has the right to do, but no human government has any such authority over its subjects--G A Trott, "THE APOSTOLIC WAY

HELP NEEDED!

As of a very recent date Bro. A.J. Daniels, son of Bro. W.E. Daniels has been left alone with no one to worship with. If any one knows of any true Christians near him, PLEASE write or call him immediately. His address is: A.J. Daniels 906 East 43rd. So., Wichita, Kansas 67216 PHONE: J A 44440

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HUMBLE, TEXAS

Dear Editors:

I am writing the Christian Courier, asking you to send me the paper at my new address, 19 miles north of Houston, P.O.Box T, Humble, Texas 77338.

I went to Texas City Sunday to meet with Bro.& Sis. Paul Bruce, only to find out they had moved to Tucson. I met Sister Grant that met with the Bruces while they lived there. She is 87 and is the sweetest person. Was disappointed that there was none to hold services for us. I sure need a place to worship. Do any of you know anyone in the Houston area to hold services? I pray the good Lord will procide someone soon.

Mrs. J.W.Bedingfield
(Carolyn Dabbs)

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REST

Rest is not quitting the career.

Rest is the fitting of self to its sphere.

Its loving and serving the highest and best:

'Tis onward, unserving, that is true REST.

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GO BURY THY SORROW

Go bury thy sorrow, the world hath its share,

Go bury it deeply, go hide it with care.

Go bury thy sorrow, let others be blest,

Go give them the sunshine and tell God the Rest.

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Rather put your shoulder to the wheel than your back to the wall.

Selected..

STILLWELL, OKLAHOMA

Our meeting here at the Pleasant View Church of Christ closed July 20th. with no additions, but the Church was very much edified and to give Bro. J.D.Logan justly dues, I must say he did some good preaching, we had good attendance, while the outside interest was small we had a number of Brothers and Sisters from other congregations, which we were thankful to have. We had visitors from Bohannon Mts. congregation, Goshen congregation, and Broken Bow congregation. The Baron congregation was a wonderful help all through the meeting. Thank you everyone for your presence and support and we invite you back. Though there were no visible results during the meeting, we hope that the seed sown will in time bring forth fruit unto God's Great and Glorious Name.

We invite all to meet and worship with us and assure that the worship will be as recorded in God's Holy Word.

Pleasant View Church of Christ,
W.E. Daniels

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EUGENE, OREGON

Dear Bro. J.D. Logan and all the ones in your country who still believe that there is a God in heaven and that He is NOT Dead. I am thankful for the few men still living today, that are striving to teach and preach that are not confused by the ways of modern life.

There are few of us here at Jefferson Street and we welcome all the visiting ones to stop as they may be passing through.

We would like to be able to help more in the cause. Everyone enjoys the Courier, Keep up the good work.

Yours in Hope,
Earl L. Jones and all here.

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

The congregation here at San Pablo is fine. We have had several visitors. We enjoyed having them meeting with us, and hop they will come again soon.

Bro. & Sis. John McKinney and children have moved to Yakima, Washington. We wish them the best of luck.

For all of us here, we all enjoyed the Far West Camp Meeting.

In Christian Love,
Gene McKinney

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

As another summer rapidly passes by I'd like to report some of the events that have taken place since the last report from Yakima.

First of all we had a very fine meeting with Brother Sammy Boen. We throughly enjoyed Bro. Boen and his family. He is a very able speaker. We had one baptism during his meeting here, Sis. Boen's neice Jimmie. Since then three more young people have been baptized into the body of Christ: Dan Ross, Rose Bateman and Polly Longmire.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank and commend all the people who made the camp meeting at Boonville such a success. The setting was beautiful and the fellowship wonderful. We really apppreciate the effort put forth by the Brethren at Modesto who took charge of this meeting. We would also like to thank the Brethren at Bellflower once again for inviting me to hold their meeting. We appreciate very much the love and hospitality shown by the Brethren there and the support and incouragement given by the attendance of Brothers and Sisters from various other congregations at the meeting. It was indeed a true revival as far as I was concerned, for I came away encouraged, revived and with a great feeling of Joy, Love and appreciation for my Christian friends.

While we were away Bro. & Sis. Jerry McCay had a son, Daniel Howard, born into their family. Bro. & Sis. John McKinney moved to Yakima from California. Welcome home John and Betty.

The Ellis Forsman family are all O.K. after their accident returning from Boonville for which we Thank the Lord.

Must close now, with Much Love,

Bill McCay.

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THE MIRROR OF THY SOUL

Goodness and love molds the form into their own image, and causes the joy and beauty of love to shine forth from every part of the face. When this form of love is seen, it appears ineffably beautiful, and affects with delight the intermost life of the soul.

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TODAYS PRAYER

Dear God; Grant that todays promises will not be marred by memories of yesterday, nor fear of tomorrow.

In Your Name, AMEN...

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The Congregation at Modesto recently concluded a week's gospel meeting, Aug. 24 through Aug. 31, with Bro. W.A. Nelson of Yuma, Arizona doing the speaking. We are pleased to report very good attendance throughout the week.

During the meeting, Bro. Ed Stroud of Modesto came back to the Church after being out of duty many years. We were happy and thankful to have him back and sincerely hope he will work hard for the Lord in the future.

During the course of the meeting we had many visitors from all parts of the state. Bro. & Sis. Jerry Perigen & Family, Bro. & Sis. Al Way & Family and Bro. Way's Mother attended from Bellflower; Bro. & Sis. Gene McKinney & Family and their neice Pam Ricard from Brentwood; Bro. & Sis. Ken Harper & Family from Smartville; Bro. & Sis. Curtis McCluskey from Sacramento, which were able to attend almost every night. There were also several visitors from the nearby Waterford Congregation who attended several evenings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them all for their very good attendance and support. Their help along with that of the other visitors helped to make the meeting the success that it was.

Bro. & Sis. Dean Guyer's son Gary has been in the hospital, but is home doing nicely at the present time, also their daughter Shelia was in an auto accident last Monday, receiving multiple brusies, Thankful that she wasn't hurt any worse.

Sadness too has come to the Modesto congregation, by the passing away of Sis. Mary E. Bryant, a resident of the Modesto area for 31 years. She had been a convalescent hospital for a long while. She was 91, a native of Texas. Survivors are three daughters, Elva Elkins of Modesto, Gertrude Arnett of Missouri & Edna Box of New Mexico, two sons, Stanley J. Bryant of Ceres, Cal. and John C. Bryant of Turlock, Cal., two sisters, Fannie Fisher of Hughson, Cal. and Eliza Fowler of Okla., 26 grandchildren, 54 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-great-grandchildren. Her Daughter-in-law, Sis. Marietta Bryant and her son Homer & family worship with the congregation here.

Remember the Brethren of Modesto area meet Sundays 10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. at the corner of Glenn & Dallas Streets and welcome anyone that can to come and be with us. Written in Love, Lloyd Logan