The Christian
COURIER

Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353

Published Monthly, by Brethren of the Church of Christ

JANUARY 1970

"A NEW YEAR."

New experiences await us as we enter this new year. This should not be cause for alarm. Consider Joshua 3:4 "...come not near unto it, that ye may know the way by which ye have not passed this way heretofore."

The new year is a new road, and I believe Paul has the proper attitude for all of us to have as we begin this new year. Rom. 12:12 "Rejoicing in hope: Patient in tribulation: continuing instant in prayer." No, we have not passed this way before. For some, it will be a new job; for others, perhaps, a move. Some-it is my hope-will joyfully say as they embrace Christ,"Old things are passed away, behold all things are become new."

Some may-as Jesus did-find themselves in the garden of Gethsemane ."when the night is long and dark and the cup of suffering runs over", and it seems the morning will never come. But, for some of us, we will know real victory; this will be our best year if we walk steadily and hopefully with God on the new road of this new year.

The question arises, "How do we walk with God?" Through prayer and constant devotion, awareness of his presence with us, finding his goodness in the daily providence we enjoy, and discovering his purposes in the tasks which are ours this is how we will walk with God. We walk with God when we follow Joshua's instructions "when ye see the ark of the covenent----go after it." The ark (Bible) contains the laws of God. We walk with God when we go nowhere without his word to guide us.

The future is uncertain; so we are told in James 4: 14, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow." We should be glad we cannot forsee what the coming year has in store; we would be filled with fears and anxieties. If we walk with God, we can face the new year without fear, patiently awaiting what tomorrow may bring. Even-though we do not know what the future holds in store,we

do know the Lord is in the future. Psalms 90:1-2 "Lord, thou hast been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hast formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thour art God."

Many have in the past made resolutions, but as time passes they have been forgotten or put off to a future date. Everything now is done in a hurry; travel and communications are accomplished very rapidly. Life itself seems to have been speeded up in order to keep pace with everything else.

How much time do you and I have allotted to us in this new year? One quarter?? One half?? All of it?? Time means nothing to God because he has all of it. 2 Peter 3: 8 "Beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Time, however, is very important to man because he has so little of it. Psalms 90:9-10 "For all our days are passed away in thy wrath: We spend our years as a tale that is told."
"The days of our years are threescore years and ten: (70 years) and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, (80) yet is their strength labour and sorrow: for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

Time is precious to man; we as Christians aught to use it wisely to "lay up treasure in heaven".

This is the time of the year when we take stock of ourselves. Each of us looks at his earthly possessions and thinks, 'I'll do better next year'. More importantly each of us should take stock of the spiritual part of ourselves. Has each one grown in spiritual wisdom and knowledge. Whatever the answer, let us determine to do better next year.

Have we taken stock of the many blessings that have been ours to enjoy and then expressed our gratitude to God for them. "Count your blessings, name them one by one".

Each of us should take stock of the church work that we have had opportunity to do, and did, or did not do. Seriously consider if there is not more that we can do that will assist and help the local congregation. James 4: 17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

In other words, if a man knows what is right and proper for him to do within his talents and fails to do it, his failure is a real sin.

Cont'd on page 3

Whatever our progress last year, we can and must do better. If our spiritual progress in the past year was none, or very little, perhaps it would be good to search out that which has hindered our progress. If we could lay aside those things that have been hindering us, we could more easily keep the new resolutions we might wish to make.

Notice the primitive Christians. They were taught by Peter, Paul, and James. They were people like you and me with shortcomings as we have. They were helped and inspired by Men of God.

He 12:1 "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Consider again, if you will the admonition of Paul, "--to remember these faithful witnesses, let us strip off everything that hinders, as well as the sin which drags our feet, and let us run the race that we have to run with patience, our eyes fixed on Jesus the source and the goal of our faith. For he himself endured a cross and thought nothing of its shame. WHY DID HE DO THIS??

Because of the joy he had in doing his father's will, and what was his reward--? he is now seated at the right hand of God's throne. Think constantly of HIM (Jesus) enduring all that sinful men could say against him and you will not lose your purpose or your courage.

If we as Christians are going to make progress we will heed the advise of Peter in 1 Peter 2: 1, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hyprocrises, and envyings, and all evil speaking."

As we leave 1969 we aught to lay aside everything that absorbs our evergies and retards our progress at being good Christians. Phil 3: 14, "Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you."

Taken from a sermon by Brother Dean Guyer, Dec 28, 1969, in Modesto, California.

****

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Bro Horace Orendorf of Yuma, Arizona held a weeks meeting during the Thanksgiving week. He brought many good lessons that were profitable to all. We were priveledged to have several visitors from other congregations, for which we were very thankful.

Bill McCay, Sr.

"The Fields Are White"

Business first-and to me this is a business. Jesus once said as a youngster, "I must be about my Father's business."

In 2 Cor. we find a great Treasure. "The Word" has been placed in earthen vessels (man) that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.

Though man can learn and teach the Word, he does not have the ability to make a perfect law. Man designs his laws so as to be fair for the majority, but God's Law is equally fair for everyone. We find in studying His New Will that it is called "The Perfect Law of Liberty."

I believe that a true religious faith must be regulated and controlled by true knowledge of true facts, working knowledge of His Word and the dividing of it rightly and harmoniously. Emotion can be stimulated by fact; but no matter how strong or sincere an emotion may be in opposition to a true fact, it cannot change a true fact---.

Let us compare the Bible to a beautiful place in the mountains. I invite you to go and enjoy it with me, so that we may see and know it together. Although I didn't have anything to do with putting it there, I can point it out so that you can enjoy it also.

Our goal should be to arrive at a firm "Thus saith the Lord" conclusion, recognizing the Bible as the final and only authority to settle all religious questions.

By simply having an open mind,a willingness to learn, and a desire to know the truth,anyone can understand the Bible plan of salvation. Jesus said,"....ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make you free." That is a promise and a fact. He also said there had to be, "first a willing mind" and "second a love of the Truth."

Tom Broadway
Grants Pass, Oregon.

****

"Man's Needs"

We hear, from far and near, men say that Christianity has failed, that the Church does not meet the needs of the people of today. It was alright for the time in which it was established, but not today.

Was the Church only intended for a short time? Jesus said in Matt. 24:35; "Heaven and earth shall pass away,.."

Matt. 16:18 Jesus said, "...That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Dan. 7:14, pointing to the time when the God of heaven would set up his kingdom, and that it would be an everlasting kingdom. So we see from the Scriptures it was meant for all time. How does our need today differ from that at the time of Christ? What was the need then? The need then was salvation just as ours is today. Titus 2:11-12 says that the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, (That would include us today), instructing us to the intent that denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Can Christ's teachings of morals be improved upon? Does obeying his teaching bring regret? Does disobeying it bring regret? Can his teaching on dealing with a brother, neighbor, the fatherless, widows, sick or needy be improved upon? It is because people have left the teaching, and it is not the teaching that is at fault.

If one would take the teaching of Christ and the apostles as our guide, we would see that Christianity has not failed.

Man's needs have been the same from the beginning. Solomon, after trying all things to see what was good for man, said in Eccl. 12:13 "...Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man." It is because Adam and Eve disobeyed that man was diven from Eden. The disobedience of people today is the cause of our trouble.

C.M. Brockman
Rt. 3 Box 418
Cottonwood, Calif.

****

"Charity"

Charity is one of the greatest things a Christian has or can possess. One phase of charity is giving or distributing to the necessity of the Saints. Matt. 25: 41 Christ shows it is a must that we do show charity. Matt. 6:33, Christ says seek first the kingdom of God and all the temporal things shall be added unto you. Yet, we know it does not rain food and clothing down from Heaven; he shows in Matt. 25:41 that we must help also. James 2:15, 16 and 1 Cor. 12:26. This is a must if we expect to inherit that home. Let us not forget Moses, who in his anger with the children of Israel, smote the rock and said must WE furnish water and gave not the glory to God but included himself, was not permitted to enter the promised land. And, again, in Luke 18:14, an example: the Pharisee who exalted himself by bragging

about his good deeds and by telling how he was better than the publican who was not justified.

Matt. 6:1-4 We are not to do the giving, doing good, and praying to be seen of men so that they may heap praise on us, for he said if we do, we have our reward. That is reasonable, is it not? If we are seeking the praise of man and we get it, we have the reward we sought. He said not to proclaim, "Hey, brothers, I am going to help this person". Nor should we boast about what we might have done in the past. So, if we can help some one out, it's a good thing; God has said he will reward us. But, if we brag about it, it dosen't help us any. Luke 6:26-38.

So, whose reward do we seek? In 2 Cor. 9, the whole chapter deals with Christians' willingness to take care of those in need, and says their righteousness will remain forever. Also, Luke 14:11, "For whosoever exaltheth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted." So, let us be ever eagar to do good but always to the glory of God, giving the praise and honor to Him. Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by Him.

This especially applies to preaching brethren. We are not to think of ourselves more highly than we ought. Nor are we to let people set us up as anything but a fleshly, lowly man regardless of ability; for again, we seek not the praise of man but give all the glory to God. If we have ability, he gave it to us, so what have we to glory of in ourselves? Every breath we draw is a gift of God's mercy.

Written in Christian love and the love of the truth that we may all come to know and understand.

Your brother in Christ,
Jack Morris.

****

SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Brethren:

The San Pablo congregation is fine. Many have been sick because of a cold or flu.

Brother John McKinney and family, from Yakima, Wash. were here visiting us. He gave us a very good sermon, Sun. We hope they can come back again before going back to Wash.

Anyone passing through this area, we meet at 15th. & Market, San Pablo, Calif. Invite you to be with us.

In Brotherly Love,
Gene McKinney.

SOMERTON, ARIZONA

Our meeting closed Dec. 14; we had extremely good attendance.

Brother Jack Renick is home for 3 months and then will go back to the hospital in Phoenix. Sister Hester Renick is taking cobalt treatments in El Centro, Calif. We miss her a lot.

Brother Kenneth Wilcher passed away, and the funeral services were held Dec. 11, 1969. Brother Wilcher attended worship at Yuma. He was born Dec. 19, 1929, in Stroud, Oklahoma. He was baptized June, 1961, in Yuma. Survivors include his wife, Lavetta, and children Jerry, Gary, Karen, Janet, Mike and Carol. Brother Horace Orendorff gave a brief lesson. Pallbearers were Brothers V.E.Staggs, Harold Smith, Robert Morris, Bud Davis, W.A. Nelson and W.B. Nelson The family would appreciate your prayers for their comfort and well being.

****

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

We have quite a lot of news from Yuma this time.

Bro.& Sis. Abe Labato and their children Micheal, Janet, and Marty worshiped with us one Sunday in December at which time Brother Abe Labato gave an eloquent lesson on "The Cure for the Disease of Sin."

Sister Gladys Rutledge has been here visiting at numerous times from Lakeside, California. Also, Bro. & Sis. Elmer Hunt from Garden Grove, California have been with us several times recently.

Bro. & Sis. Parker are here for the winter. Glad to have all the different Brethern worship with us and enjoy visiting with them all.

Brother Hughes is still in the hospital. Bro. & Sis Prinke have been ill, along with Sister Myrtle Staggs & Sister Virgie Childress, which has caused them to miss church services soem. We hope and pray they will all get better soon for we miss them when they aren't able to attend worship services.

Bro. & Sis. Harry Dye, Carol, and Dan went to Phoenix for Thanksgiving. While there Brother Dye preached for the Phoenix church every night after Wed. until Sun.

Brother Bud Davis spoke in Yuma Nov. 16th. The Orendorffs went to Eugene, Oregon to see their son and his wife, Bro. & Sis. Jerry Orendorff, to Seattle to see Bro. & Sis. Wesly Orendorff and then on to Yakima, where Bro. Horace Orendorff preached a week. They really appreciate

the hospitality and good fellowship shown to them by all. Thanks to every one from Aztec, New Mexico, Selah, Washington, and all points round about.

Everyone who is able is attending the meeting in Somerton this week to hear Brother Curtis McCluskey of Sacramento, California.

We really enjoy the paper. Thanks for all the hard work.

In Christian Love,
The Church that meets in
Yuma, Arizona.

****

CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO

The editor had a letter from Sister Laura Willis a few days past stating that there is no onw there to lead the worship. But she was still there and would welcome any loyal member to stop by and worship with her in her home at 108½ So. Walnut, Carlsbad. Sister Willis is the sister in the flesh of Brother W.E. Daniels of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Anyone os the loyal members who can, at anytime, please try to stop in and encourage and help this fine elderly Sister out.

EDITOR...

****

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethern of the Courier:

It has come that time to write again. It seems like one year hardly gets here until it is gone and another comes. Happy holidays to all, anyway.

We here at the Broken Bow Church are as usual. Sis. Clements is in a rest home and is doing very well for her age. All the rest are up and around. There is not much news to report, except that the weather is cold. However, we don't have real bad weather, for which we thank the Lord.

We are having another member and family coming to Church which helps a lot. We appreciate them and wish we could get more to come. It seems as though we can't get people interested in church anymore; too many other things take up their time. The Lord said in Matt. 7:21, "Not everyone 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." Either there are plenty that are not doing the will, or I have the wrong Book--One or the Other.

Keep up the good work, may God bless & keep all of you. Pray for us here at Broken Bow.

Yours in Christ, Bro.& Sis. Lloyd Treat.

EUGENE, OREGON

November the 30th, a Sister in Christ was restored for which we are so thankful.

Brother Earl Jones has been sick with a cold. Sister Mattie McCay fell and broke her left shoulder.

Brother and Sister Greenway have had a very ill little girl caused from an allergy of sulfa drugs, but she is improving.

The rest of the congregation is doing very well and most are able to attend worship regularly.

Brother Dale Roberts han't found work as yet near Springfield or Eugene. He did try in Bend, Oregon, but Sister Roberts is a heart patient and could not live there, because of the high altitude.

The Eugene Congregation.

****

GRANTS PASS, OREGON

We have had several visitors this past month and we are very happy that they could be with us.

Bro. & Sis. Reed Thompson are in Kansas for an indefinite period.

We have had our share of the seasonal bugs but are doing better at present.

We certainly enjoy the paper and want you to know it is enjoyed more than you may realize, although at times it may seem a thankless job due to lack of response to your call for news and articles. It seems we have a silent majority. The rest of you write in so we can all know how you are getting along. How about it?

The Church at Grants Pass, Oregon.

****

THERMOSTATS or THERMOMETERS

A thermometer hangs on the wall in a place so that it can be easily seen by the occupants of the room and the temperature ascertained. It hangs alone. It has no power to make the room hot or cold. It reflects its inviroment and adjusts itself to it. A thermostat looks much like a thermometer. It also hangs on the wall, but it has powerful connections. If it is hot, it has ways of making it cooler. If it is cold, it has means by which to make it warm. Instead of being affected by

its environent, it changes its environent. A thermostat does something about its surroundings while a thermometer adjusts itself to its environent.

There is a vast difference. People can be classified into thermometers and thermostats. Thermometer personalities are chameleons, adjusters, compromisers. They always take on the color, climate, morality, and spirituality of the group they are with. They do nothing to change it. Thermostat personalities are changers, reformers, leaders, transformers. They are not satisfied with the status quo. Things must improve. So, something begins to happen ---they have connections. They do their human part, but they also send an impluse--a prayer to God--to the powerhouse above..."We need help. Things must be different. The moral and spiritual climate must change...It's too cold and frigid and freezing. We must have power, fire, heat, to burn and change our world, our nation, and our churches!" Thermostats get things done. Thermometers surrender to conditions.

(Source Unknown)

****

CERES, CALIFORNIA

With very much saddness in our hearts, the Waterford congregation and the Glenn & Dallas Street congregation, (Modesto), reports the passing of a long time friend, Brother and husband of Sister Mattie Smith. Brother John H. Smith departed this life Dec. 20, 1969. Brother Smith was born in Georgia on June 17, 1890. On Dec. 25, 1913 he and Mattie Lou Harmon were married. They moved to Floydada, Texas where they became close friends of the Conder Family, and they were both baptized into Christ at Olton, Texas on Dec. 22, 1933 by Bro. J.G. Conder (now deceased). Then in March of 1943 they moved to California where again they met and worshiped with the Conders. Brother Smith passed away at the age of 79 yrs. 6 mos. 3 da., leaving besides his wife, a sister, Mrs. Susie Trowbridge of Texas and a brother, Dewey Smith of Lousiana, and nieces and nephews. Burial was at the Ceres, Cemetery. Brother Elmer Hunt conducted the services.

****

SELECTED

Some folks are rarely ever on time anywhere, unless an entertainment, especially at Chruch.

Few Bibles go to Church. Sunday backaches are common.

Children must be where there are other children during our services, even if at a untrue worship.

We must take in all movies and big dinner gatherings, even if Church goes dead.

He can't wait till the last amen, to light his pipe. Some must chew gum as the bread and wine are served.

They must support the beauty parlor, despite what Paul says in 1 Cor. 11 and 1 Tim. 2.
But when we die, we want the evangelist to purify us and to carry us to glory on snowy wings.

(Author Unknown)

****

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The congregation at Modesto is still having some illness. Sister Alice Weakley is still seriously ill, in the Memorial Hospital. Your prayers, letters and cards would be greatly appreciated. Her address is:413 Rowland Ave.,Modesto,Cal.95351. Sister Minnie Stephens is still ill, unable to attend worship.Also,last Lord's Day, Brother Stephens was ill. Here too, prayers,cards and letters would be greatly appreciated. Their address is: 903 So.Franklin Modesto,Cal.95351.

Sister Adel Stark fell and broke her shoulder sometime ago, but has progressed nicely, although now unable to attend because of a cold.

Let us all remember Brother Ben Rollins in our prayers. He is still in Driftwood Convalscent Hospital,1611 Scencic Dr., Modesto, Bro. Rollins has been in a rest home or a hospital for over 5 years.

We invite anyone passing through this area or visiting here to come and worship with us at the corner of Glenn & Dallas St., 10:30 A.M. & 6:30 P.M. Sundays.

****

FINANCIAL REPORT
April 1- Dec. 1- 1969

Balance on hand April 1,1969			314.42
Receipts			
April	12.00		
May	40.00		
June	42.00		
July	9.00		
September	30.00		
October	-----		
November	95.00		
	228.00		228.00
			542.42
Expenses			
Rental P.O. Box		6.80	
Postage April-Dec.		85.50	
Repair, Maintance & supplies		194.43	
		286.73	286.73
			255.69
Balance on Hand as of December 1,1969			255.69

WORD NEVER DIE

We should keep a close watch on our words,
For they are such wonderful things;
They are sweet, like the honey of bees;
And like bees, have awful stings.
They can bless, like the sunshine so warm,
And brighten someone's lonely life;
They can cut, when in anger they strike--
Cut like a sharp two-edged knife.
Keep them back, if they're cruel or cross,
Well under love's bar, lock and seal;
For the wounds that such words always make
Seem never completely to heal.
Since our words do live, lingering on,
How careful we always should be
That nobody hears other than kind
Words spoken by you or by me.
May the Lord guard our lips always,
From the time of our early youth;
May the words that we daily speak
Be Beautiful words of Truth!

Roxie Ann Holland

****

St. Matthew 12:34-37

"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words whou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."