The Christian
COURIER

Post Office Box 1342
Modesto, California 95353

Published Monthly, by Brethren of the Church of Christ
MAY, 1970

AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP

As I look around and consider the congregations of our Lord, I wonder if he is well pleased with us as workers in His vineyard.

EARNEST HEED

Heb 2: 1 "Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip," (or drift from them) Yes brethren, are we just drifting through this life, or are we "working out our SALVATION with fear and trembling"? Phil 2: 12 It seems to me that most of us are as the ten virgins who "--while the bridegroom tarried they all slumbered and SLEPT". Are we just drifting along asleep waiting for death, or the Lord to come, or are we doing as the Lord commands us, WATCHING, WAITING, AND READY, with oil (good works) in our lamps?

IF WE NEGLECT

Heb 2: 3 "How shall we escape if we neglect so great SALVATION which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" What salvation did the Lord speak about, that we should WORK at? "Go into all the world and PREACH THE GOSPEL" "Go TEACH ALL NATIONS." Why, Lord? Paul answers this in Romans 10: 14, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed, and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard, and how shall they hear without a preacher, and how shall they preach except they be sent?"

Now, are we doing this? Are we working out our salvation or are we just going to church one, two, or maybe, through great effort, three times a week, just marking time until the Lord comes, deceiving ourselves that we are good servants? I am afraid most of us are NEGLECTING OUR SALVATION; neglecting to do that which the Lord commands us to do, teaching people His word, each of us, or

CONT'D ON PAGE 2

by supporting those who are (or would).

BRETHREN, IT IS HIGH TIME TO "AWAKE OUT OF SLEEP, FOR THE TIME IS MUCH NEARER THAN WHEN WE BELIEVED".

Written in Love,
Howard McCay

****

THE WAY TO HEAVEN

Christ the way, the truth, and the life. Jno 14: 6. This writing is not much, and is not intended to be the complete writing on this matter, but is to give a brief account of a few things that we are to know in order to get to heaven.

WORDS OF LIFE

We should know, first, that Christ, in this verse, is showing us that he built his church by which we can serve him, and that there is to be no other. (Acts 4: 12) The words that he spoke to us are truth (Jno 17: 17) and they are life, (Jno 6: 63) and there will be no more written to us. If we do not obey these words we do not obey him. (Heb 5: 8-9) It is impossible to come to God any other way except by him. (Jno 14: 15)

NO DIVISIONS

Now, we say that we love him, but if we do love him we will keep his words, and his words are that we do the will of the Father. (Matt 7: 21-22) The will of the Father is written that we shall not tempt the Lord our God. (Matt 4: 4-8) This means that we are to read and do what He has said and he said for us to endeavour to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. (Eph 4: 4-5) This is to say that there are to be no divisions among the Church. (1 Cor 1: 10)

There will be different opinions in some cases, but these are not to cause division. We are to evdeavor to work toward the same understanding of the Lord and not to divide the Church, for anyone that sows discord among the brethren has committed an abomination in the sight of the Lord. (Prov 6: 16-19)

SOME NOT SATISFIED

We are to speak and do as we can read in our worship, and why some are not satisfied to do this and work together I cannot see. I hope that we will soon be able to do just that, for it is written that we shall wor-

CONT'D ON PAGE 3

ship the Lord, our God, and him only shall we serve. Matt 4: 4-6 If there is any other way, I have not found it, and since he said he would give his people one heart and one way, (Jer 32: 39) or one Lord and his way, then I am persuaded that there is no other. Will we ever be able to fulfill the prayer of the Lord? (Jno 17: 17-19) I hope so and may the Lord be praised for all we do.

Yours in Christ,
Lloyd Treat

****

RENEWING OUR FAITH IN GOD
Heb 11: 6

Let us ask ourselves, brethren, what is the meaning of faith. Faith is the assurance of things desired. Heb 11: 1 "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

WALK BY FAITH

Do we, brethren, have the knowledge of God's word to walk by faith? John 5: 24 tells us that faith is taking God at his word. "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life." We must have a faith that is believing and trusting in God. Acts 27: 25. Also in Psalms 9: 10, "And they that know thy name will put their trust in thee; for thou, Lord hast not forsaken them that seek thee."

NEED OF FAITH

In fighting the good fight, we, as Christians, know that we have a great need of faith. Reading in Heb 11: 6 we find it a must to please God. "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."

In reading the new testament scriptures we find faith necessary to obtain salvation. Eph 2: 8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God." The reading of God's word brings assurance as in 1 Jno 5: 13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe in the name of the Son of God."

CONT'D ON PAGE 4

If we use the bible as our manna and grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, we can't help but be assured of a place in heaven.

WHERE DO WE GET FAITH ?

By listening to the doctrines of men?? Romans 10: 17 tells us where. "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." Also in Heb 12: 2, we find it comes from Jesus. "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." Rom 10: 3 tells us that it comes from God the Father. "For I say through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith."

TRAGEDIES

Jno 8: 24, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins; for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins."

If we have left God or are unbelievers, we will not enter into God's rest. Heb 3: 19 "So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief." Are we willing to give up our place in God's kingdom because of unbelief? Surely, brethren, there can be no greater reward than everlasting life. Let us not store up treasures here in this life, but work toward that everlasting treasure up in heaven; life forever with Christ and his holy Angels.

ETERNITY IN HELL

The greatest tragedy of all to unbelievers is that they will have to spend eternity in Hell. Rev 21: 8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers and sorcerers, and idolaters and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone; which is the second death."

WHAT HINDERS US ?

Brethren, what is hindering us from renewing our faith in God?

Could we be seeking man's glory more than God's? Jno 5: 44 "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"

CONT'D ON PAGE 5

Is it because of this, or do we just have an erring heart? Heb 3: 10-11 "Wherefore I was grieved with that generation and said they do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. So I sware in my wrath, they shall not enter into my rest."

Our greatest hinderance is Satan. Luke 8: 12-18 "Those by the wayside are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved."

TAKE HEED

"Take heed therefore how ye hear; for whosoever hath, to him shall be given and whosoever hath not from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have."

Do we Christians want our name taken away from the book of Life? and because we did not heed the word of God when we heard it? Surely not.

RESULTS OF FAITH

What does having faith in God do? Acts 10: 43 teaches it produces knowledge of remission of sins:"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins."

It also rewards us with a victorious life. Eph 6: 16--1 Jno 5: 4, "Above all taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." "For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. We must have this faith if we want to be victorious in the day of judgement.

Having faith in Jesus Christ and his promise makes us so that we do not fear death. Jno 11: 25-27, "Jesus said unto her I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die, believest thou this? She saith unto him, yea Lord; I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come unto the world."

If we have this kind of faith, then too we shall not surely die but have everlasting life with God. The death that we die here on this earth is just a stepping-stone to eternity.

In closing, brethren, I would like to leave this one thought behind. FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD.

In Christian faith,
Gene McKinney

LATE NOTE:
BARON,OKLAHOMA MEETING:
May 31 thru June 7th. Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow speaking.

LAYING BY IN STORE

1 Cor 16: 1-2, Paul says, "Now concerning the collection for the saints--as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."

In Acts 11: 29, "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea."

Rom 15: 26, "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints which are at Jerusalem."

2 Cor 8: 4, "Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints."

2 Cor 9: 1, "For as touching the ministering to the saints, it is superfluous for me to write to you:"

Gal 2: 10, "Only they would that we should remember the poor; the same which I also was forward to do."

Acts 24: 17, "Now after many years I came to bring alms to my nation, and offerings."

THE POOR

In every one of these scriptures, the idea is the same: Poor saints--the contribution was for the poor saints. It matters not how they became poor. Today we hear, "Brought it on themselves, therefore the church is not obligated to help."

We all, no doubt, know the reason the saints in Jerusalem were in need. The Bible is very plain about it. Do we not lay by for the same purpose? or do we change God's word to read, "repairing the building, paying the janitor, electric bills and the rest that is left save for a year to give a preacher to come 2000 miles to hold a week's meeting on his vacation and expect the welfare to take care of the necessities of the saints and relieve the church of its responsibilities. Was this what Paul and the other Apostles of our Lord taught?" If so, I misread the scriptures.

Written in love of the truth and to try to wake up the brethren to our duty toward the saints. Having nothing against paying a brother's expenses and helping a brother to travel, but I fear sometimes we forget our local members in their distress in illness and such like beyond their control. Your Brother in Christ,

Hayse Morris.

FAR WEST CAMP MEETING

We are looking foreward to the presence of each and every one of you at the annual FAR WEST CAMP MEETING. The date this year is June 14-21.

The location will be at Boonville, California as it was last year. There are cabins for those who do not have their own accomodations. If you have trailers or campers, there is ample room for them.

Please bring along plenty of bedding, sleeping bags, etc. Although California is very warm in the summer, the camp location is exposed to the sea breezes, and can be uncomfortably cool at times. Clothing to bring should be regular summer weight, but bring along some good sweaters and jackets for the evenings.

There will be services each day and also both Sundays. Also, some have expressed a desire for some sessions of music instruction. This is a very good suggestion, and we will try to see this is provided for those who wish to attend.

Last year was a very successful meeting despite a few difficulties in arrangements. However, it was our first effort, and we hope this year's will be even better.

There are always possibilities for improvement in everything. This, we recognize is true of this effort. However, this camp-meeting is not done for profit or any other motive other than to implement good fellowship between Christians of all the congregations. We always invite the suggestions of everyone on how to inproove the meeting.

We all take vacations sometime during the year. Fishing is good fun; also hunting and just plain travelling and enjoying the good company of friends. Why not combine all these activities as much as possible in one week of Christian fellowship.

COME, BE WITH US FOR THIS WEEK, AND HELP MAKE IT A MORE SUCCESSFUL CAMP-MEETING.

Yours, in Christ,
J D Logan

****

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONCERNING THE CAMP-MEETING, CONTACT EITHER J D LOGAN, 3708 Mission Rd, Stockton, Cal Ph 464-4961, OR AL BURTIS, 1708 Waverly Dr, Modesto, Cal Ph 523-6387.

DELTA CAMP MEETING

The annual Delta Camp Meeting date has been set for August 2nd through 9th. We hope this doesn't conflict with other meetings. Everybody is asked to bring their campers, trailers and tents this year as we have different arrangements than in the past.

There will be no charge to any one. Plenty of camp ground will be provided and services will be held at the Church building. There will be room for those who do not have campers, trailers, or tents. So, if you do not have the camping facilities, please let us know as soon as possible so we can plan accordingly.

We are looking forward to having each and every one of you with us this year at the Delta Camp meeting August 2nd to August 9th.

Bro and Sis Ken Baldwin,
Box 188
Delta, Colorado, 81416

****

BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I will try to write some more to the paper and give the news from Broken Bow. We are doing well as usual. There is not much going on at the present time, as the weather has been cold and there has been a lot of sickness this year. The weather is still cold at this writing.

Sister Clements is still in the rest home, but is doing better and we sure do appreciate the prayers that have been given on her behalf. We hope that all the faithful everywhere are doing well and may the Lord bless all of you in the efforts you are making.

We sure do look forward to the little paper coming out every month and giving us the news from other churches, so we can keep up with the progress of the 'Family' at work in the field of the Lord.

We here at Broken Bow have not decided as yet when we will have our meeting here and who we will get, but will give the news when we have it.

Bro and Sis Earl Atchley from Baron congregation were here the other Sunday and he gave us a fine lesson which we appreciated very much. Bro and Sis Merle

CONT'D ON PAGE 9

McKinney, from Yakima, Washington are here and were at church last Lord's Day. We sure did enjoy having them and hope to see more of them before they go back home. Anyone that can, come, be with us. We certainly do appreciate all visitors.

We hope and pray that the two camp meetings this year will be a great success and that much good can and will be done. Also, I wish I could be at Modesto and take in the religious discussion that will be held two nights. I only wish there was more time given to the subject (breaking of the bread) ; seems to me that two nights is not near enough time for so great a subject.

In closing, we would ask that all pray for us here at Broken Bow. May God bless all the faithful.

Yours in Christ,
Bro and Sis Lloyd Treat,
For the Broken Bow Congregation

****

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

We received word recently that Brother Harry Dye will conduct a one week's meeting in Stilwell, June 14 through June 21.

We were in Stilwell last year, and enjoyed the fellowship of the good brethren there. We hope you well in this endeavor.

****

EUGENE, OREGON

Just a few lines from the congregation at Eugene. On Feb 8th we were pleased to have with us Bill McCay, Jr., Mike McCay, Cindy Meek and Lynette Meek, all from Yakima, Washington. Bro Bill McCay gave us a very fine lesson on "decisions". Bro James Johnston came back into the fold. There was a basket dinner after services.

My brother Ron Johnston and I have recently moved back down to Eugene. We are happy to be once more with the congregation at Eugene.

Feb 3rd, Sandy Greenway, eldest daughter of Bro and Sis Greenway was operated on . She is out of her cast now, and doing fine. Bro and Sis Orendorff have a new daughter, Julie Lynn, born Dec 19, 1969.
Sunday Eve services now at 6:30 P M

Church at Eugene, Oregon

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

All here at Yakima are doing quite well. A few are just getting over the effects of winter but otherwise are doing fine.

Recently, my brother Bill, Cindy Meek, Lynette Meek, and I had the pleasure of meeting with the brethren at the Modesto congregation and, as always, were shown the hospitality that is commendable to those who profess to be "followers of Christ". We were very happy to find that, in general, everyone was fine. We especially were very thankful to find Sister Alice Weakley up and able to attend services after her long illness.

On the home front we wish to report that Sister Paula Roark left this week for a short vacation in Hawaii.

We are also happy to report that Bro Bob Lamb has been restored to the faith and pray that he and all may have the strength and perserverance to fight the good fight, finish our course, and keep the faith.

The prayers of us at Yakima are ever with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yours forever in the fight for Christ,
Mike McCay

****

SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

The Church here in San Pablo is doing very well. We are happy to have Bro and Sis Spohnholz and Son meeting with us now. They have been meeting in their home in San Jose.

Anyone passing this way please stop by and worship with us.

In Christian Love,
Market Ave, San Pablo Congregation.

****

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

My wife had an operation 3 years ago on one eye, and now the other has to be operated on. She is supp-

CONT'D ON PAGE 11

osed to enter the hospital in Muskogee, Oklahoma the Sixth of April, the Lord willing, to have the operation on the seventh. We desire the prayers of the saints everywhere on her behalf. Muskogee is sixty miles from Stilwell where we live.

Your Brother in Christ,
Hayse Morris.

****

SOMERTON, ARIZONA

Our meeting closed Easter Sunday, Brother Ken Harper of Grass Valley was the speaker. He gave us some very good lessons. This young man has really been studying. We had three additions. Some were out sick but real good crowds every night. Bro and Sis J D Johnson and daughter were with us nearly all of the meeting.

Bro and Sis Kenneth Baldwin of Delta, Colorado stopped by Yuma over night with the W A Nelsons then on to Brawley, Calif to visit their daughter, and then on to Bellflower, Calif. where Bro Ken will start a meeting April 12 through the 19.

Claude Allen Nelson is home after spending 2 years in the army. He is the oldest son of the W B Nelsons. He will be with his father in the mechanic business here.

W A Nelson for the Somerton, cong.

****

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brethren in Christ;

Right after we wrote last time, Bro. & Sis. Bud Davis met with us. He brought us a good lesson on Matt.7:21, "We have to do the Will of the Father". Bro. & Sis. V.E. Staggs went to Somerton where he brought the lesson. We should all take heed how we hear and check the Bible to make sure what we hear is right.

Sister Gladys Rutledge has met with us serveral times this spring. Glad to have visitors any time they can be with us.

We all extend our sympathies to Sis. Nora Prinke, as her father passed away in Minnesota.

Bro.& Sis. Gene Edwards and family were here from Vidal Calif. Bro. & Sis. Dan Lyons meet with us when they can make the long trip down. Bro. John Loyns has helped in the worship. Bro. & Sis. Harry Dye, Carol & Dan have made week-end trips to Tucson, Ariz. & Lakeside, Calif. Bro. Dye is teaching a college class once a week.

CONT'D ON PAGE 12

Bro. & Sis. Jerry Orendorff, Randy, Debbie and Julie visited us from Eugene, Oregon, also Sis. Orendorff's Grandmother, Sis. Phoebe McCay and Bro. Don Johnstone from Yakima, Washington. They were here two weeks. We enjoyed having them very much.

Bro. Hughes is out of the hospital, but unfortunately, Sis. Hughes has broken her pelvic bones and will be in the local convalscent hospital some time. Her sister, Gladys Savage, and son Kenneth met with us. The Hughes' daughter, Sis. Murl Tucker has also met with us. Again we say we are very glad to have all the visitors. Do come again.

All you northerners better come see us quickly, as it is going to get very warm real soon.

In Christian Love,
The Church of Christ that meets
in Yuma, Arizona

****

HUNTSVILLE, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren in Christ;
Greetings from the Bohannon Mts. Congregation.

Today was a beautiful day, although there is still some snow on the ground, which fell last Wed. We have had the worst winter since about 1918. We had 5 in. of snow then 7 more on top of that and then the wind began to blow. There were snow drifts up to 6 ft. deep. The temperature dropped as much as 20 below. We walked to worship 3 Sundays. There has been a lot of sickness, today was the first normal crowd we have had in a long time. Todays lesson was,"One Church in Unity.

We are always glad to get the paper and hear from the brethren. Our prayers goes out to all the sick from us here in the Ozark hills.

Brother George Vanderpool.

****

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The congregation here is doing well, having about the usual ammount of sickness.Bro. & Sis. Stephens have been quite ill but are some better, able to attend services some. Also glad to have Bro. Carter & Bro. Doyle Ivey back after illness and being in the hospital. Sis. Mae Johnson isn't too well but able to attend most of the time. Bro. Kenneth Perry fell a week ago and then 2 tanks for welding fell upon him breaking his back in 2 places. He is in the hospital in Modesto. Very sure your prayers and cards would be appreciated. His address is 3325 Polarias Modesto. Bro.& Sis.Bert Weakley have just returned from a lengthy vacation after a long spell of sickness. Bro. & Sis. J.D. Logan were in an auto accident in Feb., hospializing Sis. Logan. They are up and improved Thanks to the many visitors we have had. Also the very good lessons, some brought while here.