The Christian
COURIER

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WORKING TOGETHER

It has been some time since I have written to the paper, so I'll try to catch up on the year's activities. We had a very good meeting in the spring with Brother J.D. Logan, and had one baptism at that time.

I took one week of my vacation and Veda, Teri, Kelly and I took a leisurely trip down a portion of the Oregon and California coast. I preached in Eugene the 1st Sunday also Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nites, then took off Wed. morning for California where we met with the Church at Modesto the following Sunday.

We had heard that the Delta meeting would immediately follow the Far West meeting, so we planned our vacation accordingly. However, because of a change of date we were disappointed in not being able to attend. We were very happy to visit with so many of the brethren at the Far West Camp Meeting again this year, and were especially happy to be with the Kellem and Roberson families whom we've had met there last year.

I still am a firm believer in the good that these meetings accomplish. In no other way could we possibly meet so many, many brothers & sisters in Christ and come to the realization that we are indeed not alone in the "Good Fight of Faith." I firmly believe that a good deal of the trouble between congregations today is due to the fact that we have not associated with other congregations as much as we should have and, consequently, what should have been Custom with us has instead become Law.

I hear that we in Yakima have been criticized for compromising from time to time. I can only accept this as a compliment. We find a good example of compromise in Acts 16:3 when Paul had Timothy circumcised. He did this not

because it was christian Law, but because he would be more readily accepted by the Jews. I am convinced that the Gospel tells us whenever we have an opportunity to conscientiously make a change that will create better feelings between members of the same or different congregations, we had better accept that opportunity. I am not speaking of changing Law; that we cannot do. I am speaking, however, of a possible change in custom, even though it might be what father or grandfather has always done.

I would like to second the thought put forth in the August edition of the Courier. We are too inclined to dwell on what we don't like about the other person rather than how much good could be accomplished if we would only try to work together in harmony for the good of the Lord.

I'm afraid that too often we are jealous of a Brother or sister. We don't want to do anything for the Lord, and so we don't want them to do anything either. Because if they do, then our con science might bother us just a little.

Why don't we see how much we can do together, working for the Lord? And see if perhaps the Word is spread just a little farther a little faster.

Contention in an organization hurts, and there is just too much contention in the Church of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, over nothing but custom. I know that we must fight for the Faith, but my Bible tells me that faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. (Not what Grandfather did.) Too many don't ever read for themselves.

I am concerned for the future of the Church. I have four children and a daughter-in-law, plus many neices, nephews, and friends that I want to be found doing the Lord's Will. But if we older ones don't get along and are always tearing each other down, how can we expect our children and those who are following after us to be strengthened and always abide in the work of our Lord? And, if they do not, how will the Church grow or even continue to exist?

Submitted in Christian Love,
Bill M Cay

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ABOUND MORE AND MORE

IThess.3:12-13,4:1, "And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men,

even as we do toward you: to the end that he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints. Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more."

The word "abound" means "to be present in large numbers or in great quantity. To be copiously supplied, as: a stream abounding with fish."

Christians just beginning must grow. IPet.2:2, "Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrises, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:".

Christians must continue growing in order to increase and abound. Eph.4:14-16, "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love." Col.1:10, "That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;". IThess.1:3, "we bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is meet, because that your faith groweth exceedingly, and the charity of every one of you all toward each other aboundeth;" From the time we obey the Gospel, to the time we fall asleep in Christ, we must continue to increase, grow, and abound more and more in knowledge, faith, and love.

Like stall-fed calves, we confine our spiritual food to the Word of God. Mal.4:2, "But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves in the stall." Matt.4:4, "But he (Jesus) answered and said, 'It is written, man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." This diet is complete and balanced for our perfect spiritual growth. IITim.3:16-17, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly fur-

nished unto all good works."

We are instructed how often our spiritual health demands this food. ITim.4:15-16, "Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself, and them that hear thee."

The apostle Peter tells us how to insure for ourselves an abundant entrance into everlasting life when this life of preparation is over. IIPet.1:3-11, "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the devine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Yours in Christ,
Curtis C. McClusky

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WHO WERE THE SAMARITANS?

Who were the Samaritans? Were they Gentiles or Israelites? I believe the Bible answers this question sufficiently. Let us go to some scripture references and find out. The references given will not becessarily be in order of importance.

(I). The Samaritan woman at the well solemnly asked in Jn.4:12, "Art thou greater than our father Jacob...?". Had she lied about Jacob being her ancestor, would Christ have continued speaking of the living water? Jacob, as most of us know, was the grandson of Abraham, the Hebrew. Then, this Samaritan was of Jacob (God changed his name

to Israel). Therefore, she was an Israelite.

(II). "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye (Jews) say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jn.4:20. After the death of King Solomon, Israel rebelled against the house of David (Judah) IKings12:19. Jeroboam (Israel chose him as their King) was afraid to let the tribes of Israel go to Jerusalem to worship because their hearts would turn to Rehoboam, King of Judah (Jews) IKings12:27. Therefore, Jeroboam built the high places in Bethel and Dan IKings12:29-31. This is the mountain that was spoken of in Jn.4:20. IKings13:32 states the altar in Bethel was in Samaria. Hence, "Our fathers" were Israelites. In Jn.4:22, Christ said, "Ye worship ye know not what...". The Samaritans had followed Jeroboam (man) and were idolators. "...we know what we worship...".Christ and the Jews (Judah) worshipped at Jerusalem as God had directed. "...for salvation is of the Jews." Not of the idolatrous Israelites, the Samaritans.

(III). Were the Gentiles looking for the Messias? No, but the Samaritans were, Jn.4:25&42. They were Israelites looking for the promise.

(IV). Did Christ eat and sleep (abide) with Gentiles? Gal.2:12, IKings11:2, the answer is that he did not. But he abode with the Samaritans for two days Jn.4:40. Why? Because they were Israel stock, as was our Lord.

(V). Matt.10:5-6, "...Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not." See the contrast made between Gentiles and Samaritans? "But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." Another contrast is made between the lost sheep of Israel and idolatrous Israel (the Samaritans).

If the above scriptures are insufficient, the folowing is enough to prove that the Samaritans were of the stock of Israel:

We have all heard the brethren, from almost all congregations, preach that Peter preached the first gospel sermon to the Jews (Israel) at Pentecost A.D. 33. (It is understood that proselytes are an exception.) And, that Peter preached Christ first to the Gentiles at Cornelius', Acts,the tenth chapter (about A.D. 41). In about A.D. 34, after the death of Stephen and during the persecution of the church, Phillip went to Samaria and preached to them Christ and baptized both men and women, Acts8:1-12. This, you will remember, was before the call of the Gentiles,

Acts, the tenth chapter(about A.D. 41). Again, the Samaritans must have been Israelites or else Phillip beat Peter there with the keys.

Written in love of the truth,
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SPEAK THE WHOLE GOSPEL

Brethren,

The church at Yakima is going along as well as can be expected. We have had the usual amount of colds and flu but most everyone is in fair health.

The church here is blessed with a large number of speakers(fourteen), so no certain one speaks very often even though we meet three times a week. Lately, most of the lessons here have bee trying to point out the fact that sin is sin, and is not divided into varying degrees of black and white. We have decided to "call a spade a spade", and not gloss it over to avoid offending someone. Too long we have refrained from speaking the whole gospel and have shunned our duty to the brethren.

Brethren, it is high time we were profitable servants to the Lord. We teach against drunkeness. Do we teach against social drinking? We teach against drugs. Do we teach against sleeping pills, pep pills,etc.? We teach againstsmoking marijuana; what about tobacco? We would teach against taking poison; what about over-indulgence?

The Bible teaches us that our body is the temple of the Lord, and we are not to defile it. Do we? The scriptures on daily living far out-number those on the worship. Yet, we pass them by for fear of offending someone. If they pertain to us, or someone in our family, we shun them, gloss them over, or wrest the scriptures to our own destruction.

Concerning my article on Christian marriage, I received not one letter in disagreement with me. I assume all agree with me, for if I am wrong and am not told so, then those who do not tell me commit sin. If I am right, then we must all teach the fact that Christians must marry in the Lord.

Yet, since my article, I have heard that some have given the advice that it is not necessary to do this. Some seem to think that the end justifies the means; it

is the results that count.

If this be true, then the denominations are right in doing whatever they want because it gets large crowds out to hear the Bible. No, I can't marry outside the Lord because someone else did it and it worked out for them; no one knows how it worked out until we stand in Judgement.

Uzzah thought he did good to steady the ark of the covenant--and it did work out fine, for the ark was not damaged--but what did the Lord do about it? Did he say, "Uzzah, you did fine; look at the results."? Most certainly not. What does Paul say in Rom.3:8? "Let us do evil, that good may come? Whose damnation is just." Rom.6:1, "Shall we continue in sin that Grace may abound? God forbid."

No, brethren, we cannot say it is alright to sin if good comes from it. Let us not refrain from preaching all the gospel to keep from offending, because all scriptures were given to be taught for reproof, correction, and instruction in what the Lord wants, not man.

We are very happy to announce that after many letters testimonies, and appeals, Bro. Rodger Lamb has finally won his 1-0 classification from the draft board. We hope this will be an example which will encourage others to also hold faithful in their fight for the right.

In love,
Howard McCay

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FAITH AND REPENTANCE

"...faith cometh by hearing...the word of God." (Rom.10:17). We read in Isaiah55:3, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live...". And, again, in Isaiah55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." We read, also, in ICor.6:9, "Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the Kingdom of God?". (So, the unrighteous man must change his mind, he must repent, and return unto the Lord.) Jesus said, in Matt.11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." He also said, in Jn.3:16, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.". Paul, a minister of the New Testament,

states, in Rom.3:23, "For all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God.". And, again, in Romans, the third and fourth chapters, he states that God gave his Son to declare his righteousness; that he is willing to justify him that believeth in Jesus, who died for our sins, and was raised again for our justification; "...but now (God) commandeth all men everywhere to repent: because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man (Jesus Christ) whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead." Jesus warns, in Luke13:3, "...except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.". So, we can either repent--or perish. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."(Rom.6:23). Why should anyone refuse the gift of God? Why should anyone deny himself the rights to eternal life? To obey him is to obey the gospel. "...he (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him...".

CONFESSION AND BAPTISM

We read in Rom.10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.". He explains further in verse 10, "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." We find an example of this in Acts8:35-39 where Phillip baptized the eunuch. "Then Phillip opened his mouth and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Phillip said, If thou believest with all thy heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Phillip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. Jesus Christ teaches that baptism is a burial. "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who had raised him from the dead."(Col.2:12). So, they went down both into the water (deep enough so the eunuch could be buried in Baptism), and Phillip baptized him: and they came up out of the water, and the eunuch went on his way rejoicing. (This fulfilled Rom.10:9.) Acts8:36 is a pattern for baptism. We read in Heb.8:5 how God warned Moses to make all things according to pattern: and now the scripture warns, "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."(James2:12).

Author Unknown

ARE WE KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD?

In Rev.1:5-6,"Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Now, let us turn to Rev.5:8-10, "And when he (Christ) had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb.... And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood, out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; and hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Under the old testament, the high priest had certain duties to perform in the sacrifices and offerings, especially the yearly sacrifice made for his own sins and the the sins of the people. We read this in Heb.9:7, "But into the second (the most Holy place) went the high priest once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people." Verse 8,"The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all (the new testament) was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing."

Christ is our High Priest. Heb.9:11, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and a more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building." Verse 24, "For Christ is not entered into the Holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Verse 12, "...but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us." Verse 25,"Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others," Heb.10:19,"Having therefore,brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering."

HAVE WE BEEN MADE COMMON PRIESTS?

As we notice from Rev.1:5-6 (being addressed to the

seven churches in Asia) he washed and cleansed us from our sins in his own blood, in Acts20:28, he purchased the church with his own blood, in Rom.5:9, he justified us by his blood, and in Heb.13:12, he sanctified the people with his own blood.

This reference, Rev.1:5-6, tells us, also, that we have been made kings and priests unto God. Then we read in Rev.20:6,"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Now let us turn to IPet.2:5,"Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." What are these spiritual sacrificeswe are to offer? Turn to Rom.12:1-2,"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." Col.3:5,"Mortify therefore your members wh which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolotry." IPet.2:11,"Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul." IPet.4:1-2,"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: For he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God." Phil.4:18 (Paul, referring to the help he had received from the Phillippeans),"... the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God." Heb. 13:15,"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name."

By these references we surely are required to make sacrifices. But how many of us sacrifice our pleasures to comply with God's will? How many of us are strict in meeting with the ones Christ died for, to keep His death in remembrance?

How do we reign with Christ? IITim.2:12,"If we suffer, we shall also reign with him." He said to the apostles "And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me."(Luke22:29). If we are governed by the

things that the apostles have commanded and revealed by the Holy Ghost, are they not ruling over us? And when we lead others to be governed by these things revealed, are we, to a certain extent, ruling over them? Paul says in ICor.14:37,"If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord." Also, in IIPet.3:1-2,"This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Savior." Jude 17,"But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ." Remember them, be mindful of them. If we do, they are governing us; ruling over us.

Do we rule with Christ? Rev.3:21,"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne." ITim.5:17,"Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine." IPet.5:1,"The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind." Acts20:28,"Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Now let us get down to ourselves. Col.3:15,"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." We must keep our bodies under subjection, and let not sin have dominion over us; as we are told in Rom.6:12,"Let not sin therefore, in your mortal bodies...". In Cor.9:27, Paul says,"But I keep under my body, and bring it unto subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Rom.12:2,"Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing...". Prov.25:28,"He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls."

Is this not enough to convince us that we should offer our bodies a living sacrifice, by complying to his will?

J.H. Lackey

Church news

We recently received letters from several congregations and individuals which encouraged us greatly.

From Burkburnett, Texas, a letter from Mrs Leroy Mullens, who meets with the congregation at Randlett, Oklahoma. Also a donation for help on the Courier. We welcome you to our mailing list and hope to hear from you again.

From Baron, Oklahoma, Bro Marion Warford writes: The Church plans for a fall meeting beginning Nov 8 to continue as long as they have guest speakers. Our best wishes for a successful meeting.

From Grant's Pass, Oregon: The church has had several visitors recently, including some from Yakima, Wash., and Southern California.

From Bellflower, California, we hear of visitors from Yakima, Washington, Modesto, Calif., and Yuma, Arizona. As uaual, as is the custom of ALL THE CHURCHES a cordial invitation is extended to any and all to visit with the brethren when in their area.

Meanwhile, back on the farm at Modesto:
Brother and Sister Bert Weakley, Sisters Mae Johnson, Allie Baxley, June Paioni, and Dousia Arnett have been in the hospital recently. Also, Brother F H Logan has had another siege of the hospital.

Brother and Sister Renzo Stephens, Bro Doyle Ivy, Sister Lucy Conder and Sister Fern Logan have been ill lately. Some of these are still unable to be up and at worship .

We hope you won't become frightened and cancell any plans you may have had to come visit us, for we don't think it's catching. We have had our trials this summer, tho.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Sister Marietta Bryant and her family over the loss of her grand-daughter, Lynn Bryant, age sixteen who was accidently taken in October.

As you can probably see by now, we have missed two issues of the Courier. This in no way reflects a desire to discontinue publication. It is partly due to difficulties which delayed us, but mostly it was due to the fact that we simply had nothing to print sufficient for an issue. We hope that all our brethren will bestir themselves and put forth an effort to write us some good articles, and of course all the news.

J D Logan