GOSPEL NEWS COURIER

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER 1961

FAKE AND FRAUD OF CHRISTMAS

It is significant that God has not told us in His Word to observe Christ's birthday. He has though, told us to observe his deathday. The apostles and early Christians did not observe Christmas. If God wanted us to observe the birthday of his Son he would have recorded it in the Bible.

In 2 Pet. I:3 we are told that God "hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness." He has not commanded us to celebrate Christ's birthday, therefore its observance does not pertain to life and godliness. The apostle Paul foretold that people would "turn away their ears from the TRUTH, and be turned unto fables." (2 Tim. 4:4). We know that a fable is something fictitous, something not true. Christmas cannot be proven by the Bible to be Christ's birthday, nor commanded therein, we can class it as fiction or fable. We are forbidden to add to or take from God's word. (2 Jno. 9-10; Rev. 22:18-19; Gal. I:8-9) Christmas is filled with selfish spending and worldly festivities.

Christ while on earth placed great emphasis on his deathday, but not his birthday. Christ arose from the dead on the first day of the week. (Mrk. 16:9; Lk. 24:1, 13, 20-21, 46). The first day of the week being His resurrection day, faithful Christians partake of the Lord's Supper on that day every week. (Acts 20:7). This passage shows a regular custom of meeting on the first day of the week. It is a commemorative act showing forth His death as Christ said, "This do in remembrance of me" (Lk. 22:19). This expression from Jesus is twice repeated by Paul. (I Cor. 11:24-25). The observance of Christ death is therefore commanded, but his birthday is not commanded to be orserved. Faithful Christians partake of the communion every first day of the week in memory of Christ's sacrificial death upon the cross.

The meetings, one at Bellflower, and the other one at La Habra, California, have ended and the splended spirit of cooperation between the two congregations was very commendable.

The La Habra meeting closed November 26. There were no responses to the invitations given at the close of each service, but the messages were well received, and were encourageing, strengthening, and enlightening, as presented by Bro. Tom Broadway, of Lakewood, California.

Bro. Harry B. Dye, of Yuma, Arizona, gave a series of stimulating and edifying gospel messages in the Bellflower meeting. One young woman, Mrs. Betty Perigen, accepted Christ as her Saviour, and was buried with Him in baptism for remission of past sins, and arose from the watery grave to walk in newness of life. She is the wife of Bro. Jerry Perigen, a promising young man and a worker in the Bellflower church.

Bro Broadway and Bro. Dye, both love the truth of the gospel and should be kept busy preaching. Call them, brethren, and help them reach lost souls with the gospel of Christ. The time is short and laborers are few, and we will all soon have to stand before the judgment bar of Christ. Let us work while it is day.

BRO. & SISTER W. A. NELSON, Rt. I, Box I4RM, Somerton, Ariz., Oct. I5---Bro. W. H. Francis and wife left Oct. I6 for home in Mangum, Okla., after spending I0 days in the Somerton area holding a meeting, giving the church encouragement and more spiritual strength in the faith.

Bros. Claude Perigen and Paul Ferguson and their wives of the Bellflower, and La Habra, California churches were with us one week-end and we are always most happy to have any of them visit us.

After a two weeks vacation here, Bro. & Sister Ted Drysdale and sons have returned to their home in Delta, Colo. Bro. and Sister Donald Dabbs and children are now meeting with the faithful in Delta.

Sister Harold Smith is now home with her new baby boy, but due to complications will have to remain in bed .. two months.

Later, Nov. 20--We hope the meeting at La Habra does much good. It is good to see some younger ones take a hold in preaching the gospel, but it is still a big job for the older ones to help and to guide the younger ones.

OUR DEPARTED

Sister Ella Ann Cavin was born Aug. 22, 1891, at Pontotoc, Mason County, Texas, and departed this life Oct. 28, 1961, in the Whittier Hospital, Whittier, Calif. She had been confined to the hospital for one month and had undergone two major surgeries during that time, waging a courageous but losing battle against internal cancer. She had been in poor health for a number of years. Her age was 70 years, 2 months and 6 days.

Those who survive her are, one son, George E. Cavin, 6036 S. McNees Ave., Whittier, Calif., a sister, Alta Lee Honig, Brady, Texas, three half-brothers, Herman and Ernest Ake, Brady, Texas, Davis Ake, San Antonio, Texas. Also survived by one grand-daughter, Myra Cavin.

Sister Cavin was a life long member of the Church of Christ, having at an early age in life, accepted Christ as her Saviour, and was baptized into the One Body, the church.

At the funeral service, a large attendance of relatives and friends and brethren and sisters in Christ, and the beautiful floral offerings attested the high esteem in which she was held. She will be sorely missed by the La Habra, California church and by all who knew her.

Bro Claude Perigen, of the Bellflower, Calif. Church of Christ, delivered the funeral sermon and eulogy. Her body was laid to rest by the side of that of her husband in Rose Hills Memorial Park, Whittier, Calif., to await the glorious resurrection morning. Funeral services were conducted in the Rainbow Chapel located in the park.

Her husband, the late Elisha H. Cavin, who was also a native of Texas, and one of our well known gospel preachers, preceded her in death Aug. 4, 1958. They were united in marriage Dec. 26, 1910, in McCulloch County, Texas. They made their home in several different places in Texas and Oklahoma until 1934 when they moved from Lorenzo, Texas to Whittier, Calif., where they were still living at the time they passed away.

Since Bro. Cavin's death, Sister Cavin had been living at the home of her son, Geo. E. Cavin, in Whittier.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord." (Rev. 14:13)

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BILL AND VEDA McCAY, Yakima, Wash., Nov. I---At this late date, I hesitate to even attempt to write a note of thanks to all the brethren of the La Habra, and Bellflower, California congregations. We certainly enjoyed our visit in your area, and hope to be able to return and visit you again in the not too distant future. In the meantime, we are urging all of our brethren to accept your hospitality as we did. I know they would be wonderfully rewarded as we were. We would also like to extend an invitation to one and all to come and visit with us here in Yakima. We are happy to report one baptism and several restorations this past month. We have had several visitors this summer. Among them are, Sister Arcy Peavey, Salem, Ore., Bro. & Sister Dale Roberts, Creswell, Ore., Sister Ada Johnson, Bro. James Johnson, and my mother, Sister Phebe McCay, all of Eugene, Ore. Bro. Cliff and Sister Karen Roberts of Creswell, Oregon. We were happy to see Bro. Bill Taylor of Bellflower, California, who was here visiting Bro. & Sister Eulon Taylor. We here would like to extend our congratulations to the Perigen family and its new addition Sharilyn Ann. I will close now and we hope to see you all again. In Christian love.

MRS. LAURA E. WILLIS, 205½ S. Olive, Carlsbad, N. Mex., Nov. 9---Just a few lines to say that I still like your little paper and I hope it gets enough support so you can increase its size. -Sincerely, A Sister in Christ.

W. E. DANIELS, Rt. 2, Stillwell, Okla., Nov. I8,--- I send you news for the paper and a report of my work this last two months. I began a meeting with the church at Loco, Okla. Sept. 9 and closed the night of Sept. I7. There were no baptisms but one was restored to the faith.

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This little band of Christians are working hard to spread the gospel to a lost world. This was a wonderful meeting in so far as the showing of a Christian spirit. Brethren and Sisters came from other congregations from far and near, and the Christian spirit shown, was greater than I have words to express. May God bless all who assisted in the meeting to make it a success.

We owe much to Bro. J. O. Taylor, and his son, Howard, for their determination to keep this congregation alive and working. Anyone passing through this part of Okla. will find a hearty welcome in their good Christian homes.

Leaving Loco, we visited in the homes of Bro. Curtis Teague and Bro. J. W. Bedingfield, of Olney, Texas. Bro. Teague lives at Nocona, Texas. Also visited in the home of Bro. Howard Studer, of Lorenzo, Texas. I preached for them Wednesday night Sept. 20. From there we went to New Mexico for a visit with relatives. Mrs. W. E.Willis of Carlsbad, is my sister, and Mrs. Paul Bruce is my niece. We were there three weeks and worshipped three Lord's Days with this faithful band of Christians. They invite all who may be passing by to stop and worship with them. From N. Mexico we traveled back to Ringgold, Texas Where I preached Saturday night, Oct. 14, and Sunday morning we heard Bro. J. W. Bedingfield teach the lesson. After we had eaten a wonderful dinner at the church, we again heard Bro. Bedingfield speak, and then I spoke at the evening service. We had a wonderful spiritual feast that day and there were many visitors. Among them, Bro. and Sister Jack Scott of Abilene, Texas, and Bro. and Sister Goodwin, of Olney, Texas. These brethren of Ringgold, are to be commended for their faithfulness.

After returning home we went to the Bohannan Mountain church west of Huntsville, Ark., on the fourth sunday of Oct., this being my regular day with the church there. To my surprise, we were met by Bro. & Sister Paul Ferguson, and Bro. & Sister Dayton Clouse, all of the La Habra, California congregation. Also, there we met for the first time, Bro. & Sister Paul Auslam, of Hindsville, Ark. After morning services we had dinner on the ground, and in the afternoon, listened to Bro. Paul Ferguson bring us a wonderful lesson from God's word. I preached at the morning services. It was a pleasure to meet these brethren and their wives. May God bless them.

The Bohannan Mountain congregation is small, but they

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are growing, both in number and in the grace and knowledge of our Saviour. All are invited to meet with them. The fifth Sunday, Oct. 29, I was with the Tiner congregation of Broken Bow, Okla., one half mile north highway 70.

I use to worship with this congregation before moving to Stillwell, Okla. I found them as I had left them, sound in the faith and slowly growing in number. They had just recently baptized a lady into the body of our Lord. This is a faithful church, and all are invited to visit them, as you are also welcome at all the aforesaid churches I have mentioned. The Pleasant View Church of Christ of Stillwell is doing as well as could be expected. We are at peace among ourselves and the church is growing in number. One was baptized and one was restored to the faith while I was away on my trip. We invite you to come and meet with us here at Stillwell. We congratulate you brethren for the fine job you are doing with the paper. --Yours in Christ--

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F. H. LOGAN, 511 S. Sunset Ave., Modesto, Calif.--The church here is doing nicely. At our morning services we have good attendance, and the evening services attendance is increasing each week. People are showing more interest, and we are having good lessons at each service and very good singing. Everyone is cordially invited to attend our services at 10:30 A. M. and 7:00 P. M. Our visitors this month were, Bro. & Sister J. R. Kellems, of Glendora, Calif. Bro. Eugene Edwards and Clyde Farris of Lubbock, Texas, were with us in our services the First and Second Sundays of October. The Third Sunday of Oct. Bro. and Sister Lawrence Arnets youngest daughter was baptized into Christ. Bro. and Sister Smith are in Georgia visiting relatives, and Bro. Roy Brown is visiting in Texas. Nov. 5, Sister Ken McKennie of Concord, Calif. visited with us here at the Glenn and Dallas Street Church of Christ. Also Bro. and Sister J. M. Buckelew, of Escalon, Calif., and Sister M. T. Lindley, of Coalinga, Calif. All visitors are always welcome.

Your brother in Christ.

AMOS BEAVER, 1509 15th. Str., San Pablo 10, Calif.,- Nov. 19---I am writing for the Market Avenue Church of Christ. We meet at 1433 Market Ave., San Pablo. We

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are sending a small donation for the paper. We would like to help more but just can't at this time. We are still paying on a fairly large loan on our building. I am not much of a talker nor writer, so will close for now. -Yours in Christ.

TOM BROADWAY, Bellflower, Calif. congregation, Nov. 14--Our meeting ended Nov. 5th. We had very good attendance, good singing, and excellent teaching by Bro. Dye, of Yuma, Ariz. This was Bro. Dye's first meeting and he did a very good job of teaching the scriptures.

To us this meeting was more than a success because of the addition of one more to the body of Christ. Brother Jerry Perigen's wife, Betty, came forward, confessed Christ, and was baptized the same day. We wish to express our joy and happiness for her full acceptance of Christ as her Saviour. We wish to thank the La Habra congregation for their help and support of our meeting by their welcome presence at each service. Out of town visitors included Bro. & Sister Brown, and grandaughter, and Bro. Condor, of Modesto, Calif., Bro. & Sister Jack Morris, Bro. & Sister Horace Orendorff and daughter, Nell, all of Yuma, Ariz., and Bro. & Sister Allen Nelson of Somerton, Ariz. Sister Harry Dye and daughter were able to attend the last two days of the meeting.

Visitors Sunday morning Nov. 12, were Sister Ogletree of Elk City, Okla. and her daughter, Sister Hindman, of Barstow, Calif., also Sister Houge of Long Beach, Calif.

We had a very good meeting and enjoyed many wonderful hours with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Yours in Christ.

HOWARD STUDER, Box 84, Lorenzo, Texas, Oct. 31--Dear Bro. Snoderly: I am sending a few items of belated news.

Bro. Loyd Treat's daughter, Rosalie, was married to a Mr. Edwin Crowell, a few weeks ago at Broken Bow, Okla. Our grandaughters Mary Wallace was married to Wayne Lightfoot, and Shirley Wallace, was married to Eddie Wise in a double wedding, double ring ceremony, August 12, at Abilene, Texas.

Bro. Jack White's sister, Mrs. Berta Stovall, was buried August 15, at Munday, Texas. Bro. Felix Franklin

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of Goree, Texas, a very dear and faithful brother in Christ, was buried October 14, also at Munday. He met with the little congregation at Seymour, Texas. His dear wife, though very badly crippled, visited our fifth Sunday meeting yesterday. She and her children have our deepest sympathy.

We had approximately 75 people at church Sunday morning, and afternoon also. There were approximately 115 in attendance during the course of the meeting.

Visitors during the meeting were; Sister W. E. Willis, Carlsbad, N. Mex., Bro. and Sister W. H. Francis, of Mangum, Okla., Bro. and Sister Dayton Clouse, and Bro. and Sister Paul Ferguson, of the La Hebra, Calif. congregation, Bro. and Sister F. F. Francis, Kenton, Okla., Bro and Sister Howard Taylor and children, of Duncan, Okla., Bro. Loyd Treat and daughter, Rosalie, and her husband, Edwin Crowell, Broken Bow, Okla., Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Lightfoot, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Wise, Bro. and Sister Jack Scott, Bro. Johnnie Campbell and Sister Dannie Wallace of Abilene, Texas, Bro. and Sister J. C. Williams and children, Socorro, N. Mex., Sister Pansy Keel, Plainview, Texas, Sister Lou Plumlee and Bro. R. H. Peel, Crosbyton, Texas, Sister Nancy Ogletree and Sister A. H. Howell, Elk City, Okla., Bro. and Sister Horace Lackey, of Springfield, Colo., Bro. and Sister Earnest Pollan and children, Terral, Okla., (They meet at Ringgold, Texas), Bro. and Sister J. C. Spurlin, Reydon, Okla., Sister J. W. Bedingfield and Sister Pauline and Lou, and Bro. and Sister Toodler Goodwin, and Brother Stanley, of Olney, Texas, Sister Layton Bedingfield, M. R. and Mrs. Paul Bedingfield and baby, Clark Batty, Reuben Archibald, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. George Howell, Lubbock, Texas, Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Abell and children, Ralls, Texas, and Donald McKinney, Lorenzo, Texas.

Bro. and Sister Lackey had a car wreck in Plainview, Texas, which caused a great deal of damage to their car, but their injuries were small.

We surely did enjoy the good Christian fellowship we had with all, and also the wonderful songs and sermons given by Bro. Francis and the other visiting Speakers.

-Your Brother in Christ-

ALBERT HARRISON, Rt. 2, Box 120, Hindsville, Ark.--I will answer your letter I received some time ago.

We have had company from Calif. Bro. Paul Ferguson, my wife's brother, and his wife Maysel and theirmfriends Bro. and Sister Clouse. We enjoyed their visit and meeting especially, Dayton and his wife. We had all day services at the church last Lord's Day, with two lessons, good singing and a basket lunch at the noon hour. Bro. W. E. Daniels from Stillwell, Okla., Gave the morning lesson, and Bro. Paul Ferguson gave the afternoon lesson on the subject, "The Man of Sin." We enjoy reading the paper, and you may send all in one package to the church here at Bohannan Mountain. Bro. Paul Auslam has been giving us some very good lessons. He is a great help to the church here. Also Bro. James Vanderpool, who has lately moved to this area from Kansas. These young brethren and their families are a great help to the church. *Your Brother in Christ-

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HARRY WEGLEY, 3675 Williams Highway, Grants Pass, Ore. --There isn't much news to report from here. One of our younger sisters, Nellie Mickey, was united in marriage to Donald Burns.

They have made their home in Washington. Nellie is the daughter of Bro. and Sister Sam Mickey, of Rocky-dale Road, Cave Junction, Oregon.

Our attendance at church was down to about 15 last Lord's Day because of the flu and the holiday also taking its toll. Our prayers go out to all those that are sick, especially those of the household of faith. The Lord willing, may they be restored to a normal portion of health again. -Yours in Christ-

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BRO. AND SISTER CHESTER KELLEMS, 18202 E. Sierra Madre, Azusa, Calif.--Just a small check to help you in your good work. So many have neglected to help you. We sure enjoy the paper and send it on for others to read. We go to the Emerson South San Gabriel Church of Christ, and we welcome all visitors. Keep up the good work. Hope we can help you more.

EXTRA, To Gospel News Courier, Dec. 1961

TO OUR READERS AND OUR FRIENDS:

At the closing of the year 1961, we wish to thank each and everyone for their cooperation in this effort to bring you the news from all the churches scattered over the country, thus bringing each of us closer together in our work for the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank each for their donations of money and articles; news items and time spent in this great effort of unity over the past six months of publication of the GOSPEL NEWS COURIER. In the coming year of 1962, we hope to improve our service to you and also the size of the paper. We, at this time wish to state to those of you who have sent articles that have not appeared in past issues, we are sorry, but we can not print more than four hundred words per article and keep this a newspaper for our readers. Many of these would have filled one complete issue of the paper. We are sorry, but please send more articles short enough to print. Many may also wonder why their letters have not been answered personally. It is impossible to work each day at our jobs, print, and mail the paper, and also answer each letter. We have tried to answer a few each month. Maybe next year we may be able to write each of you personally. More than ever we need your support financially to continue this publication. The expenses of the paper for each issue runs around one hundred and twenty-five dollars for printing supplies, mailing, and mailing permits.

You may be interested to know, so we herewith list donations by states for the first six months publication as follows; Arkansas $20.00, California $148.00, New Mexico $18.00, Oklahoma $16.00, Texas $82.00, Colorado $25.00, Washington $36.00. Total $385.00.

Again we wish to thank all of our loyal contributors for their cooperation and support. For lack of space, we have not listed each contribution separately, but we sincerely thank every one. Let us hear from you this coming year regularly. Yours in Christian love.

Roy L. Snoderly, Editor.
L. C. England, Publisher.