

The Christian Courier

May, 2015

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What Are We To Be Called As Followers Of Christ?

Many people claim to be Christians and yet they wear different names and teach different doctrines. If we are true Christians, as the New Testament defines the term, can we add things to this name given by God? (Some examples would be: Catholic – Christians, Baptist – Christians Methodist – Christian's etc.).

God's people under the Old Testament were called Israelites (Genesis 35:10) later, God said one day His people would be called by a new name (Isaiah 62:2). God's righteousness was shown in sending His Son, in whom we can have faith (Romans 3:22).

The Gospel of Jesus Christ went out to Israelites only (Mathew 10:6). This was the chosen Nation of God. In Acts 11:18 Peter and those with him understood that God, from that time onwards, had granted repentance not only to the Jews but also to the Gentiles. This fulfilled the prophecies in Isaiah 62:1-2, Isaiah 65:15.

When people understood anyone, Jew or Gentile could be saved, it was time for God's new name for His people to begin to be used. The new name comes in Antioch after the fulfillment of this prophecy. The record is found in Acts 11:26. The disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. God want us all of us to be called simply Christians, because it glorifies Him (2 Thess. 1:12).

Should we ever wear a man-made name? The answer is, "No". The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian church, "*Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?*" (1 Cor. 1:12-13).

The different names that people wear creates division among those who claim to be followers of our Lord Jesus. There are more than 200 different denominations in the world today

(Editor's Note - There are over 200 in the U.S. and over 1000 worldwide). This is against our Lord's Prayer in John 17:20-23.

We can all be Christians and Christians only.

God bless those who strife to be called just Christians.

Bro. John Kombo Nandwa

Baruti Church of Christ, Nakuru, Kenya

From the Staff:

As you have noticed, this issue of *The Courier* is very short. There are a number of reasons for this:

The cost of publishing each issue is about $400 and the bank account is empty. The paper seems to just arrive and it is easy to forget the cost that is involved.

We wanted to send out another issue with information about funding for this year's Delta Camp Meeting.

Letters and news have been slow in coming. Many are keeping in touch via the internet (and this is good), but many do not have access to the news in this form and depend on *The Courier* for information about events such as: meetings, births, baptisms, weddings, and passing's so that we are able to weep with those that weep and rejoice with those that rejoice.

We have just returned from the Yuma meeting. What a great time of fellowship, praise, and encouragement. Someone recently mentioned to me that it seems that so many young ones are finding partners outside of the Lord and they wondered why this is so. Brothers, our children will find partners in the places we take them, and we take them to the places that are important to us. Many of us older ones found Christian partners at church meetings and at camp. We worked and saved to go to these events because they were critical to our young people finding other Christians with whom to become friends. We seem to have become more isolated, and this is regrettable. Please! For your sakes, and that of your children, make plans to attend the Delta Camp and any other meetings that you can possibly attend. I know this is not always easy, but the blessings are ALWAYS so rewarding. EVERY TIME I have made the effort to attend I have been richly blessed. I hope to see you all anytime that we can come together.

I love and pray for each one of you.

Bro. Jerry McCay, Lorenzo, TX, congregation

When did an iron gate open of its own accord?

Answer: When Peter was in prison. Acts 12:8-10, "*And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. And he saith unto him, Cast thy garment about thee, and follow me. And he went out, and followed him; and wist not that it was true which was done by the angel; but thought he saw a vision. When they were past the first and the second ward, they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him.*"

News From Abroad

Harlingen, TX (March, 2015)

Loved brethren:

I greet and I request to the Lord that He blesses you, your families, and all the faithful brethren in the congregations.

The participation of you in this work is very important so that other people reach salvation and comply with the order to go and preach the gospel.

During March we had several studies with people in the Brownsville, TX, area and we had baptisms. In Matamoros, Mexico, each Saturday afternoon we gathered ourselves to evangelize, and after we had studied with the church we met with them on the Sunday morning meeting.

In Brownsville we gathered each Friday to study and each Sunday till 3 p.m. the church met. Also, each Wednesday we met to study with the brethren of that area (Benito and Olmito).

The brethren in Zacatecas, Mexico, sent reports that the church continues working in the gospel and invited for a series of predications during April.

The churches in South America inform that the brethren continue firm in the faith of the Lord.

The new congregation in Queretaro, Mexico, continues evangelizing and had studies on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays.

The church in Rio Verde informs that they have several studies during the week and there exists several people who are very interested in the gospel.

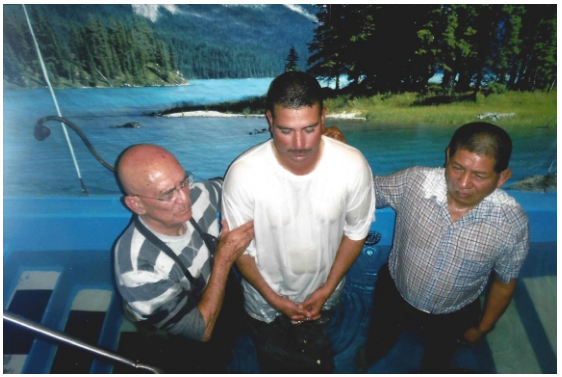
The churches in the country of Guatemala continue firm in the faith and the work of evangelizing.

In the congregation that meets at Pecul City some brothers have created problems because they wish to introduce musical instruments in the meeting, but other brothers rejected this idea. The church is divided. Already I wrote to the churches.

Churches in the country of Colombia inform us that the work continues with some difficulties but the brothers are firm in the faith and doctrine.

I send a photo of the new brothers in Brownsville, TX.

Your brother in Christ, Otto Alvarez



Kenya (April 6, 2015)

Greetings from Kenya,

Glad to greet you in the Mighty name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, hope you are fine and well in the Lord.

However, it is not fine and well in Kenya. People are scared, particularly in North Eastern and Coastal part of the Country. On 2nd April, 2015 at 5 a.m., Al-Shababa terrorists attached a University at Garissa. This is in North Eastern province. About 152 people perished 147 students and 5 terrorist died in the attack. Our peaceful, loving, and merciful God is not pleased in heaven.

When the blood of innocent people is shed, God is always unhappy. He was not pleased when Cain shed the blood of Abel. Please pray for us at this trying moment in our country.

Despite of the insecurity situation in the country the work of preaching the gospel is going on. I received a call from Bro. Gedion in Mombasa. He is preparing a seminar which is scheduled to take place on 18 April, 2015. They want me to go there and help in teaching. Everyone in Kenya is scared of visiting the coast. We are to consider this invitation before we arrange to go. We might decide to travel with just two of us: Bro. John Mbithi and I.

God bless you.

Bro. John Kombo – Barut Church of Christ
Nakuru – Kenya

Tanzania

Brethren,

I have sent you the pictures of the congregation here at Katoro – Geita, Tanzania. We are facing hard situation concerning a place of worship, right now we are worshiping in the classroom at one of the school here. Down the road I would like to ask if there is anyone willing to help us. I go there each Sunday using a hired motorcycle because it is 20km from where I live.

Moreover, continue to pray for us here especially me and the work which is continuing this side of Geita. We are passing through difficulties but we need to hold our faith and which we have till He comes. See the attached pictures (baptisms included in this issue of The Courier – EF).

I received a call from Bro. Julius Kachege on May 1st in Kirongwe, Tanzania, saying their church building has been taken away by flood and now they are lacking a place for worship. Let us pray for them.

We lost a brother in Christ on April 14th in Bunda, Tanzania. His name is Bro. Ibrahim. He was suffering from TB for long time.

By the way, I was in a motorcycle accident and injured my left knee.

In His Kingdom, Bro. Sadat Alex

Brethren, I (Ellis Forsman) received the following information from Bro. Daniel Molel in Masakta, Tanzania:

"There is a severe drought and heat wave in the region of Masakta and Simbai. The members of the church in this region are primarily farmers and their crops have failed. The work of the Lord is doing well here, but we plead for food for our families. Bro. Daniel Molel"

Since then we have discovered two other congregations in this region that are also affected by the extreme drought: Masquaroda and Tangarimo. (Also, Dodoma; see message from Bro. Peter below - Ellis).

I received the following from Peter on April 3rd:

"We were attacked by unknown thieves and stole our properties at the stationery. We are starving here; no food (Dodoma, Tanzania) as all our efforts to farming went really bad; everything dried up in the farm and Junior is very sick of malaria and UTI. He has been admitted the second day today."

I received the following from Peter on April 19th:

"I have just received bad news from Bro. Mabaya (at Mugeta, Tanzania) that his father died and he is in mourning at this time."

– Ellis Forsman

Uganda

Brothers in Christ,

We acknowledge the quarterly funds we received to help us toward the evangelism activities and other church work. May the Lord reward all the brethren who sacrifice their money to help in the Lord's ministry, and we also give a special thanks for the labor in collecting and sacrificing your personal funds to help the work here in Africa.

The Congo trip failed because the quarterly fund we received was not enough to for the trip. I humbly request your help toward the Congo trip.

About the school charity, primary has closed their first term; they are to resume on 18th of May, 2015. We call for all well wishes of the school to give a supportive hand in school needs like school fee for needy crippled. The school fees structure is 30,000 UGHS (equal to 1 U.S. dollar per term per person), meals, books ,pens, pencils, children literature, small Bibles, and school uniforms.

Thanks for your consideration. The Lord of heaven give you long life.

Yours in Christ's ministry, Bro. Julius Wandera

Brethren,

I (Ellis Forsman) received an email from Bro. Julius Wandera on April 30th. The following is an excerpt of that email:

"Yesterday my wife and my brother and other family relatives going to attend the burial of our brother's mother-in-law and they got a serious accident when the car collided with another, leaving two dead; my brother and my wife have very serious injuries on their hands and legs; the left hand is broken. She is admitted at Dabani Mission Hospital. She is pregnant; the doctor said that the baby in the womb is good. Please pray for my family that she may recover and that the Lord will open the way that I can get the money to pay the bill.

Thank you.

Yours in Christ's ministry, Bro. Julius Wandera"

– Ellis Forsman





Few of the 60 baptisms in the Philippines





New Song Books and Bibles in the Philippines, thanks to your support



New Baptisms in Geita, Tanzania

Philippines

Brethren,

Gospel meetings and water baptism were made in different areas in the Philippines, such as follows: in Samar Leyte, Cagayan de Oro, Palawan Manila, Surigao, Agusan, and North Cotabato. We baptized more or less 60 people.

May we request additional copies of Bible Dig Lot Version In English/ Tagalog Version we need 60 Bibles in 600 Pesos each ($13 each; $800 total).

Hoping for your kind consideration on this matter.

Brother Dickson Fabian



Cards and Letters

Lorenzo, TX

From the Lorenzo, TX, congregation:

We have just completed a weekend meeting with Bro. Stanley Goodwin of Newcastle, TX. He gave a series of 5 lessons (3 on the Holy Spirit) that were informative and very uplifting. The fellowship was awesome and all who attended were strengthened in so many ways. Everyone who came to be with us spent much time, effort, and money to support this weekend meeting from five different states and we appreciate that effort to come so far for such a short meeting.

One huge blessing was enjoyed by everyone. Many of you know that Bro. Jerry McCay has been battling Macular Degeneration for 2 1/2 years (at least). The doctor told him to plan on a shot in one eye every 3 months for the rest of his life. Last Tuesday, he and the doctor both were shocked that there was NO bleeding and no need for a shot! He was able to be his usual self instead of on a couch. We know the Lord blesses us daily (rain, sunshine, family, food, breath, etc.), but He also knows our every need and we get unexpected blessings, as well.

Several have seasonal allegeries and issues. Our Sis. Olene Howe has a leaking heart valve and Sis. Earlene Jared (Indiana) has some lung and liver issues. Both sisters are needing treatments or surgeries. We pray for their returned health.

We would like to announce the dates of our summer meeting. It will be July 26th – August 2nd with Bro. Dennis Davis of Yuma, AZ, and Bro. Richard Johnston of Yakima, WA. Please make plans to attend if possible this and any other meetings that you can.

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

Lost Sheep Church of Christ, Stilwell, OK

Hello from Lost Sheep Church of Christ,

We here at the Lost Sheep Church of Christ has been doing well except Alaina Warford (daughter of Paul And Crystal) had a bicycle accident and broke the upper part of her left arm below the growth plate. Dr. Faye said it was a clean break but she will have to be in a shoulder immobilizer for six weeks, and Jason her brother is suffering from allergies and asthma; please keep them in your prayers. We just mailed you a check from Lost Sheep Church of Christ along with a check from me (Russell, Sr.) and Reba to use toward the Africa Mission Drought Fund and *The Courier*; use it where it's needed. The last Sunday morning Paul gave a wonderful lesson on "Attitude"!! As we know we "All" need to have a Christian Attitude in Check at all times.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Russell Morris Sr.

Yakima, WA

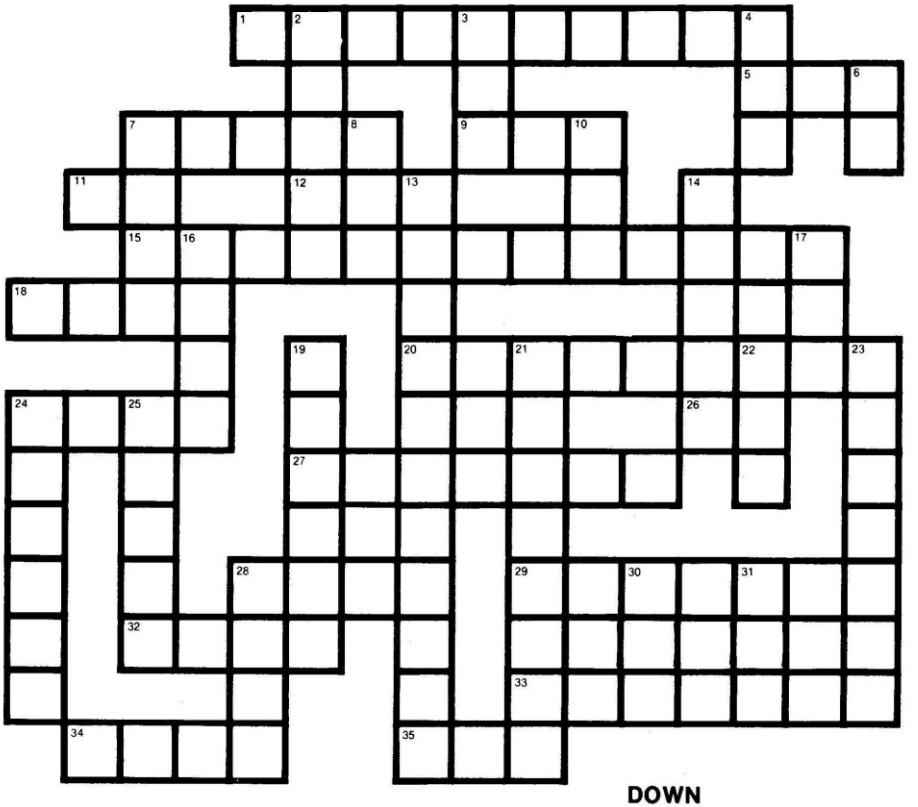
Dear Brethren:

I can't think of a whole lot to report except for the good news of two baptisms. On April 7th, Ashley Nelson and Aaron Roark made that Good Confession and were baptized into the Body of Christ. We rejoice to welcome them into our Christian Family, as also do the Angels in Heaven. Ashley is the sister of Sis. Jessica McCay and Aaron is the brother of Sis. Shannon Schlotman, and the nephew of Sis. Paula Edmondson.

We remind you of our Gospel Meeting starting June 28th and continuing through July 5th. All are welcome, so please come. We will do our best to take care of you.

Yours in Christ, Bro. Bill McCay, Sr.

SERMON ON THE MOUNT



Matthew, Chapter 5

ACROSS

1. Blessed are they which are _____. (vs. 10)
5. Opposite of even.
7. Blessed are they that _____. (vs. 4)
9. A beam of light.
11. Opposite of stop.
12. Opposite of bottom.
15. We should hunger after _____. (vs. 6)
18. We have these on our feet.
20. Those that mourn shall be _____. (vs. 4)
24. Ye are the _____ of the earth. (vs. 13)
26. He went _____ the store.
27. A symbol for a number is a _____.
28. The _____ shall inherit the earth. (vs. 5)
29. What the meek will do. (vs. 5)
32. A drop of moisture from the eye.
33. Wild, or not tamed.
34. Blessed are _____ that mourn. (vs. 4)
35. Short for Sally.

DOWN

2. What the meek will inherit. (vs. 5)
3. What you hear with.
4. A female deer.
6. You should always _____ what's right.
7. _____ or less.
8. Think _____ that I am come to destroy. (vs. 17)
10. Opposite of no.
13. _____ are called the children of God. (vs. 9)
14. Blessed are the pure in _____. (vs. 8)
16. Contraction of is and not.
17. You _____ with your eyes.
19. We should _____ and thirst after righteousness. (vs. 6)
21. Who shall obtain mercy? (vs. 7)
22. Short for Thomas.
23. The wood _____ in with the tide.
24. Blessed are the poor in _____. (vs. 3)
25. Ye are the _____ of the world. (vs. 14)
28. Mother of Jesus.
30. Opposite of cold.
31. A male sheep.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 28 - July 5, 2015	Yakima, WA	Roger Walkingstick & Jerry McCay
July 6-12, 2015	Glenwood, WA	TBA
July 12-19, 2015	Delta, CO, Camp Meeting	Guest Speakers
July 26 - Aug. 2, 2015	Lorenzo, TX	Dennis Davis & Richard Johnston
Sept. 4-6, 2015	Stilwell, OK	Guest speakers

Baptisms

April 7, 2015	Yakima, WA	Ashley Nelson
April 7, 2015	Yakima, WA	Aaron Roark

Passings

April 14, 2015	Bunda, Tanzania	Ibrahim
April 19, 2015	Mugeta, Tanzania	Mabaya's father

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Peter Boaz, Jr.	Tanzania	Severe Malaria
Peter Boaz	Tanzania	Back problems
Sadat Alex	Tanzania	Knee injury
Julius Wandera's wife & brother	Uganda	Auto accident injuries
Felomina Mendoza's son	Kidapawan, Philippines	2nd degree burns on face & body.
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Pat Reed	Broken Bow, OK	Fighting cancer
Pam Berry	Canton, GA	Severe headaches
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe back pain, gall bladder surgery
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, pain, blood clots, & falls
Otto & Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel
Gary Calhoun	Hillsboro, OR	Brain tumor
Robert Lane	Hillsboro, OR	Recovering from stroke
Jerry McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Eye treatments for Macular Degeneration
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Leaking heart valve surgery
Retha Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Fighting Parkinson's disease
Darlene Mullens	Randlett, OK	Knee replacement surgery
Alaina Warford	Stilwell, OK	Broken arm
Jason Warford	Stilwell, OK	Allergies & ashma
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Cancer in remission
Reba Morris	Stilwell, OK	Severe kidney complications & Lupus
Earlene Jared	Valparaiso, IN	Lung & liver issues

Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lower back pain & advanced age
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's, fell & injured elbow
Verda Nelson	Yuma, AZ	Heart valve replacement
Iris Stewart	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Betty Wallen	Yuma, AZ	Knee replacement
Bill Wallen	Yuma, AZ	Stint put in his heart

And all those who are aging or in nursing homes.

Editor's note - We need updates for those who have recovered. We can still pray, but we also need space. The list grows and we seldom get updates. We are occasionally forced to delete, but we really don't want to be arbitrary.

Also - We know that many of you pass information to others via Facebook. We often miss any news information from this source unless it is messaged directly to the personal accounts of Ellis or Lynell Forsman. The preferred method of sending information is via the Courier email (located on page 1 of *The Christian Courier*).

Who Said That?

- "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge." (Acts 7:60).
- "See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? (Acts 8:36.
- "I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob." (Gen. 50:24).
- "Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." (Matt. 16:18).
- "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel;" (Luke 2:34).
- "And put my cup, the silver cup, in the sack's mouth of the youngest, and his corn money." (Gen. 44:2).
- "Now shall I be more blameless than the Philistines, though I do them a displeasure." (Judges 15:3).
- "I am an Hebrew; and I fear the LORD, the God of heaven, which hath made the sea and the dry land." (Jonah 1:9).
- "There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose." (Mark 1:7).
- "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree." (Acts 5:30).

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