GOSPEL NEWS COURIER
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1615, 27th Ave.
Yakima, Wash.

Gospel News Courier

VOL. 4, NO. 2) LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA 90631. JULY 1964

DELINQUENCY IN THE PULPIT

By J. C. SPURLIN.

Recently I read an article in a national magazine dealing with our national morals. It seems the writer had been chosen to look into, and if possible, come up with a solution of our fast decaying morals. He mentioned the various sources from which he had attempted to gather material for his article, interviewing outstanding people from all walks of life. All agreed that our code of morals had been fast deteriating over a period of years.

I was somewhat perplexed, and disgusted when he stated he had interviewed a number of outstanding church people, including preachers with a reverend attached to their ti--, tle; yet none of them were able to offer any help. But they were frank to admit that the churches had failed.

Of course that is to be expected when we take an overall look at the religious picture of to-day. We see various churches of every denomination pitted against each other in competition; striving for numbers and publicity, as it were "the Jones against the Smiths", sacrificing modesty, sacrificing chastity, by practicing, and condoning divorce and remarriage. Patronizing obscene picture and TV shows, and paying the hired pastor to set the stage for all kinds of erroneous teaching, and irregularities.

No wonder we have so many juvenile delinquents. No wonder we have so many broken homes from whence come a greater percentage of our juvenile delinquents. Speaking of juvenile delinquents, did you know in most cases for every delinquent child there is two delinquent parents. After all, the word "delinquent", means an omission of duty. That goes too, for the preacher having committed himself

to please the people. Since I do a little preaching, I thank God I have never as yet, allowed Satan to tie my hands or seal my lips, to the extent that I was afraid to preach the unsearchable riches of Christ, Eph. 3:8. For if I preach to please men, I should not be the servant of Christ, Gal. I:10. Hear Paul again in Acts 20:27; "For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God." Again listen to him in 2 Tim. 4:2-4; "Preach the word, be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will comewhen they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." You let a modern pastor of to-day apply the above scriptures to his congregation, and see how long he will last. Yet that is to a great extent the reason for so much corruption in our society to-day.

The preachers of to-day shy away from the above scriptures, with one eye on money, and the other on the lust of the flesh. The lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. No wonder the pulpits are filled with delinquents. No wonder we have irregularities and confusion freely flowing from the modern pulpits. No wonder our morals are fast deteriorating.

The writer of the article stated the church people were frank to admit that they had failed to come up with a code of morals sufficient for all mankind; notwithstanding we have at our fingertips the very thing the author was looking for, the Word of God, the Bible. Yet the church people as a whole do not have the courage to preach, and practice that which would revolutionize the whole world. Since a large segment of our society is composed of church going people, it is obvious that much of the prevailing conditions are and rightly so, chargeable to the religious people of the country.

It is deplorable when we look upon the massive church buildings, and hear the people boast of great things they have accomplished, while at the same time they are woefully lagging in their responsibility toward society, and are therefore ghastly delinquent in faith, and practice.

May God help me and my brethren substantiate every moral that stems from the Word of God, by practicing pure religion, and keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

Submitted in love, and in search of the truth.

KENNETH M. BALDWIN, P. O. Box 188, Delta, Colorado.-Thanks for printing my article in the Courier. I am sending another one. This time on "ERROR". This is by request; hope you have room for it in the paper.

It seems my recovery is very slow. I can't say I feel any better but they all tell me I will just have to be patient and take it easy. Our weather is beautiful and every body but me are taking advantage of it by fishing and catching some nice big trout. I'll have to wait until I'm better before I try fishing. We will save all the big ones for those of you who come to our camp-meeting in August; that is, all you fisherman.

All of us here at Happy Hollow Church of Christ in Cedaredge, Colorado, (15 miles from Delta) have been pretty busy this month, planting our lawn, digging a well, painting signs to put along the roads coming into Delta, and going into Cedaredge, and putting up wall board inside the church.

Every one here are well and looking forward to August when we will be seeing all of you at our camp meeting . Please don't disappoint us. If you have not made your plans to come, please do so, because you don't realize how wonderful it is to have so many Christians together from so many congregations. Last year was a big success; lets make this year a bigger success. It will be a joyous week of Christian fellowship, good old fashioned preaching and singing. So make your plans now to be with us. All we ask is to bring your bed rolls and we will find floor space to put you. We had Bro. and Sister McKiney with us Lord's Day from Yakima, Washington. We enjoyed them very much and they are going to try to be back with us for the Camp Meeting.

We had a phone call to-day saying at least 30 from the Yakima, Washington congregation will be with us for the Camp Meeting. It is wonderful to get such rejoicing news, plus all the letters from different congregations all over the country saying they will be here come August 8th. We are making our plans now for you, so please let us know your plans as soon as possible. Please remember Happy Hollow Church of Christ is in Cedaredge. When you inquire about it in Delta, just ask directions to Cedaredge and you can't miss it. Signs will be up along the way with phone numbers. You can call when you get into Delta. Some of us live in Cedaredge, and some in Delta.

Bro. Wilkerson's phone is 856-3701. Bro. Herberts phone is 874-3907, and 874-4822. Bro. Baldwin 874-4581. Write these phone numbers down and you can call any of us when you get into Delta; and we will help you get settled. We also have wonderful camping ground for those that want to camp in the mountains just a few miles from the church, or in our yards in the country. You just be here and we will help you get settled any way you wish, camping, or in our homes. We are looking for you, please do not disappoint us. -----In Christian love, from all of us here at Happy Hallow Church of Christ, Delta, Colorado.

CLYDE & CARMEN COUCHMAN, 601 W. Carlsbad, N. Mex.88220. June 1, 1964. - Hope this finds all well on the west coast. We are all fairly well here. Bro. & Sister Berkstresser from Midland, Texas were with us for worship last Lord's Day. He is still on crutches but is looking better. We enjoyed having them in the worship very much.

We had a very good meeting with Bro. J. C. Spurlin doing the preaching. We were edified and built up in the faith. We had a little outside interest, but wish there had been a lot more. A meeting is worth the effort if we can strengthen one member and keep them from falling. We at least let people know we are not dead.

We enjoyed having Bro. & Sister Spurlin in our home very much and our good fellowship together. We enjoyed having Sister Scott from Lorenzo, Texas with us in every service of the meeting. She furnished the car and Bro. Spurlin drove, so they all came together from Lorenzo. I think you have a very good idea in pooling money to hold Gospel meetings, and especially where each congregation selects their own preacher. Thanks for putting my article in the Courier, and I ½ray it will do a lot of good. We

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P. O. Box 97 La Habra, California 90631
Published Monthly Roy L. Snoderly, Editor.

Each writer is responsible for his own article only.

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were encouraged very much when we received phone calls from Bro. & Sister F. F. Francis of Furnish Canyon, Colorado, and from Bro. & Sister Paul Bruce of Ukiah, California wishing us God-speed in our meeting. Their prayers and encouragement was very much appreciated. We appreciate very much and are grateful to Bro. & Sister Bruce for the use of their nice home in which we held our meeting.

God bless in your efforts. please pray for all of us.

ELMER H. HUNT, P. O. Box 28, Corona, Calif. June 14, 1964. Phone Code 714, 737-5223. - The meeting for the week of May 24 to 31 at Yuma, Arizona is over, but not forgotten. I Have always loved these good people and I was very concerned and deeply happy that they called me for this meeting. I did my very best. Each night there were from 40 to 59 present, and one never heard grander singing. The love of God and the fellowship of the brothers and sisters in Christ visibly grew. That is as it should be more and more everywhere, and God glorified always. Both the congregations of Yuma and Somerton worked as one unit as their hearts responded through the 10 assemblies; and the two Sunday dinners . Anyone could just see their love and desire to draw closer to God. To him be all the praise both now and forevermore.

HARRY DYE, 828 Oak Drive, Yuma, Arizona. June 1, 1964.- The meeting in Yuma is now history. We had real good support from the brethren and sisters of Somerton, and Tacna, and we want to thank them again. Bro. Hunt gave ten fine lessons. We want to thank him again too. He worked hard and faithful. We had We had dinner at Bro. & Sister Horace Orendorff's both Lord's Days. There were 71 present last Lord's Day, and we ate good, then sang much. Will also take this opportunity to thank Sister Louise Hunt for her love and understanding in lending us Bro. Hunt for our meeting. Yuma is sending a chech for the paper. -----In Christian love.

PAUL AUSLAM, Rt. 1, Fayetteville, Ark. June 9, 1964.- How are you and the church folks? We hope all are fine. As for us, O. K. We have been quite busy. We went to the new church last Satueday night and all day services at Baron, Oklahoma. on Lord's day. I gave a lesson there Saturday night and a man came forward for baptism. Sure made our hearts glad.

Also had two good lessons Lord's day morning, by Bro. Loyd Treat; and Lord's day afternoon by Bro. J. C. Spurlin at Baron. Sure good to meet the brothers and sisters in Christ. Bro. & Sister J. C. Spurlin I had never met and was a great thrill to meet them.

I will, if the Lord is willing, go to Broken Bow, Olka. next Saturday and Lord's day. ---In Christian love.

DONALD DABBS, 3637 West Ruth Ave., Phoenix, Arixona. I know I should have written sooner, but anyway here it is. The little church here drops and rises. Bro. Ralph Rhodes family and Bro. George Morris family has moved to Kingman, Arizona. They come down for church sometimes, and we pray that they will some day move back to Phoenix. Bro. and Sister George Morris have a new baby girl, which we are all proud of. Sister Morris is the daughter of Bro. and Sister Johnson of Lakeside, California. Bro. and Sister Hayse Morris, and Bro. and Sister Bill Rhodes have moved back to Kentucky. They plan on staying the summer there. We sure miss them and their singing a lot. Sister Helen McFarland has moved to Durango, Colorado and she meets with those in Aztec, N. Mex. This is the daughter of Bro. and Sister Fred Shirley. Bro. and Sister Fred Shirley and daughters, Sandra and Glenda who used to live here and moved to Delta, Colorado, have moved back here. We are thankful to God for this. Bro. Abe Lobato who was baptized last year is a lot of help in the church. He leads singing, prayer, waits on the table and teaches some good lessons. We are all very proud of him.

We plan on having a meeting later on this year if the Lord is willing. We are all well and we thank God for this. ---I write this in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

MRS. LAURA E. WILLIS, 205½ S. Olive, Carlsbad, N. Mex. June 6, 1964.- I hope you and your loved ones are well. I am O. K. and the rest of the members are well as far as I know. Bro. Berkstresser of Midland, Texas was still improving from his broken leg about a week ago. The church here is still holding on. It seems that is about all we can do, is to hold fast that which we have. Rev. 3:11.

I'll leave the report of the meeting for Bro. Couchman and Bro. Spurlin. However, I do want to say I enjoyed the meeting very much, and was greatly edified thereby. I also enjoyed Sister Scott's visit and Bro. and Sister Spurlin's stay here in town. They spent some time in my home, which was appreciated very much. I hope they and Sister Scoot can visit in my home again in the near future.

-------Yours in Christ.

LOYD TREAT, Gen. Del., Broken Bow, Oklahoma.-n---- I thought I would report the work of the churches here. The sick folks are some better. Some of the members have moved away. The rest are as usual, not much progress as of to-day. Had a few visitors a few days, then dropped off to the same regular group. I hope all is well out way with the churches. I hear from Stillwell and Sister Daniels is not much better. ------Yours in Christ.

MAUD SCOTT, Box 28, Lorenzo, Texas.May 27, 1964.- I have just gotten back from a visit with Sister Willis at Carlsbad, and we had the pleasure of attending Bro. Spurlin's meeting there. In fact, Bro. and Sister Spurlin were kind enough to come by and pick me up and bring me home. "The little girls played house again". What a joy and we were greatly edified by Bro. Spurlins good sermons.

No visible results. I am enclosing a small donation to help with the paper. --------In Christian love.

NOTE --"The little girls played house again" is a phrase some of you may wonder about. In 1962 when Bro. Ferguson and myself attended the 5th. Sunday Meeting in Lorenzo, Tex., we kidded Sister Scott and Sister Willis about playing house like little girls. When they are together, it is a joy to watch and to listen as they visit and talk of days past as they do the house work. Two fine lovely, kind and faithful sisters in Christ waiting His coming.

God bless you both. ----ROY.

HOWARD McCAY, 1615 So. 27th. Ave., Yakima, Washington.-- May 19, 1964.- Inclosed please find two checks. As you will note, one is for the Courier, and one is for Gospel meetings. Both of these are good works and should be supported to the best of our ability as our primary purpose is to spread the gospel. The church here is going along about the same. There has been some sickness but on the whole, we have been well blessed. Since you have last heard, we have had one baptized and two restored, for which we are truly thankful.

My vacation has finally been set. This year I have from the 8th. of August through the 30th. of August. We intend to spend the first week at the Delta meeting. The rest of the time is not decided. If some of the other congregations are having meetings during this time, we would like to go to them if we could be of any help. There are a large number from the North-west intending to go to Delta, possible as high as 30 from Oregon and Washington. We surely enjoyed the meeting at La Habra last year. I hope to see you and the rest at Delta. Give all our love to the brethren. - Yours in Christ.

PAUL & EUNICE BRUCE, We are enclosing a chech for $10.00 from the church here for the evangelistic work. Also two dollars for the Gospel News Courier. -Yours in Christ.

In regard to the matter of evangelistic work other than these two letters, I have a report from Bellflower, California of a donation of $100.00 ; from Phoenix, Arizona of their desire to help Bro. Ferguson in his work in Oklahoma and Texas. The brethren at Modesto, and La Habra, have pledged their support in the work. Lets hear from others in this matter of importance. ----ROY.

L. E. ATCHLEY, Rt. 2, Westville, Okla. 74965. June. 15, 1964.- I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the assistance through the Courier in letting the brethren know of our needs here. They have been generous with their contributions towards helping us build the church here. We want to thank each congregation and individual who sent us

money. Had it not been for their help, we couldn't have built for some time. We had a wonderful week-end meeting of June 7th. Several visiting brethren were with us and we enjoyed four wonderful sermons. Bor. Paul Auslam of Bohannan congregation delivered the lesson Saturday night. Bro. Loyd Treat of Broken Bow, Oikahoma preached Sunday morning; and Bro. J. C. Spurlin of Reydon, Oklahoma spoke in the afternoon. Then Bro. W. E. Daniels of Stilwell, Oklahoma spoke Sunday night. One man came forward Saturday night and made that noble confession and was baptized Sunday just after the morning services.

We rejoiced last night when three young ladies came forward confessing Christ and asked to be baptized after services. We are fortunate in having a stream of water about two or three hundred yards from the church where we can do the baptizing. Two of the girls were Bro. Jim Browns daughters, and the other his Sister"s daughter from the Stilwell congregation. We feel we have already been paid for all our labors in building the house, but we still have hopes of others accepting the Lord before long.

Some of the brethren might like to know. We still owe close to $800.00 on the building. Of course we did all the labor, so that cut down on the cost. Thanks again for your help, and may the Lord bless and keep you in your good work. ----Yours in Christ.

MRS. R. C, CLEMENTS, Broken Bow, Oklahoma, June I5, I964. - Received the Gospel News Courier and enjoyed it very much. I am enclosing a contribution for it, and one for establishing new congregations. The church here in Broken Bow is doing very well. Bro. Paul Auslam preached for us yesterday and Saturday night. We were glad to have him come. I went with Bro. Treat and family to Boron, Oklahoma last week-end. We really had a good time. I went to church at Stilwell, Sunday morning with Bro. and Sister Daniels. I'll close for now.

June 25, I964.- Bro. Paul Ferguson closed the meeting at Furnish Canyon, Colorado June I4. Visible results was one baptism. He began a meeting at New Castle, Texas with the California Creek congregation June I7, and will run through the 28. Soon as this meeting closes he plans to go to Texas City, Texas to work several days with the church at 3rd. and I0th. in an effort to further the work of the Lord in that area. From Texas City he goes to Seymour, Texas to begin a meeting with the church there July 5th.

He had promised to hold meetings also Ringgold, Texas, Loco, Oklahoma and Lorenzo, Texas. The beginning dates of these meetings has not yet been worked out, but they follow each other in the order named.

Plan your future carefully---that is where you are going to spend the rest of your life.

Beware of the high cost of low living.

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR.

I have just returned from Modesto, California where I attended the last three days of Bro. Tom Broadway's meeting with the Glenn & Dallas Streets Chruch of Christ, going up there with Bro. & Sister Dayton Clouse and Sister Bernice Cavin, all of the La Habra, congregation. We had a great trip with no trouble, and while there we enjoyed ourselves very much. We were able to vivit with Bro. J. D. Condor for quite some time and to talk with him of old times.

I want to thank all who were able to visit with him Saturday afternoon to sing the many songs that he enjoyed so much; and to thank Bro. Tom Broadway for the talk he made at Bro. Condor's bedside. I want to thank those who visited Sister Stark at the Rest Home, and all who visited those who were sick and unable to attend services. I was unable to visit in the homes of all who invited me, but I thank you for your invitation. I enjoyed staying all night with Bro. F. H. Logan, although I did not get much sleep for we talked until 4 in the morning. I wnjoyed my stay with Bro. & Sister John Smith very much, and I thank both Bro. Logan and the Smiths for extending to me the use of their homes.

As I said before, we enjoyed the meeting very much, the singing was wonderful, the preaching the best, edifying all who attended, and the fellowship, oh so greatly enjoyed by all. Of course there was plenty to eat.

Bro. Bill McCay, Bro. Howard McCay and myself delivered messages Saturday and Sunday, and we thank the church for extending to us the opportunity to preach God's word unto those who attended from far and near. Those of you who were unable to attend, do not know what you missed. Next year if all goes as planned and discussed, we will see you in Yakima, Washington with the congregation there in June 1965. It is up to you now, Yakima. Thanks to Penny for taking down the names of the visitors that she could for me, but there were so many, we didn't get them all. We were glad to have those who came from afar. There were many young people present for the weekend services and we want to praise them for their fine behaviour and attention. We enjoyed singing and visiting with them. Some of the visitors whose names we were able to get; Elmer Forsman and his brother of Olalla, Washington; Geneva, Paula, and Larry Roark, Selah, Washington; Richard Johnson and his brother of San Jose,., California, his folks, Oren Johnson's family of San José, California, and Mrs. Phoebe McCay of Eugene, Oregon; Howard and Jerry and Bill Jr. McCay, Bill and Veda McCay and family of Yakima, Washington, Monica Wolf of San Jose,, California; Herman Brown and daughter of Santa Maria, California; Penny Kietz of Carpinteria, California; Bernice Cavin of La Habra, California; Dayton and Myrtle Lee Clouse of Los Angeles, California; Tom and Charlene Broadway of Tustin, California; and others whose names I can't remember. It was a wonderful meeting for all. Next year make your plans to attend if at all possible. ------ROY.

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

By J. D. Logan

300 Glenn Avenue Modesto, California.

No questions received this month.

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