It Is Written

EDITOR

COY GARRISON.....533 S. Center St., Grand Prairie, Texas

JUNE, 1953

YUMA AND SOMERTON MEETINGS

The Church of Christ at Yuma, Arizona plans to have a one-week's meeting beginning Sunday, May 31, and ending Sunday, June 7. The Yuma congregation place of meeting is on Sixteenth Avenue just South of First Street.

Then the Somerton Church of Christ plan for the week of June 7 to June 14. Somerton is about fifteen miles south and west of Yuma. Their building is on the street corner next to the Somerton School grounds.

The writer Elmer H. Hunt, is to be the speaker each eveining of the two weeks. Regular Sunday morning worship at each place is at 10:30. All who are near are cordially urged to attend.

The above plans as God may will it, and may all be done in Christ's name and to His glorious name forever. Brother Garrison, I will gladly during the summer, God willing, hold any other meetings wished. I may soon retire from the school teaching and devote more time to preaching the gospel. "The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few;"

Elmer H. Hunt

Rt. 2, Box 219, Heber, Calif.

"WHAT CHURCH SHALL I JOIN?"

This is a question many ask. The fact is there is but one church which has to do with man's salvation and it is not a "joinable" institution. There is but ONE BODY.

"For as we have many members in ONE BODY, and all members have not the same office; so we, being many, are ONE BODY IN CHRIST, and everyone members of another." Rom 12:4-5.

"For as the BODY IS ONE, and hath many members, and all the members of that ONE BODY, being many are ONE BODY; SO ALSO IS CHRIST." 1 Cor. 12:12.

"And that he might reconcile both unto God IN ONE BODY by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby." Eph. 2:16.

"And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, To the which YE ARE CALLED IN ONE BODY and be thankful." Col. 3:15.

"There is ONE BODY, and one spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;" Eph. 4:4.

The ONE BODY is the ONE CHURCH.

"And he is the head of THE BODY, THE CHURCH." Col. 1:18.

"And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be head over all things to THE CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fullness

of him that filleth all in all." Eph. 1:22-23 (Emphasis are mine.)

Thus we see there is but ONE BODY and that ONE BODY is the ONE CHURCH. We do not "join" this one body, the Church; but God adds us to it. "Prasing God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord ADDED TO THE CHURCH daily SUCH AS SHOULD BE SAVED." Acts 2:47.

"But now hath GOD SET THE MEMBERS EVERY ONE OF THEM IN THE BODY as it hath pleased him." 1 cor. 12:18

We now see we do not JOIN the ONE BODY, ONE CHURCH, but God SETS US IN IT. as it is evident from the last two scriptures.

"The saved" are the ones set in it. Acts 2:47. Hence it is not joinable.

Christ purchased that ONE BODY, ONE CHURCH, with his own blood. Acts 20:28 "Take heed unto yourselves, and all the flock over which the Holy Ghost has made you overseers, to feed the CHURCH OF GOD which he hath PURCHASED WITH HIS OWN BLOOD." "Gave Himself for it."Eph. 5:25. "He is the SAVIOUR OF THE BODY" Eph 5:23.

He is the "Head of the body, the Church". Col. 1:18; Eph. 1:22-23.

But one will say how are we saved and added to that one church that we might enjoy all the spiritual blessings? So, here are the Bible answers for that question. But let me state first to be IN CHRIST is to be IN THE BODY; because it is His body. And to be IN THE BODY is to be IN THE CHURCH; because the Church is His body as have above proven. Now with the promised proof:

1. Reconcilliation is IN CHRIST, in the body. 2 Cor 5:19 Eph. 2.16.
2. IN CHRIST is life. John 1:4.
3. We are rooted and built up IN HIM. Col. 2:7.
4. We are complete IN CHRIST. Col. 2:10.
5. We are circumcised with circumcision of Christ IN HIM Col. 2:11.
6. All spiritual blessings are IN CHRIST JESUS. Eph. 1:3.
7. We are chosen IN HIM Eph. 1:4.
8. Redemption in his blood, the forgiveness of sins are IN HIM. Eph. 1:7.
9. We obtained our inheritance IN CHRIST. Eph. 1:11.
10. We are new creatures IN CHRIST. 2 Cor. 5:17.
11. We are established IN CHRIST. 2 Cor. 1:21.
12. We are children of God by faith IN CHRIST. Gal. 3:26-27.
13. SALVATION with eternal glory is IN CHRIST JESUS. 2 Tim. 2:10.

Since we see that all these blessings are IN CHRIST, IN THE ONE BODY THE CHURCH; how do we get IN CHRICT that we may enjoy these blessings? Here is your answer my dear sir; "For as many of you as have been BAPTISED INTO CHRIST have put on Christ." Gal. 3:27.

"Know ye not that so many of us as were BAPTISED INTO CHRIST were baptised INTO HIS DEATH." Rom. 6:3.

But says our friend, "I see that baptism puts us IN CHRIST, where SALVATION and all these blessings are; but is this baptism only?"

No, Bless your heart, not baptism only, faith only, nor anything else only; but baptism with all its prerequisites.

We must hear and learn. John 6:44-45. "With out faith it is impossible to please God." Heb. 11:6; and "faith comes by hearing the word of God." Rom. 10:17. "We must repent." Luke 13:1-5. "Confess Christ

as the eunich did before his baptism. Acts 8:36-38. and be baptised INTO CHRIST. Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3.

Then continue faithful till death and the Lord will give you a crown of life. Rev. 2:10.

May God bless us all to do his will as it is revealed in his holy word is my prayer. As ever, your's in Christ

J. S. Bedingfield
Route 1, Box 100, Cave Junction, Ore.

March 19, 1953

Dear Brother Garrison:

You will find a short article if you think it would be ok you may print it. Wife and I are both pretty sorry, but still able to wait on ourselves. I would like to send more articles but I am usually not too good.

The little church here is ok but a lot of our members have moved away, but to my mind that is the thing to do. Not all gang up in one place and pile all the seed in one pile but sow it. May God bless you and your's in your noble effort to spread his holy will is my prayer.

As ever, Your's in Christ
J. S. Bedingfield
Route 1, Box 100 Cave Junction, Ore.

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REPROVING AND REBUKING

2 Tim. 4:2 "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine." Here, the Spirit through Paul commands every preacher to reprove and rebuke people who are in error. He tells us what our disposition should be while we are rebuking. We should be longsuffering. Patience is one of the virtues mentioned bp Peter when he is telling the church member what to add to his faith in order that he may gain an abundance entrance into heaven. 2 Pet. 1:11.

With out patience it is not likely that we will be longsuffering toward an erring brother. The Spirit also tells us what we must use as a means of rebuking-DOCTRINE. What kind of doctrine?

Titus 1:9 "Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by SOUND doctrine both to exhort and convince the gainsayers." Titus 2:1 " But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine." Titus 2:8 "Sound speech that can not be condemned."

Sound doctrine is the only kind that any one has the right to teach. It is the only kind that can not be CONDEMNED. Where do we find that doctrine? Only in God's word. That doctrine is the only doctrine that will save. Any doctrine that is not found in God's word is a doctrine of man and will not save because it is Vain. Matt. 15:9. "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

Why are we to reprove? 2 Tim. 4:3. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts will they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Also James 5:19-20. "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth,

and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins. "If we can save just ONE soul from death it is worth all the effort that we put forth.

All of our brethren who have introduced any of the innovtaions into the work or worship of the church have turned away their ears from the truth, have erred from the truth. If we do not try to convert them from their error our skirts will not be clean, we will not be free from the blood of all men. But if we do our part and fail to get them to return to the true way we will be saved.

What means are we to use while we reprove and rebuke?

Which ever means will accomplish the most good. We may teach orally or in writing. Paul did both and we are instructed to imitate him, 1 Cor. 11:1. It is a question as to which method is the best. In oral preaching the personality of the speaker may help to impress the truth that is being taught. But the teaching is liable to be forgotten soon.

When the preaching is done with the printed page it is not so easily forgotten because it is there to be referred to from time to time. That undoubtedly is the reason the Word is kept in print so we may refresh our minds.

Probably a printed debate on a vital question is the BEST way to teach on that question. Both sides are represented. The followers of both sides should wish to hear the best arguments that may be presented so as to form a safe conclusion. Money invested in printing a debate can well be much better than the same amount spent in a protracted meeting. It will reach more people and the honest people that it reaches will be helped.

In Jan. 1952 I had the privilege of meeting J. Erwin Waters in a debate at Yakima, Wash. The issue was whether Christians should have bread that was broken into at least Two parts or bread kept in one piece as each member pinched off a little piece and ate it leaving the remainder one. It was recorded and one of my sons and I had it transcribed and prepared for the printer.

The original copy is in the possession of Bro. R. C. Clements, Bx. 731, Broken Bow, Okla. I hold the carbon copy. A thousand copies can be put in book form for about $700.00.

If it was sold at $1.25 per copy no one would lose. I am asking no money from the debate. I did the work without pay as I have preached for over 49 years without a salary. I invested $50.00 and my son the same amount in preparing it for the printer. I do not ask my share back. Think my son should have 50 copies of the debate when printed.

If you want to know if I have answered All the arguments advanced By Waters, write to Bro. Clements. I believe it will convert many of the brethren from error of their ways and strengthen others who may be in doubt.

If congregations wish to help put it in print write to Bro. Clements stating what you will do so he can send it to the printer. Let us reprove our erring brethren by the truth. I am interested in soul's salvation.

G. Earl McCay,

743 G. St. Springfield, Ore.

WHY ALL CHURCHES ARE NOT OF GOD

We find in Matt. 16:18, Christ talking to his disciples and said unto Peter, "thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church." Note the difference between CHURCH and Churches, he said my Church.

Also in Col 1:18, "and he is the head of the Body, the Church," not Churches. Again we go to Eph. 1:22-23, "and gave him to be the head over all things to the Church which is his body," and in Eph. 4:4, we find there is one body, even as you are called in one hope of your calling." And also in Amos, 3:3, "Can two walk together except they be agreed. So you all see that all churches are not of God, Eph, 4:5. There is one Lord one Faith, and one Baptism, Rom. 12:4, "For as we have many members in one body and all members have not the same office so we being many are one body." Also in 1 Cor. 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptised into one body." Whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free, and have all been made to Drink into one Spirit. And in Eph. 2:16, "And that he might reconcile both unto God in one Body by the Cross." When he died on the cross the blood that was shed is the price that he paid for the Church, and not for Churches, as we know them today. And in Eph. 3:6, we see that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs and of the same Body. Also in 1 Cor. 12:20.

But now are there many members yet but one body, to be a member of all churches is sinful, as we find in 1 Cor. 1:10; Now I beseech you brethren by the Name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among you but that you be perfectly joined together in the same judgement." V. 13.

Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you or were you baptised in the name of Paul? There is no other church other than the Church that Christ built, and it is his body and he is the head of it and it is not divided into all churches.

And there is just one way to get into that body, Isiah, 35:8, and a highway shall be there and a way IT shall be called the way of Holiness the unclean shall not pass over IT. But it shall be for those the wayfaring men, though fools shall not error therein. Matt. 7:13 Enter ye in at the straight gate for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth unto destruction, and many there be that go in thereat, for straight is the gate and narrow is the way that leadeth unto life, and few there be that find IT.

First, we must hear the Gospel. In Acts, 3:22, "For Moses truly said unto the fathers, a prophet shall the Lord your God raise up into you of your brethren like unto me; Him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you."

Next, we must believe the Gospel, Heb. 11:6, for without Faith it is impossible to please God for he that cometh to God must believe that he is and is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Next we must repent, Acts 3:19, Lk. 13:3, Acts 11:18, and we must confess Matt. 10:32, Rom. 10:9-10.

Now we must be Baptised, Acts 2:38 and 22:16

Now let us go to John, 3:5, "Jesus answered and said verily, verily, I say unto thee, except a man be born of the water and the spirit he

cannot enter the kingdom of God," or the Church for they both are the same thing.

So you can see why all the churches are not of God let us think on those things, for there are all so many churches and all of them have different ways to teach salvation, and all so many faiths, but in Eph. 4:4, there is only one Faith, one Lord and one Baptism, and one is NOT several hundred, and that is why there will be just one church saved and that one is the one that the Bible speaks about.

Willie Doan
Rt. 1. Bx. 51,A Broken Bow, Okla.

OUR FAITHFUL CONTRIBUTORS

Of last month, and to date for It Is Written.

Check from Carlesbad, N. M., Church of Five dollars.

Church of Christ, La Harbra, Calif., two checks five dollars each.

Sister W. A. Nelson, Somerton, Ariz., ten dollars.

Broken Bow Church of Christ, ten dollars.

June

Bro. W. J. Farrow, Elk City, Okla., Church of Christ, ten dollars.

We are thankful for those contributions, both to the Lord and those doing the giving.

Brethren if we will just increase our giving a small bit we can enlarge It Is Written just two more leaves, and have a nice little paper and have plenty of room and space for other articles. Why not do that which is needed? May the Lord help us to do that. R. C. C.

P. S.—Brethren, the Editor has asked us to double space our articles when writing for the paper. They are trying to help us, so let us help them. Also typewrite them, it saves time.

Dear Brethren;

Will report on the work of the church here at Grand Prairie. We are beginning to gain somewhat in our effort here. We have had several lately who are not a member of the church and then we are slowly teaching those who have come from elswhere.

I realize that this town here is one that is uninterested in the work of the church but I do hope that in time we can more establish the true examples of the Bible. Our effort here certainly has not been in vain.

We have met together every first day of the week since we began April of 1951. We have to date ten members who are there each time, and then we are hoping that we will baptise at least two this coming summer.

If the church in every locality would take upon itself to each work on a certain individual, then in time the church would grow steadily. It seems to me that if the teaching would become more edifying then each member could realize his own responsibility. Certainly we all have a responsibility toward man and to God. May we not forget the teaching of the Lord, concerning the talents

Yours in Christ
Coy Garrison, Grand Prairie Tex.

REVIVAL PROGRAM

The Lugert church had a very good little meeting over Saturday and Sunday, May 30-31. Four services were held and visiting singers and preachers or speakers conducted the entire program.

Needless to say, the Lugert church was more than pleased with the good way the meeting was carried on. Visitors came to help and be with us from far and near.

Several congregations were represented, and all enjoyed the great spiritual feast. Brethren came from the churches at Crosbyton, Tex., Loco, Okla., Reydon, Okla., Elk City, Okla., and Oklahoma City, Okla.

It was indeed a treat to hear the good song service conducted by the visiting brethren, especially the young men of the churches from Loco and Crosbyton.

Then, too, the good lessons brought by Brethren J. C. Spurlin, A. H. Howell and R. T. Francis were so timely and appreciated. We were very dissappointed however that other brethren were unable to come and appear on our program.

Other speakers gave short talks of encouragement, and this was fine. We plan to make this a regular fifth Sunday affair, with the next one coming the last of August.

At this time, we want all the brother preachers or speakers to come and appear on the program for at least one lesson. If enough speakers will promise to come, we want to begin Friday night, August 28, and continue over Sunday, September 6, for ten nights and the two Lord's days for three services on these two days.

Then we want as many visiting brethren as will and can to come, and the songleaders, all who will, to come and conduct the song services.

Will all who see this please write us if you can and will come, and state if you can appear on our program as a songleader or can give one or more lessons, and on what date you can be with us, so we can make our plans accordingly.

We will try to write or contact all we can, but if anyone is overlooked or does not hear direct from us, please consider this your invitation to come and be with us for these services, and the men brethren please appear on our program as a speaker or songleader or both.

Brethren, let us hear from you and please state just what you think of our plan. We think it would do much to encourage the brethren everywhere and to help knit or weld us together in the great spirit of brotherly love we should have.

And, perhaps, it might help to answer the great prayer of our Savior, that we might all be one.

I am now in the beginning of what promises to be a good meeting with the church at Crosbyton, Tex. I am to go next for a meeting with the Reydon, Okla. church, then to Broken Bow for their meeting which begins July 4.

W. H. Francis
423 West Tyler Mangum Okla.

Dear Bro. Garrison;

With deepest regrets I am writing this morning to let all the readers of IT IS WRITTEN know that our church building burned down on March the third. I will open my home for services next Lords day, any one passing this way please inquire at the home of Steve Laney, as we have made no other plans yet. If any of the brethren have a few old songbooks, we would appreciate using them, until we can do better.

Your Bro. in Christ,
Geo. Vanderpool Rt. 1 Huntsville. Ark.

Bro. Vanderpool, I am very sorry that this misfortune has befallen the church there. I am suggesting the churches everywhere help in this matter which is the concern of evry church everywhere. May the Lord bless you and the effort there. C. G.

Dear Brethren;

Recieved a fine letter from a real supporter of the truth from Plainview Texas. She will not let us mention her name but nevertheless her interest is most encouraging. She believes that if every church which agrees with IT IS WRITTEN would get behind the paper, it could grow and do a real mission in the great work. Thank you friend for the letter and support.
C. G.

Dear Bro. Garrison;

Inclosed you will find a contribution for IT IS WRITTEN. We would like two more copies and we would like one sent to Wesley Orendorff. 17228-34th St. South Seattle, Wash. He has always been sincere in his belief in the church but finds it difficult to find anyone else to meet with. He and his wife are to be commended for their efforts in the Lord's work. And their search for the truth. We wish to announce that Bro. Elmer Hunt has promised to hold us a meeting from the 31st of May to June 7th. at the Church of Christ on 16th ave. just off 1st St. in Yuma. We have not been able to hold a meeting for some time. We have services there every Sunday morning at 10:45, but go to the Somerton Church in the evening. We trust you are well and able to continue in the fine work you are doing.

Sincerely
Horace Orendorff

Thank you Bro. Orendorff for the fine letter and the fine support. May you have a fine meeting this year. It has been my pleasure to have met Bro. Hunt and his wife. Hoping you are enjoying life, and write again C. G.

Received the support of the brethren at Carlsbad New Mexico. These brethren are few in number but their zeal has never been quenched by this fact of being few. May the Lord bless them in the keeping of his way, and thanks for your never ending support. C. G.

Dear Bro. Garrison

Enclosed you will find another 5.00 for the support of IT IS WRITTEN. We look forward to it each month, and hope you will be able to continue it. We had one Brother to confess his faults Sunday Bro. Mack Buckner, a brother to Bro. Taylor Buckner. We again extend our welcome to anyone that should pass through and needs a place to worship.

Your Bro. in the Lord,
Floyd Cantrell
Stillwell, Okla.