IT IS WRITTEN

"Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."--MATTHEW 4:4.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT CARLSBAD, NEW MEXICO
J. W. BEDINGFIELD, Editor - - - - - - - 405 E. Church St., Carlsbad, N. M.

JANUARY, 1957

As the year of 1956 draws to a close, most of us are making our plans for the year of 1957. Are we including God in those plans as we should? Are we planning to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to uphold His eternal Truth, as never before, this coming year? The days are evil. The times are perilous. The forces of sin, and error, and deception, are on the march. These forces, we should resist steadfast in the Faith. What are your plans? Many, today walk in darkness because the god of this world, (Satan) has blinded their minds, and the light of the glorious gospel of Christ does not shine unto them. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." Mark 16:15. Brethren, we have on file the names of at least five gospel preachers, including myself, who are willing and ready to "GO," and "Preach". We need the co-operation of all of you, to keep this command. As we look to the new year, let us consider the possibilities. During the year just past, this writer was permitted to preach just six meetings, which resulted in a total of nineteen responses to the preaching of the word. I have time available for about thirty such meetings in 1957, which if blessed with the success of the last six, would result in the saving of about ninety-five souls, this coming year. At least four other brethren are available and willing to go. Think what it would mean to the Church, and to the Lord, to increase our membership, and save the souls of nearly five hundred people in 1957. All of this, of course, in addition to the regular work of your local leaders and teachers. Brethren this is possible. It is only possible if you love the souls of those that are lost, and want to try to reach them, with the WORD which is able to save them. "What does it profit, if a man gain the whole world, and lose his own soul, or what would you give in exchange for your soul?" You may be assured that the forces of Satan are not asleep, but are laying great plans for the coming year, and be not deceived, these forces are well organized, and well planned. May God bless you in your plans for the coming year, and bring to each of you happiness and suc-

cess, but let us make God, and the saving of souls, a part of those plans.

J. W. Bedingfield, Ed

"IN THE FAITH"

While searching through some old papers, we came across a short article, entitled, "In the Faith," written by the late Brother Bob Musgraves. This article was printed in "It Is Written, bearing the dateline: Feb. 15, 1946. I am reprinting it in full, hoping that our readers will enjoy it as much as I did.—J. W. B.

Paul, in writing to the Corinthians, had this to say: II Cor. 13:5 "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith. Prove your own selves."

In trying myself, I think of some others. A certain priest named Zacharias and his wife Elizabeth. They were both righteous before God, walking in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord, blameless. Lk. 1:6. When the angel told Zacharias that Elizabeth should bear him a son, they were both old and had no children. Zacharias asked him, "How will I know this?" The angel said: "This is the word of God, and thou shall be dumb and not able to speak, till these things be performed, because thou believed not my word." Lk. 1:12-20.

I gather from this that when God speaks, I must believe, and also I must not call in question the word of God. Again in Num. 20:10-12 Moses and Aaron, God's spokesmen to the people, taken the honors upon themselves, fetching the water from the rock. The Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron and said: "Because ye BELIEVED ME NOT TO SANCTIFY ME in the eyes of the children of Israel; therefore ye shall not bring the congregation into the land which I have given them." So with these Scriptures for us to consider and think over, the question comes straight to us: ARE WE IN THE FAITH? Do we take God's word and give God the glory, or do we take some of God's word and assume some of our own ways? God help us to examine ourselves and stand in the faith, and get away from presumptions. God said, "But the soul that doeth ought (Anything) presumptuously, whether he be born in the land or a stranger; the same reproacheth the Lord, and that soul shall be cut off from among his people, because he hath DESPISED THE WORD OF THE LORD and hath broken His commandments. That soul shall be utterly cut off. His iniquity shall be upon him." Num. 15:30-31. No wonder that David said that presumptions were the great transgression. Psa. 19:13.

If we will accept the perfect law, and continue therein, we will be in the FAITH, and will be blessed in our works and deeds. Jas. 1:25.

Examine yourselves whether ye be in the faith. Think it over. The Faith has been revealed. Gal. 3:23-26. Faith comes by the word. Rom. 10:17. READ, THINK, PRAY.

By Bob Musgraves

(A Reprint)

A PRECIOUS CORNER STONE

Did you ever witness the laying of the corner stone of some great building? This is usually a very impressive ceremony, and no doubt many of us have been present on these occasions, and have been made to realize the importance of the occasion, but have not given much thought to the stone itself. Did you ever stop to think of how carefully this stone must be selected? How carefully it must be shaped? How carefully it must be tested, before it is ready to be laid?

The Apostle Paul, speaking of Christians, whom he refers to as a great spiritual house, or building, has this to say in Eph. 2:20, "And are built upon the foundations of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner stone." Think about this; Jesus Christ Himself the corner stone of the church! If we were selecting a corner stone for a literal building, think how carefully we would choose from all the many stones at hand, to find the one that was perfect, in every way. Even so with God, when He chose Christ to be the chief corner stone. Look at the many good stones that HE had to choose from. All the righteous men from Abel, to John the Baptist, but none of them were chosen for this great honor. Then think of all the good men of later years whom he could have chosen: Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, Alexander Campbell, Joe Smith, and countless others, but this must be a precious stone, a perfect stone, a tried stone, a sure foundation. Great care was used in the selection of this stone. Of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Judah, of the House of David. Even his mother, one that had found favor with God, and blessed among women. Lk. 1:28. The stone himself; without spot or blemish, Holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth. Make no mistake; great care was used in the selection of this stone.

Now that the stone has been selected, the next step is the hewing and shaping of that stone. Beginning with the second chapter of Luke, where Jesus was found in the temple, hearing the doctors of the law, and asking them questions and amazing them with his understanding and answers, to his death on the cross, we find the shaping of the corner stone, until he was made perfect. Heb. 2:9-10, tells us that by the grace of God he should taste death for every man, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering. That suffering began with His fasting in the Wilderness and His temptation, and ended on Calvary's cross, when He bowed His head and said, "It is finished." "Though He were a son, yet learned He obedience through the things which He suffered, and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him." Heb. 5:8-9.

Sometimes as we see the finished stone, all smooth, and polished, and set in place, we overlook this hewing and shaping, but if we will look at a corner stone carefully, we will see the marks of the chisel on the stone. As we think of this, our minds go back to a room in Jerusalem, where

twelve men were gathered together, the door being shut, when Jesus appeared in their midst, and saith to Thomas, "Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless but believing." John 20:26. I also note that in Rev. 5:6, when John saw Jesus in Heaven, he said he saw: "A lamb as if it had been slain."

After being selected, and hewn out, the stone must be tried, and tested. Matt. 4:1-10 tells us how Christ was tempted, and tried, and proven. Heb. 4:15; "But was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."

A corner stone must be perfectly square and true. Read the story of Jesus and the woman in the eighth chapter of John, also read Luke 7:36-50, and Matt. 21: 31-32, and we would say that he was a man that was, "Fair and Square," a square shooter, indeed. A true stone? Matt. 22: 16 "Master we know that thou art TRUE, and teachest the way of God in TRUTH." "The TRUE light" John 1:9, "The TRUE bread" John 6:32. His record is TRUE, John 8:14, His Judgment is TRUE. John 8:16. The TRUE vine. John 15:1, "And we are in Him that is TRUE, even in His Son Jesus Christ." I John 5:20.

Our corner stone must be strong, because it must bear the weight of the entire wall. Luke 2:40. "And the child (Christ) grew, and waxed strong in the spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him." Every incident in the four gospels teaches us of the great strength of the man Jesus, but none more clearly than the story of the cross, when He bore His own cross up Mount Calvary, and when He refused to drink of the wine and myrrh that was offered Him. Mk. 15:23, and when He refused to be tempted by their challenge, that if He be the Son of God, to come down from the cross. We are exhorted to "Be strong in the Lord." Eph. 6:10. We see that He was not only strong enough to save Himself, but "He is able also to save them to the uttermost, that come unto God by Him." Heb. 7:25.

Our stone must be hard, lest it clumble u n d e r pressure and strain. A soft stone would soon be crushed by the great weight, and worn away by the elements. Some one says: "I do not believe that Jesus was a HARD man." Read the 23rd chapter of Matt. Where He called the scribes and Pharisees hypocrites; "For ye devour widows houses, and for a pretense make long prayer." Where He called them "Fools and blind" for their false teaching. "Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel." vs. 24, and "Yes serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of Hell?" vs. 33. Notice Luke 13:32. When the Pharisees came to Him and told Him to leave for Herod would kill Him. "Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils." In other words: You tell that old fox, that he is not running my business. I am doing the will of my Father, whether he likes it or not. Read how He cast out the money changers, and those that sold sacrifices in the temple. "My father's house shall be called a house of prayer, and ye have made it a den of thieves."

When dealing with the poor, the weak, the unlearned, and the handicapped, as kind and tender hearted as a mother, as gentle and harmless as a dove, but when dealing with the hypocrites, the liars, the false teachers: A HARD man. We can truly say: "As hard as a rock," "As hard as the corner stone."

A peculiar thing about a corner stone is that it must face two ways, or directions, at the same time after being laid in place. For instance, while one side is turned toward the sun, and is flooded with light, the other side is turned toward the dark shadows, at the same time.

Even so, Christ: "But this man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God." Heb. 10:12. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us." Heb. 9:24. "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building." Heb. 9:11, "And for this cause He is the mediator of the New Testament." Heb. 9:15. "Seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them." Heb. 7:25. Now a mediator is one who interposes as a mutual friend to both parties. So, we see how Christ, though in the presence of God, sharing all the glories of heaven, and being continually in the light of God's love, yet He has a face toward us, and no matter how dark our troubles, or how deep or sorrows, His face is always toward us, and we can always behold His strength and beauty, knowing that, "Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out." John 6:37.

The corner stone is always laid first and all other stones that are laid, must line, up and conform to the corner stone. "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the fruits of them that slept." I Cor. 15:30. "And He is the head of the body, the church: Who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the pre-eminence." Col. 1:18. "Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: and hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fulness of Him that filleth all in all." Eph. 1:20-23.

The laying of the corner stone is always done by the most important person available. One who holds a high position of trust and honor. "Therefore thus saith the LORD GOD, behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a STONE, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation." Isaiah 28:16. Yes this precious corner stone was laid in Zion, by GOD Himself. Although rejected by men, He was chosen by God. "This is the stone that was set at naught of you builders (YE rulers of the people, and the elders of Israel. See Acts 4:8) which is

become the head of the corner." Acts 4:11.

My friend, the corner stone has been chosen, hewed, tried, proven, and laid. Will you build thereon, or would you choose another, or lay another?

J. W. Bedingfield

Brother J. C. Whitley from Kenton, Okla., writes: "Enclosed find a check for $5.00 from the Furnish Canyon Church of Christ for use in the publication of 'It Is Written.' We enjoy the paper very much."

Thank you, Brethren, for the help and encouragement. The Furnish Canyon Church, where Brother Whitley meets, is just across the Colorado line from Kenton, Okla. These Brethern are steadfast and faithful in faith and practice. Anyone in that section of the country who wants to meet as the Bible teaches, should contact these Brethren.—Ed.

From Bro. Frank Brown of the Honeyhill Church of Christ, near Stillwell, Okla.: "All is as well as could be expected, and plenty to be thankful for. Enclosed you will find $5.00 for which to help out with the printing and mailing of It Is Written. We really look forward to getting it each month, and as you said, it brings us all closer together as Brothers and Sisters in Christ." Thank you, Brethren, for the support and encouragement. We shall at all times try to gather together with Him who prayed that we might all be one. Your help and cooperation is sincerely appreciated. —Ed.

SOMERTON-YUMA MEETINGS

On Nov. 11th, we began the meeting at Somerton, which was well attended by members from both Somerton and Yuma congregations. We closed at Somerton, with the morning service on Nov. 18th, and began the meeting at Yuma that night. Somerton called off their night services for the duration of the Yuma meeting, in order to attend at Yuma. We preached at Yuma from the 18th through the 29th. Throughout both meetings the attendance, interest and results were excellent. At both congregations, we found the finest spirit of cooperation and fellowship that we have ever experienced. The kindness and the hospitality of these brothers and sisters at both places will never be forgotten. The readiness of mind in which they accepted and upheld the word of truth, is a tribute to the capable leadership and the sound doctrine that prevail here. We were impressed by the number of younger men in this section of the country, who are rapidly developing into able and faithful church workers. These were both very enjoyable meetings, wonderfully blessed with the acceptance of the word, but saddened beyond words at the untimely passing of our beloved Brother C. D. Stewart, of Somerton, which is reported elsewhere in this paper. May God bless you and help you to always reach forth unto those things which are before, pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

J. W. Bedingfield

PRAYER

The thought that I would like to consider on the subject of prayer is this: Whose prayer will God hear and answer? Is there any whom He (God) will not hear? How should we pray? What should we pray for? Proverbs 15:8 "The sacrifice of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord, but the prayers of the upright are His delight." Proverbs 15:29, "The Lord is far from the wicked, but He heareth the prayers of the righteous." John, 9:31 tells us, "If any man be a worshipper of Him (God), and doeth His will, him He heareth." I Peter 3:12 "The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers."

Now that we have found that God hears the prayers of the righteous, those that worship Him and do His will, we next want to consider the teaching of God's word, to see if there are any whom God will not hear. We read Proverbs 28:9 "He that turneth away his ears from hearing the law, even his prayers shall be an abomination." Isaiah 59:2 "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear." John 9:31 "Now we know that God heareth not sinners."

Now we have found two classes of people, but one whom God will hear, and one whom He will not hear. Now I do not mean that it wrong for a sinner to pray, but his prayers do not avail anything.

The next thought: How should we pray, or may I say, what should be the condition of our prayer? Yes, it must be of faith. James 1:6-7, It must be on a condition not of our lust. James 4:3, I John 5:14 "And this is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us." Now we have learned three conditions of our prayers: No. 1, It must be of faith. James 1:6-7, No. 2. It must not be of our fleshly lust. James 4:3. No. 3. It must be according to God's will. I John 5:14.

For what should we pray? For those that despitefully use us, and persecute us. Matt. 5:44. For one another. James 5:16. For all men. I Tim. 2:1-2. For God's will to be done. Matt. 6:10. For our daily bread. Matt. 6:11. For deliverance from evil. Matt. 6:13. For forgiveness. Matt. 6:12. What should we not do? Not a vain repetition of much speaking. Matt. 6:7. Not of self justification. Luke 18:10-14. Not to be seen of Men. Matt. 6:5.

We have a great lesson taught us in regard to prayer in Matt. 6:6. These are the words of Jesus to His disciples. In verse 5, He had warned them not to be as the hypocrites. Now to verse 6. "But thou when thou prayest, enter in to thy closet, and when thou hast shut the door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." Now what do we learn from that verse? Well, we had previously learned that we were not to pray to, or to be heard of man. So we learn that we must pray to our Father in Heaven. Is that all that verse 6 teaches us? No. suppose a man shut himself up in his closet, and was praying. His secrecy from man, in the clos-

et, would be evidence that he was not praying to be heard of man, and evidence that he was praying to God, for God would be the only one that would know anything about his praying. In case anyone might get the wrong idea of praying in public, verse 6 teaches us that our prayers in public, must be strictly to God, and not for the purpose of being heard of men. Much could be said on the subject of prayer, but for the sake of space, we will now sum up what we have learned, and leave it with the reader, for their consideration. Now the conclusion: We have learned that God hears the prayers of the righteous, those that do His will and worship Him. That He does not answer the prayers of sinners. We learned for whom, and what we should pray. We learned the manner in which we should present our prayer. But with all that knowledge, our prayer will be hindered if we forgive not our brethren.. Matt. 18:35.

Submitted in love of the brotherhood, and for the truth's sake.

Yours in Christ,

W. E. Daniels,
Broken Bow, Okla.

THE BOOK OF LIFE

One that is born again is saved from past sins and their names are written in the Lamb's book of Life, but God told Moses that whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book. Ex. 32:33. In Psalms 69:28, "Let them be blotted out of the book of living, and not be written with the righteous." In Daniel 12:1. The ones that have the promise, are the ones with their names written in the book. If we want our names to stay in the book, there is something for us to do. Matt. 25:25-30. This will be our doom if we neglect our duty. Christ sent out the seventy, and they were told not to rejoice because the spirits were subject to them, but to rejoice because their names were written in heaven, Luke 10:20. All that are in the Church are saved from past sins and their names are written in heaven, Heb. 12:23. The names of those who labored with Paul, were written in the Lambs book of life. Phil 4:3. We must overcome, if our name is confessed before the Father and His angels, Rev. 3:5. Satan has made war with the Saints, and all will worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain, from the foundation of the world. Rev. 13:7-8. Now notice Rev. 20:12. The ones who will be able to stand, are the ones whose names are written in the book of life, and whose works are found perfect. "And there shall in no wise enter into it anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh bomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of Life." Rev. 21:27. "For **I** testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Rev. 22:18-19.

R. H. Peel

AT REST

On the morning of Nov. 21, the entire brotherhood was shocked and stunned by the sudden death of one of our most beloved members, Brother C. D. Stewart of Somerton, Ariz. He had attended church services at Yuma that night, and passed away shortly after returning home. Bro. Stewart will be greatly missed by al who knew him, but especially by the church at Somerton, where he was a very trusted and capable leader. To know him was to love, to trust, and to respect him. Funeral services were held at Yuma, on Nov. 23, where this writer attempted to offer words of consolation to the bereaved, and to pay our tribute of respect to his memory, but nothing we could do or say will in any way compensate for the loss suffered at the passing of this beloved brother.

Brother Stewart was born on March 9, 1904 at Lampassas, Texas. He moved to Somerton in 1925, where he married Sister Gladys Splawn in 1926. From that date on, they made their home on the farm, one mile east of Somerton. In all his years of service and d e v o t i on to the Church of Christ, this Brother never wavered, never faltered, never failed. He is survived by his faithful wife, Sister Gladys Stewart of Somerton, a nephew, Elgean Wood, a niece, Mrs. 0. R. Shields, and a sister, Mrs. E. I. Wood.

Even as we realize the great loss that we suffered with the passing of this Brother, we should realize the deep need for others to press forward, and to raise aloft the banner of CHRIST, to bear it on to victory.

J. W. Bedingfield

Just as we go to press this month, we have a most interesting and encouraging letter from Brother Hugh C. Nunnally of Ontario, Calif. Bro. Nunnally praises the Dec. editorial, "The Editor Speaks," and makes the timely suggestion that we need to give more earnest heed to what the Bible teaches, concerning the duties and responsibilities of our Church leaders, toward our young members, and those who are not so well taught in the Faith and Doctrine. He suggests that our young members be taught with "Patience" and "Tenderness", and not with "Threats" or "intimidation". Bro. Nunnally asks, "Who has looked into the mirror of his past life, and then gone away and forgotten what manner of man he was?" Pointing out that most every one of us have gone through the "Pitfalls" of heresy, and know the consequences, then why cannot we deal with the young in a spirit of love and compassion that is becoming a Christian, and guide them into paths of righteousness? Thank you, Brother Nunnally, for this good letter, and may we all wake up to the great task and duty that is before us, of helping our youngsters to prepare for the great responsibility, that is soon to fall upon them.—Ed.

Between the great things that we cannot do, and the small things that we will not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing.

This month, we have a good letter from Brother Harry Davis, who is a very promising and faithful worker in the Somerton congregation.

Brother Davis writes that there is still quite a bit of sickness there. Sister Dye is still very ill. She was operated on this past Sunday (Nov. 9). Brother Charlie Parsons of Yuma, who had undergone a serious operation, was improving and is now able to go back to his work. Brother J. D. Johnson, of Lakeside, Calif., had attended church at Somerton on Nov. 9. He adds that Brother Harry Dye of Yuma visited at Somerton on that date, and preached for them on the subject of "conscience." The church there extends a cordial welcome to anyone passing that way, to visit with them. They meet every Sunday morning at 10:45 o'clock and at 7:00 p. m., and at 7:30 on each Wednesday evening.

From Brother Willie Doan, of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, comes the sad news that there has been a lot of sickness in their family, and that his mother had been in the hospital, and had to have one of her legs amputated. Brother Doan asks the prayers of all the faithful, that God will lead us safely through it all. We extend our deepest sympathy, and do pray that this finds everything better with these unfortunate ones.

When we fill our hours with regrets over the failures of yesterday, and the worries over the problems of tomorrow, we have no TODAY in which to be thankful.

From Brother J. D. Johnson of Lakeside, Calif.: "We meet at home now, every Lord's Day. Our address is Rt. 1, Box 969-A, Lakeside, Calif., just off Willow Road. Lakeside is just east of San Diego, about eight miles. If anyone is coming this way, we would be glad to have them meet with us." Brother Johnson adds that if anyone is planning to meet there, they should drop them a card at the above address before hand, as they occasionally attend church at Yuma or Bellflower or La Habra. Bro. Johnson also sends $5.00 for the paper. Thank you very much. Anyone having the opportunity should contact this little group and help them out in their noble effort to serve the Lord faithfully.—Ed.

At this writing, Brother W. E. Daniels of Broken Bow, Okla., has just closed the meeting at Carlsbad, and is on his way to Peck, Kansas, where he will visit with relatives, and brethren at Peck, where a faithful congregation meet in the home of Brother Vanderpool. We did not have any responses to the Gospel at Carlsbad, but our attendance has been increased by the meeting, and we all enjoyed the good preaching of Bro. Daniels, as well as the fine fellowship and encouragement of visiting with Bro. and Sister Daniels. Brother Daniels is available for meetings, at your request, and needs no recommendation, as to his steadfastness in the Faith, as he is well known by the brotherhood, for his stand for the truth at all times. We bid this Brother Godspeed—Church of Christ, Carlsbad, N. M. J. W. Bedingfield.

This month, we seem to have more than our share of reports of sickness, among our members, the most serious cases are: Sister Dye of Somerton, who is in the hospital at Yuma. Sister Jimmie Loftis of Lorenzo, Texas, and Sister Doan, of Broken Bow. Brother C. E. Scott of Lorenzo, is still improving. There have been several other reports of lesser illness, from other parts. Our prayers and sympathy go forth to all of these, and to their families and loved ones, in their days of sorrow and anxiety.—Ed.

Brother R. H. Peel, of the Crosbyton, Texas, congregation writes that all is well with them, and adds: "We had a big day yesterday, (Nov. 25.) " They had visitors from Abilene and Lorenzo that day. Brother Jack White of Lorenzo gave them a good lesson of much interest to all. They meet regularly at 10:00 a. m. at Crosbyton and extend a sincere welcome to all to meet with them. This is a small congregation, but sound in doctrine, steadfast in the Faith, and rich in love.—Ed.

From Brother A. H. Howell of Elk City, Okla.: "I was at Lorenzo, Texas on Lord's Day, Oct. 28, and was back again on Nov. 4. This is a congregation for the entire Brotherhood to be proud of, and to assist them in every way. Some of the congregation were to poorly to meet with the Brethren on the last Lord's Day we were there. We hope they are back to normal by now." Thanks for this good report, Bro. Howell, always glad to hear from you.—Ed.

DECEMBER STATEMENT

Balance from November	$ 9.37
Somerton Church of Christ	10.00
Sister Cantrell	1.00
Modesto, Church of Christ, (Glenn and Dallas Sts.)	5.00
San Pablo Church of Christ	10.00
Yuma Church of Christ	10.00
Honeyhill Church of Christ	5.00
Anonymous	10.00
Lakeside Church of Christ	5.00
Sister Lillian Splawn	1.00
Brother and Sister Jay Bedingfield, (Aztec, N. M.)	10.00
J. W. Bedingfield	7.38
Total Received to December 1	$83.75

EXPENSES FOR DECEMBER ISSUE

Myers Printing Co.	$70.00
Envelopes	4.75
Stamps	9.00
Total Expense for December Issue	$83.75

JESUS, OUR PERSONAL SAVIOR

Have you, my dear reader, accepted Jesus as your personal savior? If not, you need to do so, today, and since so many of our religious leaders are urging people to do this, I thought it well, at this time, not only to urge you to do this, but to tell you how that your Bible says that you make Jesus your personal Savior. First we would notice Matt. 1:21. "He shall save His people from their sins." Yes, our sins are what we must be saved from. If we are still in our sins, then Jesus has not yet become our personal Savior, but if we are saved from our sins, then Jesus is our personal Savior, for He is the one God sent to earth to take sway our sins, as we read in John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." However, we read in Matt. 1:21 that "He shall save HIS people," so to be saved, we must be HIS people. Who are Christ's people? Romans 6:16 "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, His servant ye are, to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or obedience unto righteousness." Now this teaches us that we are Christ's, if we have obeyed Christ, but if we are still obeying sin, that we are servants of sin; that is of Satan. So again we see that if we have had our sins taken away by the Lamb of God, and have obeyed Him, then we have made Jesus our personal Savior. This agrees exactly, with the writer of the Hebrew letter, in Heb: 5:8-9, "Though He (CHRIST) were a son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation to all them that OBEY Him." So we see that if you have obeyed Christ, and have had your sins taken away, then you have made him your personal savior, but if you have not, then you are still a servant of sin, and He is NOT your personal savior, because He is the author of eternal salvation to all them that obey Him. Back to Romans 6:17 for a better explanation of this. "God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have OBEYED from the heart that form of doctrine delivered you. Being then made free from sin, Ye become the servants of righteousness." So we see that these people who were serving sin, "Obeyed from the heart," and that made them free from sin, and they became servants of righteousness. That is: they became Christ's servants, and He became their personal Savior. Now what we need to see is what it was that those people "OBEYED" that made them free from their sins, and made them servants of Christ, then we will know how we make Jesus our personal Savior. Remember Heb. 5:9 "He became the author of eternal salvation, (personal Savior) to all them that obey HIM."

(Continued in Next Issue)

Brother and Sister W. E. Daniels of Broken Bow, Oklahoma, are visiting in the home of Sister W. E. Willis of Carlsbad, N. M. Brother Daniels is doing some fine preaching each night at the church here.