The Christian COURIER

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WHAT MEMORIES ARE YOUR CHILDREN CARRYING ??

I read a beautiful story somewhere and it still lingers in my mind. A fine young man left his home to go to a far-away place with two other boys. In the city where they went things were quite different--temptations were many. He saw men and women, boys and girls degrading themselves. When his job ran out he returned to his home a clean upright boy--one who could face his father and mother without shame. When asked how he managed to stay clean and pure he said it was because of a picture that he carried with him during the two years in a strange city. One would think, perhaps, it was a picture of his mother or his sweetheart, but it was not that kind of picture. It was a picture of the last breakfast at his home when the family gathered around the table to read and pray. They joined hands and he heard his father say, "Lord, take care of this young man and bring him back to us as pure as he is." Then the little mother reached over and put her darling hand on his shoulder and said, "O Lord, we thank thee for our son, keep him clean in life and heart." That boy carried that picture all the way and he looked at it many times. What kind of a picture are your sons and daughters carrying as they go through life? The power of good example cannot be over-emphasized.

(Ed. The above came to us unsigned, saying: author unknown- Print in paper if you care to. We here at the Courier do hope you receive some benefit from it.)

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Sign by an old English Church:

Every time I pass this church,
I pay a little visit
So when at last I am carried in,
The Lord won't say, "Who is it?"

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WHEN IS YOUR MEETING? WON"T YOU PLEASE SEND US THE DATE!

WORK WHILE IT IS DAY....

YOU JUDGE!

This letter is in reply to the inquiry by the inquiry by the editor pertaining to the interest in the future existance of the "Christian Courier".

From what I have perceived in different congregations, the amount of interest and participation dedicated to the continuance of the Courier depends on an appreciation of the effort put into this publication. Those who write, truly understand and appreciate the effort; while those who do not write, have no idea what a burden this puts on others.

For the benefit of those who have had no experience in publishing written material, allow me to list some of the necessities. Upon receiving letters, the staff must read them for content; then read them for correct punctuation; correct grammar; sentence structure; use of scriptures; and paragraph continuity. Then proper corrections must be made; a very time consuming endeavor. Next, the letter must be typed on a printing master(depending on the printing method). There must be a continous conscious effort to space sentences and words so as to produce a readable, centered group of words on one page. For each two Courier pages, there is one to master.(count them to see how many it takes). The masters must be planned carefully because page two and page three are not on the same sheet of paper(did you ever notice this?)

After being typed, they must be proof-read for their own possible errors. The printing then begins. If there are 600 copies, and each copy has 8 pages, that makes a printing run of 1200 sheets of paper, no small process. (Ed. Note: we do run about 600 copies each time.) These sheets are then assembled in order and stapled, to make the handy publication we receive in an envelope.

Now the Couriers are grouped in amounts to be sent to different congregations, and indivuals. They are then post-marked and taken to the post office. Do you think this ends their job? No!

If a reader is interested or moved by an article and motivated to write, the editor or staff must read the reply and either reply to the reply or publish it in the next issue. The staff must decide whether or not any letter is edifying or hindering to another member of the Body of Christ. If a letter "grinds an axe", it obviously cannot be printed, so it is either sent back to sender or forwarded on to the one it is directed at. If it is helpful or upbuilding it must be printed. Some letters are very difficult to distinguish, making the decision harder to make.

The staff of the Courier must be diligent, love the truth, be impartial yet loving, descreet, persistant, patient, responsible, and always on their toes.

Would you care to have the job???

I feel that we, of the Church of Christ, are quite fortunate to have a group of people dedicated enough to the Lord to want to serve him in this manner. I, myself, would not care to take on the responsibility. But as long as there is this literary outlet, I will do my best to support it with spiritually uplifting material, as long as it is in existence. How about YOU ?

Do you feel you are fulfilling your responsibility by just reading? Weigh the items I have mentioned as opposed to our own efforts. Who's shirking their responsibilities? YOU JUDGE!

Respectfully submitted in search of the Truth.

Bro. Dan Ross
1007 W. Walnut
Yakima, Washington 98902

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INDIVIDUAL DUTY

John 21:22, Jesus tells Peter,"If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me." That could be said to each of us. Our individual duty as Christians(or being Christ like) is to Christ. His teachings and example.

We are not as the Patriarchs. Job offered sacrifices for his children. No one can offer sacrifices for us, since Christ was our sacrifice. We as individuals have to offer the sacrifice of our lives.

Each individual that is outside of Christ must obey the gospel for himself. I can't have faith for him or I can't repent for him, confess Christ for him or be baptized for him. The only way he can get into Christs Body the Church, is to do these things for himself. Each One has to work out his own salvation. Paul tells us in Phil.2:12,Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."

We must study as individuals. Paul tells Timothy in 2Tim.2:15,"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." While this was written to a young minister it still holds for all of us, because we

are also told,"If the blind lead the blind they will both fall into the ditch.' So we can not follow any other person, without studying to see if he is going the right way.

We must worship as individuals. I am told to pray for you, but you are also told to pray for yourself and how to do it. I can't sing for you or partake of what sometines is referred to as the Lords' supper,for you or give of my means for you. I can't listen for you or talk for you(if you are one of them that is comanded to talk).

We must work as individuals. There is work that I am comanded to do and work that you are told to do, you and I can't do each others work. Your doing my work might help you but would do me no good at all. In fact might harm me. The same if I did your work. Most of us as Christians,know what our work is, or we must study more.

We must not let others govern our lives. God is the only one that should govern our lives and each of us must accept that. God calls us to righteousness no matter what others are doing.

Then it brings us down to the question: Do we love Christ more than the things in this life? Will we as individuals do what he asks us to do or will we follow the crowd and go where they will end up?

Written in Love of the Truth,
Your Brother in Christ,
Robert E. McCay
22A Creekview Dr.
(Glenwood Church of Christ)
Port Orchard, Wash.98366

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TRUTH

CHARITY- suffereth long and is kind 1Cor 13:4 CHARITY

In trying to help our younger ones in the church, today, perhaps some thought to the above scripture,with supporting evidence may prove to be helpful as anything found in the New Testament, due to the condition that sourounds Christians in <u>these last days</u>. The very word charity has a different meaning to them of the world,than what Christians are taught in the Gospel, as to its true meaning. As we learned in a preceeding article concerning truth, that it only can come from God on matters of religion, we likewise, can only learn from the Gospel what it teaches by example, and instruction, as to the true meaning of charity.

CHARITY SUFFERETH LONG

A child of God can hardly continue remaining as such without having to suffer in some way because of their love

of God. Every one that I have read about in the Gospel or Christians that I have been around in the Church in our time, especially those active in the preaching of the Gospel, or any Christian for that matter, everyone had to make some sacrifices and re-adjustments in their lives, because of an enduring love to serve the living God. Heb. 5:8,"Though he were a Son,(Christ) yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;"(9)"And being made perfect, he became.....;"

During the apostolic age, one of the things that banded Christians closer and welded the Christian band of love together, so they would even lay down their lives for one another, was because they continued in the REAL CHARITY. Paul writes about in 1Cor.13:4, they continued in the love of God despite having to suffer for it. We who profess Christianty today should never never let deeds of others or family problems, keep us from serving God; loyaly each Lords day and through the week.

If for example, we all knew our Lord was coming for his people next Lords day, what deeds could others do, that would keep us from being there at the services? "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you,and therby many be defiled;"(Heb.12:15). The Lord spoke these words concerning the Apostle Paul in Acts 9:16, ".....I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake." He(Paul)went right on serving God.

CHARITY(love) IS KIND

The Apostle John is referred to by most all Bible scholars as the Apostle of Love. Listed in the following chapters and verses,the Apostle John is referred to as "that disciple whom Jesus loved". St.John 13:23/19:26/20:2/21:7/21:20. I have no doubt that Jesus loved all of the disciples, yet one, the Apostle John seems to have had the Gospel Charity in abundance, that we read about in 1John 4:18,"...PERFECT LOVE CASTETH OUT FEAR:"

The accoung given in St.John 18:15-17 of the great persecutions upon the Lords people, shortly before and during his trial, all fled except that disciple whom Jesus loved. He made no pretense of not being a believer, went right among them who hated him and crying vengence against all believers, he made himself known unto them and the higher court, and the high priest. We see here an example of how love is stronger than hate. The only other one that would dare venture close was Simon Peter, and it was John who came out and spoke to the keeper of the gate to let him in, and imediately upon entering Peter began to deny that he even knew Christ.

Charity is a talent that can be acquired by any of

Gods people, and is a must. Let us consider what it really is: Paul writes in the 13th chapter of 1Cor. that a child of God could speak with tongues of angels,have a gift of prophecy, understand all mystries, all knowledge, have great faith, bestow all my goods to feed the poor, etc. A person could do all these things and be without charity, which means you have to love God FIRST. This is the meaning of Charity. 1Cor.13:13,"And now abideth faith, hope, CHARITY, these three;but the GREATEST OF THESE IS CHARITY."

Yes, someday you will no longer have to double-check the scriptures to see if you are in the faith,some day you will no longer hope for eternal life,after you have received it. Faith and hope will come to an end, but on the other side in the heaven your love for God and Him first, will NEVER CEASE. "Charity never faileth:" 1Cor. 13:8.

In Rev.2:4, the Angel of the Church of Ephesus was told,"....I have somewhat against thee, because thou has left thy first love."(charity). How can anyone add to the word of God, or take away anything from the word of God, and still hope to convince God they love Him first? The answer God gave to Ephesus was,"...do the first works;" Rev.2:5.

My prayer is that all who read this may do the first works,"LOVE HIM FIRST."

With Christian Charity(love)
Brother Harry Wegley
234 Woodside
Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

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"BLESSED ARE THE MEEK; FOR THEY SHALL INHERIT THE EARTH".
Matt: 5:5

In the 5th chapter of Matthew we find what is commonly called the Beatitudes, which mean;blessings spoken in regard to particular virtues. The word itself comes from the word, beauty, and the Greek word beautus, which means happy. I would like to speak about one of the beatitudes;"Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth". This means the whole world. No, I'm not going to use it to justify mans' waste of what God has provided for him, but I had rather look at the reasoning behind the statement which our Lord Jesus made.

The earth is to be given over to the meek in terms of an inheritance. The worlds' idea of conquest is possession by force. This is all they know. They say;'the more you assert yourself the more you organize and manifest your powers and ability, the more likely you are to

attain your goals and thus, suceed.' But here comes the astounding statement that the meek SHALL inherit the earth. This gives the unbeliever one more reason to disbelieve God. Who ever heard of "weakness"winning? But remember this, the Lord never said "weakness". He said"meek". There is a vast difference. He also only said the "meek", and no one else is inferred here. He infers the meek only. What about the meek?

We are reminded once more, that at the beginning of the christian life, that is after one is "born again", in Christ, he becomes a NEW CREATURE. All old things pass away. All things become new. (In our minds--Spiritually.) We become different from the world. An essential difference in quality. He is a NEW man, a NEW creature; he belongs,now, to an entirely different kingdom. And not only is the world unlike him, he is unlike the world, and they cannot understand him.----another word for the Christian could be;"meek". And if you and I are not meek, in the sense that Jesus meant, then we are an enigma to the world. And if we are not meek in the Christian faith, then we had better take another look at our Christian faith.

This statement about the meek that shall inherit the earth must have come as a terrific shock to the Jews in that day and time.(There is no doubt that Matthew was writing primarily for the Jews.) The Jews and other nations too, had ideas of the kingdom which were not only materialistic, but military also, and to them the Messiah was one who was going to lead them to victory. So they were thinking in terms of conquest and fighting in the material sense, and immediately our Lord dismissed all that from their minds. To them He is saying,'No,No, that is not the way, I am not like that nor does my teachings imply that I am.' Are we, or rather have we not become in asense, like the Jew then. So we not believe that we have to become more organized, and more powerful in our own way of thinking, in order to combat sin? And that we must not become weak?

Let us study more to see actually what God is teaching us, and as we approach this statement we also have to study all of the Beatitudes, because one follows on from what has gone before. I won't use them in this lesson, but do study them for yourself. I had rather, at this point, use some Bible examples. Look at Abraham, Moses, David, Stephen, Paul, and so on. Abraham, his behaviour in respect to Lot. Moses, who could have reaped all the benefits of being the son of Pharaoh's daughter. The story of David and how Saul treated him. Stephen and how he endured being stoned. Paul, who endured afflictions for the cause of Christ. All we can see of these men of God is MEEKNESS. Then we take the final most won-

derful example of all---Christ. "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me; for I am MEEK and lowly in heart; and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Matt.11:28-29. In calling all the labours to him, he showed meekness(not weakness)especially in the way he suffered persecution and scorn, sarcasm.

Rightly it was said of him;"A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench."In other words He made it a point not to revile others especially when they would recognize their helplessness. His attitude toward his enemies, but perhaps still more, His utter submission unto His Father, shows his meekness. "The words that I speak unto you, I speak not of myself." and "the Father that dwelleth in me, He doeth the works." In becoming like a man, who walked the earth, he put on our infirmities. In other words he was just like we are;With one exception, He obeyed his Father in heaven. He humbled himself, became our servant, so to speak,and with meekness, died on the cross. That is meekness,lowliness, true humility. That is the quality which he himself is teaching us when he wants us to be meek.

So when we look at Jesus we see meekness.A meekness which we must attain and maintain in order to inherit the world. "All things are yours, everything,whether Paul or Apollos, or Cepas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; and ye are Christ's and Christ is God's."1Cor. 3:22-23. So, the Children of God has inherited the earth, because we inherit everything that is His. In everything we do, let us always remember the meekness of Christ himself, and try to follow his ways. Let us season our lives with the Word of God, and in the way we live, and what we read, how we worship God, and how we treat others, with MEEKNESS, and we not only inherit the earth but heaven too.

Written for the truth in God.
Homer Bryant
1273 Plumleigh Lane
Concord,Calif.94521

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MEETING DATES

MODESTO, CALIFORNIA April 7-14 Bro.Al Way

BARON, OKLAHOMA June 16-23 Bro.Jack Morris

When is your meeting? Let us hear from you by next issue. If you can't have a meeting for a week, how about a week-end meeting with various speakers???????

Sharpening Your Bible Vocabulary.....
by Brother Dan Ross

ABBA----------Aramic for father(Mark 14:36)

BACA----------Refers to an experience of sorrow turned into joy(Psa.84:6)

CAB----------A dry measure containing about 2 quarts. (2Kings 6:25)

DART----------A light javelin (Job 41:29, 1Sam.18:10)

EWE----------A female sheep

FELLOES-------The outside parts of the rim of a wheel. (1Kings 7:33)

GENEALOGY-----The sequence of relatives(grandfather, father, son, etc.)

HANDBREADTH---A measure of about 4 inches (Exo.25:25)

IMPUTE--------Attribute something to a person or his account.(The imputation of Adam's sin to those who followed-imputation of our sins unto Christ.) (1Pet.2:24, Rom. 3:24)

KINE----------Cattle (Gen. 41:2-4)

LANE----------Alley of a city (Lu.14:21)

MATTOCK-------A single headed pickaxe with a point on one side and a broad edge on the other. (1Sam. 13:20-21, Isa. 7:25).

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CHURCH NEWS

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethern:

We haere at Pleasantview Church are all doing just fine. No sickness other than a few bad colds.

We still meet at 10:30 on Lord's day morning. Sunday evening worship has been changed to 6:00 and Wednesday night to 7:00. We have started studying the book of Revelations on Wednesday evenings.

Enclosed is a contribution for the paper. We here at Pleasantview enjoy the paper very much. Will try to have an article next month.

With Christian Love
Bro. Gerald Buckner
Stilwell, Oklahoma

BELLFLOWER,CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

The congregation here sends their love. We can report that most are well. We've had our share of colds and minor illness, but thanks to God nothing serious.

We've had many visitors in the past several weeks, and were very glad to have them. We invite all to be with us anytime possible.

Most of our congregation was able to attend the four day meeting Bro. Don Dabbs held in Phoenix. We heard some good sermons, and was able to meet and enjoy many new Christian friends.

Pray for us as we remember you in our prayers. We love you all.

For the Church of Christ,
Bellflower, California
(Bro. Al Way)

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Brethren;

I hope this letter finds all prospering and in good health. We here at Yakima have been blessed with very few illnesses these past few months.

Sister Cheryl Roby has substantially recovered from her injuries recieved in an automobile accident a few months ago.

On December 8th my parents,Bro.& Sis. Bill McCay Sr. celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary with a renewal of their marriage vows and a reception for friends and family. It was good to see so many old friends once a-gain and to hear from those who could not attend.

We are currently making plans for our meeting this spring. As soon as they are finalized and dates are set, we will forward them to the "Courier" to publish and pass along. We would welcome and invite any who can, to come and meet with us.

We have had many visitors these past few weeks and are always glad to meet with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to exchange views and to hear of the progress of other congregations.

We will close praying for the strength for all to endure the temptations in the up coming New Year.

Yours in fight for Christ,
Brother Mike McCay

FINANCIAL REPORT

March 9-1973 to Jan. 7-1974

3/30/73	Anderson Business Machines Repair & cleaning of Mimeograph	75.00
3/30/73	Postage	30.00
4/21/73	Anderson Business Machines 1 case Mimeograph Ink	47.26
6/6/73	Standard Office Equipment Stencils	5.25
10/23/73	L.M.Morris Paper & envelopes(Mar.Apr.& June)	91.30
10/29/73	Postage Oct. & Nov.	43.00
1/7/74	L.M.Morris Envelopes	41.16
1/7/74	The Warden's Office Equip. Printing paper	24.99
	Total	381.96

Balance on hand March 9-1973	129.01
Contributions-to date	470.00
Total	599.01
Less Expenses	381.96
Balance on hand Jan.7-1974	217.05

Any question concerning the finances direct them to the Courier,P.O.Box 1342 Modesto,California 95353. This church bulletin is published monthly(when material and finances permit) by the Brethren of the Church of Christ. All finances, news, and articles are volunteered by the church members. There are no subscription rates and it is sent to any one by just requesting it. At the present we have 667 papers to print and send out monthly. We wish to thank each one of you that have contributed in any way to the publishing of this paper, at any time in the past and with every body's help we will continue as in the past. Thanks again and God Bless each and every one. The Courier Staff.

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PSALM 24:1

The earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.....

OVER THE PLATE

Bill Smithers had the speed of a cannon ball;
He could loosen a brick in a three foot wall.
When he shot one across, it would hurtle by,
Too swift for even the surest eye.
No one could hit him when he was right,
As no eye could follow the ball's quick flight.
Bill should have started in a big league role,
But he stuck to the "minors"--he lacked control.

Jack Smith had a curve like a loop-the-loop;
It would start for your head with a sudden swoop,
And break at your knees with a zig-zag wave,
And theleagues best batters would roar and rave,
At the jump it took and the sudden swerve.
Shades of the boomerang! What a curve!
But Jack's still doomed to be a "bush-league fate--
He couldn't get it across the plate.

How is it with you, if I may ask?
Have you got control of your daily task?
Have you got control of your appetite?
Of your temper and tongue in a bitter fight?
Have you "got control" of your brawn and brain?
Or are you laboring all in vain?
It matters not what your daily roll,
The question is, "HAVE YOU GOT CONTROL?"

It counts not what you "have", my friend,
When the story is told at the game's far end.
The greatest brawn and the greatest brain,
The world has known may be yours in vain.
The man "With Control" is the one who mounts,
And 'tis "how you use what you've got" that counts;
Have you got the "bead"? Are you aiming straight?
How much of your effort "goes over the plate"?

Author Unknown

I picked this up and thought you might like to share it with me through the Courier.

Brother Earl Atchley.

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REVELATION 22:12-15

And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.

Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.