FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL,
AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD...

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." (2 Tim. 2:15). Matt. 4:4 tells us to study every word. James 5:13 to 16 is mistood by many because they do not study every word. Verse 13: *"Is any among you afflicted?" "Let him pray."* We know there is a physical sickness and a spiritual sickness. 2 Cor. 12:8, Paul was afflicted with a thorn in his flesh which he prayed to be rid of and God denied him that he might receive a greater reward for his suffering. *"Is any merry? Let him sing psalms."* This 13th verse concerns the pain or joy of an individual.

Verse 14: *"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, annointing him with oil in the name of the Lord."* Evidently, this sickness is not the same as the affliction mentioned in the 13th verse because for this sickness, he must call for the elders. We can imagine a person sick in bed at home, but the Bible does not say this.

2 Tim. 2:24-26 *"And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil who are taken captive by him at his will."* Gal. 6:12 *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ."* We know when we are overtaken in a fault we have fallen

from grace so we are spiritually down and for us to rise again we need the prayers of the elders.

I John 2:27 tells us what the anointing is. *"But the annointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you, but as the same annointing teacheth you all things and is truth and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him."* 15th verse: *"And the prayers of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up and if he have committed sins they shall be forgiven him."* Shall save the sick. This is unconditional. If this were a physical sickness, we could live until Judgement Day. The 16th verse: *"Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."* Healed of your faults or sins.

We have assurance when we follow these instructions our sins will be forgiven and we will be in a saved condition.

With Love of the Brethren,
L. E. Arnett

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country."
Prov. 25:25

Dear Brethren,

We hope all of our loved ones are doing well at this writing. Everyone here is thankful for their general well-being. There has been one misfortune, however, Sister Clouse had a serious fall and suffered a sprained leg. At this time she is doing much better and able to get around without too much pain.

We have set our meeting date this year starting on July 10th. I am pleased to announce that Brother J. D. Logan has consented to be our speaker for that week. We would certainly welcome all who can to be with us at that time. We are looking forward to seeing so many of you again this summer at the various meetings and hope quite a few will be able to come to our meeting. Our homes are always open to any who can make it.

There have been two guest speakers since our last writing: Brothers Gene McKinney and Earl Broadway were here and we certainly enjoyed having them and their families. May the Lord be with you all.

Jerry Perigen,
For the Bellflower Congregation

To the Brethren in Christ,

The church here on Bohanan Mountain eagerly together each Lord's Day. We are few in number, but we believe Christ is King of kings and Lord of lords.

When Jesus asked the disciples as to whom they say he was, Peter answered and said, *"Thou art the Christ, the son of the living God."* From a study we find there was not one that dared question the confession that Peter made. We know by this, they were of the same mind (unity) Matt. 16:18. This is what the son of God prayed for in his last prayer to his heavenly Father (John 17:21). Hear him as he poured his heart to his heavenly Father that they all may be one as thou Father art in me and I in thee, that they may also be one in us that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

Brethren, there is too much strife, contention, and division. This is not what Christ prayed for. I pray that the brethren everywhere would put on the whole armour of God (Eph. 6:10). Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. How are we doing this? Verse 11: *"Put on the whole armor of God that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*

Your brother in Christ,
George Vanderpool

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We here at Broken Bow are doing fair. The older part of the family has a hard time getting to come to services, but we all know that they are sickly quite a lot.

Brother Farrell Wilson has been back with us the last few weeks, thank the Lord. Also, Bro. Wayne Treat, who had surgery, is doing very well and is now able to lead a few songs for us. We thank all who prayed for them and us. We couldn't live without your prayers.

We are planning a meeting for the summer, if the Lord wills. Bro. Jack White, from Munday, Texas, will be our speaker. It will be June 5th through the 13th. We hope to have plenty of beds for anyone who would like to come. All of you who read the Courier are invited.

If at any time, anyone is coming through Broken Bow, don't hesitate to stop and call one of the brethren and someone will welcome you.

I'll close for now. May God bless you all.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Dan Treat, for the church at
Broken Bow

Dear Brothers in Christ,

Will you please start sending us a copy of the Christian Courier? We are meeting in our home here in Fort Bragg. Recently, Bro. Arnett, from the Waterford Congregation, was here on a visit and baptized two of my children and two grandchildren, so now there are six of us. The two young brothers take turns reading a lesson which helps and encourages us as well as them. If anyone is up this way, please stop and visit and worship with us. We live one mile out on Highway I, (Willets Rd.), then north one-half mile.

Elmo Brown
19601 Noyo Acres Drive
Fort Bragg, Calif., 95437
Ph. # (707) 964-0106

Dear Brethren,

We are sending a donation to use for the paper. We all enjoy it very much. We are a small group, but all are working together in harmony. We are planning a Gospel Meeting July 24-31, with Brother Tom Broadway doing the teaching. We invite all that can come to be with us.

In Christian Love,
Furnish Canyon Church of Christ

Dear Brethren,

I will write again because of the shock of such a small Courier. I hope and pray more brethren will write soon and build it back up.

The house of the Lord was almost full Sunday. Thank the Lord. All of the older brothers and sisters were back with us.

We also need your prayers for strength. Sister Susie Treat, Lloyd's wife, lost her mother and needs many many prayers.

To all the brethren out there reading this letter, put a piece of paper in front of you and just write, "We love you brothers and sisters and are praying for you." It really doesn't take long to write and let your brothers and sisters in Christ know how you are. Come on! It's one way to help us all have strength. For the Courier is our one way to always keep in touch with each other.

So far, we are all doing fine except for colds, but I guess everyone has had those. We are hoping and praying for a good meeting with Bro. Jack White. The invitation is to all and hope some of you from out west will come and visit with us.

And don't forget to pray. For the scriptures teach us to pray without ceasing.

For the Broken Bow Congregation,
Bro. & Sister Dan Treat

Dear Brethren,

Brother Earl Atchley from Elk City, Oklahoma, will hold the metting at Gardendale, Texas starting June 5th and ending June 12. Everyone is invited to come.

We have only a very few members at Gardendale Church of Christ. We will appreciate anyone coming to be with us.

Your Brother in Christ,
N. E. Bergstrom

Dear Christians,

We here at Sacramento are all well and doing fine. We are small in numbers but are rich in faith.

We would like to extend an invitation to all that may be passing through to stop and worship with us on Sunday morning. Our services start at 10:00 a.m.

Enclosed is a check to help support the Christian Courier, and also a map of our location.

Yours in Christian Love,
Bro. John D. Usrey
840 Bell Ave., Sacramento, Ca.,
95838

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Chirst,

The Church here at Plesantview has had quite a lot of flu and sickness this winter. We missed Sunday services two Sundays because of the weather. Our meeting this spring will be April 3-10 with Bro. Earl Atchley as the speaker. We want to invite everyone to attend that is able.

Brother Gerald Buckner

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Not much news from the church at Yuma; except for colds and flu, everyone is well. We are planning a weeks meeting in April, beginning Aprill and ending April 8. Brother Ken Harper from the Church at Grass Valley, California will be our speaker. Everyone come and be with us. The weather will be beautiful in April.

Another dear one has passed from this life. Brother Bob Sheppard from the church at Peoria, Arizona. Brother Bob was buried Feb. 9th at Payson, Arizona. Brother Ken Baldwin officiated. Brother Bob will be missed by all.

Enclosed is a check for the paper.

In Christian Love,
Robert Morris, for the Yuma Cong.

Dear Brethren,

Just a word from the Church at Elk City and Colter, Oklahoma. Both places are doing very well. We are thankful that there has been no serious illness among the brethren.

Brother Glen Peterson had an operation on his hip. The new joint is all right now.

The Lord willing, I will be in a meeting at Stilwell, Okla. between April 3-10, then at Gardendale, Texas during the week of June 5-12.

The Church at Colter asked me to send this donation to the paper. When traveling this way, please stop by and visit and worship with us.

For the Churches at Colter and
Elk City,
Bro. L. Earl Atchley

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the congregation here in San Pablo, California. Most of us have been well. Brother Spohnholtz has been real sick with pneumonia. He was able to come to services last Lord's Day, but was still very weak. He had lost 18 pounds during hes illness. God does answer prayers and we thank God that he is getting better and can come to worship. Brother Spohnholtz had his brother Leonard visiting from Rockford, Illinois last Sunday. We welcome him back.

Brother Jerry Brockman, from Chico, Calif., was with us a week ago Sunday. We always enjoy Bro. Jerry, especially his singing. I am happy to report that our son Michael Bryant waited on the Lord's table last Sunday, for the first time. Please pray for him and all the young men who are standing up for the Lord, in these times, especially.

We also have Brother Willard and Sister Nora McLear worshipping with us from Yuma, Ariz. They walk to church every Sunday, whether the sun is shining or not. We are greatful to the heavenly Father for them and for all the wonderful brothers and sisters in Christ.

We wish to express our love also to those eight who have committed their lives to the Lord in the Yuma congregation. We thank the Lord for all the 'new babes' in Christ, and in the end we all will see him. No one can take that away from us.

It is good and pleasant for brethren to dwell together in unity, isn't it? Amen, Bro. James Brown to Psalms 133:1. Let us also remember Hebrews 12:1-2 also.

In Christian Love,
San Pablo Congregation

The Old Torn Bible

As I was going down the road
One cold and windy night,
I stumbled upon a book there
In the darkness of the night.
Its pages, they were torn
Its cover needed mending too,
But I picked it up anyway
For I had nothing else to do.
When I went back to my room
And layed my body down,
The book fell out of my pocket
And I looked at it with a frown.
It was just an old Bible
Which had seen its better days.
I had seen lots of them,
Often in the room in which I had often stayed,
But what did this book say, that was so bad
To be left there in the darkness
All torn and mangled oh so bad.
Oh why would anyone treat a book
In such a horrible way,
And especially a Bible
Which is great, I've heard some folks say?

Well, I picked up that old Bible
And thought I'd read a page or two,
But before I knew it, it was morning
And my eyes were tear-stained too.
Oh how great this book was
That I had been putting down
And as it said in the book of Acts,
I was prided in my heart
For the sin I had been spreading around;
Well, I'll tell you this my friends,
I found a new life that day,
Twas baptized in Christ's church
Before the morning slipped away.
Now you'll always find me there
As often as they do meet;
And I'm studying real hard now,

For I soon have the opportunity to speak.
Now it is the Lord that fills my days.
He guides me and comforts me as I go on his way.
And no matter where I go or what ever I do,
My poor torn Bible always goes with me too.

By Bro. Bob Farley,
Yakima Congregation

LATE NOTICE: There will be a week-long meeting at Modesto, with Brother Howard McCay as guest speaker. The meeting will begin April 3rd and close on April 10th. The services will be 7:30 nightly, with a basket dinner both Sundays. For more information, call 1-209-523-6387.

OBITUARIES: Brother Bob Sheppard of Peoria, Arizona. Funeral services were held Feb. 9th at Payson, Ariz. Bro. Ken Baldwin, officiated.

BAPTISMS: Janice Sauve, Robin Roby, Yakima Cong.

MEETINGS:

Yuma, Ariz.--April 1-8--Ken Harper
Stilwell, Okla.--April 3-10--Earl Atchley
Modesto, Calif.--April 3-10--Howard McCay
Broken Bow, Okla.--June 5-12--Jack White
Gardendale, Texas--June 5-12--Earl Atchley
Waterford, Calif.--June 12-19--Guest speakers
Port Orchard, Wa.--June 12-19--Sammy Boen
Yakima, Wa.--June 25-July 6--Guest speakers
Belflower, Calif.--July 10-17--J. D. Logan
Baron, Okla.--July 3-10--Horace Orendorff
Delta, Colo.--July 18-25--Guest speakers
Furnish Canyon, Okla.--July 24-31--Tom Broadway
Lorenzo, Texas,--Aug. 21-28--Kelly McCay and Greg Staley

ANY MORE MEETINGS? LET US KNOW IN TIME!