FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS QUICK, AND POWERFUL,

AND SHARPER THAN ANY TWOEDGED SWORD...

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

Published by Brethren of the Church of Christ

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September - October 1977

Dear Brethren,

The writer in Hebrews 10:23-24 tells us to "hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:" The thought of living a Christian, is a high profession which we cherish and cling to. Just like the professional trades, we all must work together for the prize of our high calling. Working together, considering each other, promoting love and good works are all essential in achieving our goal.

Attending church meetings is one important way of promoting love and strengthening the brotherhood. The love and hospitality shown at different meetings is the result of the above Hebrew writing. We had a successful meeting in August with Bro. Charles Burt of Lorenzo, Texas, doing the preaching. We are planning another meeting next June 11 thru June 18 with Bro. Claude Perigen. We invite all to come.

With love to all
The Chesterton Church of Christ
Charles Jared

Brethren,

There are many purposes for circulating the newsletter called The Christian Courier. It serves the entire brotherhood in the interests of communication, announcements, spreading of goodwill, and exhortation. It is published by brethren of the Church of Christ, who volunteer their time

and efforts to provide the brotherhood with current information.

Many notes and articles have been issued from this staff, encouraging brethren to take some interest and write articles, letters, and current information concerning births, deaths, baptisms, and meetings. Our pleas have been ignored. We often wonder if the readers even read our pleas. If they are read, with what interest? Is it read like your daily newspaper and then put in the stack for winter fires? Do you just read the letters, births, deaths, and baptisms? Maybe you just wonder when the next meeting will be held. There has to be some reason for the lack of response. What is it?

Is there nothing left but a shameful reprimand? If that is the case, you will not read the reprimand written from this pen. Is your own conscience not enough? Are the encouragements of the leaders of congregations not enough? Are bonds of the brethren and the good of the brotherhood not enough? If not, my brethren, nothing I say will matter to you! It would be like writing with a stick in the sand.

If Paul had neglected writing to the brethren, where would we be now? If Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John could not have been bothered with recording the Gospels, what hope would we now have? The answer is immediately at the tips of our tongues. What hope, then, will the Christian Courier have in servicing the brotherhood if the brethren do not write?

I write this letter, dear brethren, hoping that it does not fall on dull understanding. I hope to make the matter clear to all. If the Christian Courier is forced to continue in the state it has been, it will die in a slow, lingering death. It has taken two months to accumulate enough letters for this issue. The few who support this newsletter with their articles and letters will tire if not given a rest by others. Do you know of congregations this has happened to? Too many of them! Is the Christian Courier made of any stouter stuff?

Search your hearts, dear brethren, and decide while you can still do something about it. Contributions of money will not solve the problem, nor will clipping articles out of magazines or newspapers, although both of these are helpful. The cure for the illness lies only in your affections for the brethren rising to the point at which you sit down at a desk and write.

Submitted in Christian Love,
The Editors

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Everyone here at Stillwell is doing just fine now. Brother Kennie Ross had a heart attack and was in the hospital for 2 weeks. He is home now and doing okay. Brother John Brow was in the hospital for surgery but is back at church now.

We meet every Sunday morning at 10:30 Sunday night and Wednesday night at 7:00. Anyone coming this way is welcomed to worship with us.

In Christian love,
Brother Gerald Buckner
Stillwell, Oklahoma

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We at the Broken Bow Congregation were very happy to receive two brethren from the Baron Church of Christ to come and speak for us on Sunday September 4, 1977. They were The Brother Gene Barrett family and the Brother George B. Morris, Jr. family.

Brother Gene gave us a very fine lesson Sunday morning and then Brother George gave us a very fine lesson Sunday evening. We were also very happy to have Brother Jesse Merle McKinney from Yakima, Washington to be visiting with us on Sunday September 11, 1977. We can always use help from other brothers and sisters in serving the Lord. We here at Broken Bow are like all other churches when it comes to needing more help to work for the Lord; and we appreciate all the help we can get.

From the Broken Bow Cong.
Brother Edwin Crowell

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ;

Praise be to God for His glorious grace. We're all very glad to be hearing of you in these letters, and may our Lord be thanked for providing us with a government that allows us to freely do this.

We've had a wonderful bunch of experiences recently that have been given to us for better spiritual understanding. Its good to know that with each temptation, tribulation, and trial God provides an escape and an opportunity for growth, and not only in these types of cases, but when we suceed and are richly blessed, also.

In the past couple of months or so, many of the members here have undersone a job change, which seems to be working out well in every case. Also, a fairly new couple in the church have moved over from Yakima-John and Debbie Randolph and their children.

We are indeed very pleased to announce that another soul has been added to the church of our Lord. Larry Wood, from Port Angeles, Wash., was baptized Sunday, Oct. 9, and has started his new life in Christ.

Robert and Ellen MCCay left here the 2nd of October and are on the road to visiting other brothers and sisters in Christ for the next month or two. We hope and pray that their journey will be protected and that it will be of edification for all, as the will of God permits.

We all extend a hearty invitation for any that would like to visit us; we would enjoy your company.

May God watch over and protect every one of you in these moments of your lives. Your faith in Him is precious; may it be found ready at the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In the love of Christ
Wayne Orendorff
the church at Glenwood, Washington

Brethren:

Everyone here at Pleasant View Congregation is doing well. Sister Em Brown has been in the hospital but is out now and doing better.

My family and Brother and Sister Kennie Ross have just returned from vacationing with my parents, Brother Jim and Sister Connie Bryant. We met with the congregation in Springfield, Ore., and were received with a warm welcome. We received the same warm treatment at Aztec, N.M. We greatly enjoy meeting our brethren and worshipping with them in the various locations.

We invite all who can come by to be with us anytime; our homes and hearts are always open.

In Christian Love,
Robert Eldridge
Pleasant View Congregation
Stillwell, Ok.

Dear loved ones in Christ,

I'm well overdue in writing this news letter, so will get on the ball.

First of all I would like to share our joy with you of our daughter Tayna confessing Jesus Christ and being baptized in June, we are all so very happy for her.

Our meeting in July was up-building and enjoyed by all that attended. Brother J.D. Logan brought us ten wonderful lessons, and we thank him and his wife so very much for their love and effort they shared with us.

Virgina Brown from Waterford, was baptized during the meeting, so not only were the members helped but J.D. helped this young lady into a new life for Christ.

Tom, Charlene, and Lynn Broadway have moved back to Grants Pass, Ore. We miss them very much, but are very happy for them because its what they want. May God bless them richly in their new life there.

Our daughter Tammy is recovering from open heart surgery, and is doing wonderfully.

We've enjoyed visits from several Christian friends the last few weeks, thank you for being with us. We invite all to meet and visit with us anytime you can. We send our love to the Brotherhood.

For the Church of Christ
Brother Alfred Way
Bellflower, Calif.

Dear Friends,

Tammy is doing so well following her open heart surgery on August 5. All our prayers were answered. God be thanked for people like you.

Tammy and our whole family thank each of you so much for the many gifts, flowers, phone calls, visits and the love that gave us strength throughout this trying time.

May God bless you richly.

In Christian love,
Al, Okja, Tammy, Tayna, and
Al III Way

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Again I must apologize for not writing sooner but I would also like to tell you once again how much we enjoy the Courier. It performs a great service by keeping us informed of the events in churches throughout the country.

As I sit here tonight I am thankful for so many things that I could not numerate them on paper or by mouth, for God has given us so much in this life. At this time I would like to express my appreciation and thanks that I have so many dear loved ones in Christ across this great land of ours.

This passed summer my Lord has permitted me to visit four different meetings, and my family was permitted to visit other congregations and many loved ones in Christ. I would like to thank each and every individual that my family and myself have come in contact with this summer for their love, hospitality and fellowship. I am unable to express the deep feelings of love, strength and courage we received from such wonderful fellowship.

I would like for those who have not tried visiting and traveling to other congregations to do so at the very earliest opportunity. You don't have to wait for a meeting--just go--visit--and you will be strengthened by

by association with Christians. God provides finances so give some of it back to him by traveling to visit and support other congregations.

Remember us in your prayers. Our prayers are for the strength and bonds of unity in the brotherhood.

With Christian Love
Don Taylor
Fort Cobb, Ok.

Dear Brethren,

Thanks to all of you for your prayers and your concern during our trying time. I am now back on the able list.

Sorry to report that Brother Jack Morris is in the Phoenix VA Hospital with a heart attack. He also has emphysema.

We appreciate receiving the paper with the good articles and the news. Brother Harry Wegley's article "Am I My Brothers Keeper" is one example of a fine article for us and should be studied closely by all.

May God continue to bless our Brother Mike McCay and his work. This was the first news that we have had on or about his accident.

To those working on the paper, keep up the good work and may God bless all of you.

Harry and Lou Dye
Box 695
Parker, Az. 85344

MIRACLES

What is a miracle? We've all heard about miracles. Wouldn't it be nice to have one happen in your very own life? To wake up some morning and find things wonderfully changing for the better? Of course we'd have to be careful who we got the miracle from, God or Satan.

I suppose we've all thought at some time, "Wouldn't it be nice if a good fairy appeared and gave me three wishes." What would you do if you had three wishes? What are the most important things to you here on earth? List them in your mind, first, second and third.

Webster's dictionary defines a miracle as, "A wonderful happening that is above, against, or independent of the known laws of nature", or in other words, God's laws of nature. To a five year old boy, pulling a carrot out of the ground could be a miracle, because he wouldn't know the law of nature by which this could happen. Another miracle might be when he took it inside, washed it and ate it, at least to his mother.

Jesus did miracles (Matt. 9:2-8), and Satan has that power, too. II Thess. 2:9-10 says, "Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved." Because Jesus said, "And if a house be divided against itself, that kindgom cannot stand", his miracles had to come from God's power. Today, as you know, you cannot see any visual difference between a miracle from God and a lying wonder from Satan. Therefore we can conclude two things, (1) Since a miracle depends on how much a person knows, "what a miracle is" changes from person to person, and (2) mircles may not be used to <u>prove</u> a religious matter true or false, because there is no way of proving where the power came from or by whose authority!

Perhaps the key phrase is in the last part of the scripture just read, "...because they received not the love of the truth..." Could this be the difference between a miracle from God and Satan's lying wonders; whether the person who prayed for it loved the truth? Jn. 15: vs.'s 7,10 say, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love." "<u>If</u>" the commandments are being followed and you are abiding in God's love, you may " ask what you will" that, with Christ's joy remaining in you, your joy may be full.

Phil. 4:6,7 says, "...but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." Phil. 4:8 says, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Think of the actual, visible, miracles that can happen in your life, with you abiding in God and He in you. As you grow more fully in His love, and truth, the blessings you receive from God right now can be just the beginning. By praying, perhaps just before you go to bed, you <u>can</u> wake up in the morning and <u>find things wonderfully changing for the better</u>.

In Christian Love,
Brother Greg Staley

MEETINGS

Port Orchard, Washington- Nov. 24-27 - Jerry McCay and Bob Farley

Quiz

Name the city associated with the following men:

1. Moses _____ Heb. 11:24-27
2. Jethro _____ Exodus 3:1
3. Ahasuerus _____ Esther 3:1-3
4. Abraham _____ Gen. 15:1-7
5. Paul _____ Acts 21:39
6. Aquila _____ Acts 18:2
7. The eunuch _____ Acts 8:26-27
8. Saul _____ I Samuel 9:1-2
9. Naaman _____ II Kings 5:1

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* PLEASE WRITE ! *
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