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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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SELF-EVALUATION

I Cor. -1:31 tells us "if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged." I think it is high time each of us judgeth ourselves. I used to sing a song which said "what kind of church would His Church be if all of its' members were just like me?" This was brought home to me as I looked at the last issue of the Courier; one sheet, four pages. I also remembered the last issue before that and realized neither had an article or news by Bro. Howard of Yakima. I thought if all of the brethren were like me, there would have been no issues of the Christian Courier for the last four months. It is true I have been busy, but so have all the brethren who did make an effort. I cannot justify myself by comparing myself to all the other brethren who also made no effort. II Cor. 10:12 says if we compare ourselves among ourselves we are not wise.

It is not just the Courier either. I am made to wonder if lack of growth in the Lord's Church is because all the members are like me. Can I say that I have been a faithful servant of Christ? When He calls me to give an account of my stewardship, what will I say? Have I been slothful in business or have I been "fervent in Spirit serving the Lord?" Do I attend all the Lord's services, or do I miss some because of a headache, or worse, I want to see a TV show or go to a game, or I have some worldly meeting to attend? If I miss services and all of the members are like me, who would there be to lead singing, offer prayer, bring a lesson, or just sit and listen to God's word and have the fellowship of brothers and sisters in Christ?

Brethren, I believe it is high time we get our heads out of the sand

and take a good look at ourselves. Are we Christians or just church members? Are we part of the solution to the spreading of the Gospel or part of the problem? Are we working for unity, understanding and growth of the Church, or do we refuse to cooperate with others because they don't agree with us 100%.

I have been able to attend four Gospel meetings this past year and I have learned much from being with the brethren. Everywhere we have gone we have been made welcome and much Christian hospitality was shown. I learned much from these meetings and I am thankful to have been able to attend them.

The meeting at Bellflower where I did the speaking was probably more beneficial to me than to those who came from far and near to hear, and I appreciate the cooperation of all the brethren at that meeting. I hope that all the members are like me in the good that they have derived from meetings this past year. And Lord willing, we are looking forward to attending several this next year and hope to see many of you there also.

Brethren, it is not too early to get word of your next years meeting into the paper. Let us all work hard together for a prosperous growth of the Lord's Church in the coming year.

Written in love of all the brethren and to stir up your minds by way of remembrance,

Howard McCay
Yakima Cong.

ME? AN ELEPHANT?

A children's story tells of a group of animals interacting with each other in the jungle. An ant was climbing up a blade of grass and was blown by the wind into a river just below. The ant swam to the safety of a branch which stood out of the water. He called to shore where a turtle was standing. When asked for help, the turtle told the ant that he would have no time to relax if he went around helping everybody, and, went on his way.

The turtle was just about to step up on a warm rock, when he slipped and fell on his back, unable to upright himself. While gazing upward, the turtle saw a large billed bird and asked the bird if he would flip him over with his beak. The bird, instead chastised the turtle that he shouldn't be so clumsy. As the bird leaned over her nest to say more, her prized egg fell out of the nest to the ground. She flew down to rescue it, but due to the weight of the egg, she could not lift the load.

It just so happened that a giraffe walked by. The bird asked the giraffe if he would replace the egg (because he had such a great, long,

neck). The giraffe refused because he thought others would laugh when they saw what a rediculous thing he was doing.

The giraffe went on to taste the leaves of a nearby tree. He did not notice the tangle dangle vine and soon became entangled himself. Seeing a lion approaching and wanting help, the giraffe called out and implored the lion to slash the vines with his claws. The lion thought it was so funny, he just continued on his way. The lion was still laughing when he sat down to nap. He set himself down with such a force, he caused an awkwardly perched rock to fall on his tail. With great struggle, the lion tried to free his tail, but in vain. Along came a rhino who was equipped with a wonderful crowbar-like horn, who could easily remove the rock. The rhino offered to help if the lion could think of some way he could repay. The lion could only think of his tail, so the rhino continued. Not watching where he was going, Mr. Rhino ran smack into a stump, wedging his horn in deep. With all of his kicking and snorting, he could only bury his horn deeper.

What should come along this trail of mishap but a large elephant whose enormous ears could hear even the spam pf a twig. He heard the ant's plea for help. His trunk reached out across the water and helped the ant to safety. The ant was very thankful. The turtle, not far off, saw what happened and remarked to the elephant that if he had time to bother with a nothing ant, then how about me? The elephant obliged, and went on without a word of thanks from the turtle. The bird saw this and shouted that if the elephant could help an ugly turtle, how about her egg? The elephant gently replaced the egg, but received a coarse comment from the bird.

Continuing down the road, he saw the giraffe all tangled up. Kindly, the elephanttore apart the mess and freed the giraffe. "Well, its about time," snorted the giraffe, and away he galloped.

The next good deed was to the lion, who replied, "Some day I"LL thank you, when I"m in a better mood." Finally, the rhino was freed from his problem.

The elephant was very pleased with himself because of all the good deeds he had done that day. He confided to himself that everybody has troubles: "Everyone but big me. I"ll never get into a problem where I need help." As he was proudly walking, he stumbled into a hidden gully. He fell on his back and was wedged where he could not use his legs to upright himself. So there he laid. He yelled out for help, but no one answered. Hours went by and no one passed.

At last, his enormous ears heard tiny footsteps. "Who's there?" he asked.

"The ant you helped this morning and 98,000 of my friends," was the reply.

The elephant was sure that the ants could not help, but the ants lifted all together and carried the elephant up and out of the gully to safety. On his feet again, the elephant thanked the ants for their tremendous assistance. The ants, however, agreed among themselves that it was no big matter and were glad to help.

There are perhaps a dozen points that could be persued in this story. I would like to draw special attention to the attitude of the elephant. Here was a creature who was very confident in his ability and treated his size as an asset which could be put to use for others. He was very happy to walk through the jungle, helping other creatures with their problems along the way. He was in fact, such a confident creature that he figured he would never have any problems of his own with which he would need the help of others.

There are many in Christ's body that resemble the good attitude of the elephant. They are always willing to help others, giving no thought to something acknowledged by the world as inconvenience. They give of their time, money, and energy to help others, with never a thought of repayment. These brothers and sisters are guided by the scriptures:
Gal. 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.
Rom. 15:1 We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves.
Rom. 12:10 Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.

Of those that are willing to help others, is another sub-division: those who will not for some reason accept the help of others. They are willing to help, but not be helped.

If we look at Christ's Body as a whole, we see individuals who are weak and strong, burdened and free from burden at different times in their lives. Every person is active helping someone when he or she can, and when they are unable to help, they become the ones that are helped by others. It is entirely a give and receive proposition. In a manner of thinking, it is actually a good deed to allow someone to help you as it is a good deed to help others, because we are giving them the chance to fulfill the law of Christ.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we must have the attitude of the kindly elephant when it comes to helping others. But we must not think of ourselves more highly than we ought and be deluded into thinking that no one need ever help us; but be joyful and accept the fact that when we need help, someone will be there with their hand outstretched.

In Christian love,
Bro. Dan Ross, Yakima

LOVE IS GIVING ALL

As Jimmy sat on the hill looking down at the ranch below, his eyes filled with tears again as he recalled the days events. He noticed in the farmyard below his father had turned the puppies loose and was now starting up the long hill towards him. They were just little balls of fur bouncing here and there, always into mischief and growing quickly.

In past times he had sat by the hour watching Lucy clean and play with her new family. Today had been the first time that Jimmy had let her follow him on one of his trips to the store since her puppies had been born. As the tears rolled down Jimmy's face again he shook a little as he remembered how scared he had been when the two dogs had attacked him. Lucy had not even hesitated as she charged to defend him; and now she was dead.

Jimmy did not want to see anyone right now, least of all, his dad. Jimmy thought his dad was always so calm and handled his sorrow so well. Jimmy was ashamed to have his dad see him crying now, but he knew his red eyes would give him away. It wasn't long before his dad was sitting beside him, scratching the puppies' ears.

"Your mother has dinner almost ready; will you be eating with us?" asked dad, breaking the awful silence.

"Daddy, she was so much more than my dog. She was my best friend," Jimmy cried, pushing one of the playful puppies away.

"You know, son, death is always hard to take, especially when it is someone close to you." Dad hugged Jimmy close.

"But why did she have to die, Dad?" asked Jimmy as he wiped at his tears.

"Do you remember the othe night at the Bible Study when we were studying the book of John?" asked his dad. "In the 13th verse of chapter 15 it said, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." This is the love that Lucy gave to you Jimmy. She could not have given any more than she did. You know son, Christ did the same thing for us. He did not have to die for us, but just like Lucy, he chose to because he also loved us so very much."

"I know all that Dad, but I'm going to miss Lucy so much," sighed Jimmy.

"Yes son, we're all going to miss Lucy. But don't you think we owe her something?" Jimmy agreed, but could not think of what to repay for the dog's sacrifice. His father picked up one of the puppies and handing it to him said, "Here, you at least owe Lucy enough to finish raising her puppies for her."

"But that isn't enough Dad, she gave her life for me." protested Jimmy."

"Son, you know Christ gave His life for us. How does He want us to repay Him for His life?"

"Well, He wants us to obey His will and be like Him," Jimmy answered slowly, beginning to realize what his father was telling him.

There was only one way he could repay Lucy and that was to do what Lucy would have wanted him to do in a case like this. Lucy, being full of fun would have been out playing with her puppies, trying to cheer them up. For they had lost even more than Jimmy had, they had lost their mother.

As Jimmy picked up one of the puppies and loved it, he realized how great love really is when you are willing to lay down your life for a friend.

Bro. Robert W. Farley
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Selah, Wa. 98942

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

Dear Christian Friends,

Our congregation has many things to be thankful for. Our young people have been busy with cannery work and the rush season but are very faithful to their Lord and his work.

The baby crop is doing nicely, a few colds, sore throats and new teeth, but usually able to attend services. Bro. and Sis. Roger Lamb are expecting a new baby in December, and also expect to have their new house completed by then. "Good Luck Roger and Sharon on both events!"

We have had several fellowship activities this fall and more are planned for the holiday season. We believe Rom. 12:10, "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another." This means enjoying association with our fellow Christians over the people of the world. When we have a day of planned activiites other than the Lord's Day, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite our non-Christian friends to come and get acquainted and hopefully a chance to teach them of Christ.

Sister Phoebe McCay has been unable to attend services the past two Sundays. Phoebe is 90 years old, and is in a nursing home. She would enjoy hearing from friends. Grandma Mack has been with her granddaughter, Sister Lynell Forseman, of the Glenwood congregation, for the past couple of months and is missed by all.

Bro. and Sis. Larry Roark are in a new home for them, and we enjoyed a house warming for them. Much happiness Larry and Polly in your new home!

Veda and I visited with the Glenwood congregation a few weeks ago. We always enjoy the fellowship there. Bill and Debbie Taylor are anxious

to start building a new house in Glenwood. They are clearing the acreage now.

Veda and I have set aside some vacation time to attend the Modesto meeting near Fort Bragg in July. We hope that you will start making plans now for a vacation to remember. See you there!

Bro. Bill McCay, Sr.
Yakima Congregation

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

First of all I would like to thank all who came to the camp meeting in July at Lugert. A lot of people put forth a lot of effort in planning their vacations to be here for the meeting. I am thankful and appreciate it because they made the meeting a great success. We enjoyed seeing old friends and making new ones. I hope and pray to see all of you again in the future. I would suggest if you haven't tried making a camp meeting, plan to do it as they are strengthening to all of us who attended.

Now I must make an apology. I have lost all the records from the camp meeting. As most of you already know, Lugert and Lorenzo shared in the work and expenses of the meeting. Two weeks after the meeting I took all the figures to Lorenzo and the figures were made known to all who were there that weekend. Since that time, I have misplaced the notebook with the figures in it. Therefore, the following figures are from memory: Rent of the camp grounds --- $357.00 Food and misc. --- $600.00 With the contributions turned in by the people who attended the camp, it resulted in costing each congregation less than $200. Each congregation was prepared to spend more if necessary.

I hope this will give you an idea of how we handled the camp and the expenses of having one. As I said before, we had the exact figures when we settled with the Lorenzo congregation. I want to again thank all of you for your efforts in behalf of this camp meeting.

Mark was injured in an auto accident and is now recovering here at home. He will go back to the hospital for surgery Jan. 2nd or 3rd. It was by the grace of God that he lived through such a serious accident. Thanks for all of your prayers. Pray for us here.

In Christian Love,
Bro. Don Taylor

Brothers and Sisters,

The fall meeting at Yakima was another excellent example of Christian fellowship and love. This meeting featured Bro. Al Way of the Bellflower congregation as speaker. Attendance on both Sundays required the use of

extra folding chairs. The attendance throughout the weeknights was slightly less, but the fervor of the speaker and those who listened was not dampened. Brother Way spoke with sincerity and knowledge of the Scriptures, making his stay with us a beneficial and memorable occasion.

We were, during the course of the meeting, visited by brothers and sisters in Christ from other congregations. A hopefully complete list follows. In addition to Al, Okja and family were: Sister Lula Way, Bro. Jerry and Sis. Betty Perigen and family (Bellflower), Bro. Gene and Sis. Pat McKinney and family (Modesto), Bro. Roy and Sis. Mattie McCay (Springfield), Bro. Robert and Sis. Ellen McCay (Glenwood), Sis. Lynell Forseman and children (Glenwood), Bros. Jerry and Marty Brockman and Bro. Vernon Bentz (Chico), Bro. Kep Orendorf (Glenwood), Bro. and Sis. Leonard Starnes (Grass Valley), and Bro. Bill and Sis. Debbie Taylor and family (Glenwood). We thank all of our visitors for giving us support during our meeting.

The Yakima congregation is planning a spring meeting for 1979. The date will tentatively be April 8-15. Please plan now to visit with us sometime during that week. We will be looking forward to seeing you.

For the Church at Yakima,
Bro. Dan Ross

CONVALESCENCE

Bro. Mark Taylor, son of Bro. Don Taylor, Lugert, Oklahoma, after an auto accident injury. Mark will return to the hospital Jan. 2nd or 3rd for surgery.

MEETINGS

Yakima, Washington	April 8-15	
Modesto California	July 8-15	Camp
Yakima, Washington	1980	Camp

WHAT DID THEY SEE?

1. What did John the Baptist see when he baptized Jesus?
2. What did the first two disciples see when they followed Jesus?
3. What did Jesus see Nathanael doing before Philip brought him to Him?
4. What did the disciples see when they returned from Sychar to the Jacob's well?
5. What did Jesus see when the people of Sychar came out to meet Him?
6. What did the Jewish leaders see a man doing on the Sabaath?
7. What did Andrew see on the day Jesus fed the multitude?
8. What did the disciples see one night while they were in their boat on the Sea of Galilee?