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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

A college student was asked, "What is the most meaningful thing that has happened to you recently?" His answer was surprising. "Let me tell you." he said. "Several weeks ago I had my handwriting analyzed and was told that I am an extrovert. I didn't know that. All my life I have been timid and shy, with a huge inferiority complex. But now that is all changed and I have been having a marvelous time these last few weeks." And he was right. A new name had given him the power to become a new person.

The Bible's story of Jacob and his twin brother Esau is as fascinating and contemporary as the children next door. Jacob was a mother's boy and his brother was an outdoorsman. Thus the seeds of life are sown.

The very name "Jacob" means supplanter or "cheat". Jacob cheated his brother. He cheated his father. He cheated his father-in-law. He lived up to his name. The turning point in his life came as he was leaving his father-in-law, with two of his daughters for wives and half of his livestock secured by trickery. As Jacob traveled toward home, he learned that his brother was coming to meet him with a large force of men.

Such a setting is perfect for conversion. Jacob is the man who has been "adjusting" his income tax when word comes that the Bureau of

Internal Revenue wants to look at his books. He is the man who has been cheating in his business and has found that his co-workers have found it out. He is the student who has been putting off studying all semester and then comes to exam time. Life has a way of bringing us up short. One day we will face who we are and what we have done to others.

Suddenly Jacob faced a lifetime of deceit in the imminent approach of Esau. The night before he was to meet his brother, who had every right to rob him or thrash him or kill him, he was ready to hear what God had to say. He sent his family and servants and cattle on ahead and waited by the brook of Jabok. There he met God and wrestled with Him all night. As dawn came, the Person with whom he wrestled said, "Let me go, for the dawn in coming." (One cannot see the face of God and live).

But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless you bless me." Here is the really strange thing. When God said to Jacob, "I will bless you," God went on to ask, "What is your name?"

"My name is Jacob", (or cheat).

And God said, "Your name is no longer Jacob, It is Israel. Cheat, you have become a prince. That is your real name."

And the amazing thing was that this man became a prince of God, the person for whom the Israelite nation is named, and for whom Christians are named because we are the new Israel. He was the spiritual founder of all that we cherish, both as Jews and Christians, because God called him by his rightful name and he became what he was called.

We find this happening all throughout the Bible. When a man is ready for God to bless him, God gives him a new name and he becomes what he is called. Simon became Peter, and Saul became Paul.

In subtle ways we give each other names-within-names. And we become what we all are called. Each of my children have particular names and they know exactly what I mean when I call out:"Richard" or Michael, or Kathy or Anthony. And all too often the name means that they must be more careful about keeping the room clean, etc...

How do you see yourself? Is your name Timid, or Dishonest, or Self-conscious, or Fearful, or Indifferent, or Reserved? The name by which God calls you might be just the opposite. It may be that your real name is Courageous, or Faithful, or Warm, or Generous, or Kind, or Loving.

How do you see others? If the names we call ourselves determine who we are, do the names we call others determine who they become? I have seen this happen and I marvel at it.

We had a thumb-sucker in our family who finally got old enough to stop his habit (we thought). I tried everything to get him to stop, but he would not. Scolding was tried, vile tasting things on the thumb was tried. But he didn't stop. I kept telling him that he was too big to suck his thumb, and I guess he agreed, but the thumb was still in his mouth. (He also loved to hold onto the blanket binding).

Then one day I realized what my true motives were. I was really embarrassed to have my child suck his thumb. I saw that my love for this child was conditioned by my need for him to stop this habit. And I am sure God showed me this, and when He did, I made a new commitment of myself to Him and to my child and began to affirm what a truly wonderful son I had.

I stopped "correcting" him and I stopped nagging or even refering to "thumb-sucking" in any way. I dropped the subject and turned my direction to just accepting him and loving him, as he was.

I secretly called my son by a new name, "Mr. Wonderful"; I didn't really care, when you got down to it, if he ever stopped sucking his thumb.

And then, something wonderful happened.

He recognized that he had a new "name", and that I was no longer concerned about my feeling, and in a short while he stopped sucking his thumb. He had become that person who I thought he had to be. He grew up. (According ot my standards).

When we have certain habits or things that we do that irritate others, let's remember one thing; that is, God loves us just the same. And He knows that if we really have that new name that He has given us, (CHRISTIAN) then He can and does accept us and our habits. And because of this LOVE, we too will change those habits just because of His abundant LOVE and understanding. We will stop "sucking our thumb" so to speak, and will "grow up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".

My son, (the thumb-sucker) is now a grown man and he is still just as dear to me, in whatever he does, as he was when he was small.

His habits have changed. He also has another new name. He has the same name as I have; (Christian).

Do you have the Heavenly Father's Name? (CHRISTIAN?) ???

Written in Christian Love,

Bro. Homer Bryant
San Pablo, Calif. congregation

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

Far West Camp Meeting

On behalf of the Modesto, California congregation, I would like to thank everyone who participated on our 1979 Far West Camp Meeting. at Fort Bragg, California.

The camp was a great success by anybody's standards. We averaged 106 persons per day in attendance, with a maximum of over 130. (I lost count of the babies).

There were in attendance members from the following congregations: San Pablo, Cal.; Grant's Pass, Ore.; Springfield, Ore.; Chesterton, Ind.; Chico, Calif.; Bellflower, Cal.; Yakima, Wash.; Lorenzo, Tex.; Grass Valley, Cal.; Port Orchard, Wash.; Modesto, Calif.; and of course, Ft. Bragg, Calif.

This was, in the opinion of many, one of the very best camp meetings we have ever had in recent years.

Special mention should be made of the tremendous output of arduous labor by the ladies of the Modesto, Cal. congregation. They labored long and hard preparing food, purchasing supplies, and more than a "zillion" other activities necessary to this effort.

There were many donations of supplies from different quarters, for which we want to express our thanks. We realize everything costs much today, so this represents a sacrifice on the part of the donors. There were really so many that helped in so many ways, I won't attempt to mention them by name.

Also, we do not want to forget financial aid by the Brethren of Yakima, Washington. Altogether, it represented an effort by many,

of many locations. This is a very encouraging thing to see; Brethren of many places working together.

Finally, we feel we would be lacking in gratitude if we failed to mention the beautiful weather all week long. For this we thank our Lord, from whom all blessing flow.

With the price of gasoline going up more and more, and the general economy deteriorating as it is, we feel there is a need for more of these meetings on the regional levels. We want to encourage everyone on the Pacific Coast to remember the Camp Meeting in the Northwest at Yakima, Wash. in 1980. Also, in the Rocky Mountain-Midwest area, the Camp meeting at Delta, Colorado. We are considering another Camp in our area in 1981.

There were many young couples with small children in attendance, which made the camp worthwhile. We believe it was possible some could not have been able to come if it were farther away, and for this reason alone, it was worthwhile.

Let us continue to do everything in our power to further the cause of Christ in every way possible.

Yours for the one faith,

Bro. J. D. Logan
3708 Mission rd.
Stockton, Calif.

Brethren:

The church at Yakima has been blessed with a reasonable amount of good health this past year. While we are all a year older, I am not sure we are all a year wiser in a knowledge of our Lord and Savior.

Nell and I were able to attend meetings at Port Orchard, Springfield, the camp meeting at Fort Bragg and have just gotten back from the Thanksgiving meeting at Chico. At all of these meetings we enjoyed the hospitality and fine fellowship of so many brothers and sisters in Christ. For those who never go to other meetings than the home congregations I have a great pity for them. It is impossible to describe the great benefit derived from these meetings and hopefully we have also been a help to others. The fine singing, preaching and discussions especially at the Chico meeting we found very beneficial.

We are about to start another year and once again I would like to urge each and everyone to let the Courier know of your meetings as soon as possible. It is very discouraging to learn of meeting too late to make arrangements to attend and sometines not even knowing about them until after they are past.

Brethren,to me, this is a matter of being slothful in the Lord's business. If we are not even interested in letting others know of meetings of the Lord's church I am afraid that our light has gone out and our candlestick is in danger of being removed.

Written in Christian Love,

Bro. Howard McCay
Yakima Congregation

Brethren,

We at Yakima have had a double blessing. Two more souls have been added to the family of God. They are Wayne Markham and Felica McKinney.

We also have had visitors; Bro. and Sis. Ellis Forsman and family and Bro. Kep Orndorff of Glenwood congregation. Bro. Ellis gave us a lesson on Christian Liberty and we were all uplifted by his words.

We want to thank all who have given so generously of their time to participate in the Courier, particularly the young ones of the congregation who folded, stapled and stuffed envelopes. It is gratifying to see the young ones taking an interest.

In Christian Love,

Bro. Jerry McCay
Yakima congregation

Editors Note:

Brothers and sisters in Christ, Brother Homer Bryant from San Pablo has offered to supply paper for the Courier. If anyone is in the area and coming North, and could bring some this way, please let us know.

I knelt to pray, but not for long
I had too much to do;
Must hurry off and get to work
for bills would soon be due.
And so I said a hurried prayer
and jumped up from my knees;
My Christian duty now was done,
my soul could feel at ease.
All through the day I had no time
to speak a word of cheer,
No time to speak of Christ to friends;
They'd laugh at me, I feared.
"No time, no time, too much to do,"
that was my constant cry.
No time to give to those in need.
At last was time to die.
And when before the Lord I came,
I stood with downcast eyes;
Within His hands He held a book;
it was the Book of Life.
He looked into the book and said,
"Your name I cannot find.
I once was going to write it down,
but never found the time."

(Author Unkown)
Submitted by
Bro. Jon Poweless
Port Orchard
congregation

MEETINGS 1980

DATE	HOST	LOCATION	SPEAKERS
June 22-29	Cederedge, Colo.	Big Spruce	Camp
June 15-22	Yakima, Wash.	Yakima, Wash.	Camp
June 29-July 6	Bellflower, Calif.	Bellflower, Calif.	Bill McCay, Sr.

BAPTISMS

Felica McKinney	Dec. 2, 1979	Yakima, Wash.
Wayne Markham	Dec. 2, 1979	Yakima, Wash.

OBITUARY

After a long illness Sister Vea Morris, of the Baron, Oklahoma congregation, died on Dec. 10, 1979. Sister Morris is survived by her husband Bro. George Hayes Morris. She is also survived by eight children; three sons, Russell, George and Jack, and five daughters; Bonnie, Rosie, Vivian, Betty and Bernice.

Our prayers go out to them in their time of sorrow.

We are still hoping to hear from someone regarding the following people. Some of them were receiving several copies of the Courier, so if you know of someone in the same area who might like to receive the Courier, please let us know. We greatly appreciate hearing from those who took the time to write us.

We have had no word regarding:

Mrs. Shoemake from the Oildale, Calif. area
Mr. & Mrs. William Aastrom from the San Gabriel, Calif. area
Dennis Brown from Protection, Kansas

Please, if YOU can help us, let us know.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

A few issues ago we suggested starting a pen pal club. Since then we have only had a few responses.

Anyone wanting a pen pal please write the Courier and we will be happy to assist you in finding someone to correspond with. Those who wish pen pals so far are:

Robert Farley
Rt. 2 Box 2549
Selah, Wash. 98942

Delma Loveland
1410 S. 18th Ave.
Yakima, Wash. 98902

Candie Farley
Rt. 2 Box 2549
Selah, Wash. 98942