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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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FEBRUARY 1981

Matthew 12:33 tells us the fruit of a tree will either be good or corrupt and the tree is known by it's fruit. We see that we cannot be good and bad at the same time. So let us consider a few things that we must do if we have good fruit. In the parable of the talants (Matthew 25:24-27) the one which received the one talant didn't use what God gave him and was cast out. Do we want to be like him? If not let us consider a few things we must do in our everyday life.

Philippians 1:27-29 *"Only let your conversation be as it becometh of Christ...For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake."* This must be found in our lives or we do not bear good fruit.

Read Philippians 2:3-7 *"Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others...and took upon him the form of a servant,..."* Continuing on in verse 14 we are told...*"do all things without murmurings and disputings:...holding forth the word of life."* (in other words living this in our life.) In Philippians 3:2 we are told to *"...beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware the concision."* In verses 13-17

we are told that we haven't apprehended but we are to forget..."*those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before...I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Let us therefore as many as be perfect be thus mended...*" Let us walk by the same rule, being followers of Paul watching for and teaching those that don't. Philippians 4:6&9 "*Be careful for nothing: but in everyting by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God....*" We are to think on those things which we have both learned and received and heard and seen in Paul.

Colossians 1:23 "*If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel...*"

Colossians 2:6-8 "*As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him.*"..."*Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit...and not after Christ.*"

Colossians 2:16 "*Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday...*" verse 18 "*Let no man beguile you...*" by being "*puffed up by his fleshly mind...*" (holding grudges against others).

Colossians 3:2&5 "*Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth...Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth:*' (in other words do not touch the things of the flesh--the remainder of verse 5). Colossians 3:8&9 "*But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy* (which is speaking against or reproachfully of others) *filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds...*"

Colossians 3: 12, 13, 15, & 17 "*Put on as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies;* (be merciful to others), *Kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering. Forbearing one another and forgiving one another...even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body, and be ye thankful. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus,* (or as he directs) *giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*"

In Colossians 3:18-25 Paul lists things that we must do as wives, husbands, children, fathers, servants in fact to us all.

Colossians 3:25 *"But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons."*

Brethren, think and do these things that we have mentioned everyday we live so the tree will be good and the fruit good and all have eternal life.

Yours in Christian love,
Lloyd Treat

SINGING IN THE WOODS

"Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best."---Henry Van Dyke These few words make a very big point. People in general, are fooled by the notion that a job cannot be done unless done by an expert. The changing American way feeds fuel to the fire: Plumbing problems in the home must be attended by a plumber. For a healthy lawn, call the gardener. When the roof leaks, hail the carpenter. When the automobile ails, we send it to the garage.

This same thinking has filtered down into the church. When we need someone to speak in the assembly, we rely on the same man or men who have preached for years. When the sick need visiting, we shun the responsibility because "we didn't know the person very well." When a songleader is needed we look to the one with the best voice. When a brother or sister needs financial help, we say to ourselves, "Others have more to give than I."

Brothers and sisters, open your ears. Are your woods very silent because everyone is waiting for the best bird to start singing?

When we finally realize that we don't have to be an expert to work in the Lord's vineyard, and actually begin working, another fear may overtake us. "What if I make too many mistakes?" A short story gives us some insight into this mystery: An old mountaineer from the Southeast was known by all for his wisdom. "Uncle Zeb," a young man asked, "how did you get so wise?" "Weren't hard," said the old man. "I've got good judgment. Good judgment comes from experience. And experience---well, that comes from having bad judgment." Most brothers and sisters in Christ who have been through that mystery will tell you:

"If you aren't making mistakes, then you aren't doing anything." So the best thing for us to do is work hard and, when we make a mistake, learn from it, alter our course, and keep working.

Putting all of our fears and excuses behind us, let us work diligently and steadfastly; never lifting our heads and looking around to see if everyone else is working along. Be the example among your brethren. Clear your throat and begin singing.

In search of the truth,
Brother Dan Ross
Yakima Congregation

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

Dear Christian Friends:

The brothers and sisters here at Glenwood church of Christ are all doing well. Everyone seems to be in fairly good health. We have a new brother in Christ here. Bro. Bob Heck from Tacoma was baptized on October 5. He's been participating quite a bit in the worship services.

We'd like to invite everyone who can, to come and worship with us.

In Christian love,
The Glenwood Congregation

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

We here at Baron are all very well, have had some sickness both here and at Pleasant View but seems like they are doing better now.

We alternate with Pleasant View on Sunday nights.

We have several different speakers and each takes his turn. We also have some young brothers who have full charge of Sunday night services at Pleasant View.

We would like to announce at this time, we have a gospel meeting planned from June 7-14, 1981, with Brother J. D. Logan from Stockton,

California, doing the preaching. We would like to invite all who will and can come to the meeting.

There's plenty of room for any one who might want to bring campers, also plenty of room in our homes.

The weather is usually pretty nice here around that time of year. We have some beautiful lakes and streams not far away for fishing and swimming.

The church is located eight miles north of Stilwell on 59 Highway or six miles south of Westville south of Baron Bridge.

For the Baron church
Rt. 2 Box 68
Westville, Okla. 74965
phone (918) 778-3240

To all our Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

We send our deepest love to all of you as well as our apologies for being neglectful in not writing before now.

By way of introductions, we are the Sea-Tac church of Christ here in Seattle, Washington, formerly worshipped with the brethren at Port Orchard, (whom we greatly miss) but as of April, illness, cost of gas numbers of people traveling, etc. have made it necessary to start a congregation of our own. God has surely been with us and blessed us as we found a small community center to rent within our small budget.

In May, Bro. Gus and Sis. Nancy Staley moved back from Texas and their continuing presence has really helped us. In Oct. and Nov. we were blessed by the arrival of Bro. Luke Ray of Texas and Bro. Karl Orendorff of Calif. The end of this month (Dec.) we look forward to an addition to the family of Bro. Wayne and Sis. Amy Orendorff. In addition to those mentioned elsewhere in this letter, Bro. Greg Staley and Sis. Jeannean Angel also meet with us as well as children.

By way of news, Sis. Lynell Forsman had a total hip replacement in April but she still continues to make excellent progress due largely we know to everyone's prayers. Now (Dec.) Sis. Nell McCay is in the hospital here in Seattle for extensive surgery on both knees. She also is making excellent progress although her recovery will take several months.

We also have been blessed from time to time by various visitors from Yakima who have greatly encouraged us. We meet every Lord's day at 10:30 a.m. and afterwards we usually have dinner together in one of our homes. We also continue to meet at least two times a month for mid-week services with the brethren from Port Orchard and we all really enjoyed their meeting in August.

We would really appreciated any visitors at worship or in our homes. We're located just off I-5 on 188th St. or call Ellis Forsman at 762-6936 or Wayne Orendorff at 242-5656 for directions.

Our love to you all
The brethren in Seattle, Wash.

Dear Brethren,

The congregation at Waterford is growing. We had three baptisms in September. They were Teresa McKenize, age 17; Earl Byrd, and Ray Frago.

There has been sickness here in the past weeks. Sister Jewell Cadwell and Sister Lulu Way were in the hospital. They are home now and feeling better. Bro. Roy Brown isn't doing well. Sister June Piaoni had back surgery and has been home resting. Her progress is slow and we miss her at church. Sister Norma Frago has had her back problems too and had been in the hospital with it. She is home and improving slowly.

We had a new addition in August. June Martin gave birth to a baby girl, Sarah Elizabeth. Glad to have them at church.

Many of us from Waterford went to San Pablo's Labor Day meeting. Bro. Al Way brought us some good preaching. We had a good time and lots of food to eat. We enjoyed the fellowship with all the different brethren.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Weakley gave their daughter Kimberly Weakly away to Clinton Mitchell on Aug. 23, 1980 in a beautiful summer wedding. Our Congratulations to the newly weds.

We have Eric and Lillian Smith from the Chico congregation worshipping with us now. We are very glad to have them.

In Christian love,
Gene McKinney

Brethren,

The congregation at Yakima is doing quite well. We have had a number of visitors from other areas for which we are very happy. We would urge all who can to come and meet with us. We will be happy to have you at services and to visit in our homes. Because of the open winter we are having, our members are quite well, less colds and flu than usual. A few of our members have missed being with us because of more serious events, but are progressing nicely now. Bro. Merle McKinney had open heart surgery at Portland, Oregon. He is doing nicely now and is back worshipping again. Sister Edge had a stroke and is presently in a nursing home but able to be at service Sunday morning. Sister Pheobe McCay is in a nursing home and has had several small strokes and can be out rarely. Sister Nell McCay went to Seattle for double knee surgery. Because of complications she was in the hospital 4 weeks, but is able with crutches to be at morning services. We are thankful for the prayers of all the brethren for those who are ill and now recovering. We are looking forward to our meeting in June. Hoping a large number of you can be with us. Also hope to see you at Waterford in April and Stillwell or Cederedge in June. We feel these gospel meetings are extremely profitable to all who can attend.

May God Bless all the brothers and sisters in Christ.

Howard McCay
for the Yakima church of Christ

--EDITORS NOTES--

Due to difficulties in sending the equipment to Bellflower, Calif., the Courier is still making it's home in Yakima. We shall be glad to continue printing issues of the Courier as often as material continues to come in to print.

We are pleased to announce that Miss Charlene Force of Stilwell, Oklahoma has been baptized into Christ.

We are also happy to announce that we have heard that she has since been united in marriage with Bro. Keith Boen of Ft. Smith, Ark. We are always happy when we hear of another Christian family being started.

1981 MEETINGS

April 12-19	Waterford, Calif.	Howard McCay
June 7-14	Baron, Okla.	J. D. Logan
June 14-21	Yakima, Wash.	Camp
June 21-28	Cederedge, Colo.	Camp

BAPTISMS

Bob Heck	Port Orchard, Wash.	Oct. 5, 1980
Teressa McKenize	Waterford, Calif.	Sept. 1980
Earl Byrd	Waterford, Calif.	Sept. 1980
Ray Frago	Waterford, Calif.	Sept. 1980
Charlene Force	Stilwell, Okla.	