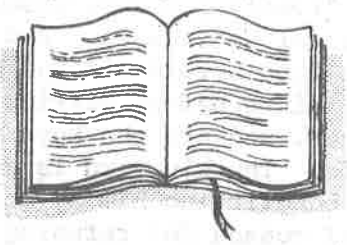
The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to: 9914 Arkansas, Bellflower, California 90706

AUGUST 1981

A SLUGGARD

"Awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead and Christ shall give thee life." Ephe. 5:14

Sleep is taken for various purposes in the Scripture. (I) For death. Hence it is said, "David after he had served his generation according to the will of God fell asleep." Job says, "For now shall I sleep in the dust, and thou shalt seek me in the morning." We are not to suppose this is a literal sleep. Jesus dispels this allusion in his conversation with the disciples when first they were notified of Lazarus' death. He first of all speaks of sleep and afterwards admits he was using the term metaphorically - John 11:11-17. (2) Sleep is used for a lethargic or dead state of the sinner as in the text above. (3) For a drowsy state that the godly get into at times. A sluggard is one that is idle, loving his bodily or spiritual ease. Solomon says, "I went by the field of the slothful." The same author says, "The slothful man says 'There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the street.'" The sluggard is full of excuses. Having lost his opportunity, by his love of ease, he seeks to justify himself by offering all sorts of excuses. He has "bought a farm," or "a yoke of oxen," or more common and culpable, yet, he "has married a wife and cannot come," as though he were not under obligation because of his change to married life, not only to God, but unto the wife he has married, to give her a good example, and to lead her into the paths of righteousness. The sluggard is a man of desires rather than of endeavors. If good wishes were acts he would be full and running over. Unfortunately

he "resolves and re-resolves then dies the same." His grossest sin is that of negligence. And so when he does creep along he finds every one gone before him and his own path "hedged with thorns." Prov. 15:19. He faints before difficulties, forgetting that difficulties make character, and are the keys that unlock the most precious treasures of life. The sluggard is generally wise in his own conceits. There is no benefitting him by counsel. He has at hand some good and substantial reason for refusing to follow it. Some authority, at hand, has advised differently, and he takes delight in abiding therein. If you press him hard he only wants a little time and then he will get wide awake and do differently.

What a type of the sinner is this, and especially the sinner whose name is on the church-book, and who sits regularly in his pew. Distrubed by every sermon that teems in practical thought, and by every enterprise that tries the courage and strength of his fellow-disciples, his ardent prayer is that he may find a church where all are asleep like himself. If you cry to him, "Go to the aunt thou sluggard, consider her ways, and be wise," he humorously rejoins, "I would rather risk some rich uncle." His condition is that of suspended moral convictions. In a dim, nebulous way he thinks he perceives a line of duty mapped out for him, but being somewhat uncertain of its practical attainment he dislikes to detach himself from his anchorage. If dreams were deeds he would be wealthy enough, for he is drowsy to be ideal, and when he is awake enough to plan or purpose anything, like unripe apples, it drops prematurely to the earth. Thus bestead, the spirit of this man sighs and despairs. A rupture in the fellowship of the saints, a clog on the wheels of Zion's car, this poor excuse of a man drags his low length along, clinging like the sloth to his route so closely, that with the keenest watch one can detect no motion, unless it be that steady drifting that carries one gradually away to an irrevocable destiny.

Bro. Isaac Ferguson
La Habra, California

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

Dear Brethren,

The Peoria - Phoenix congregation is alive and living in Payson, Arizona. We have leased out the Church building in Peoria, for 6 months with an option of 6 months, so if anyone would like to move to Phoenix

area and take over the building, Please let us know, because we do not see any of us moving back to the area. If we hear from no-one within a years time, we will probably sell the building, it is being leased to a church now. We are meeting in our home in Payson, and if you are coming thru, the weather is nice.

The Church of Christ
Payson, Arizona
474-5492 - John Shepherd

Dear Bro. and Sis.,

One of the faults of man is trying to justify his actions or living by some one else. We sometimes get so attached to a preacher or someone and their ways we might overlook the greatest preacher of all, Jesus Christ. Paul warns against us comparing ourselves to someone else rather than the written word. II Cor. 10:12, "*For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measure themselves by themselves and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*"

The congregaiton at Chesterton sends greetings and love to all. We enjoyed our trip to the Big Spruce Camp meeting, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. It was a last minute dicision and fast trip for us.

We are all well at this time and don't have much news to report. We send our love to all and would love to have visitors come and visit.

In Christian Love,
Charles Jared
Chesterton, Indiana congregation

Dear Brethren,

I am writing for the Roll congregation. Every one here is doing fairly well. Sis. Vesta Lytle went in the hospital for a few tests, she is 80 years old and still attends services. Also Sis. Sally Holmes 70 years old and Bro. Bill Martin 83 years, we are very lucky to have them able to come and worship with us. We had one young man come forward to be baptized July 5, 1981, Bro. Michael Lawson. On July 12, 1981 Bro. Michael Lawson and Sis. Carol Meyer, were united in the bond of marriage. We wish them all the happiness the Lord can give.

We are still meeting in Bro. Melvin Lytle's home. There are about 20 of us who come together on the first day of the week to sing and worship the Lord.

In the past year Bro. Mike Wilcher and family have moved down from Parker Arizona. We are glad to have them worshiping with us.

My family and I have returned from a two week vacation in which we attended a few days of the camp meeting in Colorado, and down to Texas to visit relatives and worship on the Lord's day with the Bros. and Sis. at Lorenzo.

In Christian Love,
Tony Brister
Roll Church of Christ

Hi Everyone,

As you know our meeting is coming up soon. We are so excited about seeing all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who can manage to come this far, plus visitors of course.

We plan to hear a variety of good lessons from a number of guest speakers.

This is a brief list of our schedule for the weekend:

Saturday -	7:00-8:00	Breakfast
	12:00	Lunch
	2:00	Service
	5:00	Dinner
	7:00	Service
Sunday	7:00-8:00	Breakfast
	10:30	Service at Church
	12:30	Lunch
	2:00	Singing
	5:00	Dinner
	6:30	Service
Monday	7:00-8:00	Breakfast
	10:30	Service
	12:30	Lunch
	3:00	Service with meal following

There will be plenty of room at the Church House and the Recreation Hall for R.V.'s plus floor room for sleeping bags. The recreation hall will be available early Sat. morning.

Homer Bryant 415-682-2600; Mike Brockman 707-795-6634; Jack Cooper 415-233-3144

San Pablo Congregation

Dear Brethren:

Greetings from the Bellflower congregation, which meets each Lord's Day morning at 10:30 and in the evening at 6:00 at 9914 Arkansas.

We welcome you to come be with us at any or all our worship times.

Another month has passed us by and our meeting has come and gone We enjoyed ten wonderful lessons from the oracles of God all presented very well by Bro. Howard Taylor.

Many of us had never met Bro. Howard and his lovely wife Leola before. We enjoyed our visit with them so very much. They brought Bro. Paul Andrews from Goshen, Ark. with them. He's a fine young Christian man who we hope enjoyed us as much as we enjoyed him.

I won't try and list all the names of visitors we had, afraid I might leave someone out. Visiting Brethren came from Chico, CA, ; Modesto, CA; La Habra, CA; Lakeside, CA; Grants Pass, Ore.; Yuma, AR; and Yakima, Wash.

We thank each and everyone of you who made an effort to help us in support of our meeting. In doing a good work, you've helped yourselves.

A special "Thanks" goes to the lovely ladies who prepared the good meals and tasty snacks.

Most of our home members were at Church every night. Our older members did very well in attending services.

Our meeting would have been the very best had it not been for our Sister Eunice Perigen having to go into the Hospital on August 4. She has been in the Hospital until last Friday (14th) undergoing tests. She is home now, but still not feeling well. We love her so much.

Our only power in this life is prayer, please pray for her and Claud.

We are looking forward to the meeting at San Pablo, CA Sept. 5,6, and 7th. We hope to see many of our dear Christian friend's whom we have not seen in too long a time.

Pray for us as we pray for you.

Written in the Love of Christ
for the Bellflower congregation,
Bro. Al Way

PRAYER:

Blessed is the servant who loves his brother as much when he is sick and useless as when he is well and can be of service to him. And blessed is he who loves his brother as well when he is afar off as when he is by his side, and who would say nothing behind his back he might not, in love, say before his face:

Bro. Bill McCay

"I DIDN'T HAVE TIME"

I got up early one morning,
And rushed right into day.
I had so much to accomplish,
That I didn't have time to pray,

Problems just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered,
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I tried to come into God's presence,
I used all my keys at the lock.
God chided gently and lovingly,
"Why child you didn't knock."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on, grey and bleak.
I wondered why God didn't show me,
He said, "But you didn't seek."

I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish,
That I had to take time to PRAY.

****

IT IS NOT MINE TO QUESTION

It is not mine to question
God's way of life for me.
It is but mine to follow
Each day more faithfully.
Though rough may be my pathway,
So rugged and so steep,
When trusting Him completely,
The Lord my soul will keep.

It is not mine to question,
When days are dark and drear,

And I can find no reason,
For shadows that appear;
Still far above each stormcloud,
I'll find a rainbow there;
And just above the rainbow
Is God with love to share.

It is not mine to question
My Lord from day to day,
But clasp His hand more tightly,
Then trust him and obey.
Someday God's books will open,
With answers all made plain.
No more I'll need to question,
When God has called my name.

EDITORS NOTE

We have had trouble with delivery of THE COURIER in the last past two months to the names and addresses we have listed below. They have come back to us with the postmark "Undeliverable - Unable to Forward". If any one knows of these people, and their proper addresses, please inform us, so that they may also receive THE COURIER.

In Christian Love,
The Courier Staff

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1981 MEETINGS

Sept. 5-7 San Pablo, Calif. Guest Speakers

BAPTISMS

Bro. Michael Lawson Roll, Arizona July 5, 1981

UNITED IN MATRIMONY

Bro. Michael Lawson and Sis. Carol Meyer of the Roll, Arizona congregation we united in marriage on July 12, 1981.

NOTICE

Fontana, Calif. congregation is now meeting with the La Habra, Calif. congregation; they have terminated their services in Fontana.

EDITORS NOTE (cont.)

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