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

THE CHRISTIAN COURIER

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EDITORS NOTE

Greetings from the new editors at Bellflower, California. We would like to take this opportunity to explain some things and also admonish you on some points of interest.

First of all, we need help! Help from every one of you Christians. The publishing of this paper has never been attempted by either of us before. We think, however, that this paper is the only means whereby many of us can communicate with one another. Therefore, we need NEWS - NEWS - NEWS, from each and every congregation around the country. There should be no reason why this would be a real problem for any congregation. We definately need good scriptural articles for the paper. That takes some special effort for many of us. However, very little effort need be put out to write some short news for publication. The news will definately take priority for publication each and every month. At the descretion of the editors, any articles that have questionable content and or origin will not be published. We also reserve the right to delete portions of material that are illegible. However, an effort will be made to notify the author in the event major changes are made.

Brethren, this paper is part of the Lord's business and requires some effort on everyone's part. Let's not forget that the paper should be supported financially also. Let us never forget what the scriptures tell us in Rom. 12:10-11, *"Be blindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, in honour preferring one another; not slothful in business, fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."* So with the Lord's business set before us, let's get together, change some of our habits if we have to and forge ahead. Let us all remember, we are prone to mistakes if we do something - We are making a mistake if we do nothing. We hope that through our prayers to God all of us can come closer to one another and to the unity of the truth. We can then overcome and forgive one another of tresspasses against us.

The cut off date for articles and news will be the 15th of each month. Lord willing the *Courier* will be mailed the first week of each month.

Bros. Jerry Perigen and Al Way

DECISION

In I Kings 18:21 we read of a statement that Elijah made to the people of Isreal - I Kings 18:21, "*And Elijah came unto all the people and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? If the Lord be God, follow him. And the people answered him not a word.*"

As they were pressed to make a decision, so are we pressed to decide. Let us see why it is so important. In James 4:13-14 it states, "*Go to now, ye that say, Today or morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain; Where as ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*"

We see that the decision is so important now because time is an uncertainty. We know not how much time we have upon this earth and so we must realize a decision is imperative.

We realize through reading Matt. 6:24 that it is required by God - "*No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.*"

So the decision or question is put forth; who will we serve?

James 1:6-8, "*But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.*"

We cannot be unstable in our belief in God. If we are, then Satan has us because he will toss us back and forth until we are confused. We have to be strong and unmoveable in our belief in God.

Another passage that helps us to understand this is in Eph. 4:14, "*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to decieve.*"

When we are children we are, as yet, unlearned. We formulate our opinions by what we see, what we are told by others and by what we experience. We are told one thing and we believe it until we can disprove it or some one comes along with a different idea and then we believe that. He says we are to be like this no more. We must cease being tossed about, unable to make up our minds, and stand up for right, where by we will not be so easily deceived.

In Jno. 3:16 we read of a love that can help us to make that decision,

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The love that God had for mankind in that he sent his only Son to perish so that we will have that hope of everlasting life through Christ Jesus.

Eph. 5:2, "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us..."

In II Tim. 2:14-15 we read of another passage which helps us to decide. "But continue thou in the things which though hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto Salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

As we study the will of God we gain a better knowledge of what God would have us do. We continue in the scriptrues so we can be made wise not only to what God would have us to do but also to be wise concerning the ways and means that will be used by Satan to corrupt us and make us as the children we read of who are "tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine."

In closing let us look at a couple of examples of ones who made their decisions.

Joshua 24:15, "And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord. Choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your father's served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Also in Ruth 1:16, "And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go, and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God:"

In Acts 21:13 we see Paul's reply, "Then Paul answered, what mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? For I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus."

Can we do less?

Dan. 3:17-18, "If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnance, and he will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods; nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up."

Think on these things.

Written in a love of Christ,
Mike McCay

"Who is a wise man and Endued with knowledge among you?" James 3:13

This question the writer asks, and then goes on and tells what he should do -- "Let him shew out of a good conversation his words with meekness of wisdom."

So we see from this writing that he has something more to do than just be wise and say nothing, he has to use his wisdom in a good conversation in order to shew his works, for his works must be - James 3:27, *"first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hipocrisy,"* so in order to please God he has to always be on guard, first for himself, Acts 2:40, and then be careful for others, for the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity, and can destroy alot of good people.

So who is a wise man among us today? Who is always watching his tongue and where does he get his knowledge to guard his words? Prov. 1:7 gives us a part of the answer, *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction,"* so in order to be wise one must fear God and love instruction, and in order to fear God one must be willing to study, II Tim. 2:15, and not just study, but willing to converse with others about the Lord and his words, and willing to listen as the Eunich in Acts and ask questions, for Eccl. 12:13 says the whole duty of man is to fear something he knows nothing about. And how can one know God unless he is to search the scriptures John 5:39, but he must also be taught, so this implies asking or listening to someone!!

In Prov. 13:1, *"A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."* So anyone that will not listen to rebuke cannot be wise; but too many will not stand and take rebuke for they think everyone is on equal fooling with God, or knows as much as someone else. Prov 14:16 says, *"A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil; but the fool rageth, and is confident;"* So anyone that is sure he is right and can't be wrong is not a wise man, for a wise man fears God and wants to depart from evil or being wrong, he will consider, study, and talk lest he be wrong, for he fears God. Prov. 12:15, *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that harkeneth unto counsel is wise:"* so we again see that a wise man will listen and hear rebuke for he considers. Rom. 3:23, *"for all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*

Again Rom. 3:4 tells us - let God be true and everyone, <u>even</u> himself a liar, but he doesn't want to be a liar so he listens and considers for the finding of the truth.

Again in Prov. 10:19, *"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise"* so one must consider how much is a multitude of words so he can consider how much to say: for Prov. 11:30 said, *"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise"* but the fruit of righteousness is to love God and keep his commandments I John Chap 5, and he that loves God must love his brother also, for this is the commandment of God.

How can one love his brother and show so much hatred, even will quit church because he doesn't like his brother or because his brother has said or done him wrong. Jesus said in Matt. 7:24-25, he that heareth these say-

ings of mine and does them will be like a wise man, so hearing the word is not enough, we must do what the word said in order to be wise, James 4:8, *"draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you."* We are commanded to *"cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."*

So who is a wise man among us? Think and study the scriptures.

In love of the truth of God, and for his sake that bought us, and he who hears.

Lloyd Treat

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations"; "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature." These were the last and parting words of our Saviour. All his words are true and powerful, but just as the last words of our loved ones are the most impressive, so should these words of our Lord be to us. They were to the apostles. Christ had taught them many lessons during his personal ministry that they strove diligently to keep; but none inspired such zeal and sacrifice as, *"Go teach all nations:" "Go preach the gospel to every creature."* Governments, persecution, ridicule, cruel scourgings, and death could not stop them. They "went everywhere preaching the word." They were determined to do what the Lord spoke, the inspired writer said, *"Have they not heard? Yes, verily, their sound went into all the earth, and their words unto the ends of the world."* (Rom. 10:18). *"And be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven"* (Col. 1:23). These scriptures do not say that everyone was converted, but they do say that "every creature" heard. Eleven men received the original commission, and within thirty years these statements were made.

Today members of the church of Christ are faced with the same sacred, parting words of the Lord, *"Go teach all nations;" "Go preach the gospel to every creature."* Are we going to be able to say within thirty years as did the apostles that the gospel has been preached to every creature? We must bow our heads in shame and say that so far we have not. Before World War II there were churches of Christ in only twenty-one of the one hundred twenty-one nations. Didn't the Lord say, *"all nations"?* Didn't he say, *"every creature"?*

We claim to be great believers of the Word of God. We say: "We speak where the Bible speaks and are silent where it is silent." In many respects this is true, especially in regard to baptism and the Lord's Supper. Why, if we found a congregation that was not teaching baptism and observing the Lord's Supper, and approximately one hundred twenty teach on the subject of baptism. I know that when the Lord says a thing one time, it is just as true as if he said it a million, but more than one thousand times in the New

Testament the Lord has exhorted us to teach his word. Surely he believes it is necessary that we teach in order to be his disciples or he would not have stressed it so much. I don't know a single Christian or congregation that does not believe in teaching and preaching the gospel in some form, but still it remains true that we have preached the gospel in only twenty-one of the hundred and twenty-one nations. The Lord said, "all nations." Do we believe we must do what he said? Yes, we all believe the last part of the great commission about "baptism," but do we believe the first part that says we must "go"??

The above quotation was taken from the book, "You can Do Personal Work" by Otis Gatewood.

In Christian Love,
Jon Powless

HOME

Truely the home is man's kingdom. Just as the church is Christ's. The father is king; and the mother is queen; and the children are their subjects. And really there is no place like home. It is the place where fathers, mothers and children can live, learn, love and be happy together. It is a place we can invite our friends and loved ones, and be happy and enjoy God's blessings together. Today as never before we need to work harder as Christians to build better homes, not find houses but real homes, where our Savior can dwell.

From these homes go the church, the homes and the America of tomorrow. Only as our homes are what they should be, will the children be as they should. Parents ask yourselves, would I want my child to marry someone who had been raised in a home such as ours.

A home should be the one place in all this world where hearts are sure of each other. It's the place of confidence, where we let down the mask and suspicions, which the world forces us to wear in self-defense, and pour out our hearts without dread of ridicule.

A child speaking of his home to a friend, was asked, "where is your home?" Looking with loving eyes at his mother, he replied, "where mother is." What is home without mother? Homes are gloomy, untidy and cool without the tender touch of a mother's hand. No one has greater power or influence than mother (read Prov. 31).

So mothers, not as the world today would have you believe, but as God has given you one of the most important, rewarding roles to play, see that you accept it without complaint and with all seriousness. Just two verses of the poem "The Hand that Rocks the Cradle" should prove the point.

1st verse They say that man is mighty,
He governs land and sea;

He wields a mighty scepter
O'er lesser powers that be;
But a power mighty stronger,
Man from his throne has hurled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.

Last verse Great statesmen govern nations,
Kings mold a people's fate
But the unseen hand of velvet
These giants regulate.
The iron arm of fortune,
With woman's charm is purled,
For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world -- Selected

"When home is ruled according to God's word, angels might be asked to stay a night with us, and they would not find themselves out of their elements."

Fathers have a great responsibility but they are happy to discharge it faithfully when they are blessed with loving, appreciative wives and children, and a well kept, organized home. The poet said it well, when he wrote "There is no spectacle on earth more appealing than that of a beautiful woman in the act of cooking dinner for someone she loves." And happy the man so loved, I Tim. 5:8, *"But if any provideth not for his own, and especially his own household, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an unbeliever."* is made much easier, where there is love. They truely have something to live for and work for.

What is a home without children? It would be incomplete in every way. It's true children need the training of good parents, but it is also true that parents need the training that children can give them. Think on this! How many virtues do we learn from children? Children are commanded to *"Obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother* (which is the first commandment with promise), *that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."* Eph. 6:1-3.

What is a Home? by Ernestine Heink, A roof to keep out of rain. Four walls to keep out the wind. Floors to keep out the cold. Yes, but home is more than this. It is the laugh of a baby, the song of a mother, the strength of a father. Warmth of loving hearts, light from happy eyes, kindness, loyalty, comradeship. Home is first school and first church for young ones, where they learn what is right, what is good, and what is kind, where they go for comfort when they are hurt or sick. Where joy is shared and sorrow eased. Where fathers and mothers are respected and loved. Where children are wanted. Where the simplest food is good enough for kings because it is earned. Where money is not as important as loving kindness.

Where even the teakettle sings from happiness. That is home. God bless it. Doesn't this sound like the type of place God wants for his children here on earth. Lets work harder to make better Christian homes.

Concerned for our Homes and the Church
Yakima, Congregation

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

Dear Bros and Sis.,

We here in Humble Texas (20 miles N. E. of Houston) are proud to report that we have our new church house and don't have to meet in our homes any more. We are small in number but strong in faith. There are five familys of us meeting here. Ths Steve Eldredge family moved here about two months ago. Sure glad to have them. We have three speakers that speak and Steve helps with the signing and other things he feels he is qualified to help with. We want to thank everyone that has helped build our church house may God bless them. We are still working on the church benches but should be through with them by late May. We will have a meeting from May 31 to June 6 with Bro. Horace Orendorff from Yuma, Arizona doing the preaching. We wish all could come and be with us.

For information call: Donald Dabbs at (713) 446-0565 or Dennis Bedingfield at (713) 446-1253.

We thank all for your prayers and
we pray for all of you --
Your Bro. in Christ,
Donald Dabbs

Dear Brethren,

We here are about as usual. Some have been sick, others doing very well.

We had visitors last Sunday from Humble, Texas, sure did enjoy them. They are few in number, but are still going on.

Thought I would write a small article for the paper. We enjoy it very much, and hope it will continue coming to us regularly.

The Church at Broken Bow,
Lloyd Treat

All of the brothers and sisters here in Port Orchard seem to be doing well. We're glad to have Robert and Ellen McCay and Maggie Forsman back with us after their trip around the country. We would like to announce that we will be having a gospel meeting this summer. The speaker will be Don W. Dabbs from Humble, Texas. It will begin August 2nd and continue through August 9th. We hope all who can will be here to worship and fellowship with us.

The Church at Glenwood
Port Orchard, Washington

The Christian Courier

Am sending a donation to help with the paper, we all enjoy getting it.

We want to invite every one that can come to our meeting July 5th thru the 12th with Bro. Jerry Perigen of Bellflower, Calif. doing the preaching.

Our best wishes with the paper
Furnish Canyon Church of Christ,
Kenton Oklahoma

The Ave. B. Church in Yuma was saddened by the passing away of Bro. Ralph Jones April 6, 1981. He was born in Okla. and came to Yuma as a young man. He married Sister Jewel Staggs Sept. 1922. She preceded him in death five years. Bro. Jones was 84 years old and had been a member of the Church many years. Ralph and Jewel were outstanding Church workers. Our prayer is that their spirits will be reunited in heaven with Christ and all his angels.

Bro. Horace Orendorff will hold a meeting in Humble, Texas starting May 31st.

Bro. and Sis. Robert Morris visited the Payson, Ariz. congregation in April. They also visited the Bellflower congregation. Bro. and Sis. Earl Broadway were guests there too.

We extend an invitation to all to visit us in the Yuma Church any time.

In Christian Love,
Bill Nelson

Dear Brethren

Everything seems to be going very well here at the Bellflower congregation.

Our sick seems to be improving. Sister Meadows and Sister Kellogg were back in church Sunday after a bout with the flu. Sister Lewis isn't

too well.

Some attended the Waterford meeting from here. They reported a very good meeting.

We have had a number of visitors with us the past several weeks. Bros. and Sisters Tom and Charlene Broadway, Bill and Veda McCay, Earl and Zelma Broadway, Robert and Joyce Morris and grandaughter, Kelly and Kathy McCay, Bobby and Teri Lamb, Lula Way, Marty and Larry Brockman, Jo Williams.

We also had the privilage of listening to fine lessons from Bros. Tom, and Earl Broadway and brother Robert Morris.

Sister Jo Williams is with us for awhile now taking treatments for injuries received in a car accident which happened a number of months ago. She seems to be somewhat improved now.

Bro. Claud Perigen for the Bellflower Congregation

LAST MINUTE NEWS

Ken and Verlie Baldwin's grandson, Brian Baldwin was seriously injured in a auto accident April 6th. He is recovering at home now, and doing much better. We also heard Jan Herbert, Ken and Verlie's daughter, was going into the hospital in Denver, Colo. because of heart problems.

Eunice Perigen is also back in the hospital (5/9/81).

Our prayers are that all our Bro. and Sis. in Christ, and their loved ones will be well soon.

Lord, help me to live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way
That even when I kneel to pray
My prayers will be for others.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I do for you
Must needs be done for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in heaven's begun;

May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes others;
Let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others
That I may live like Thee.

Otis Gatewood

The person so self centered that he sees life only from his own point of view and makes no allowance for the problems and the burdens of others has yet to learn what true religion is.

IF WE KNEW

If we knew the cares and crosses
Crowding round our neighbor's way:
If we knew the little losses,
Sorely grievous day by day,
Would we then so often chide him
For the lack of thrift and gain -
Casting o'er his life a shadow,
Leaving on his heart a stain?

If we knew the silent story
Quivering through the heart of pain.
Would our womanhood dare doom them
Back to haunts of quiet again?
Life has many a tangled crossing,
Joy hath many a break of woe,
And the cheeks tear-washed seem whiter
This the blessed angels know.

Let us reach into our bosoms
For the key to other lives,
And with love to erring nature,
Cherish good that still survives;
So that when our disrobed spirits
Soar to realms of light again,
We may say "Dear Father, judge us
As we judged our fellow-men"

Anonymous

1981 MEETINGS

May 31-June 7	Gardendale, Tex.	Kenneth Baldwin
May 31-June 6 or 7	Humble, Tex.	Horace Orendorff
June 7-14	Baron, Okla.	J.D. Logan
June 14-21	Yakima, Wa.	Camp
June 27-July 5	Cederedge, Colo.	Camp
July 5-12	Furnish Canyon, Okla.	Jerry Perigen
Aug. 2-9	Port Orchard, Wa.	Don W. Dabbs
Aug. 2-9	Bellflower, Ca.	Howard Taylor

BAPTISMS

Wanda Morse	Waterford, Ca.	April 18, 1981

OBITUARIES

Brother Ralph Jones of Yuma, Arizona passed away April 6, 1981. He was born in Oklahoma and was 84 years old.