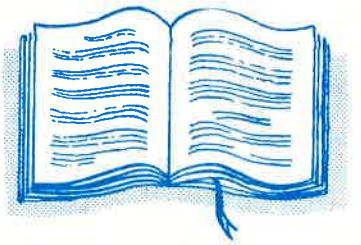
The Christian Courier



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

APRIL 1983

"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"
Prov. 25:25

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HUMBLE, TEXAS

Greetings to all the faithful from the Church at Humble, Texas.

We always enjoy hearing the news from the other congregations. Several of our little ones here have had chicken pox, and little Sam Eldridge, the son of Brother and Sister Steve Eldridge is ill with a kidney ailment. We pray that he will soon recover. All the rest are as well as usual.

The Church here will be holding a fellowship meeting here on April 15, 16 and 17. We will have different speakers from other congregations, according to who can come. I realize that it is too late to get this news in the paper in time for the meeting, but we are writing and calling all of the nearby congregations and hope for good attendance from all. We also plan to hold another weekend meeting in August, with Brother Howard Taylor and Brother Earl Howe doing the preaching. We will get the exact dates for this meeting next month so that it can be in the Courier.

My wife and I and our grandson Jeff Freeman went to Olney, Texas last Saturday, April 2nd to be with Brother and Sister Ray Bishop and his family. Brother Ray was celebrating his 91st birthday. This wonderful couple has over 100 descendants, most all of them were present, as well as many friends. A fine meal with some homemade ice cream was served at the Olney community building on Saturday night. A delicious pot luck dinner was served on Sunday to well over 100 guests. Church was held as usual at New Castle on Sunday morning, where I had the honor and priv-

(Cont.)

elege to speak to a good crowd of the regular members there as well as many visitors. The great love and closeness of this family is an inspiration to all of us. Brethren, when we see the great love of family, the Lord, and the Church shown, we can see what is right and what is wrong with our homes, our country, and the Church today. We need to show more love and concern from one another, and more closeness of both family and Church. We are waiting and looking forward to going back there in October to observe Bro. and Sis. Bishop's 70th wedding anniversary. We thank God for this fine family, and pray His blessings on all of them. They had a baptism that same week. Larry Fikes, a 20 year old college student, the son of Bro. Wade and Sis. Edwana Fikes was baptized by his grandfather, Bro. Ed Tate. Larry is a grandson of Bro. and Sis. Ray Bishop. We welcome Larry into the great fellowship, and I know that he will be of great service to the Lord and His Church.

Sister Maude Scott is very ill in Ralls, Texas. Aunt Maude will be 98 years old the 9th of April. She attended Church at Crobyton and Lorenzo, Texas for many years, as long as she was able to attend. Our sincere prayers are for her and her family. Also we need to continue our prayers for Bro. and Sis. Ken and Verlie Baldwin, who are at Yuma at the present time. It is time for us to be making plans to attend the Delta, Colorado camp meeting in June. We are planning, and looking forward to seeing Bro. Ken and many more of you at that time.

Bro. Stanley Berry has now left us to go into the Air Force at San Antonio. We miss him here, and bid him Godspeed wherever he goes.

Brethren, as I have said before, the Courier is our best means of communication between congregations, so please take a few minutes to send in your news and support to our editors. We want to keep in touch and to know the news from your congregations. We send our love, prayers, and best wishes to all.

Sincerely,
J.W. Bedingfield

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If anyone can find in Jesus any defect of wisdom or goodness, love or truth, then he ought not to be king. If he was swayed by human passions and prejudices, if he was a narrow nationalist and a part of his teaching outgrown after all the lapse of centuries or there be any fault philosophy, anything injurious to the best interests of mankind, if he belongs to a class, he ought not to be king. If he does not understand human nature through and through, what is in man, and if his words and deeds do not seem to go to the root of human problems and sorrow and wrongdoing or saying, he ought not to be king.

GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

I am sorry no one from here has written in so long, there is really no reason, but we will try to do better in the future. It is good that someone does write and that Bro. Al and Bro. Jerry are willing to put out the paper.

There is not too much news from here and most of it is not too good. Almost everyone has had colds and the flu. Bro. Isaac Ferguson was in the hospital for several days, but is home and doing better now. Sis. Edna Ferguson has been in and out of the hospital several times. She is home right now but not able to attend services, and not doing very good. Everyone remember Sis. Edna in your prayers because she is seriously ill with cancer. We were saddened by the death of Luther Ferguson who was related to almost the whole congregation. The rest of us knew him real well.

The good news is that we are having good attendance at most of the services. We had 51 attend one Sunday.

If anyone is ever in northwest Arkansas, you are welcome hto meet with us in our services and in our homes. We meet at 10:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. each Sunday.

With Christian love,
Paul Andrews
Route 2
Hindsville, Arkansas 72738

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Greetings from the Church that meets at Yuma, Arizona.

If you plan to visit us, hurry. The weather is warming up. Everyone here is about as usual. Enjoying the good sermons and ignoring the ones that stomp on their toes. We have had several visitors and appreciate every one, young and old. Please come back.

Our stars this time are regular members from a long time ago. Sister Gladys Savage was born in Arkansas and came to southeastern California, just across the river from Yuma when she was young. She has raised five children and quilted many quilts before her eyes gave out. Now she crochets and likes to work in her garden when she is able. She is certainly to be commended for coming to Church as often as she does under such difficulties. Her neice, Murle Tucker, has attended church since we met on First St. She has been alone with her little one-eyed dog since her husband, James, passed away last year. She says her hobbies are

emboidery and keeping a clean house. Her parents were Ed and Annie Hughes, who attended Church on First St. since it was first started there. Eugene Hughes is their son. He attends Church regularly. He likes to study and learn about all sorts of things. He cares for several pets.

We have had several dinners in our new kitchen next to the Church building. We hope everyone is planning to attend the camp meeting next Thanksgiving.

We have lost a precious member. Virgie Bishop Childress attended Church since she first moved to Yuma in the 1940's. She attended regularly with her daughter long before she was baptized. She was born in Goree, Texas on Feb. 26, 1893, according to her records. She is survived by her youngest sister, Pearl, one son and 3 daughters, 17 grandchildren and 35 great grandchildren. Several members of Church have her quilts and everyone that knew her to be a fine Christian and admired her spunk.

If people who planned to go visiting gave others their addresses we would all learn where we all lived. Just save the Couriers. Then we would have no problems meeting and visiting which is as important because we only go to Church an hour or two and we can visit all day. All night? How about a name or two from each congregation? May God keep you. Remember us in your prayers.

The Church that meets in Yuma, Arizona is a building on Ave. B, heading south on State 95 highway.

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Our dearly treasured family in Christ:

Greetings to all from the Seattle area. We are now having beautiful spring weather and its difficult to find someone who doesn't have a cherry disposition about it. It is stunning sometimes to see how big an effect that the presence of light on the earth has on people, especially up here! Jesus Christ is the light of our souls and how completely joyous and changed we would be if we choose to live in his presence for good!

The body here has been doing well lately. From the eldest to the youngest, there has been growth here, so that it would seem there is greater depth in our commitment to Christ. We are not without occasional problems, but having the presence of Christ, even in the storms, gives us reason to have hope so that we end up being more involved with the answer than the problem.

Love every brother and sister; for then you will really know you have passed from death into life. We thank God because of you.

The Church at Seattle, Washington

ROLL, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Everyone here is doing fairly well. Bro. Bill Martin, Sr. has been going to the doctor for cancer treatment. He is back home now and doing fine. He has been unable to attend services. We pray that he soon will be back with us.

Bro. Sonny Baling stopped by on March 13 and brought us a fine sermon for our evening service. I was unable to hear it as I was visiting with the Brothers and Sisters in Yuma.

All the paper work has come through on our land and we now have the title. After careful thought, we decided to build a block type building. The good Lord willing and your help we can get a building up.

The Brethren in Gardendale, Texas have asked me to hold a meeting this summer and I told Bro. L.C. Barker that I would be glad to. A person should never pass upon opportunity to do the Lord's work whenever he can. The time we chose, that was best for the brethren in Texas and myself is June 12-19. I am looking forward to the meeting this summer. My family and I will get to meet brothers and sisters in Christ which we have never seen before.

That is all the news from out our way. We ask that you remember us in your prayers as we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ everywhere.

In Christian love,
Tony Brister for the Roll congregation
Rt. 1 Box 71-B1, Roll, Arizona 85347

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There is a poem called the Changed Cross. It represents a weary one who thought that her cross was surely heavier than those of others whom she saw about her, and wished that she might choose another instead of her own. She slept, and in her dream she was led to a place where many crosses lay, crosses of divers shapes and sizes. There was a little one most beauteous to behold, set in jewels and gold. "Ah, this I can wear with comfort," she said. So she took it up, but her weak form shook beneath it. The jewels and the gold were beautiful, but they were far too heavy for her. Next she saw a lovely cross with fair flowers entwined around its sculptured form. Surely that was the one for her. She lifted it, but beneath the flowers were piercing thorns which tore her flesh. At last, as she went on, she came to a plain cross, without jewels, without carving, with only a few words of love inscribed upon it. This she took up, and it proved the best of all, the easiest to be borne. And as she looked upon it, bathed in the radiance that fell from heaven, she recognized her own old cross. She had found it again, and it was the best of all and lightest for her.

FURNISH CANYON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Bro. Howard Taylor of Comanche, Oklahoma has agreed to hold us a gospel meeting June 26th thru July 3rd, the Lord willing.

We are looking forward to seeing Bro. Howard and Sis. "Lee" (Leola) not only in fellowship, but also the fine lessons the Bro. Howard will bring us from the word of God.

Everyone here is fine, few that we are. We've had more that normal moisture from snow this winter. I think everyone is ready for summer and rain.

We invite everyone who can to be with us during this meeting and also each Lord's day at 11:00 a.m. mountain time.

Billy L. Richardson for the
Church at Furnish Canyon

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DUNCANVILLE, TEXAS

Dear Brethren:

We are still here and doing all right. We didn't have any visitors in February until Feb. 20 when Martha Platt, her daughter, Margaret and Margaret's husband and baby J.T. and John David Beckman came. They live in Beaumont and we are always glad to see them.

On March 6th, Dan and Mary Teague's daughter, Lola, and her husband, Dean, and daughter, Jessica Sicking of College Station, Texas were here to worship with us.

On March 13th, we were surprised by the visit of Mrs. Myrl Erwin and her daughter, Lynette. Myrl is the daughter of Jack and Margaret Scott. Also Richard Erwin and his wife, Deana, came. He is Myrl's son. They live in Paris, Texas and were welcome to our worship.

On March 20, Martha and Clyde Platt and their grandson, John David Beckman came to Church. Clyde works in Central America and was home for a visit.

We enjoy reading news of all the churches. We hope much good will be done in the summer meetings beginning now. Come by and see us if you are ever this way. We are at the corner of South Cockrell Hill Road and Wheatland Road at eh edge of Duncanville and Dalles.

Phone: 298-3952 or 298-1804.

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"As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

John 15:9-10

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here at Bellflower is in good health at this present time. We have had some visitors. Bro. and Sis. Tom and Charlene Broadway from Grants Pass, Oregon were here visiting us on one week-end. Bro. and Sis. Martin and Tayna Brockman from Chico, California were here on another week-end as well as Mike Brockman from San Pablo, California.

Claud and Burdette Perigen were traveling to Northern California and on up to Oregon and Washington visiting other congregations earlier in the month but are safely back home now.

We want to invite everyone to our meeting which is being held by Bro. Dan Ross on June 12th thru June 19th, Lord willing.

If anyone is in our area, please don't hesitate to worship and visit with us. We love to have visitors. Just give any of us a call. Al Way - 714/842-1633; Jerry Perigen - 714/842-1251; or Claud Perigen at 213/866-0656.

In Christian love,

The congregation at Bellflower

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"And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

He said unto him, What is written in the law? how readest thou?

And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.

And he said unto him, Thou has answered right: this do, and thou shalt live."

Luke 10:25-28

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"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

John 15:13

1983 MEETINGS

Aztec, New Mexico	May 15-22	Harry Dye
Bellflower, California	June 12-19	Dan Ross
Gardendale, Texas	June 12-19	Tony Brister
Delta, Colorado	June 25-July 7	Camp
Furnish Canyon, Oklahoma	June 26-July 3	Howard Taylor
Lorenzo, Texas	July 17-24	Al Way
Loco, Oklahoma	July 25-31	Al Way
Port Orchard, Washington	July 24-31	Ken Harper
Yakima, Washington	July 31-August 7	Homer Bryant
Waterford, California	August 14-21	Jerry Perigen
San Pablo, California	September 3, 4, & 5	Camp
Goshen, Arkansas	October 2-9	Jerry Perigen

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BAPTISMS

Larry Fikes of Olney, Texas

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DEATHS

Bro. Luther Ferguson of Goshen, Arkansas

Sis. Virgie Bishop Childress of Yuma, Arizona

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After receiving the Goshen, Arkansas news letter we received word that Sister Edna Ferguson has passed from this life. Our prayers for comfort and strength are for each of you who have lost loved ones. God bless you.

The Editors