The Christian Courier



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

SEPTEMBER 1983

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

****

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at Waterford are doing fine. We just had a week of gospel meeting which was very successful and uplifting. We had many visitors from various congregations. We enjoyed many fine lessons from Bro. Jerry Perigen from the Bellflower congregation. We were happy to have him and Sis. Betty Perigen fellowship with us.

Also with us on different occasions throughout the week were Bro. and Sis. Claud Perigen, Bro. and Sis. Al and Okja Way and their son, Al Way III, Bro. Mark Perigen, Sis. Tammy Way, Bro. Gerry Brockman, Sis. Lori Perigen, Bro. and Sis. Homer and Bonnie Bryant, Bro. Tony Bryant and Bro. Mike Bryant and kids, Bro. and Sis. Jack and Mabel Cooper, Bro. and Sis. Bill and Veda McCay, Bill McCay III, Sis. Teri Lamb and children, Chrissy McCay, Bro. and Sis. Tom and Charlene Broadway, Bro. and Sis. Clif and Wanda Brockman, Bro. and Sis. Dennis and Kay Bentz and boys, Don and Mabel McPhearson, Bro. and Sis. Parmenter, Mike Teeter, Paul Cunia, Sis. Anna Lee Roberts, Stacy and Aaron Logan, Mary White and son, Randy and Rhonda Burtis and daughter, Carol Gates, Sis. Myrtle Lee Clouse, and Mrs. Quinn.

We are very thankful for the presence of each and every one who took the time to come and support our meeting and Bro. Jerry.

We are happy to report two baptisms, Sis. Sheila Baker and Sis. Kathleen Brooks. We are very happy to welcome our new sisters in Christ.

Sis. Hope Arnett and Sis. Jewell Cadwell are still residing in convelecent hospitals, but Sis. Arnett is able to attend church now and then.

(Cont.)

Sister Alice Weekly was in the hospital before the meeting but is home and able to be with us again. Sis. Dousia Arnett, Bro. Lawrence Arnett, Sis. Mayme Picket, and Sis. Mary McKinzie have all been ill at one time or another but have attended the last few services. Sis. Norma Frago has been very ill and in the hospital earlier this month. Our prayers are with all those who have been ill.

Bro. and Sis. J.D. and Fern Logan have had their grandchildren visiting with them from Washington. They have gone back home now. We enjoyed having them with us and will miss them.

Our love and prayers are with you.

In Christian love,

Bro. Troy Morse

****

SELAH, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

The congregation at Selah is doing nicely. We are encouraged by the letters we have received from you and the local visitors we have had. Most of the members here have returned from meetings and vacations and it is nice to be all together again. Some plan to go to the Yuma and San Pablo meetings, Lord willing.

Nell and I had a wonderful time at the Delta meeting. So many of the brethren we had not seen for a long time were there. We also met brethren for the first time who became very dear to us.

Bro. Ken Harper and family were with us on August 7th and brought a very uplifting lesson from God's word. That evening Betty Roberts and Thresa McKinney were baptized for which there is much rejoicing. Lord willing, Nell and I intend to take a prolonged trip to the Yuma meeting visiting a number of brethren and congregations before returning home. It is gratifying to have a hard working group of Christians to carry on while we are gone.

Our love to all in the brotherhood and come visit us when you can. All are welcome.

Howard McCay for the
Selah congregation

****

"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

Isaiah 40:31

HUMBLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Again we must report some good news and some bad news from Humble. First, the good news. The week-end of August 12, 13, and 14, we had a wonderful meeting with Brother Howard Taylor and Brother Earl Howe doing the preaching. We were most happy to have them bring along their families to help out with some great singing and visiting. Bro. and Sis. Loftis from Lorenzo came with Howard and Leola. We are always glad to see this fine couple for worship and visiting. Bro. and Sis. Howe brought Sheila and Michelle with them. Brother and Sister Jack Scott and grandson, Randy Scott also came out to help us out. Of course we have known Jimmy and Jaetta Loftis, Earl and Olene, Howard and Leola, and Jack and Margaret for over twenty-five years, so it is like a happy family reunion when we can all be together. We love and appreciate them so much and bid them God speed wherever they go. Needless to say, this also applies to their children and granchildren when they come to visit and worship. The three day meeting was just perfect, except it came to a close all too soon. I wish that it could have continued for a week or more. Hopefully, we can have them all back again.

The bad news is that we are all trying to get things back in order in the wake of hurricane Alicia. The destruction and damages are beyond description, but God be thanked none of the members here were injured or killed. Brother and Sister Lowery (Pauline and Cotton) suffered the heaviest loss. Back on May 20th a terrible tornado struck their home, and they suffered a great loss but no injuries. They had all been working almost night and day to get their home rebuilt, and had just completed their repairs on time for the meeting last week. They had just got their carpet laid so that they could have company again on Thursday, the day before the meeting. they were so happy to have their home open again, then on August 18th, the hurricane struck and another large tree crashed through their home, literly cutting it in half all the way to the floor. Of course the one hundred mile per hour winds and torrential rains again destroyed all their belongings. However the eyes of the Lord are over the righeous and they are all safe. They had come over to our house to be with us when we realized that the storm was going to strike here. My wife and I, along with Pauline and Cotton, and grandsons, Gary and Jeff, weathered the storm in our little thirty year old frame house. The storm hit here about 2:00 a.m. and continued for about eight hours. We had some anxious moments when our antenna came through the roof, two windows were broken out, and two large trees in the back yard were uprooted. But we all managed to stay safe and comfortable. The electric power went out, but we had candles, and a battery operated radio. We are all just so thankful for the Lord's watch and care over us. Anyway, we have most of the repairs taken care of except for some roof patchng. The boys all helped out in clearing the trees and debris

from our yard. Our sincere thanks to them. The Lowery's will be staying with us until they decide what to do with their home. Most of the other members had minor damage to homes and trees. All were without electricity and phones but things are gradually getting back to normal. We are very thankful that our place of worship was not damaged, so tomorrow we meet as usual and offer up thanks to our Heavenly Father, who watches over and cares for us all. Everyone here is enjoying good health and are all trying to encourage one another. We are especially grateful for the many telephone calls that we have received from others, who were concerned about our safety. God bless you for caring.

It's only about three months until the Yuma camp meeting. We are making our plans and hope to see all of you there. Brothers and Sisters, let us all take advantage of these wonderful opportunities to work and worship together while it is called today for soon comes the night, when no man can work. We older ones should think on this. At the Delta meeting there were six baptisms of youths in their teen-age years, then at the meeting at Loco, two more young ones were added to the fold. We are so thankful for those young ones who have made their decisions for Christ early in life. Now let us give them the encouragement and guidance that they are entitled to, that they might grow strong in the faith and knowledge of our Lord.

With love and best wishes
from all the faithful
at Humble, Texas,

J.W. Bedingfield

****

DUNCANVILLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Some of our members, namely, Jack and Margaret Scott, Randy Scott and Charlotte and Jim Reeves went to Humble for their week-end meeting. Sister Francis is back in Dallas and she and her son met with us. Also, Lola and Jessica Sicking of College Station, Texas were here that day. (August 17th).

On August 21, Paul Abell met with us. He is going to school in Dallas and meets with us when he does not go home. We are glad to have him. Also, Martha Platt and her grandson, John David Beckman were here. We all had lunch together. We were glad to hear that all the brethren at Humble excaped hurricane Alecia with their lives although I understand some had property damage.

We enjoyed a lesson by Paul Abell on August 28th. Also, Ron, Jill, Kim and Dustin Herbert and Steve Martin met with us. Jill is to go to

(Cont.)

school at Weatherford, Texas and we hope they will be meeting with us often. Sister Francis was here and it was her 91st birthday. We wish her many more days. We were glad that Charlotte and Jim Reeves were able to be here.

We are always glad to see friends and brethren as they come through here either on Sunday or through the week. Come by to see us. 819 East Wheatland Road, Duncanville. Phone: 214/298-3952.

In Christian love,
The Duncanville congregation

****

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Here are a few words from the congregation at Baron. Several times this year, Bro. Lloyd Treat from Broken Bow has been up to speak for us and the congregation at Stilwell. Once this spring he gave us a three-day meeting. His lessons always renew our strength and help us a great deal, because they're from the Word of God. He has done this despite illnesses this year, and we admire him and thank him greatly for it. We all love Bro. Lloyd and Sis. Susie very much.

We also want to thank Bro. Mick Boen and Bro. Sam Boen from the Stilwell congregation. On the first Sunday of each month, either Bro. Mick or Bro. Sam speaks for us. It's great when brethren support each other in love.

Bro. John Brown and Bro. Lloyd Allgood of the Stilwell congregation were hospitalized recently with heart problems. Thanks to the Lord, both are out now and recovering well. We pray for their continued speedy recovery.

Worship services are at 10:30 Sunday morning and at 6:00 Sunday evening. When you're in eastern Oklahoma, please visit us.

In Christian love,

Terry Warford for the
congregation at Baron

****

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Bro. and Sis. Keith Boen who has a new daughter named Samitha Jo; and to Sis. Debbie Morris who has just had a son named Nathaniel Dean; and to Bro. and Sis. Bill Ross who has just had a son named Jason William. All of these new additions belong to the congregation at Stilwell, Oklahoma.

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We here at Pleasant View are all doing fairly well. Bro. John R. Brown had a heart attack and spent some time in the hospital and a few days at Tulsa. Also, Bro. Lloyd Allgood spent a few days in the hospital a couple of weeks ago.

Let us all remember our loved ones in our prayers.

We are happy to report our new arrivals. Bro. and Sis. Keith Boen had a daughter named Samitha Jo. Sis. Debbie Morris had a son named Nathaniel Dean. Also, Bro. and Sis. Bill Ross had a son named Jason William.

Bro. and Sis. Hayes Morris are doing fairly well. They just returned from a trip to Kentucky.

With Christian love,

Bro. Gerald Buckner

****

GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

Everyone here is about as well as usual. My Grandmother (Sis. Lawson) has been sick, but is feeling better now. We had to take her to the emergency room one night. Her blood pressure got really high. She never missed a service though, which is real good considering she will be 90 in December.

Bro. Gary Ferguson and sons, Gary Jr. and Rick from LaHabra, California were here visiting one week. All three took active part in the services. Bro. Gary Jr. gave the lesson on Sunday morning. He did a real good job and we all enjoyed it. He is just a young man and I think has been giving lessons about a year. Someday he will be one of our better preachers.

We are all beginning to look forward to hearing Bro. Jerry Perigen who is holding our meeting from October 2-9. Anyone that can come and be with us, I'm sure you will enjoy it.

With Christian love,

Paul Andrews

****

"For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."

1 Peter 1:24-25

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

Dear Brethren in Christ:

The small group here at Springfield seem to be about as well as can be expected although each Lord's day there seems to be some missing.

We are very disappointed to have Bro. and Sis. Ernie and Freida Kingery move to Pendleton. We certainly miss them. We wish them well in their new endeavor. Also, Bro. Vernon Cooper is away on business in the midwest. We hope he has a safe trip and is back with us soon.

We have had quite a bit of help from other congregations. Sunday, August 14th, Bro. Mike McCay of the Yakima congregation gave us a very good lesson from God's word. Then August 21st, Bro. and Sis. Bill Sr. and Veda McCay and Bro. and Sis. Bill Jr. and Cindy and the children visited us. Bro. Bill Sr. gave us another very good lesson, and Bill Jr. led our singing which was very much appreciated. We are always glad to have visitors at our service Sunday morning at 10:45 at 395 Centenial Blvd., Springfield, Oregon. If you have trouble finding it, give us a call at 747-4876.

In Christian love,

Roy McCay for the church at
Springfield, Oregon

****

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We here in Oklahoma City are keeping busy but not all are doing well. Brother Jaspen Pyle was in an auto accident that has him confined to the hospital with back problems. We hope and pray that his recovery will be swift and complete if it is God's will.

We are sorry that our letter to the Courier have not been as regular as we had planned but we hope to do better in the future.

We were blessed with Bro. and Sis. Jack Cooper from San Pablo, California. Bro. Cooper gave us a sermon from the word of God that we enjoyed very much. Our only regret is that we didn't get to spend more time with Bro. and Sis. Cooper. Lord's will, we hope to get to know them and many other Christians in the future.

Bro. Ralph Rhodes and family from Stilwell traveled to Oklahoma City and conducted services the third week-end in August. We had dinner and song services after worship. We enjoyed the day very much. It is no small task to travel from Stilwell or Broken Bow to Oklahoma City. It

(Cont.)

is over 400 miles round trip. We appreciate the help of the brothers and sisters from other churches. Thank you very much.

We will close for now. God bless you all.

In Christian love,

Oklahoma City congregation

****

PORT ORCHARD, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church here is about the same. We do have a new member. You may have heard since he was baptized at the Yakima meeting. His name is Mike Boroff. He lives and works in Gig Harbor and will be meeting with us. The Taylor families had a get together at Grants Pass, Oregon recently. Bill and family went from here and Euland and Bell from Sunnyside. Dick Taylor and family came back up here for a short visit. If we live and keep our health, Ellen, Bobby and I hope to leave here right after the first of October. We hope to visit in Oregon, California and Arizona. We'll try to see you all down there and at the last of the Yuma meeting.

We would like to thank the Selah and Yakima congregations for their support of our meeting. Bro. Ken Harper brought us many wonderful lessons.

In Christian love,

Bro. Robert McCay for the
Glenwood congregation

****

PERSONAL NOTE

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their phone calls, visits, cards, flowers and their love and prayers during my illness while I was in the hospital. I also want to give a special thanks to Marty and Tayna Brockman for their special love and assistance that they offered. All of this helped me get back on my feet. I love you all. God bless you.

In Christian love,

Lula Way of the
Waterford, CA congregation

LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here at La Habra church is okay except for Bro. and Sis. Nunnally. She is still not feeling very well after her heart attack of a couple of months ago, but she (Ina) manages to come to church quite regularly with all things considered. Bro. Nunnally comes on occasion, when up to it.

Sister Hunt got back from Oregon last week and was sick while in Oregon but is feeling better and able to be at Church last Sunday.

Mary and I have moved. Our new temporary address is 421 Humboldt Place, Ontario, California 91761. Mary and I are selling our house in Hemet and are trying to buy one in Fontana.

Sis. Bernice Cavin is now in a rest home. She seems to be doing okay and able to come to Church. Please pray for her, I'm sure she is lonely.

All of us sincerely appreciate all the work Al and Jerry and families are doing with regard to the paper. I don't think everyone knows all the hours that are involved, but it is a good work all of you are doing and we pray that the Lord will bless you in this and other good works you have done.

In Christian love,

Bro. Halo Serrano for the
Church in La Habra

****

PERSONAL NOTE

My family and I would like to use this small space to thank our many wonderful christian friends for the beautiful cards, flowers, plants, food, and phone calls Okja has received since her accident. Most of all, we want to thank you for your prayers, thanks be to God that they have been answered.

We love all of you.

Together with you in
our love for Christ,

Al, Okja, Tammy, and Al III Way

****

"O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: for His mercy endureth for ever."

Psalm 136:1

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at Bellflower are doing fine except my wife, Okja, has had a head injury. She fell in the garage and hit her head on the concrete. She had a concussion and cracked her skull. She is doing much better now and is having a fine, but slow, recovery.

Our visitors recently have been Bro. J.L. Jared from Salem, Oregon. He brought a good lesson on August 21st which sure helped us out since most of our members were at the Waterford meeting. Thank you Bro. Jared.

On September 11th and September 18th, Bro. and Sis. Marty and Tayna Brockman worshipped with us. On September 18th, Bro. Marty brought us a very fine lesson. Also on September 18th, Bro. and Sis. Dean and Kay Guyer worshipped with us. We had lunch together and enjoyed their company.

Dave McCarthy, a friend of Lori Perigen, has attended several services in the past few weeks. We appreciate his attendance.

Sis. Doris Jared is back from her trip to the East visiting other congregations there. We're glad you are back Doris, we missed you.

Some of our members are planning to attend the Yuma meeting over Thanksgiving. We are looking forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones from around the country.

Claud and Burdette Perigen, Jerry, Betty, Mark and Lori Perigen, Tammy Way, Doris Jared, and Gerald Brockman all attended the San Pablo meeting from our congregation over the Labor Day week-end. We were very sorry that Burdette Perigen fell and hurt her arm while visiting there. Thank God she was not hurt seriously.

On September 4th, Sharilyn Perigen worshipped with the congregation at Escondido (in the San Diego area).

Jerry, Betty, and Mark Perigen went from San Pablo to the eastern sierras for a week's fishing and relaxation. Lori joined them later that week.

Jerry and Betty are getting ready to travel to Goshen, Arkansas where Jerry will be speaking for their meeting starting October 2nd through the 9th.

Anyone traveling through this part of the country, please stop and worship with us. We'd love to have you. We meet at 10:30 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. Our meeting place is 9914 Arkansas in Bellflower.

Al Way - 714/842-1633
Jerry Perigen - 714/842-1251
Claud Perigen - 213/866-0656 (This is the correct phone number for Claud Perigen, as we made a mistake last month).

In Christian love,

Al Way for the
Bellflower congregation

The sin of unbelief lies basically beneath all humanity's waywardness and comes up for frequent condemnation in the gospel of Christ.

It manifests itself at times with a gnawing impatience in the way God directs as the Jews showed in their travels across the wilderness toward Canaan. Hebrews 3:12 - "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." It displays itself in the confidence that men put in the world while pretending to love God. This was the besetting sin of Phariseeism. Luke 16:14 - "And the Pharisees also, who were covetous, heard all these things: and they derided him." It manifests itself also in a hardheartedness toward the needs of others. This is the sin of the nameless rich man whom the Lord so forcibly condemned in the story of the rich man and Lazarus.

Unbelief is the unwillingness to trust in the rightness of God's way, the determination to go one's own way fulfilling one's selfish desires while imagining at times a certain righteousness in the lifetime.

The end result can only be a casting out from the presence and pleasure of God for eternity.

It was not that the rich man was unaware of opportunities for doing good. Lazarus lay plainly visible day after day, and when the rich man did not notice him, the dogs did and licked his sores. How much lower than animals can the most respectable of people sometimes become! It was not that the rich man was not a reputable person. He had robbed no one, nor had he persecuted the unfortunate. It was only that he loved to dwell at ease, enjoying good society, costly living and a soft life. He was completely self-centered.

The law of Moses - the law under which the Jews then lived - was read daily in the synagogue. The rich man heard the words, but the thought did not touch him. A careless disregard for the law and prophets for such a life of luxurious living.

Worldly glory and riches inevitably must end. Lazarus died first, an act of divine mercy upon one of such suffering, and in due time the rich man followed. In this world the name of the rich are known and honored and their companionship sought out, but how different the judgments of God! Only Lazarus is remembered by name!

The picture of separation is dramatically drawn.

Between heaven and hell there is a great gulf fixed - not just there, but fixed. Luke 16:26 - "And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence." It was too wide to bridge; too deep to fill. There was no passage across. Beyond death are no opportunities for salvation.

Fleshly ties are no longer beneficial. By addressing "Father Abraham" the rich man clung to the one hope of every Jew - pardon because of flesh-

(Cont.)

ly descent from Abraham. It would work no longer.

Human desires are at a minimum. Only a drop of water now to cool his tongue was worth all the riches he had known on earth. How little it now takes to satisfy!

The memory of lost opportunity brings grief. The rich man scarcely thought of his brothers in this life, but was now concerned about them above all else. He who was accustomed to having his own way in this life found God unconcerned about his demands now. The lowly are lifted up, and the mighy are brought down!

But such a catastrophe can be avoided. then as now the only way lay in hearing the Word of God. The rich man asked for messengers to be sent from the dead. In typical Jewish fashion he wanted a sign for his brethren. "They have Moses and the prophets, yes, but they need somebody from the dead." But the request was refused.

Faith is more than an act of the understanding; it is an act of the will. Jesus presented himself as the Son of God, and established the conviction so clearly that no honest person could have rejected him. But the Jews still did not believe. Why? They did not want to. John 7:17 - "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself." They did not will to do his will. A person who does not want to understand, believe and obey the Word of God will not do so regarless of how clearly the truth is demonstrated.

Tragedy is inevitable for every soul who does not in this life heed the word of the Lord.

-Selected

****

1983 MEETINGS

Goshen, Arkansas	October 2-9	Jerry Perigen
Yuma, Arizona	November 20-27	Camp

****

1984 MEETINGS

Cedaredge, Colorado	July 1-8	Camp

****

BAPTISMS

Betty Roberts of Selah, Washington
Kathleen Brooks of Waterford, California
Sheila Baker of Waterford, California

****

"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."
John 3:16