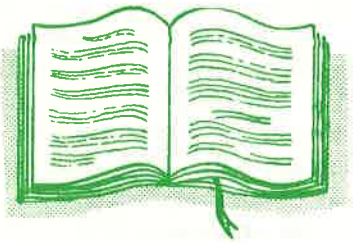
The Christian Courier



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

OCTOBER 1983

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

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SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We saw an eventful summer take place from a standpoint of gospel meetings being held, and those here who were able, traveled to be at these places. We want to thank God for choosing you people to uplift our family here at home. Our younger members heard a lot of the Word, and we can see the Lord forming in their lives. We are also glad for everyone of your who committed your whole lives to Jesus Christ this summer and are walking in his righteousness day by day. We're also thrilled for those of you who came back to your congregations and have determined once again to pray, love, and grow with the ones in your assemblies. Much appreciation is due for those who prayed in faith for a sucess in these meetings; it must have made a difference.

We see the brethren at Port Orchard frequently, and they refresh our spirits every time. Also, some of the families from Yakima and Selah regularly come to be with us on weekends, and we wish to report our gratitude for the visit of these ones from "a far country". They give us much comfort and consolation in the Lord. Our hope is that all would enjoy the fellowship and communion of the Lord.

For the church at Seattle,

Wayne Orendorff

HUMBLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church at Humble sends love and greetings to all. We have very little news to report this month. We are thankful that we can report that all are well and that we are still carrying on the Lord's work, though few in number. Everyone has about recovered from the hurricane damage, and now the stormy season has ended, we are having some beautiful fall weather here.

We enjoyed the Courier very much this last month. We were glad to get reports from more congregations, and are thankful for all of the good meetings that were held during the summer. Now is the time for all who can to plan their Thanksgiving vacation so that they can attend the Yuma meeting. Several from Humble plan to attend. We hope to see all of you there. We were very sad to hear about Sister Way being injured in a bad fall. Our prayers go forth for a quick recovery for her, and also for the family who must have been so worried about her recovery. I am sure that it was a frightening experience for all of them. Everyone here sends love and best wishes for all of you.

We have a new member at Humble. Sister Jenny Herrin is attending Rich University here in Houston. We are so glad to have her with us. Brother Jim Chadwick visited and worshipped with us last month. We are always glad to have visitors come and meet with us. We ask the prayers of all the faithful everywhere, that we might continue in well doing, and serve the Lord in spirit and in truth.

J.W. Bedingfield
Church at Humble, Texas

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WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at Waterford are doing well. Bro. Dean Guyer and Sis. Kathleen Brooks were united in marriage on September 10. We are very happy for them and wish them a happy life together.

Bro. J.D. and Sis. Fern Logan have been traveling to Grass Valley congregation every three weeks to have services with the brethren there. Our prayers are with them and those at Grass Valley. Bro. and Sis. Ray and Norma Frago have taken a trip to southern California. Our prayers are with them for a safe return.

We have some who have been ill. Sis. Maye Morse has been having trouble with her ears and will have minor surgery this month. We pray for a successful operation. Sis. Hope Arnett is no longer in a rest home,

she is living with her daughter. Sis. Jewell Cadwell is still in a convalesent hosptial. We ask for your prayers for her and all those who are sick.

This is all the news from Waterford. We wish all happiness and blessings in the Lord.

In Christian love,

Bro. Troy Morse for the
Waterford congregation

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

There are no serious illnesses here at this time. About all of us have our minor problems but nothing very serious. Bro. Isaac Ferguson was in the hospital for 2 or 3 days but is home now.

Our meeting is now history. We all enjoyed it very much. Even though there were no visible results it was very profitable. God's word will not return void and it is always encouraging to fellowship with other Christians and to hear lessons from God's word. Bro. Jerry Perigen brought us 9 very good lessons. He is a very capable speaker. We appreciate him traveling over 1600 miles for this meeting. We hope Bro. and Sis. Perigen enjoyed the week as much and had as good a time as we did. The only complaint we can think of is that the week was too short.

We had good attendance most of the time. I think we had visitors every service. We had several visitors from around the community and visitors from at least 3 different congregations. The visitors from other congregations were the R.J. Roberson's from Tiner, Oklahoma; Sammy and Barbara Boen from Stilwell, Oklahoma; Howard and Leola Taylor, Audley and Teresa Barnes and daughters, Traci and Kristal, all from the Loco, Oklahoma congregation. We want to thank all of them for putting out the effort to come. The ones that didn't come don't know what they missed.

In Christian love,

Paul Andrews

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"But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

(Luke 6:49)

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We here at Yuma send greetings to you all. All is doing pretty good now. Sister Vesta Lytle and Arzella Renick are feeling much better and able to come to church now. We are happy for that. Also, we are happy for Brother and Sister Donny and Mary Long who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on September 30. We wish them many more.

Last Lord's day we had a basket lunch. We had a good crowd. Brothers and Sisters Mike and Carol Wilcher and family, and Mike and Carol Lawson and family from Roll came in for services. Also, Sister Nora and Cliff Scott are back from vacation. Her son Tom and family also attended Sunday. Bro. and Sis. Bill and Verda Nelson are still in Heber. They plan to be back the last of this month. We miss them. I want to remind everyone of our camp meeting set for Nov. 20th thru 27th. Please everyone come if you can. We need you all to make it another success. Last year was so great. Weekday services will be at 7:30 p.m. We plan to do like last year, have the kitchen open all the time and all are welcome to use it. There will be some groceries and supplies there. Then the evening meal will be served before services and everyone will gather for that who can. We found that to work real well. Also, there is lots of room at the church grounds from those of you who have the motor homes, trailers, campers, etc. and we paln to have a few set up there if someone wants to use them. Also our homes are always open to you. So we will be looking forward to seeing each of you and let's all be together in fellowship and wonderful love.

If any of you need to call for directions or anything you may call me 602/726-4575 or Bro. Earl Broadway 602/783-0438 or Bro. Horace Orendorff 602/782-6444.

In Christian love,

Robert Morris for Yuma congregation

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Sister Vesta Lytle is our star for this month. She was born in Oklahoma. She had a rare experience of which proves the Bible is true. She asked to be baptized in Church and went home to get clothes to change into after services. He husband, Wade, started talking to her. He said the water would be too cold. He went with her anyway and at her baptizm, he made confession and their son, Melvin, baptized both his parents. Proves if a woman tries, she can influence her husband. Bro. Wade died several years ago but she still attends services with her daughters, Laveta Boling and Betty Jones in Yuma. Her son, Melvin, and family attends the Roll congregation.

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On September 25, I preached for the Port Orchard congregation and they all enjoyed my lesson. My wife and I enjoyed every minute. We had a wonderful time with the brothers and sisters there. We had a wonderful pot luck dinner with good home cooked food. We wish all of you could have been there.

We will be going to Seattle on October 8 and I will be preaching there on Sunday morning if the Lord wills it. If you like to have copies of any of my sermons, please write to Wilbur C. Reading, 2802 Beaudry Road, 860-C, Yakima Washington 98901. We will send them to you or you can pick them up at the Ahtanum Church of Christ. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and all these things will be added unto you." Matt. 6:33.

We invite all of you to worship with us.

In Christian love,

Wilbur and Lola Reading

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DEATH IS CERTAIN

Neighbor, when is your funeral? This week? Next month? Tomorrow? You will have one, you know. Yes, I understand. One doesn't want to be reminded of death. Suffering and affliction we can accept as belonging to life. But death seems so unreal - so morbid. We don't want to think about it. So we don't. One comes to presume he'll go on living.

But wait! Remember that last funeral procession you watched? Actually you were in it-just further back in line. But day by day you are moving closer toward the front. Sooner than you think you will be riding silently alone in the leading vehicle.

Where are the millions who lived a century ago? Dead. They each felt as you feel: "Death is not for me." Another century passes. Where are you? You and I have long since played the chief role in that procession. Your death is inevitable. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Rom. 5:12); "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Heb. 10:27). You have an appointment that will be met.

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GOD IS NOT WILLING THAT ANY SHOULD PERISH

CHICO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It's been a while since the Church of Christ in Chico has written to the Courier. We send our love to all the Brothers and Sisters in the Brotherhood.

Everyone seems to be in good health except for Bro. C.M. Brockman. He is very ill and we are all praying for him. We ask for the prayers of the brethern for him.

On September 24, Bro. C.M. Brockman celebrated his 89th birthday. We had quite a party for him and I'm sure he really enjoyed seeing most of his children, granchildren and great-grandchildren together as we and the church brothers and sisters helped him celebrate.

On that weekend we had the priviledge of hearing Bro. Mark Perigen from the Bellflower congregation bring us a very good lesson. Keep up the good work Bro. Mark. Our young brothers here in the church are taking an active role in speaking which we are certainly proud of.

God bless everyone and keep up the good fight of faith.

In Christian love,

Chico congregation

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WHAT IS DEATH?

In I Kings 17:17-23 we learn that a boy experienced death and then was made alive again by re-entry of his soul into his body.

The prophet, Elijah, requested God to "let the child's soul come into him again. And the Lord heard...Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again and he revived...Elijah said, See, thy son liveth."

Thus, physical death is the separation of the soul from the body. It is the moment when life ends, when there occurs permanent cessation of the body's earthly functions. No longer is there response to environmental stimuli: nor can there be re-established capacity for metabolism, or growth, or reproduction.

Spiritual death means separation of the soul from God by living in sin. "Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you." (John 6:53). Terrifying consequences await those who remain spiritually dead. "That at the time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world." (Ephesians 2:12).

The New Testament refers to the death of Christians as a "sleep." "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord..." As Christians we can face physical death with confidence in Christ for we shall awaken to be with our Lord!

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here at Bellflower seems to be doing just fine. Sis. Okja Way is well on her way to recovery and is getting along much better.

We had our usual basket lunch on the first Sunday of each month. We enjoy the fellowship and love we share.

Bro. Jerry and Sis. Betty Perigen just got home from Goshen, Arkansas where Bro. Jerry held the meeting. We are thankful they arrived back home safely. Bro. Claud and Sis. Burdette Perigen were gone one Sunday. They worshipped with the congregation at Sacramento, California. We missed them.

Dave McCarthy is still coming to church regularly with Sis. Lori Perigen. We appreciate him coming as we are small in number.

This is about all the news this month. Anyone in our area please feel free to worship with us. We'd love to have you. Bro. Al Way - 714/842-1633; Bro. Jerry Perigen - 714/842-1251; and Bro. Claud Perigen 213/866-0656.

In Christian love,

Bro. Al Way

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Dear Brethren:

The church directory is being mailed with this month's Courier. It is nothing fancy, but it serves the purpose. The directions are your own and we appreciate your efforts in sending them to us. Many congregations did not reply. I do not know your reasons why, but it had to be one or more of the following:

1. You were too lazy to bother;
2. You just really don't care;
3. You did not want your congregation listed in the directory.

Sufficient time was given, and then extended to give everyone time to reply.

We are so very proud of your support of the Courier. Each month we have good response, but have you noticed that the news letters are almost always from the same congregations?

Come on brethren, let's all do our part, we love you and care about you. Won't you let us know what is happening at your church.

-The Editors

"He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep."

(John 21:16)

1983 MEETINGS

Yuma, Arizona November 20-27 Camp

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1984 MEETINGS

Cedaredge, Colorado July 1-8 Camp

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MARRIAGES

Congratulations to Bro. Dean Guyer and Sis. Kathleen Brooks who were recently united in marriage. May you find much happiness together.

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WHAT IS WRONG WITH SELFISHNESS?

Selfishness drives Christ out of one's heart. When self comes in the front door, Christ goes out the back. Christ and self cannot live in the same heart. The Christian life is conceived of as a dying to self and to the world - a dying with Christ, a crucifixion of the old man, that a new man may live. "I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I that live, but Christ liveth in me" (Galations 2:20). The Christian is no longer his own but Christ's. "Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye were bought with a price: glorify God therefore in your body" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

The cure for selfishness is love. The apostle Paul tells us that, "Love seeketh not its own" (I Corinthians 13:5). Unselfishness is a infallible mark of love. Does it characterize our lives? What are we living for? For ourselves? For our own pleasure? For our own enrichment? For our own success? For our own fame? Is that it? Turn the search light of a phrase like this on to your own lives - "love seeketh not its own," and how do you come out of the test? Is self at the center? This is not love's way. Love gives and spends and lavishes itself on others. Do we have this love? For he that loves not knows not God. There is no real kinship between the selfish man and the God who for love's sake gave his Son. And therefore there can be no heaven for the selfish man.

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