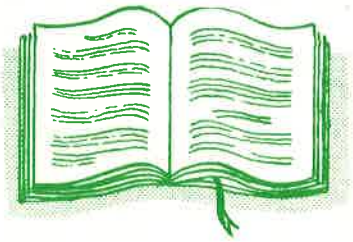
The Christian Courier



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

DECEMBER 1983

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

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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We here in Oklahoma City are doing fine. We have been blessed with some visitors this fall from various churches. The brethren and their families are continuing their trips from Broken Bow and the Stilwell area on a rotating basis each third Sunday of the month. We greatly appreciate their help. We also have had visitors from Goshen, Arkansas; Lugert, Oklahoma; La Habra, California; and San Pablo, California. It was good to have each of you and welcome each and all to visit and come back again. Sister Gail Schanvel and her husband, Terry, were blessed with the addition of a baby boy to their family. They named their new son Jacob. Mother and child are doing fine.

God bless you all.

In Christian love,
Oklahoma City congregation

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Here is the news from the congregation at Baron. Healthwise, everyone is okay now. Sister Penny Spence is recovering very well from her operation. Sister Darlene Warford was in the hospital two days with ulcers,

(Cont.)

but is home doing fine now.

Sister Kathy Treat and her son, David, from Broken Bow were down visiting on Thanksgiving weekend.

We'd like to announce our meeting for June 10-17. Bro. Richard Johnston from the Yakima, Washington congregation will be holding it. Bro. Richard is an excellent speaker and we feel fortunate to have him coming in. All are invited to our meeting. We have water and gas at the church for campers and motor homes, and you are welcome in our homes. Oklahoma is beautiful in June, especially with lots of Christian friends to associate with. Please join us.

Terry Warford for the
Church at Baron, Oklahoma

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ROLL, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings from everyone here at the Roll congregation. We are glad to report that everyone here is doing very well.

Since my last writing, we have been busy on our building here. I would like to take this time to tell you how thankful we are for the financial help everyone has sent us. We have the floor in and the walls up, but once again we are out of money, so we are asking once more for your help.

During the camp meeting in Yuma, we had Bro. Horace Pounds and Bro. Ed Tate from New Castle, Texas and Bro. J.W. Bedingfield from Humble, Texas come out and help us on our building. We have had different ones from the Yuma congregation help us also. We are very thankful for the Brothers and Sisters who have given their time to help us.

A couple of things I need to report is that Bro. Rick Lyons has been restored to the Lord's service and a young lady named Donna Smith was added to God's family. These events took place this past August in Yuma.

On August 23, 1983, Bro. Rick and Sis. Donna were united in marriage here at Roll. Bro. and Sis. Lyons are now in New Mexico meeting with the brethren at Aztec.

We have had several visitors stop by and meet with us these past couple of months. Bro. Harry Dye from Parker, Arizona; Bro. Horace Orendorf and Bro. Sonny Boling from Yuma. We always enjoy having visitors. Anyone traveling our way, be sure to stop and visit. Our names and phone numbers are in the Church directory. Pray for us as we pray for you. The address in which we can be reached is Church of Christ, Rt. 1 Box 71-B1, Roll, Arizona 85347.

In Christian love,
Tony Brister

GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It sounds like a broken record, but we are still having a lot of sickness here. We have had two in the hospital. Sis. Kathy Campbell and Sis. Lawson have both been in the hospital three times each in a short period of time. Both are home now and seem to be doing better. Sis. Kathy was back in services yesterday, but Sis. Lawson ws still too weak to go.

Almost everyone else has had colds and flu and some missed a service or so. I think everyone is feeling better now though.

About the only good news I can think of is Paul Auslom Jr. gave his first lesson a couple of Sunday nights ago. I was having to spend so much time at the hospital with my Grandmother that I didn't have time to study, so he gave the chapter study in my place.

I think everyone agreed that he did a real fine job. We are proud of him for doing whatever he can to help in the services.

In Christian love,
Paul Andrews

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NEWCASTLE, TEXAS

Dear Christian friends:

We have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that we had a wonderful time in Yuma, Arizona. Jimmy and Jaetta Loftis invited us to ride along with them in their motor home, also Horace and Lydia Pounds. We had such a good time on the road, visiting, singing, etc. It was so good to have the fellowship of Christian people. We enjoyed the sermons each night, the singing and the good food. Those Arizona folk sure know how to show a fellow a good time. We appreciate them and thank them so very much.

Near the end of the camp meeting, we received word that my father-in-law, Ray Bishop, had a stroke. Eleven days later, he passed away. He was 91 years old. We will miss him. He lived a good Christian life, and we know there is a place in heaven for him. Bro. Bedingfield conducted the funeral service. He and Sister Bedingfield met with us last Lord's day. He brought a good lesson. Jimmy and Jaetta also worshipped with us. They were all a comfort to us.

My mother-in-law will continue to live with us. She is still in good health, and we plan to take good care of her for the rest of her life.

We enjoy the Christian Courier very much. Keep up the good work.

Anyone comeing this way, be sure to come visit with us and worship with us on the Lord's day.

In Christian love,
Ed and Francis Tate

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church at Loco sends their love and prayers to all. Everyone here seems healthy except Sister Smith who is in the hospital recovering from a possible heart attack. We pray for a speedy recovery for her.

Our daughter, Teresa Barnes, her two daughters, Traci and Kristal, Leola and I attended Wednesday through Sunday of the Yuma meeting. We were pleased to meet everyone from Yuma and other places we had not met before, also renew aquaintances of those met over the years.

Brother Ray Bishop of New Castle, Texas congregation passed from this life December 7th at the age of 91. Our love goes out to Sister Bishop and family.

We invite you to come and visit and worship with us.

With Christian love,
Howard Taylor

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LORENZO, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We at the Lorenzo congregation are doing well. Brother and Sister Larry and Vandra Wood are blessed with the birth of a baby daughter, Cedra Mareesa, born November 24 at 1:01 a.m. She weighed 8 pounds 9 ounces. We are all very happy for Larry and Vandra and wish them our warmest congratulations. Also, in November we were blessed with visits from Donna Taylor of Lugert, Oklahoma; Paul Abell of Duncanville, Texas; and Jo Ann Bowlin of Almagordo, New Mexico. It is always nice to visit with brothers and sisters from others congregations.

We regret that we did not get our Chruch location in the directory. We are located on the corner of 4th and Monroe in Lorenzo, Texas. We meet at 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on Sundays. If you need further directions, call Earl Howe (806) 253-2193; Jimmy Loftis (806) 634-5530; or Bill Clements (806) 828-6418.

Visitors are always welcome and if you're ever in our area, please feel free to stop by and pay us a visit.

In Christian love,
Lorenzo congregation

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Inspiration in presentation means perspiration in preparation.

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at Waterford send greetings to all. We are sorry to have missed last month's article, but we will try to catch up with this letter. We've had a few visitors, Bro. and Sis. Harry Wegley and their daughter, Chris, from Grants Pass worshipped with us one Sunday. Sis. Lonnie Lindley; daughter-in-law, Sue Lindley; Cleve and Mary Lindley from San Jose, California. Mary Morses sister-in-law worships with us from time to time.

Bro. and Sis. Al Way, Al Way III and Sis. Tammy Way from Bellflower, California worshipped with us one Sunday. Bro. Al gave us a very uplifting lesson.

Bro. and Sis. Bill McCay from Yakima, Washington visited us. Bro. and Sis. Robert and Ellen McCay from Port Orchard, Washington also was with us one Sunday.

Sis. Norma Frago's brother, Dennis, and Lady Friend, Louella, were with us. Bro. Rick Brown from Pinole, California has worshipped with us. Kay Bentz and sons from Chico, California have been with us.

Bro. and Sis. J.W. Bedingfield have worshipped with us recently. Bro. J.W. brought us a fine lesson. We are thankful for all those who have come to be with us.

A few of our members have been ill and had to miss worship. Bro. and Sis. Lawrence and Dousia Arnett have been ill. Sis. Lula Way is in the hospital for tests. Our prayers are with her that she gets over her illness soon.

Sis. Alice Weekly is in a convelescent hospital. We pray she is doing better.

Sis. Jewell Cadwell is still in a convelescent hospital.

Our prayers are with all those who are ill and we pray they are back with us soon.

We have decided on a date for our meeting June 17-24 and we are pleased to be having Sam Boen from Fort Smith, Arkansas bring our series of lessons.

We have a telephone in our Church building now. (209) 874-3248.

This is all our news for now.

In Christian love,
The Waterford congregation

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

Home again, after a safe and happy trip to the Yuma meeting. We truely enjoyed the wonderful fellowship, good sermons, singing and all the

(Cont.)

friendly hospitality shown to us. We love you all.

We have some illness here at home. Some flu and colds among the children. Sis. Polly Roark was sick with flu, Sis. Nora Loveland is doing about the same. We miss all those sick and unable to attend the services.

We had basket dinner and singing yesterday, being the 1st Sunday of the month. Had a big turnout for both.

We awoke this morning to a snow fall. The roads were slick and our dear Bro. Reading fell cleaning his car and injured his back. He is in the hospital, remember him in your prayers.

We have decided on our meeting date for July 22-29 with Bro. J.W. Bedingfield from Humble, Texas doing the preaching.

We were so happy to see old friends and make new ones at the meeting in Yuma.

We send greetings to all.

In Christian love,
Bill McCay for the
Church in Yakima

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HUMBLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Chruch at Humble sends love and best wishes to all of you. This finds all well with us.

We arrived back home from our trip last night and were sure glad to be at home again and to find all the members here well and happy. We had planned a three week vacation but it turned into five weeks. It was a glorious five weeks for us. We left home on November 7th to go to Yuma. On the way, we visited in the home of Bro. and Sis. Gene Bowling at Las Cruces, New Mexico, then to Yuma where we met with the church there on November 13th. We found all well there, as they were making their preparations for the camp meeting. During the next week, we visited with relatives and friends in Southern California. While at Escondido, we got to see our dear Brother Dick Taylor for a short visit. Then back to Yuma for a glorious week of great fellowship, wonderful singing, good preaching, and the greatest food. This was truly a successful meeting. I am sure that much lasting good was done for the Master's cause. We are still rejoicing over the results of that effort, and give God praise and glory for blessings the efforts of every one there. We can not find words to express our appreciation to the brothers and sisters at Yuma for their hospitality and kindness. Just keep up the good work there, dear loved ones, for we know that your labors in the Lord are not in vain. After the Yuma meeting was over, we went to Parker, Arizona

(Cont.)

for a brief visit with Brother and Sister Dye. We found them well, and surely enjoyed our time with them. Then on to Kingman, Arizona for a visit with my sisters there. From Kingman, on to the Modesto area, where we visited relatives and got to see our newest great grand-daughter, Brea McKinney, of Hughson, California. On December 4th, we met with the church at Waterford and enjoyed the fine fellowshipping there and was so happy to meet some new members there and to renew old aquaintaces. A few members were sick there, and were unable to attend Chruch. We are sorry to have missed them, but trust and pray that they may all be better by now. After a good lunch at the chruch there, we came back to Yuma to pick up our travel trailer and to visit again with the faithful there. (Thanks for all the good fruit and vegatables).

We were on our way home when we stopped at Las Cruces, New Mexico and received the sad news that Brother Ray Bishop of the New Castle church had passed away on December 7th. We changed our plans, and instead of heading for south Texas, we headed for north Texas. We arrived at Brother and Sister Ed Tate's home on December 8th. Brother Ray Bishop is Sister Tate's father. Brother Ray was laid to rest on Friday, Dec. 9th., as reported elsewhere in the paper. The brotherhood lost one of its oldest and best members with his passing. He can never be replaced on this earth, but heaven has gained a rare jewel. The lives of all who knew him are enriched by his presence and our heart felt prayers go out for the wonderful family that he left behind.

We stayed with the family until after church Sunday, where we met at New Castle. We had a safe journey home, where we are tired and exhausted, realizing that we are not as young as we once were, but are treasuring up so many happy memories to last us all through life. We were so thankful to get to see so many loved ones and so glad to get to clasp hands with so many dear ones. May God bless and keep you all in his love and mercies.

J.W. and Pearl Bedingfield
Church at Humble, Texas

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Thank you for a successful 1983. Let us all do our part in 1984 to have a successful year. If we each do <u>our</u> part it will be a successful one.

Get out the shovel, dig up that talent and put it to work. May we all grow in the knowledge and truth of Jesus Christ to full spiritual maturity.

We love you brethren. Pray for us.

In humble Christian love,
Bro. Al Way

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all who traveled so far and also our local congregation for all the help during the camp meeting here in Yuma. The speakers, singers, all who took part in the services. Also thank the ones who helped so much in the kitchen and the cooks and the ones who cleaned and mopped every morning. We wish every one of you could have been here to enjoy the love and fellowship that we did. This we all need. It gives the strength we need to carry on. Bro. Bill Nelson wrote you the results of the meeting. We are all so happy over it all. We were saddened to hear the Brother Bishop passed away December 7th. He had his stroke on the Saturday before the meeting was over so Ed and Francis Tate; Horace and Lydia Pounds; and Jim and Jaetta Loftis left soon as services were over Sunday morning. He was Frances's father. They all came from Texas. Let's remember them and Sister Bishop in our prayers, also all the sick. We have a few with colds and flus now.

Let's all support the Courier. It costs a lot to keep it going. Also with our news. It's our only way of hearing from lots of christians and knowing where we can worship. We have enclosed a check to help them, so won't some of you who can, help. We feel sorry we had neglected it so long. Please forgive us.

I will close for now with love to everyone and again thank you and God bless you all.

In Christian love,
Robert Morris

The second Yuma camp meeting is now history. As we said before, we hoped it would be bigger and better than the first one.

With much effort on the part of the visitors who came so far, and the planning by the host congregation, it was very successful. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and love of the brothers and sisters in Christ. Surely God is pleased with his dear children for their labor of love. There were enough visiting brethren for a different speaker each evening, and the singing was beautiful.

Visitors were the J.W. Bedingfields of Humble, Texas; the Jim Loftis' of Lorenzo, Texas; the Ed Tates and Horace Pounds of New Castle, Texas; the Howard Taylors of Loco, Oklahoma; Teresa, Traci and Kristal Barnes of Loco, Oklahoma; Mark Taylor of Lugert, Oklahoma; Leesa Howe of Lorenzo, Texas; Doris Jared, Lori Perigen, David McCarthy, Claud and Burdette Perigen, Al, Okja, Tammy, and Al III Way, and Myrtle Lee Clouse, all of Bellflower, California; Ira and Annis Brown of Waterford, California; Rosa Brown, Al and Charlotte Burdis of Waterford, California;

(Cont.)

Bill and Veda McCay of Yakima, Washington; Howard and Nell McCay of Selah, Washington; Robert, Ellen and Bobby McCay of Port Orchard, Washington; Tony, Louise, Jackie, Susan and Larry Brister of Tacna, Arizona; Zig Zyck of Waterford, California; Hank and Betty Zyck of Mesa, Arizona; Steven Lancaster of Barstow, California; Wilma Deger of Fresno, California; and Butch Bramer of Prescott, Arizona.

We had numerous visitors from the Yuma area. We were so happy to have had one baptism and eight asking for prayers of the Church. We were all uplifted and instilled with a new zeal to work even harder, giving God all the praise.

Lord willing, we plan on having the camp meeting again, November 18th thru the 25th of 1984. Plan your time so you can come be with us. Without the visiting brethren, it would be nothing.

In Christian love,
Bill Nelson for the
Chruch at Yuma

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STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a small greeting from Pleasant View. We are all up and moving except Bro. Hayes Morris. He has just returned home for the hospital. He is recovering from gall bladder surgery.

We are glad to report the wedding of Sis. Deborah Morris to James Dean Buckner. They were married on September 24, 1983. We wish them many long years of happiness. Debbie is the daughter of Bro. and Sis. George Morris and James Dean is the son of Bro. and Sis. Gerald Buckner.

We are also glad that Bro. John Brown is back with us again and getting along pretty good.

Sis. Emma Brown is feeling fairly well. She is a true and faithful christian. We are real pleased to have our elderly brother and sister so faithful. It sure gives us younger christians a very special uplift.

Bro. and Sis. Sammy Boen took some of the meeting in at Goshen, Arkansas.

Bro. Lloyd Allgood and children attended services in Oklahoma City the week-end of the 23rd.

Brother J.D. Johnson and wife visited here during the month of June. Frank Ridlon and wife visited during October. We enjoyed having both families visiting in our homes and attending services with us. We invite anyone and everone to come by and visit.

In Christian love,
Gerald Buckner

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

The church at Baron sends greetings to all. Sister Penny Spence had an operation and is doing fine. All others are okay at this writing.

We were glad the church directory has finally been published, however, we were disappointed the Baron Chruch of Christ was not included. We had sent directions to the Courier about two months before the deadline, so, perhaps it was lost in the mail.

We extend our welcome to anyone passing our way to worship with us and visit in our homes. The church house is located 9 miles north of Stilwell on Highway 59.

Yours in Christ,
The Baron Church of Christ
c/o Bro. Jack Warford
409 S. 1st, Stilwell, OK 74960

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

I had the privilege to preach at Port Orchard once again on the 27th. We really enjoy going up there to preach the gospel of Christ, and we enjoy fellowshipping with them. We don't have much news to write about but we will always let you know what news we do have. Here is some more good news. Kelly and Kathy McCay was blessed with a baby girl. My wife and I enjoy being with the congregation in Yakima, Washington. This is like being home to us and we are very proud of being a part of this congregation. My step son put in his membership three weeks ago, so now he is part of the congregation and we are very glad that he is and are very proud of him. As you know, our lives belong to the Lord, and we must do all we can to make him proud of us.

I will preach here in Yakima on the fourth of December.

I cannot understand why other congregations don't send news from their congregations. We would like to hear from them and their work there. The Church is the pillar and ground of truth. 1 Tim. 3:15. There is nothing like doing the will of the Father.

In Christian love,
Wilbur and Lola Reading

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Never expect to govern others until you have learned to govern yourself.

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Christian friends:

We at Bellflower all seem to be doing fine with the exception of a few minor colds.

On November 20th we had Bro. Mark Taylor from Lugert, Oklahoma congregation meet and visit with us. Bro. Mark gave us a fine lesson on Sunday evening. Also, on November 20th, we had Bro. and Sis. Marty and Tayna Brockman worship with us. We're so glad to have our visitors and welcome them back anytime.

Claud and Burdette Perigen; my wife and I; my son, Al III; my daughter, Tammy; Doris Jared; Myrtle Lee Clouse; Lori Perigen; and David McCarthy were able to attend some of the Yuma, Arizona camp meeting. We wish to thank all of you at Yuma for your wonderful hospitality. We enjoyed the good lessons, singing and fellowship. They had a big turnout for their meeting and had a very successful one.

On December 4th we had a basket lunch at church. We wish to thank our visitors from the La Habra congregation for coming out and joining us for lunch. It's good to visit with brethren from other congregations.

Anyone passing through this part of the country feel free to stop and worship with us. We meet at 10:30 a.m. Sunday morning and 6:00 p.m. Sunday evening.

In Christian love,
Al Way

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WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

Not much news here at Waterford. Sis. Weakly is now confined to a rest home. Sister Way has been in the hospital for some tests. My mother, Sister Arnett, has not been able to attend church lately. She is 91 years old.

Bro. J.W. Bedingfield visited here the 4th and preached for us. I was sick and unable to attend which I sorely regretted.

We have chosen June 17-24 as our meeting date for 1984. Bro. Sammy Boen will be our speaker.

Love and prayers for all,
L.E. Arnett

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We would rather be ruined by praise than saved by criticism.

THINKING CHRISTIANS

With no intention of trying to exhaust such an inexhaustable subject, I present some food for thought.

It is an undeniable fact that the leaders among the sectarian faiths discourage a thinking membership (along proper channels). The reason for this is obvious; a thinking membership will be a distinct challenge to heresy and error.

Heresy and error arise from a tendency to take a part in place of the whole, and exaggerate the part at the expense of the whole.

Immediately some say; "The Sectarians are guilty of this! They don't think! They're in a rut!" But brethren, are we doing our part to encourage thinking? Or are we attempting to do all the necessary thinking while others sit idly by? Is it possible that one or a few leaders among us can do all the thinking for the entire brotherhood? Preposterous! Constructive thinking is commanded in the scriptures. Namely: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." Phil. 4:8; "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." II Tim. 2:15; "Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man." Col. 4:6; "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:" I Pet. 3:15.

Nearly one hundred years ago, McCauly said: "Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly, as when they discuss it freely." This is a good rule to follow whenever questions arise. We have long been taught to disregard opinions: this is false. Opinions of thinking people are invaluable.

Energetic thinking, and free disscussion will do more than anything else to keep us free from the sins of habit and formalism. These two faults are leeches that cling to the body, draining the church of its life-blood; making it imperative that a mighty blood transfusion take place.

Brethren, it is time for us to awaken! Let's break up this mental sluggishness! All great men have been thinkers. A great church, too, must be a thinking church. Study and thought will restore the church to its rightful greatness. God gave us brains to use; let's use them!

Individual thinking will produce collective expression, and collective expression will correct errors and clean up unnecessary misunderstanding.

Brethren, think on these things!

-Selected

THINK ABOUT IT

Once upon a time a little eight year old boy named Josiah was made king of Israel. Unlike his father Amon, he was an upstanding, God fearing character. One day he was reflecting on what he could do to cause the people to whip up a little and do more, and he decided to remodel the house of the Lord. This wasn't a little "paint this and dust that" type of project, but a full scale job.

When the repairs got under way they found a lot of money as well as a book of the Law given by Moses. Shapan read this book to the king and Josiah turned pale, broke into a sweat, and ripped his clothes. He knew that the people had been rejecting the Lord.

Josiah did everything he could to show the Lord whose side he was on. He made the temple beautiful. He encouraged the people to obey what was written in the book and then he organized one of the biggest Passover feasts you ever saw. The menu is given in II Chronicles chapter 35. Before it was over with, Josiah had killed thirty thousand lambs, three thousand bullocks, seventy six hundred small cows, and eight hundred oxen. Matter of fact, since the days of Samuel there had never been a feast like this one.

Actually it wasn't the amount of cows and sheep they served at the feast that pleased the Lord. He was pleased with the fact that they were serving Him instead of dumb idols. The Lord rejoices when people get serious about serving Him and He likes to see folks spend a little time at it. Like it is with us. He's not concerned about which store we buy the grape juice at, or whether the wheat we use for making the bread was harvested by a Massey Ferguson or a Gleaner Baldwin. He does not want us to worship the cup, (the New Testament). He doesn't want us to worship the grape juice (His blood), or the bread (His body), or even the table that we sit the elements on. But when we partake of the communion He would like for us to consider it to be just as important as the One Who said "this do....in remembrance of Me." THINK ABOUT IT.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear loved ones,

We are ending up 1983 with a good issue of the Courier. Last month we had very little news, and we were very low on money. This issue, as you can see, is packed full and we now have a balance in our checking account to carry us through next issue. This is because of <u>you</u>, the supporters of the Courier, as individuals and congregations, got out the news and sent in the money. We thank you all so very much for your support.

We were saddened to hear that some congregations had sent directions to us for the church directory, and we did not recieve them. If you sent in directions that for some reason did not get printed, or, if you now want to send in directions, please do. We will print them in the Courier and everyone can take them and add them to their church directory.

-The Editors

CHURCH DIRECTIONS FOR YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Address: 4301 Lower Antanum, Yakima, Washington

Coming from the South on I82 or U.S.97, take the first Union Gap exit which is So. 1st Street. Go north to first signal light. Turn left on Ahtanum road. Go west approximately 5 miles.

Coming from the north on I82, turn at exit 36 onto Valley Mall Blvd. Go to first signal light which is So. 1st Street. Turn left to first traffic light which is Ahtanum Road. Turn right and go west approximately 5 miles. Church is on the north side of road.

Contact: Roger Lamb (509) 697-6697/Bill McCay (509) 966-9697/Richard Johnston (509) 697-4961/Kelly McCay (509) 248-4212.

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IN MEMORY OF BROTHER C.M. BROCKMAN

Brother C.M. Brockman passed away December 11, 1983, and was buried December 15, in Chico, California. Brother Brockman was 89 years old and active in the church right up until his death. He started preaching God's word when he was 17 years old. He was a minister of the Church of Christ for 72 years and was still preaching until shortly before he died. He was an inspiration and a great influence to those who knew him. He will be missed very much. He had 6 children, 20 grandchildren and 18 great grandchildren.

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THE TREE OF FRIENDSHIP

When I stop and think it's really rather remarkable how many ways a tree is like a true friend. The tree, nature's most valuable possession, each somehow different and unique from every other one but yet at the same time with many similar and distinguishable components. And so it is with life's asset; a true friend. It's leaves provide a relaxing and relieving shade when the heat from everyday life becomes too much to bear. As the circle of clouds and storms passes and the rainbow and sunshine prevail, it's roots grow deeper and stronger and survival seems more secure. The trunk offers a firm place to sit down and lean on when our feet are weary from the hassels, the hurriers, and the sometimes rough roads we must all walk from time to time. It's branches reach down as does a friend when we need pulling back up, but most of all they reach out, as would a true friend who is always caring, good time sharing, and burden asset in like nature's most valuable possession. To say, "I'm thankful," for these similarities is only a beginning of my expression, as this gratitude is actually a language beyond words.

-Selected

IN MEMORY OF BROTHER RAY BISHOP
Departed at age 91, of Olney, Texas, on December 7, 1983

We cannot think of Brother Ray as having departed life, but, rather as a precious soul who has safely completed his journey through the treacherous seas of this life, and has safely reached his goal on heaven's golden shores. Truly, "death is swallowed up in victory."

Brother Ray was born on March 30, 1892, in Wise co., Texas. He married Flora Lee Morgan on October 1, 1913. He had lived in Young county since 1907. To the couple were born three sons and five daughters. One son, Harvey, and one daughter, Jane, preceeded his in death. Surviving him is his wife Flora Lee; two sons, Jack and Kenneth; four daughters, Faye Wages, Francis Tate, Dorothy Short, and Jean Parker; 19 grandchildren; 37 great grand children; and 4 great, great grandchildren. He is also survived by two brothers and four sisters. He died on December 7, 1983, and was buried at Olney, Texas on December 9, 1983.

Brother J.W. Bedingfield spoke to an overflowing audience of over three hundred people, and was assisted at the grave side by Brother Howard Taylor.

Brother Ray and his faithful wife, Lee, have been members of the Church of Christ for some seventy years. This writer has personally known and loved this christian family for nearly thirty years, and at no time has this dear couple ever faltered or failed in doing their Christian duties. We feel a deep personal loss, at having lost our most loyal and trustworthy friend, as well as a precious brother in Christ. His labors in the Lord are certainly not in vain. He has left us an example, and a legacy that we will treasure all the days of our life. The great out-pouring of love and kindness by all who knew him is testimony to the life that he lived. The beautiful family that he left behind is a tribute to the blessed Christian home that he and Sister Lee maintained for over seventy years together. Yes, those left behind are grieving at the loss of Brother Ray, but we are only grieving our loss, not his parting, for we know that as we grieve his departure, the faithful who have gone before are rejoicing at his arrival. His race is run; his trials are over; his labors are ended. "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Our dear brother has departed but his life remains with us, reminding us that we too must continue faithful until death, that we, too, might depart with gladness and not with sorrow, that we might all be reunited on heavens golden shore.

May God richly bless the dear family that he left behind. We love you all.

J.W. Bedingfield

1984 MEETINGS

Baron, Oklahoma	June 10-17	Richard Johnston
Waterford, California	June 17-24	Sammy Boen
Goshen, Arkansas	June 24-July 1	Al Way
Cederedge, Colorado	July 1-8	Camp
Yakima, Washington	July 22-29	J.W. Bedingfield
Yuma, Arizona	November 18-25	Camp

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BAPTISMS

Donna Smith of Roll, Arizona

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MARRIAGES

Congratulations to Bro. Rick Lyons and Sis. Donna Smith who were united in marriage of the Roll, Arizona congregation; and to James Dean Buckner and Sis. Deborah Morris who were united in marriage of the Stilwell, Oklahoma congregation. We wish both couple many years of love and happiness.

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BIRTHS

Congratulations to Sis. Gail Schanvel and husband, Terry, who recently had a baby boy, Jacob, of the Oklahoma City, Oklahoma congregation; also to Bro. and Sis. Larry and Vandra Wood who has had a baby girl, Cedra Mareesa, of the Lorenzo, Texas congregation; and lastly to Bro. and Sis. Kelly and Kathy McCay who has had a baby girl, Colleen, of the Yakima, Washington congregation.

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DEATHS

Bro. Ray Bishop of Newcastle, Texas

Bro. C.M. Brockman of Chico, California

"Death is swallowed up in victory."