The Christian Courier



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

MAY 1984

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

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here in Yakima hope that each of the congregations are doing well. It is a joy to hear from each you although we don't know all of you personally. Bro. Bill McCay and his wife, Veda, have just left us for Bill's gospel meetings in Tiner and Stilwell, Oklahoma. They phoned us to say they are having a joyous time visiting with the brethren there. Again, our prayers go out to those congregations and we pray for Bill and Veda's safe return.

I would like to take this moment and say that our prayers go with Brother Richard Johnston and his beautiful family as they will leave us for Richard's gospel meeting in Baron, Oklahoma in June. We know that much good will be accomplished for Christ's church.

My wife, Teri, and I and our boys visited the Port Orchard congregation this month. We were able to see Robert and Ellen McCay's new computer put to use as a study aide of the Bible. It is really amazing how fast it is and all the different things it can do in studying. It was good to see these hard working Christians again and we will be thinking of them always.

Brother Richard Johnston and his family visited the Springfield congregation and Brother Jim Lamb and his family visited the Seattle congregation also this month.

The church here in Yakima was blessed with a new little one on April 9. A baby girl named Ashley Leann was born to proud parents, Bro. John and Sis. Carol Bauer. With all the little boys being born here it is nice that the last two have been girls.

(Cont.)

Teri and I hosted a young kids party at our house this past month. Most of the little ones attended and we had a great time. We went on a nature hike down by the creek and ended up talking to some horses in the pasture next to our house. When we arrived back home, each child drew a picture of something they saw on the hike on one large piece of paper. It was quite a drawing! We then roasted hot dogs and marshmellows and retired to the house to watch two Disney movies.

Kelly and Kathy McCay hosted a young kids Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, and all the kids got their baskets full within just a few minutes. Kelly did a good job putting on the hunt but from what I saw, he didn't hide the eggs too well. I'm sure all of us shared a few memories of past egg hunts when we watched to see if the littlest of the group would spot a prize.

Several of us are planning to attend the Waterford meeting in June, and we would like to invite any who can to attend our meeting starting July 22nd with Bro. J.W. Bedingfield from Humble, Texas as our speaker. We have plenty of room for all, so please come if you can.

Praying for all of you,
Bobby Lamb

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YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren:

Everyone in Yakima sends greetings. All seem to be doing well, have been able to work and attend Church. Veda and I are safe from our meetings in Oklahoma. We had a wonderful two weeks. We hope the brethren there gained as much from the meetings as we did. If you ever have the opportunity, try and meet the fine christian people at Tiner and Stilwell. You will truly be shown love and southern hospitality in these two churches.

We wish to thank those who traveled from Texas, Arkansas, and other congregations in Oklahoma to be with us. We know the home congregations appreciated all the visitors, as did we. The attendance was great at both meetings in spite of the storms. The Lord does show his handywork in the lightening and thunder of Oklahoma. However, his promise is to look out for his own and he did. Our flight was very nice both directions.

We've been making a few repairs and new carpet in the church, getting ready for summer and our meeting with Brother John Bedingfield. John attended a week of the meetings in Oklahoma. They were at Tiner six days and at Stilwell for three services. We truly enjoyed having him and Pearl with us and old friends were glad to see them again and new friends happy to meet them.

(Cont.)

Bro. Rodger Lamb was layed up a few weeks with a disc problem in his back but is back to work again and coaching T-ball for our little team of Church kids. Bro. Reading has been ill with a cold as has Sis. Nora Loveland. But they are on the mend.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the brethren from Waterford, Bellflower, Springfield and Glenwood for their expression of love and faith before we left for the meetings.

Any who can attend our meeting July 22 - 29 are welcome. I'm sure Bro. Bedingfield will bring some spiritually uplifting sermons and we will try and show our love and hospitality.

In Christian love,
Bill and Veda McCay

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ROLL, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We hope this finds everyone doing well. We've had our share of sickness this winter, everyone is doing pretty good now and able to attend services again. Sister Carol Wilcher was in the hospital a few days since our last writing but she is back with us again. My son, Larry, was in the hospital this last month for an ear operation and he is doing real fine now. The weather is turning fairly warm now and we are not looking forward to all the heat this summer.

As of April 29th, we here at the Roll congregation started holding services in our new building. It is not totally finished at this time but finished enough so we can meet in it. I would like to thank those who helped us with the building, those who helped with the financial part and those who gave their time and labor. Your help is greatly appreciated.

I would like to thank Bro. Melvin Lytle for the use of his home these past few years. Those of you traveling through, be sure to stop and visit. Our names and phone numbers are in the Church Directory. We ask you to remember us in your prayers as we pray for you.

In Christian love,
Tony Brister

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"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

-Galatians 6:8

HUMBLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I am not sure if the paper will be published from Bellflower this month or not, but thought that I would send in a little news anyway. This finds us all well here, except that Brother Stanley Goodwin was sick and unable to attend Church yesterday (May 6th). We hope that all will be back soon.

We had one baptism this month. Brother Chris Casterline, a young man who has been meeting with us was baptized by Brother Phil Freeman three weeks ago. However, we lost a dear member this month. Sister Jenny Herrin finished her course at Rice University and recieved her Doctor Degree. She plans to return to the east coast and will be married soon and make her home in South Carolina. We will all miss this outstanding young sister. Our prayers and best wishes go with her.

My wife and I went to Oklahoma in April. We attended part of the meeting at the Tiner Church of Christ at Broken Bow, then went up to Stilwell for the first part of Brother Bill McCay's meeting there. We certainly enjoyed the meeting at both places. The attendance was excellent at both places and the brothers and sisters at both places really show forth their love, and make you feel right at home. We enjoyed meeting so many new ones, as well as the grand reunion with old friends. Of those attending, the following congregations were represented while we were there: Tiner, Broken Bow; Duncanville, Texas; Goshen, Arkansas; Stilwell, Oklahoma; Baron, Oklahoma; Yakima, Washington; and Humble, Texas. It was really a blessing to get to be with so many dear ones again. We want to thank all for making our visit so enjoyable. Vacation time will soon be here, and we hope to see more of our young members visiting about and attending the up-coming meetings.

We enjoyed a brief visit from Brother Howard and Sister Leola Taylor this last week. We enjoyed them so much. We kept them up until two a.m., but still didn't have enough time to get through talking and visiting. We hope they come back real soon.

Our prayers and best wishes go out to all the faithful. We hope to see many of you as we begin an extended trip among you, beginning the latter part of June. Please remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love,
J.W. Bedingfield

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"Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest"

John 4:35

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here at Bellflower seems to be in good health at this time. We are all thankful for this and hope our good fortune continues.

We have had some here that have visited with other congregations this past month. My wife and I, and our son,. visited with the San Pablo congregation on April 29th. Claud and Burdette Perigen have been visiting with congregations up North for the past couple Sundays.

We had Bro. and Sis. Marty and Tayna Brockman and Sis. Lula Way were with us on May 13th. We are always glad to see them and welcome any visitors to worship with us if you are in the area.

My family and I are starting to get ready to go to Goshen, Arkansas for the meeting there. There are some from our congregation who plan to attend the meetings at various congregations this summer. We all seem to benefit so much from these meetings. If only there was a way to be able to attend all of them. We are looking forward to meeting new friends as well as seeing our many old ones.

Everyone who can, please plan to attend our meeting July 15 - 22 with Bro. Audley Barnes from the Loco, Oklahoma congregation as our speaker. We have lots of room so nobody needs to worry about a place to stay.

Please remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love,
Al Way

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Three years have went by so fast it's hard to believe. In this, our last issue of the Courier from Bellflower, I would like to say thank you so much for all the letters of support you have sent me over those many months, for your prayers, and help that I could not have done without, and for the love we have shared.

A special thank you to Tammy and Tayna Way, who typed the Courier, and helped do so much of the work.

A special thank you to Jerry Perigen, co-editor of the Courier, and the brothers and sisters at Bellflower who helped get the paper out.

Looking back I see so many mistakes I made, and many things that now I would have done different, but that's all in the past. One thing I can say for sure is we put forth our best effort. I think that's all anyone can expect, I know that's all the Lord expects.

Thank you again, and please extend your love and support to Bro. Homer Bryant in his effort to put fourth the Courier.

In Christian love,
Bro. Al Way

"PROBLEMS"

Unfortunately, even as Christians we often times face many major problems along our path to Heaven. Christ has told us that many times we will stumble but it is the true disciple who gets up again, to strive harder for the experience of trial. Its been said that the hardest trials are given to the strongest. We wonder sometimes why others prosper and we seldom do or why it is, what is a problem for me doesn't even bother you. Without fail with every trial a way of escape will be provided. The real sin is when we fail to even look for it or decide its not worth even looking. And Christ didn't put a time limit on our finding the escape but our fleshly lusts which hide our vision do.

First consider what you think is a problem and then for a moment count your blessings. Your father, mother, husband, wife, children and a reasonable portion of health. Consider how most of the people in the world are a lot less fortunate than you or I. Few of us maintain a proper weight while over half the children in the world go hungry. Few of us have a lot of money hid away for an emergency while for most of the world the emergency is just to survive from day to day.

It's true, we all have serious problems but nothing that Christ won't help us with.

Sometimes we may feel like nothing is going right but over all you and I have the best that life can give. Sometimes we ask too much from each other and because of our freedom we just step on each other.

We are to love, strive for patience and without fail, forgive. One of the three generally will solve most problems.

So the concern should not be what has happened in the past because really it's not where you've been, but, where you are going. Winston Churchill said, "The major deficiency about hindsight is that you know the results of a course of action that was taken. You do not know the consequences of some other course of action that was not taken." So, don't waste your energy regretting your past mistakes, learn from them.

Bobby Lamb of the
Yakima, Washington congregation

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"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."

Hebrews 12:1

"HAVE ME EXCUSED"

Dear Preacher,

You often stress attendance at worship as important. But I think a fellow has a right to miss now and then. I think I should be excused for the following reasons:

Christmas (It comes only once a year).....1
New Year (I need to start off rested).....1
July 4th (National Holiday).....1
Labor Day (The Bible commands 1 day of rest).....1
Memorial Day (1 State Holiday).....1
School Closing (Kids need a break at beach).....1
School Begins (Last chance of Summer).....1
Family Reunions (1 for my family, 1 for my wife's family).....2
Out-of-town games (We support the team).....5
Tournaments (High School, College, Tennis, and Golf - one each).....4
Anniversary (Our second honeymoon).....1
Sickness (1 for each family member).....5
Business Trips (A fella must make a living).....3
Vacation (Only 2 weeks but 3 week-ends).....3
Bad weather (Ice, rain, snow, hail, etc.).....5
Dallas Cowboy Games.....4
Unexpected Company (Can't walk out, they didn't bring church clothes).....2
Alarm Clock didn't go off (not my fault).....2
Time Change (Spring forward, fall back, I never get that right).....2
House and Car Repair (Who can afford plumbers and mechanics anymore).....3
Special on TV (Continuing Education).....2

TOTAL.....50

So preacher, that only leaves two Sundays per year. We'll see you Easter for sure and the third Sunday in August unless providentially hindered.

--"Faithful Member"

1984 MEETINGS

Baron, Oklahoma	June 10 - 17	Richard Johnston
Waterford, California	June 17 - 24	Sammy Boen
Goshen, Arkansas	June 24 - July 1	Al Way
Cedaredge, Colorado	July 1 - 8	Camp
Bellflower, California	July 15 - 22	Audley Barnes
Yakima, Washington	July 22 - 29	J.W. Bedingfield
Lorenzo, Texas	July 22 - 29	Dan Ross
Furnish Canyon, Oklahoma	August 12 - 19	Claud Perigen
Yuma, Arizona	November 18 - 25	Camp

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BAPTISMS

Bro. Chris Casterline of Humble, Texas

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BIRTHS

Congratulations to Bro. and Sis. John and Carol Bauer of the Yakima, Washington congregation who has a new baby girl, Ashley Leann. We all wish you much love and happiness.

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"And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir (My lord), thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

Rev. 7:13-14

"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

Rev. 21:4