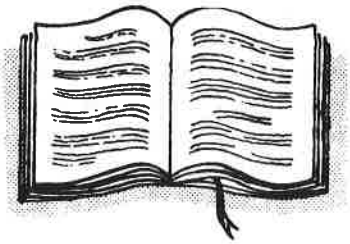
The Christian Courier



Published each month by the Church of Christ

Send all correspondence to: 1273 Plumleigh Ln. Concord, Ca. 94521

Happy New Year
January 1985

LETTERS

1 Cor 5:1 "It is reported commonly that there is fornication among you, and such fornication as is not so much as named among the Gentiles, that one should have his father's wife. (2) And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you. (3) For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as thourh I were present concerning him that hath done this deed."

Who was this letter written to? To the man who had committed fornication? NO! To the congregation. Because they were gloring in this deed. They were in effect, patting him on the back saying keep up the good work. They were not rebuking him, chastizing him or entreat ing him. They were doing nothing to try and save him.

Evidently Paul knew through the Holy Ghost that the man was quilty. And the people were not doing anything to save him. Instead of Paul doing their work for them, by doing the job himself, he gave them instructions for what they should do.

(4) "In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, (5) To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus. (6) Your glorying is not good. Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?"

Who else did Paul send this letter to?

NO ONE!

It was put in the scripture so that we may learn from it. What man now has the authority to bind on earth? Also it was written to teach, not to condemn. What right have any of us got to writ a letter against a brother? We are to write to the one who has sinned, if we write at all. For their better understanding.

When the word went out that there was a fallen brother in the church, Paul did not write to the other congregations to black-list them. Nor did that congregation write a letter to vindicate themselves. Nor did the one who sinned write a letter.

Doing so is to go beyond Scripture!

Paul having the help of the Holy Spirit, was able to judge the situation. We do not have that insight. We do not know that what we are being told about a brother is true or false, or in what way the testamony may be biased, and not necessarly consciencely. The person may truly believe he or she is reporting exavtly what happened. As humans we can not possibly know the whole situation. Therefore we have no right to judge our brothers.

We can judge if the scriptures we are being taught is truly from God. We can judge a situation, but we cannot judge a brother.

HOW DARE WE JUDGE ANOTHER MAN'S SERVANT!

Instructions were given in this letter of what to do in such a situation. They were rebuked because they had already been told what to do once, but had failed to do it. It was known that this person had done this thing. It was done openly and they were accepting it when they should have been crying for him because of his lost state.

Can any man actually give another to Satan? Rather we can chastize them, which puts them in the situation of having to choose. To live for Chirst, accepting the chastizing in meekness and striving to change. Or they can reject Chirst's Word and keep doing what they have been. By subjecting his flesh to this risk, his soul MAY be saved, by not risking it his or her soul is ALREADY DAMNED! You are not doing him any favors by keeping silent.

In this case the rebuking was to be done in the assembly, because the sin was done before the assembly. In no place was it ordered for a letter to be written FOR ANY REASON! Also the letter from Paul was written to the whole congregation not just to the Elders, because the whole congregation was taking part in this. So in the situation where the sin is not apparent to the congregation, it is not their responsibility as a whole to rebuke.

There is spripture dealing with it, if you personally have something against a brother. Matt. 18: 15 - 17.

(15) "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go

tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained a brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it to the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican."

This person has done something to harm a brother, this is not a case where a brother has seen another brother do something wrong. This brother has done something to YOU. Then you follow the guide of taking wittnesses ...etc.....

We are to rightly divide the Word. This scripture specifies 'IF THY BROTHER TRESPASS AGAIST YOU!...not agaist God or the church against you. Therefore this cannot apply to any other situation. Otherwise we have confusion, and God is not the author of confusion. Also this person has neglected to hear. My dictionary states that neglect is: to disregard-ignor-to fail to give proper attention or take proper care of. So we see that what this person is guilty of is not taking the matter seriously and does not care about your feelings.

This is not one who has committed a sin before the whole congregation, or one who refuses to work etc...You are given permission to consider him as you would one in the world. The way it is worded infers that you have a choice; you could forgive and forget, but you are not under obligation to do so. ALSO. It says you have this choice. It does not say that the church must do something.

They have been acting as a mediator in a private matter. Their only function was to try to make peace not be judges. So if you become angry because someone remains friends with this brother, YOU ARE WRONG! For how can they learn the error of their ways if none will teach them?

Here again, no one was commanded to write a letter. And when directions were given on how to handle this situation, they did not include permission to write one. The very fact that permission was not given should be enough for us to know it is a transgression to do so.

So, be careful, beloved of God, how you speak of and report on your brothers. You are on very shakey ground when you think to judge another's servant.

Larry and Bonnie Fulkerson
In Christ's Name!

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"Whosoever, therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." Matt 18:4 "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory: but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves." Phil 2:3

How easy is it to hurt God?

In this article, I would like to examine ourselves, in just how easy it is to do things that hurt God our Father. In Jer. 7:1-24, the Word of the Lord came to this Prophet and told him to stand in the gate of the Lord's house and proclaim there these words. (vrs 3) God said; Amend your ways and your doings. Vrs 4. Trust not in lying words saying the temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, ar these. For if ye throughly ament your ways and your doings; if ye throughly execute judgement between a man and his neighbour; If ye oppress not the stanger the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place neither walk after other gods to your hurt: Then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever." And reading on we see that they trusted in lying words.

"Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit. Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultry, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robber in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it saith the Lord." (also see Matt. 21:13) So the Lord said seest thou not what they do, then in Verse 18 - 20, we see that they worshiped and offered sacrifice to other gods and made the Lord angry and would not obey the Lord. (verses 23-24) God destroyed them as we find by reading on through Jer. and Lam. and also Daniel, chap. 7 throught 12. They baked cakes to the Queen of Heaven and poured our drink offerings to other gods. We say we won't do that for we go to church and do what he said for us to do. Well lets look at a few things that is taught and see how we measure up. We are taught of God to be like the Samaritan, (Luke 10: 30-37). He saw this man in need and the expense to get him well again, and we are told to do likewise. So what do we do? I will let you be the judge.

Matt 12:33...either make the tree good and his fruit good or else make the tree corrupt and his fruit corrupt for the tree is known by his fruit. By thy words shalt thou be justified and by thy words thou shalt be condemned. Matt 12:37 Let us con ider ourselves a while and see about our words. If someone makes us very angry, what do we say? What do we do? Moses failed to sanctify God before the people and could not enter into the promised land. (Num 20:8-12) Do we sanctify God in what we do and what we say? (Col 3:17) We are condemned by Paul here, for he tells us: "What ever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord." Which is by the authority of Jesus. Well, do we? You be the judge. We go to worship God, just as if nothing has happened in his house. We are commanded of God in 1 John 3:17-18, that if we have this worlds good and see a brother have need and we

do not give him what he hath need of, how dwelleth the love of God in this man, for we are not to love in just words, but in deed and in truth also. (see Luke 10:37) We are commanded in Eph. 4:29, to let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying. Do we? Again, you be the judge. By your words you will be justified or condemned. (verse 31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and evil speaking be put away from you with all mallice. Well, do we? If so, why is it when I go to certain places that the ice is so cold that we can almost freeze, as far as my brethren are concerned? Yet we gather up every Lord's Day and stand in his house and worship God.

In chapter 5, verse 6: "Let no man decieve you with vain words (empty words) for because of these things cometh the wrath of God on the children of disobedience", and verse 7, be ye not therefore partakers with them", refering to Jer.7, and see what awaits us. Also Rom 14:10 - Chap. 5-10-11 of Eph. "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them. Will we reprove our own children when we see them doing the works of darkness? Well, examine yourselves and see, or do our children see us do these things before them. Rom 12:1-2. We are commanded to present ourselves a living sacrifice and be not like the world but transformed (which is to be different) from the world by the renewing of our mind. Are we? If so why do the people of the church go to and do the same things as the world. Can we prove that the things we do are acceptable to God? Eph 4:1. Do we walk worthy of our calling with longsuffering? Do we forbare one another in love? Or do we turn on the ice? You be the judge. Remember, only those that do the will of God enter into his rest. Matt 7:21-22. To be blessed we must keep the commandments of God. Rev. 22:14 and remember 1 Cor 11:1-2.

Yours in love of the truth
Lloyd Treat - 13 N Bock
Broken Bow, Ok. 74728

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Selah, Washington

ARE WE ALIVE OR DEAD?

In Rev. 3:1, John was told to write to the congregation at Sardis saying; "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" Eph 2:1 tells us we are dead if we are in sins and trespasses. Here we have a congregation that appeard alive. They had the name of Christ and probably the correct acts of worship but he called them dead.

Congregations will die when they allow themselves to be compromised by sin. There are many dangers threatening the Church today but these dangers are not so much from the sects or the inovations in the worship that we have seen in the past. The greatest danger is from within and

so many of the leaders have grown complacent and do not seem to see it. So many church members are lowering their standards of Christianity to match the times, the society in which we live. There seems to be a tendency to seek the approval of the world instead of the approval of Christ, who died for us. Many congregations will take a stand on such issues as modesty, drugs, alcohol, dancing, gambling, unwholesom entertainment, divorce, and other moral issues. Many of our preachers seem to be afraid to preach on these subjects for fear of offending someone in the congregation or of loseing ther own popularity. "Loving the praises of men more than the praises of God." John 12:43. Paul tells us in Gal. 1:10; "Do I seek to please men? For if I yet please men I should not be the servant of Christ". SPIRITUALLY DEAD!

Brethren, if we sever our ties with the Bible standards of morality saying; "It is our liberty", we face certain death. We will be as the congregation at Sardis, having an appearence of being alive but Christ says: "WE ARE DEAD"!

While there is time, let us return to Bible standards, and live.

Written in love of the truth and not popularity.

Your brother in Christ.
Howard McCay
Rt. 3 Box 657, A-19
Yakima, Wa. 98901

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Penn Valley, California

KINGS AND PRIESTS

Col 1:12-13 "Giving thanks to the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light: who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son." So if we have been obiedent to the Gospel, and are saints; it follows that we are in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 2:9, says: "But ye are a chosen generation, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A peculiar people: that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light." A royal person is of the family of Kings; He says we are a royal priesthood. That is of a royal or Kingly line. Notice also: we are called out of darkness INTO LIGHT: TRANSLATED into the Kingdom of His Dear Son: We are a Holy Nation of Royal Priests.

In Revelation 1:5-6: "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the First Begotton from the dead, THE PRINCE OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, AND HATH MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD AND HIS

FATHER: To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen". There is no doubt about it: These scriptures teach plainly that those who are obedient, and have been washed in the Blood of Jesus, are translated into the Kingdom of God's dear Son. These people are now Kings and Priests. Christ is the Prince of the Kings of the earth. These scriptures contradict those preachers today who say when Christ comes back, we will be kings and priests. The Apostle says he hath already made us kings and priests. Eph. 3:14-21, "For this cause I bowe my knees unto the Father or our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and on earth are named,.....Unto Him be glory in the Church by Jesus Christ throughout all ages world without end. Amen." So the Kingdom of Christ includes Heaven and earth. There is a dominion in Heaven and a dominion on earth, as we would say. And this reigh is to last until His enimies are made his footstool. Hebrews 1:13 "....sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." And the last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Cor. 15:26. The entire chapter of Micah is a prophesy of the Kingdom of Christ that was established at Jerusalem the first Pentecost after the resurection of Christ. The 8th verse says; "And thou, O tower of the flock, the stronghold of the daughter of Zion, unto thee shall it come, even the first dominion; the Kingdom shall come to the Daughter of Jerusalem."

While enemies are being made his footstool, the battle is going on. Psa. 110:1-2; "The Lord said unto my Lord, sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. The Lord shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies Yes, this first dominion, the church which is the Kingdom on earth is certainly in the midst of enemies. But still Christ reighs.

The Church belongs to the Lord. Do we try to run it in order to reign? No, we are all subject to Christ who is the head of the Church (Eph. 1:22-23). 1 Peter 5:3 says: "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock." 1 Thes. 5:14-22, gives us some more of our duties to the church: "Now we exhort you brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermor. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ concerning you. Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearence of evil."

We are to edify, or teach and build up the church. 1 Cor. 14:3-4: "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, exhortation and comfort....He that prophesieth edifieth the church." Our words should minister grace to the hearers. Eph 4:29. "Let no corrupt comunication proceed out of your mouth. But that which is good to the use

of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers." We are also to minister to the needs of the church as a work of love. Heb. 6:10. "For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have shown toward His name, in that ye have ministered to he saints, and do minister. Then where is our territory in which we reign? We rule over our own selves; We must bring our own bodies into subjection to the will of God. And this job will keep all our time occupied. 1 Cor 9:24-27. "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptable crown; but we an incorruptable. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection; lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." Col 3:5-10: "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate effection, evil concupiscence, and covetuousness, which is idolatry; for which things sake cometh the wrath of God on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also walked sometime, when ye lived in them; but now ye also put off all these things; Anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth. Lie not to one another, seeing ye have put off the old man with his deeds: and have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him." James 4:7; "...resist the Devil and he will flee from you."

Eph 4:27; "Neither give place to the Devl." No we are not to give an inch to our enemy the Devil. 2 Peter 1:5-10; "And besides this giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, and to virtue, knowledge and to knowledge, temperance, and to temperance, patience, and to pateince, Godliness; and to Godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brother kindness, charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. Wherefore, the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; For if ye do these things ye shall never fall." If you diligently rule your own spirit and body in all these things: I don't think you will have any spare time to be idle. You will be busy.

In Malachi 2:1-2 & 5-9, the prophet is speaking instructions and warnings to the priests under the law of Moses. But it is instructive to us as priests, also. "And now, O ye priests, this commandment is for you. If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the Lord of Hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: Yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart....

...continued in Feb. issue...

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

Cedaridge, Colorado

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Thanks for the Christian Courier. We all enjoy it do much and look forward to getting it each month.

All are well here at Happy Hollow in Colo. except Bro. Ken Baldwin and Bro. and Sis. Carrol. Remember them and all of us in your prayers. We still need someone to take over the Church services each Lord's Day.

Again we say thanks to all that helped at the camp meeting and thanks for coming. We are very sorry that there were some names omitted from our last letter. They were Bro. & Sis. Ed Tate and Bro. & Sis. Toddler Goodwin, Raynell and David Mitchel. Dan and Zelpha Tayler, Howard and Nell McCay, Bro. & Sis. Bedingfield. All stayed and helped clean up the camp grounds. Please do forgive us if we have left anyone out. We have had several visitors through out the summer. Thanks to all of you. We deeply appreciate all of you for coming and worshiping with us and helping us.

In Christian Love
Church of Christ
Cedaridge, Colorado

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Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I was sure glad to get the paper. We all enjoyed it here, and also I have recieved news concerning it, that it is more uplifting with articles in it, so keep up the work. We all like it better this way.

The church here is as usual. We have our building almost completed (the remodeling job). It sure looks nice. We invite all to come and worship with us. We also appreciate all the help we have been recieving.

Yours in Christ
Lloyd Treat, for the church.

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Roll, Arizona

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

It has been some time since my last writing. Everyone here at the Roll congregation is doing fairly well, aside from the cold and flu that is going around.

Not much news from out our way. We have had the pleasure of some of the brethren from the Yuma congregation from time to time, to stop in and worship with us. A couple of points of interest; Bro. Virgil Roberts, from the Aztec congregation, is down spending the winter months with us now. We are very thankful to have him with us.

We here at the Roll congregation have planned a meeting this year. It will be our first, lord willing. We have asked Bro. J.W. Bedingfield to come and do the speaking for us. It will be held April 7 through the 14th, 1985. We invite each and every one that can, come and worship with us.

In Christian Love
Tony Brister for the
Church at Roll, Az.

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Goshen, Arkansas

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

There are no major sickness at this time here, for which we are thankful. We have had our share lately. Sister Kathy Campbell has been in the hospital with her eye, but is home now. Several others have had some problems, but nothing serious enough to be in the hospital.

We are still being blessed with lots of visitors. We are very thankful for this. Bro. Gary Ferguson Jr. has been here again. We always look forward to seeing him. Thanksgiving weekend David and Carol Hauchin from Denver, Co. were here. It was good to see them again. We havent seen them since they moved from here. Bro. Terry Warford from Baron, Ok. was here again one Sunday night & gave us another lesson which we all enjoyed. We invite any and all visitors to be with us in services or in our home at any time.

On Dec. 2, a discussion on the breaking of the bread was held at Baron, Ok. There were three speakers from each side. The speakers for our side were Bro. Hays Morris from Stillwell, Ok., Bro. Jim Brown from Baron, Ok. and I spoke for Goshen. There was good attendance and good order. There were no name calling or fighting each other. We just discussed the subject. Bro. Isaac Ferguson, Bro. Walter Ferguson, Bro. Paul Auslam Jr. Bro. Melvin Daniels and myself from Goshen, attended, also Bro. Melvin attended services at Baron that morning.

In Christian Love
Paul Andrews

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Westville, Oklahoma

Greetings from the church of Christ in Baron. We here at Baron are getting along well. Not growing much in number, but holding our own. We are thankful for that. We have had several visitors, but will not mention names, for fear of leaving out someone. We are always glad

to have visitors meet us in church and in our homes. We have had some interesting things happening at Baron. I believe Bro. Terry Warford will be informing you of those aspects.

I would like to announce to the brotherhood that I will be retiring at age 62, and will be available to hold meetings; Lord willing, after June 1st of 1985. If anyone would like to call me for a meeting, I would appreciate the opportunity. As Paul told the Roman brother; Rom. 1:15; I am ready to preach the Gospel to you who are in Rome., I am also ready where ever I have the opportunity. I believe in preaching the whole Gospel of Christ. I don't believe in sweeping any subject under the rug; although I don't believe in picking at any certain subject. The Bible says if our Gospel is his, it is hid to those that are lost. 2 Cor. 4:3. Paul said I shunned not to declare unto you the whole council of God. Acts 20:27.

I have not been able to get out much among the brethren, due to responsibilities of providing for my family, and am not known among the brotherhood to well. Although I have been preaching for years, mostly at our home congregation. If anyone would like references, you may contact any of these brethren.

Sammy Boen - Earl Atchley - Melvin Daniels - Jack Warford - Ken Baldwin.

In closing, sincerely yours in brotherly love.

James F. Brown

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Bellflower, California

Dear Brethren:

The church here is Bellflower is doing very well. We have had some outside interest. We have some that are very elderly and not able to attend regularly. Sister Wealthy is very ill at this time. She wasn't able to attend services this Sunday.

We have had many visitors which I will not try to name, for I know I would leave someone out. But I will just say thank you for stopping by. Visitors are always welcome here at Bellflower. Plan to be with us in our meeting, June 30, to July 7, 1985. Brother Brockman will be the speaker.

In Christian Love
Claud Perigen

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Have I need of aught, O Saviour?
Aught on earth but thee?
Have I any in the heavens,
Any one but thee?
Though I have of friends so many, Love, Gold, and health, If I have not thee, my Saviour, HOLD I ANY WEALTH?

hcb

Gospel Meetings

Roll, Arizona	April 7 - 14	J.W. Bedingfield
Baron, Oklahoma	June 2 - 9	J.W. Bedingfield
Bellflower, Ca.	June 30 - July 7	Cliff Brockman
Delta, Colorado	July 7 - 15	Camp
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 28 - Aug. 4	Sammy Boen
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug. 31 - Sept. 1 & 2	Camp

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BAPTISMS

Rick and Barbara Perry
Kelly Davis and Shawna McKinney
all from Selah,Washington

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DEATHS

Bro. Kelsey Markham - Yakima - 11/19/84 (Bro. Markham was the first person that Bro. Howard McCay ever baptized.)
Sister Grace Daugherty: Penn Valley, Ca. 11/14/84 (also Sister Daugherty had a grandaughter that was killed by a drunk driver on 11/21/84)

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Bible Discussion

Dec. 2, 1985 at Goshen, Arkansas: Topic: "The breaking of the bread".
GOOD ATTENDANCE - GOOD ORDER

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Retirement "into" the service of the Lord

Brother James F. Brown - Retireing June 1st 1985
Available to hold meetings - LET HIM KNOW
Our prayers are with you Bro. Brown. May God speed.

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There is a wideness in God's mercy - Like the widness of the sea;
There's a kindness in his justice, - Which is more than liberty.
There is welcome for the sinner - And more graces for the good.
There is mercy with the Saviour - There is healing in His Blood.
For the love of God is broader - Than the measure of man's mind
And the heart of the Eternal - Is most wonderfully kind.
If our love were but more simple - We should take Him at His Word;
And our lives would be all sunshine - In the sweetness of our Lord.

Frederick W. Faber