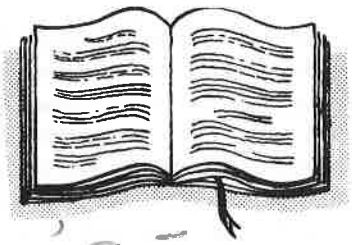
The Christian Courier



June '85

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A FRIEND

I watched as you passed by, and wanted to comfort you. You looked so sad, you were in your car. I would have gotten in and sat by your side. I was not tired. My body is perfect, it never tires. But, my efforts to help, is held back by pride, pleasure and lust.

People don't care that I gave my life for them, My blood was shed, that you and others might have your sins washed away, never to be remembered any more. So, won't you take me with you to the store, or when you go to the beach, or to the vacation spot on the mountian, or when you go fishing? I created all things and they are beautiful, and I love beauty. I am your Saviour.

JESUS CHRIST

(written and submitted by Jim Smith)

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I AM INNOCENT
Jer. 2: 35

Here in Jer. we find this statement. "Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned."

The Jews said that they had not sinned, but the Lord said in Jer. 2: 13: "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountian of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."....committed two evils....had not sinned? (verse 23) "How canst thou say, I am not polluted, I have not gone after Baalim?" (verse 19) "Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord God of hosts."

We seem to say "I am innocent", for we read in the paper of meetings going on every year and how many times do we read of anyone confessing faults? How many times in your own congregation does any come up for the prayers of the Chruch? Or is it that our preachers have become weak in their instrution in the Gospel, or have become so involved with the affairs of this life, that they are afraid to speak up regarding sin and how we are to react to sinful ways, or have we become like the people of Israel in Jer. 5:3? "Oh Lord, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to recieve correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return." OR is it that we don't do anything wrong? In Rom.3:23: God said that we have all sinned and come short of the Glory of God. We have the works of the flesh taught against in Duet. 22:5. We see here that the Lord gave those a command: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." And we say; "that doesn't apply to me today". But in 1 Cor 10: 6,7: those things are our examples that we would not fall after the same example of unbelief. Heb. 3: 16-19; and Heb. 4:11..."So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief". And in Gal 5: 19 -21; "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultry, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Enveyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Do we do any of these things? Let us really examine ourselves to see if we do or not. Also Rom. 1: 25-31: Let it not be named among us, so we won't change the truth of God into a lie. "Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, coveteousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whispers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful; Who knowing the judgement of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." 1 Cor 6: 9-10: 1 Cor 10: 7-12; Eph 4: 25-31;

Now, all the things that are mentioned her are the works of the flesh, and we live here in the flesh, yet we continue to say, "I am innocent." Let us look at iniquity in Jer. 18: 23; "Yet, Lord, thou knowest all their council against me to slay me: forgive not their iniquity, neither blot out their sin from thy sight, but let them be overthrown before thee; deal thus with them in the time of thine anger." Jer 18:12; "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and will every one do the imagination of his

anger." Jer 18:12; "And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and will every one do the imagination of his evil heart." These things is nothing but sin, yet today, it seems, we can preach that those things are wrong, and who is it that turns from his evil ways? Shall we put forth our hands against the Lord? (as shown in 1 Sam. 24: 1-10) To do anything without the Word of the Lord, is iniquity, and how many today checks the Word of God before they do something? In Job 4:8; his friends were accusing him of wrong, and he said; "Even as I have seen, they that plow iniquity, and sow wickedness, reap the same". In Ps 36:1 "The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes." Also verse 2: "For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful." Also in Ps 49:6; "They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches"

Which one of us today, does not boast about what we have, and the more we have the more we want.

After we concider the things mentioned, and honestly examine ourselves, let us ask ourselves, realistically, "Am I innocent?" What about bitterness? Can we say that we have not been bitter toward someone that has done us wrong? If we press a point to hard, does someone get angry? And yet, when we hear the Word of God taught, we still won't repent and change our ways. But we will agrue the point with them. Again I say, "Are we innocent?" Take the word "lasciviousness", how many commits this sin? Brethren, if we think we are standing in the truth, we had better take heed lest we fall. (1 Cor 10:12) "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

I beg all to concider what I have written and examine ourselves by the Word of truth, lest we be lost.

In love of the truth and all the brethren
Yours in Christ; Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock; Broken Bow, Ok 74728

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WHAT SHOULD PREACHERS BE LIKE?

11 Tim 2:2, "The things that thou hast heard of me among many witnessess, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." Paul didn't say just to men, but insisted that preachers of the Gospel should be faithful. Also to Timothy in 11 Tim 4;2, Paul says, "Preach the Word (the Gospel) be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine (Gospel). For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers having itching ears and they will turn away their ears from the

truth (Gospel) and shall be turned unto fables." Paul warns that people do not want to hear the whole Gospel, just that which eases their conscience and doesn't make them worried or uneasy. Maybe people forget that whom the Lord loveth, he chastens (by the Gospel). (Heb 12:6)

If the Word does not chasten us and make us uneasy about our lives, we have a bad problem, for none are perfect. We should be uneasy or worry about our soul's salvation. But people don't want to fell uneasy or worried, so they heap to themselves teachers who will no offend their counscience. This is nothing new, for the people told Isaiah to, "Prophesy not unto us right things (God's Word), speak unto us smooth things. Isa 30:10. Does this sound like the admonition to Timothy and us, to reprove, rebuke, and exhort? Any time I can sit through a week's meeting and not become eneasy or anxious, I have to believe that either the preacher isn't doing his job, or I have seared my conscience and hardened my heart.

Maybe we need more preachers like Brothers Tom Harper; Bob Musgrave J.G.Condor; C.R. Nichols; J . S. Bedingfield; G. Earl McCay: W . E. Daniels: F. H. Logan; and many more fo the 'old time' PREACHERS. WE used to refer to them as 'Hellfire and brimstone' preachers. Like the Apostles, they stirred people up and make them feel uneasy and converted them. They did it with love, but didn't shun to declare the whole Gospel as Paul did. Paul tells us in 1 Cor. 9:16; "Woe is unto me if I preach not the Gospel" (all of it) because he said he had kept back nothing that they needed. He did not teach just smooth things that people want to hear. Bretheren, if we are one of those faithful men that Paul wrote to Timothy about, we will do likewise.

If we shun to declare the WHOLE GOSPEL, we will not save ourselves or them that hear us. (1 Tim 4:16)

Written with Christian love
Howard McCay
Rt.3 Box 657 A - Yakima, Wa.

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GOOD NEWS

Brother Tony Brister gave us a good report on the meeting at Roll, Az. He reports the good news of one sister who came forward for the prayers of the chruch. This may me insignificant to some, but do you remember what the Word of God said about one who has repented? ANGELS IN HEAVEN REJOICE WHEN ONE SINNER REPENTS. Yes, God is pleased over one who has returned to the fold. Matt 18:12,"How think ye? if a man have an hundred sheep, and one of them be gone astray, doth ne not leave the ninty and nine;" seeking the lost one? (v 14) It is God's will that none of these little ones perish. May God bless you sister.

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

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Loco, Ok

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Greetings to all the brotherhood. And our prayers is that all be kept well and safe in the Lord. We would like to thank the Courier staff for the effort put forth to publish the paper. We look forward to recieving it each month.

We would like to take this opportunity tp announce our meeting, August 4th - 11th, 1985, with Brother Howard McCay doing the speaking.

All are invited from far and near, to come and be with us during our meeting, or any time you are in this area.

In Christian love
Howard Taylor for the
Church of Christ, Loco, Ok.

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Waterford, Ca.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

The Church at Waterford is busy getting ready for our meeting starting June 16, 1985. We invite you to come be with us. We have some R.V. hook-ups at the church building, room in our homes and there is a new R.V. park in Waterford just a short distance from the church.

Charlotte and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the cards, flowers, phone calls, visits to the hospital and at home, and most of all your prayers for us and our son, Randy, after his accident. He is recovering but still on crutches. He will have surgery again on May 13, on his knee. Hopefully he will soon be on both feet again. Christian friends mean so much to us and you never know just how much until at a time of trouble.

Hope to see you at Waterford meeting, June 16, to 23rd.

Al Burtis
for the Waterford congregation.

Phone: Lawrence Arnett, (209) 537-9720
Dean Guyer; (209) 883-4195
Al Burtis; (209) 523-6387

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Does God answer the prayers of His children? Ask the Burtis family and especially Brother Randy. (Our prayers are still with you, and they are, that God will be with you until you are whole again.)

Baron, Ok

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

From looking at the Courier, there are going to be a bunch of exciting meetings in the Church this year. We just can't wait to hear Bro. Bedingfield. We also hope to attend several others. It's important for each fo us to not only listen to the tremendous information, but also to apply it to our lives.

We've been blessed with more visitors recently. Bro. Paul Andrews was over one Sunday morning and gave an excellent lesson about being a Christian Soldier. Two weeks later, Bro. Melvin Daniels was here and spoke about "Broken Vows." He also did a great job. We also had two visitors who spoke for us this winter from the Stilwell congregation. They were Bro. Gerold Buckner and Bro. Lloyd Allgood. We also enjoyed the company of all their families.

We invite all to visit us at any time. We hope everyone has a very fruitful meeting.

In Christian love
Terry Warford
for the congregation at Baron, Ok.

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South San Gabriel Church of Christ

Dear Brethren:

To the editors of the Christian Courier, we of the congregation of the San Gabriel Chruch of Christ, really enjoy the good articles and letters in the Courier. We appreciate the excellent work you are doing. Enclosed is an article written by our member, Jim Smith. Just thought you may find it interesting enough to print it in the Courier.

The enclosed check is to help out a little on the expenses of printing and etc. We are a small congegation and some travel a long distance to attend each Lord's Day. Some of your folks know that my brother, Chester Kellems, our faithful member, left this earthly life on Nov. 10, 1984, just one week before his 82nd birthday. He is survived by his wife Caroline, to whom he was wed for 56½ years; also a son David and 2 daughters, Winefred Ledford, Mary Foti and many grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

In Christian love
Randolf & Olive Kellems
7388 Teak Way
Cucamonga, Ca 91730

Roll, Az.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Everyone here is doing fairly well at this time. There is still a few colds & flu going around, but nothing serious. We had a very good meeting this year. All though we regret that Bro. Bedingfield took sick and wasn't able to come and be with us. Bro. Harry Dye from Parker, Az. came down and filled in for Bro. Bedingfield. We appreciate Bro. Harry coming down on such a short notice. When we give of our time and means where ever we can, the Lord will not let it go unrewar -ded. Thank you again Bro. Harry.

We had good attendance each night. We also are greatful for the support from the Bro. and Sis. from the Yuma, Az. congregation, that came and worshiped with us each night they could. All in all we had a good meeting. One sister came forward for the prayers of the church. We are glad to have here back with us. As you all know, I will be holding a meeting in Stillwell, Ok. this summer. (July 27 - Aug 4th) And also the week before I will hold a meeting in Broken Bow, Ok. (July 19 - 26th). So, all that can, come and worship with us.

In Christian love
Tony Brister
For the congregation at Roll, Az.

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Lorenzo, Tx.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

We here at Lorenzo are doing real well, very little sickness. About the only real worry we have had, was when Bro. Jimmy Loftis was thought to have a heart attack, but luckily it was a "hiatus Hernia and not very serious. He was out of the hospital quickly and giving everyone a hard time gain.

We would like to announce our meeting for this summer. It will be held in July. The 21st - 28th. Bro. Howard McCay, a very good speaker, will be coming to hold our meeting. We are very happy to have him. Anyone who has not had a chance to hear him should really give thought to coming to our Loco, Ok. meetings to hear him. He will be speaking from Aug. 4th - 11th. We are hopeing to have a big croud this year. And the more the merrier. Anyone wishing to come will have no problem finding room. We always have been able to put up all the visitors. So come and enjoy good Christian fellowship.

This year the Lorenzo congregation has agreed to run the Delta Camp meeing. Which, (as I am sure you know) will be held on July 7th

- 14th this year. From what we've heard, there will be a pretty good crowd. Out of our congregation we're not sure how many will be able to come. SO, we may be looking for a little help. These meetings have had some rough times in the past, but the good times will always out weigh them. These meetings are so benificial to the younger ones. And a lot is to be learned by us all.

I will close now. Our love here at Lorenzo, goes out to all. Please remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love
The Lorenzo congregation.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Baron, Ok	June 2 - 9	J.W.Bedingfield
Waterford, Ca.	June 16 -23	J.W.Bedingfield
Bellflower, Ca.	June 30 - July 7	Cliff Brockman
Goshen, Ark.	June 30 - July 7	Richard Johnston
Delta, Co.	July 7 - 15	Camp
Broken Bow, Ok.	July 19 - 26	Tony Brister
Port Orchard, Wa.	July 27 - Aug 4	Sammy Boen
Stilwell, Ok.	July 27 - Aug 4	Tony Brister
Yakima, Wa.	Aug 4 - 11	J.W.Bedingfield
San Pablo, Ca.	Aug 31 - Sept 2	Tom Broadway

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DEATHS

"I have some sad news to report to the paper. Sister Arcy Peavy passed away April 23rd. (1985) Graveside services were held at Stayton, Oregon, on April 26th.

Yours in Christ
J.L.Jared

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Chester Kellems; November 10th, 1984, one week before he became 82. Bro. Kellems was from Cucamonga, California.

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Beloved husband of Sister Cathy Maddox, of San Pablo, Ca congregation.

Al (as we all knew him) Maddox, was not a member of the Church at San Pablo, but he was loved by all those who meet there. Al was always there. He brought to us his lovely bass voice so many, many times. Especially when there were just a few to do the singing. Al was always there when any work was to be done on the building. He was the last one to leave, as long as there was something that needed mending. His absence is a great loss to us. All our prayers and thoughts are with his loved ones left behind. "We already miss you Al Maddox." We ask everyone in the Church to pray for his loved ones left behind, and that they will be brought closer to the Lord.
(Al passed from this life 5/21/85)

Respectfully
Your friends