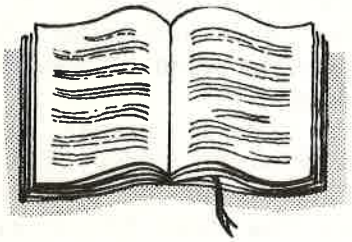
The Christian Courier



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November 1985

THE BODY BROTHERS

It was told long ago that a man named Avery Peabody had 4 sons and keeping with tradition of the times, he named them all after him. The eldest son he named Everybody Jr. Every became known around the community as the strong one. He was a bright lad who studied hard and did the best he could at what ever he was doing. His loving ways seemed always to inspire others and he always said that it was others who inspired him. Mr. Peabodys 2nd son was named Nobody. Nobody didn't seem to care about anything as long as Everybody was there to do his chores. He was a quiet child who would rather just take responsibility for himself and not have to worry or concern himself with others. Mr. Peabody's 3rd son was named Anybody. Anybody grew up to be a concieted young man not caring at all about his family or friends. He was the best looking of the Body brothers and naturally the most sought after college football player in the whole state at the time. He had the world in the palm of his hands and was loving every minute of it. Nobody nor Everybody was good enough as long as Anybody was there. The youngest of the Body brothers was Somebody. He was a lonely child being raised mostly by his oldest brother, Everybody, because Nobody and Anybody didn't care enough to help out. Somebody didn't have very many friends and gradually became a loner dispite Everybodys efforts to help him.

As the years went by the Body family seemed to drift apart, each of the brothers seeming to go his own way. As the story goes, it was a cold day in December when Mr. Peabody became very ill. Mrs. Peabody, whose name was Me, wrote each of the brothers of there father's illness and asked them to come and help and to be with their father in his time of need. But as is the case so many times, Anybody thought that Somebody would show up to help, but Nobody did. Nobody wrote, Mother

I have taken a wife and I ask you to please have me excused. Somebody called to say that he bought some ground and to please understand that he could not come. Anybody was so busy fretting about his troubles that he didn't even call or write. And you ask, what happened to Everybody?

Well friends, that is a good question. It is the thought that I wish to convey to you. What has happened to Everybody? Christ wants each of us to take an active part in our journey to Heaven. Each of us has been given different abilities and we are told to be up and about our Father's business. Are we going to have a good enought excuse on judgement day to give the judge when he askes us why things didn't get done, if we didn't take it upon ourselves to be there when the work was deligated? The most beautiful feeing in this life is when we who are strong at the time, bear the burdens of the weak one who is struggling. knowing that all to few will be allowed to see the place we call heaven, it would seem to be a must that we run our race as Paul did. Living for the Gospel's sake, striving willingly, to be a servant of those who would need him!

The truth

Bobby Lamb

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Modest Apparel
1 Tim 2:9

"..that women adorn themselves in modest apparel.." (author. Version)
"..I desire that women adorn themselves in decent clothing.." Mod. K.J.V

IT is apparent from the most superficial investigation of the above scripture, that the Lord has instructed Chirstian women to dress modestly. "Modest" is defined by Webster as, "observing the properties of sex; not unwomanly in act or bearing; free from undue familiarity, indecency, or lewdness. ...of apparel; decent, seemly becoming, chastre virtuous." Dr. Strong adds, "of good behaviour."

One only needs to look around to note that the world has either forgotten the meaning of "modest", or simply doesn't care. Not an hour of any day passes that one does not see on any public street, or in any public place, wonen with little or almost no clothing acting as though this were proper conduct for one to be engaged in. The world has gone so far into indecent clothing that it has become the norm rather than the exception. Clothing, to the world, is a means of accentuating sexuality to all who come into view: not of maintaining decent appearance and demeanor. Sad to say, the world has sunk deeply into the mire of indecency and nakedness, but sadder yet, one can see it creeping into the church today. Christian young women dressed in clothes

so brief that the most intimate parts of their bodies are exposed to the view of all near and are not rarely seen. What do the scriptures say of this conduct? How are Christians to look upon these actions?

ERVAH

In Duet 24:1 Moses wrote, "When a man hath taken a wife, and married her, and it come to pass that she find no favor in his eyes, because he hath found some uncleaness in her, then let him write her a bill of divorcement." The word "uncleaness" is defined by Strong as, "ervah" (Chaldiac) nudity, ..fig. disgrace, blemish, nakedness, shame, unclean (ness)." That Moses was refering to a predisposition toward nudity of "some" sort, is evident, for note the expression "some uncleaness in her". To further substantiate this truth, please note Gen. 9:21-22; "A;nd he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness (ervah) of his father,..." Also, vrs. 23, "..(Shem and Japeth) covered the nakedness, to the shame (ervah) of Egypt.".

This rings of a fimiliar chord to all Christians today, for we see altogether too much of this sort of thing amongst women in the world. Pricipally, the young women wear shorts cut so high and divided up the side that they cannot walk without uncovering themselves. Also dresses cut so low that a large amount of their bosom is exposed to everyone's view. Sad to say, this practicre is becomeing commonplace in the church. I have actually been embarrased to see young woman in the congregation during services dressed in this manner. How can we describe such conduct? Only one word can express the true meaning of these action, and it is the meaning of the word we have been describing; shame! It is the shame fo the church that mothers will permit their daughters to dress so skimpily that it is an imbarassment to look at them. They aught to feel shame and cause such actions to cease. It is a shame of the church that men will allow, indeed encourage theri wives and daughters to wear such (un) apparel.

INDECENT STYLES

We have also become slaves to the unbecoming styles invented by those who create with no other thought than to accentuate the sexuality of women. Dresses, the skirts of which are split high upon the thigh; blouses which conceal little or nothing; midriffs completely bare, and a multitude of other indecencies are worn by Christian women into the congregation of the church to the shock of many who are much to embarrased to say anything. Again, we canb only describe such condu with a single word. Shame!

Christians are instructed to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Eph 6:4. It goes without saying that mothers and older sisters who dress so indecently can never excercise the proper

influence over their younger ones, and thus cannot truly "raise them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord".

Regretfully, there is a pronounced lack of obedience among a large number fo the older sisters in these matters. They are to "teach the younger women...to be discrete, chaste, keepers at home..." Titus 2:5. Not only have some of our older sisters neglected to be teachers of the younger ones in matters of chastity in dress and conduct, but have, in some cases, actually upheld and defended such unbecominbg conduct as we have discussed previously. Merely because others do these things does not mean that Christians must run pell-mell after to mimic them in their indecencies of dress and action.

Several years back when the mini-skirt fad swept the nation, (the fad is coming back again) I was a witness to several families in the congregations on the West Coast bringing their daughters to services dressed in such fashion. (I have recently read that this abomination is coming back in "style") It was absolutely impossible to describe this as "mosest"! Are we so course in mind that we are not shocked at present day "peek-a-boo" blouses, high-cut shorts, split-skirts, and all other immodest "styles" worn by "modern" Christian women?

Should people who act thusly be angered when reproved for their unseemly conduct? They should rather heed the wise council of Paul, found in Heb 12: 5-11, (emph. verse 7); "If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons (daughters)...". Are we not all partakers of His chastisement? (vs 8) Chastening is truly not enjoyable, but if heeded, will yield great reward. (vs 11)

Let us all take stock of ourselves and heed the admonition of the apolstle to be modest in both apprael and conduct. Then, and only then, will we be "...letting our light so shine before others that they see our good works, and turn and glorify God".

Written in love of the brethren and in love of the truth.

John D. Logan - 3708 Mission Rd. - Stockton, Ca. 95204 - (209) 464-4961.

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FORSAKE NOT THE ASSEMBLY

As you read this, study Hebrews 10;25-39. We often hear quoted Heb 10:25 about not forsaking the assembly of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but how often do we hear about the dire consequences if we do forsake the assembly. The remaining verses of Hebrews 10 goes on to tell us just how serious a matter this is.

Forsaking the assembly is a willful sin. It will cause us to loose our reward. One of the devices Satan uses to keep us from recieving

our reward is to make us believe that we can miss service once in a while, that there is no harm in doing so. But when we give in and miss the first time then it doesn't bother us as much to miss the second time, then before we realize it we are missing frequently.

"There remaineth no more sacrifice for sins", if we sin wilfully. How do we explain this? Jesus offered the supreme sacrifice for our sins. For us to take advantage of this sacrifice we need to partake of the Lord's supper on a regular basis. How often is this? We read in Acts 20;7 where the early discipled did this on the first day of the week. This, I believe, is is the assembly mentioned in Heb 10:25 that we are not to forsake. We read in John 6:53 where Jesus said; "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you". So when we forsake this, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins.

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy". We read in Numbers 15:32-35, about a man that was found gathering sticks on the sabbath day. That may not seem to us like a very bad sin, maybe no worse than us missing the Lord's Supper just one Sunday, but you know what happened to that man? He was stoned to death! Under the New Covenant we don't recieve instant punishment but there remains "a certain fearful looking for judgement". The writer of the Hebrew letter doesn't just mention to not forsake the assembly, and just stop there, but look at the importance he attaches to it in verse 29. See what we do to the blood of the covenant when we forsake the assembly. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God". Certainly it will be if we miss the assembly. Let us not cast away our confidence by thinking we can miss once in a while. We are of those who believe to the saving of the soul.

As Bro. Tom Broadway said at the Labor Day
meeting in San Pablo; GET YOUR PRIORITIES IN ORDER.
ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLY HAS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY!

Yours in Christ
J.L. Jared Salem, Oregon

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ARE YOU ROBBING THE LORD?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

I write this letter to all of you but especially to the ministering brethren. Throughout the ministering brethren in the Church of Christ today I feel that many times we fail to do our jobs as ministers of God's Word. And in doing so we are failing to fulfill our duties as ministers. We are told in 11 Tim 4:2 to reprove, rebuke and exhort. If we fail to do so we have not fulfilled our calling.

Today I will be speaking on the subject of giving. It seems that most speakers today are content when dealing with this subject to just use 1 Cor 16:2 "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him". We may add to this 11 Cor 9; 6-7; "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver". We usually place the importance on "God loveth a cheerful giver". Why is it we are so reluctant to teach the Bible as we are commanded to?

Is it:
A. We don't want to offend someone?
B. We don't want to sound like the preachers on T.V., always asking for money?
C. We might find out if we studied, we ourselves actually are robbing the Lord.

It says in Malachi 3:7-10; "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinaces, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return to you, saith the Lord of hosts. But ye said, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me not herewith, saith the Lord of hosts". We all agree that we are to lay by in store upon the first day of the week as commanded in 1 Cor 16:2. But the question is HOW MUCH? Do I have the right to tell you what you are to lay by? NO! But the Bible DOES give us certain guidelines for us to follow. We might start our study by looking at what Jesus said as he watched the people casting money into the treasury in Mark 12:41-44; (the widow's mite). The poor widow put her faith in the Lord. She was not afraid to cast in her all, and it did not go unnoticed by the Lord. Christ said; "They did cast in of their abundance; but she of her want did cast in". Turn with me to Luke 12:15, where Christ says "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the the things which he posseseth".

Also read 11 Tim 6:6-14 (covetousness, the things we strongly desire) We learn in 1 Cor 6:10 and also in 11 Tim 3:2 that those that are covetous shall not inherit the kingdom of God. You ask what does covetousness have to do with giving to God? I say everything. James 4:3; "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye man consume it upon your lust". Many times we do not receive what we ask the Lord for because we only want it for ourselves. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life causes us to rob the Lord. HOW?

We have to have a home, and a good one doesn't come cheap, lets say $350.00 per month. We all need at least one car, and we don't want to be seen driving an older one, another $200.00 per month for a new car. Add this to the new shotgun, motorbike, VCR, big screen TV, or any of the thousand and one other things we feel we have a right to and at the end of the month how much is left? Enough to buy food and gas and have a few dollars left over, if we are lucky. This we give to the Lord. Does this sound familiar? Has our lust caused us to give the Lord the leftovers? How many of us will spend more taking the family out to dinner than we will give to the Lord? 1 Tim 6:17; "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy". And in James 1:17 "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights", Everything we have comes down from God, it is His. He just asks that we return some to Him. We are His stewards, are we using His money wisely?

How much should you give? I cannot answer this question for each of you, for this is something YOU must purpose in YOUR heart. Always remembering; "He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly: and he which soeth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." Remember what Christ said about the widow's mite, and what He thought of those that just gave of their abundance.

Are you truly thinking of the Lord first or are you in actuality robbing God?

Written in Christian love that we ask ourselves where we stand with God, always remembering the Lord loves a cheerful giver.

For comments or questions please address to: Robert Farley
Rt. 2 Box 2549
Selah, Wa 98942

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GIVE THE MORE EARNEST HEED

Heb 2:1-2 says; "Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." (or lest we forget) "For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobiedence recieved a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation," yet we hear it taught (Heb 10: 23-24) "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith, without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us concider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day appoaching." Then we go to church and find some not there on Sunday morning, and then at worship on Sunday evening, not but just a few of the members show up. We are commanded NOT to do that. And when they miss the services, they dispbey God. 1 John 3:4; "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." James 2:10: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." So we see no consideration for God's commands here, and how do those who commit such sin expect to see God? James 1:27; " Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." Where are those who keep themselves from the assembly? Ballgames, fishing, or watching TV? Whereever they are, they are in direct disobiedence to the commandments of God. And when you try to teach against these things, they don't want to hear it. 'Why, I havent done anything wrong'. Is this the answer we are going to give our Lord at that great judgement day? "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ; that every one may recieve the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." Are we not told that we are in Christ and that we have become new creatures, and that old things (ways) are passed away? (11 Cor 5:17) We don't want to bury the old things, do we? We still want to carry them aroung and practice them. How should we walk? "Therefore we are buired with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." What are the old things that have been buried, or crucified by our Lord? "...that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed," Why? "...that henceforth we should not serve sin." Why? "For to be carnally minded is death;...."

What is the carnal mind?
Matt. 5: 23, 28, 29, 31, 33, 38; Also 6:19, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31-33, are some of the things Christ taught against.

These are some of the carnal things and to be thus minded is carnal minded except verse 33, which shows us a way out of all this.

Proverbs 14:12; "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." Rev. 2: 1-4, we find that the church of the Ephesians had left their first love. Because of this they were going to die unless they repented and done the first works over: but it seems that a lot of church people think that God will not do what he said, for James 4:4 states that anyone that is a friend

of the world is the enemy of God. (friendship is to both parties sare and enjoy the same thing) Isa 5:8 says they join house to house & lay field to field till there is no place they can be place alone in the whole earth (or they have become just like the works). The say and do the same things, go to the same places, enjoy the same company, yet come to church and say "We are christians". Remember a friend of the world is God's enemy. Matt 13:38; Christ said that they (the tares) were the children of the wicked one. Eph 2:2; We used to walk in this kind of life, but Christ came and made us free from the law of sin and death. Rom 8:1-5. We do not have to walk in, or do these things. John 12:46; He came a light into the world, that whosoever believed in him should not walk in this kind of life. He showed us how to walk among them and not partake or enjoy in their life. For Rom 6:16 said that to whosoever (or whatsoever) life we yield ourselves to, toit we were the servants. Whether obiedence to life, or to death. So we should take heed to ourselves and to the doctrine. For we are saved by the Gospel if we keep in memory what has been preached unto us lest we believe in vain. 1 Cor 10:1-2; Paul said his heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel was that they would be saved; for they had a zeal for God but not according to knowledge. Let us not be like them. John 8:32 says; "....ye shall know the truth and the thruth shall make you free.

Yours in Christ
Lloyd Treat

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

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CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear ones in Christ:

Thanks for the Christian Courier each month. We appreciate having it to read.

Our small congregation here at Happy Hollow Church of Christ in Cedaredge, Colo. are all well at this writing. First we would like to share with everyone, that Sister Diane Wilkerson (Bro Eddie's Wife) was baptized and became a child of God this month. We all rejoice in this special event, as we know all of you will.

Our camp meeting for 1986 will be July 5th to 14th. Camp opens on Saturday and closes the following Monday. So all of you can get

settled in on Saturday. We will appreciate donations to help with the expenses of the camp grounds, food, etc... for 1986. We will get a financial statement last year's meeting in the Courier as soon as we get it together.

We had a singing at Bro. & Sis. Eddie Wilkerson's Wednesday night, and plan to have singing each Wednesday night from house to house, and dinner at the church house the first Sunday of each month.

Bro. & Sis. Dallas Mickey and children visited this month. Bro. Dallas brought us a mighty fine sermon. Bro. & Sis. Rex Mickey visit quite often and Bro. Rex always brings us a fine sermon. We enjoy them all and appreciate their help and interest in our congregation. We had a very good Camp Meeting this year and lots of spiritual uplifting. Many, many heart warming sermons, singing and lots of old fashioned fellowship. The meeting was great. The Lorenzo, Tx. congregation was in charge, and did a wonderful job. We all appreciate it and thank them very much. We also thank all of the congregations for doing your part in helping to make the camp meeing possible.

Start plannig now for the Big Spruce camp meeting for 1986. July 5th - 14th. As in the past, remember we need all of your help to make it possible. Pray for us as we pray for you.

In Christian love;
Ken Baldwin for the Church at Happy Hallow, Cedaredge, Co. 81416

(303) 874-4581

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Selah, Washington

After being gone most of the summer, 3 months and nearly 9,000 miles, Nell and I are glad to be home. The Lord blessed us and we were able to attend 5 Gospel Meetings and visited a number of congregations. We had a very enjoyable time and cannot say enough for the great love and hospitality shown us everywhere we went. We recieved great joy of the spirit and our hope for the future fo the Church was much strengthened by the large number of brothers and sisters in Christ who have not fallen for the devices of Satan and are opposing worldiness, still fighting the good fight of faith for the Lord. It is so encouraging to know so many are still standing firm.

Most of the members at Selah are well. Bro. Clarence Sage had a set back and is now in a nursing home. Our prayers are with him and all the faithful.

In Christian love
Howard McCay
Rt. 3 #657 A-19
Yakima, Wa. 98901

Stilwell, Oklahoma

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

It is time to write again, time passes so quickly, seems I wrote just yesterday. Bro. Hays Morris has been in the hospital for six weeks now, he wasn't able to recieve visitors except family, but is able to have visitors now. I'm sure that he would enjoy a few cards and letters from the one that live away from here. Bro Morris has quite a time with his sickness this time, but hopefuly he will be back with us soon. Everyone else is doing just fine.

Bro. Kenneth & Sis. Debbie Buckner would like to announce the birth of their second son, Jessie Andrew Buckner, born Oct 3, 1985 at Hastings Indian Hospital, in Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Weight, 9 pounds and three ounces, and is doing just fine. Some of you may recall just 4 months ago there was a birth announcement for James & Debbie Buckner. Wilma and I have 2 daughter-in-laws, both of them are Debbie. Jessie's grandparents are Bro. & Sis. Gerald Buckner of Stilwell, Ok. and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hays of Oklahoma City, Ok.

On Sunday, October 13, James Dean Buckner accepted the Lord, and Bro Sammy Boen took his confession, just after church Bro. Sammy baptized James at the City Lake. Wilma and I were very happy that Jim finally accepted the Lord. We had been praying for him for a long time. Now all three of our children and both daughter-in-laws are christians. Bro. David and Sis. Nancy Meadows are now living in Fort Smith, Ark. again and attending worship at Pleasantview again. We welcome them back. Bro J.D. Johnson and wife from Aztec, New Mexico were visiting in Oklahoma last month and attended services here one Sunday morning, we enjoyed them very much.

Bro. Gerald L. Buckner
Rt. 5 Box 145
Stilwell, Oklahoma 74960

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Broken Bow, Oklahom

We here at Broken Bow were made to rejoice on Sunday, the 13th, when a lady was baptized into Christ, and that we have had more here with us. All here are doing very well except the wife. She is not feeling well, but we keep going on. We wish for all in the Church to be well and blessed by the Lord. Pray for us here, and if anyone is coming by, we always welcome and appreciate all visitors anytime.

Yours in Christ
For the Church
Lloyd Treat

MEETING CALANDER

Yuma, Arizona	Nov 24 - Dec 1	Camp
Delta, Colorado	July 5 - 14 _ 1986	Camp

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BAPTISMS

Sharon Gayle	March 1985	Cedaredge, Co.
James Dean Buckner	Oct. 13, 1985	Stilwell, Ok.
Diane Wilkerson	Cedaredge, Co.	Oct. 1985

A new Christian in Broken Bow, Ok. this month also. (re letter)

We all rejoice and praise God for these new Christians. Let us encourage them all we can.

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BIRTHS

Jessie Andrew Buckner Oct. 3, 1985, Tahlequah, Oklahoma
New son to Bro & Sis Jim Chadwick - Austin, Texas

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MARRIAGES

Gerald Brockman of Belflower, Ca. and Natalie Smith of Chico, Ca. were married at the Church of Christ in Chico, Ca. Oct. 12, 1985. Theywill spend their honeymoon in Hawaii.
Congratulations to the new Christian family. May they be blessed by God and have many, many happy days together.

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From the Editor

Greetings to all the brethren:

I would like to thank each and everyone that has been sending in articles and news letters, and donations to keep the Courier going.

However, the donations of funds have slowed somewhat, and the funds are getting low. We have enough for one or two more issues but if it gets to the point of running out, I will call on you again.

I am proud to say that this is the first notice for funds that I have had to put in the paper.

Keep in mind that no great amount is needed, just a small amount sent regularly by everyone. That eases the load from just a few.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

The editor