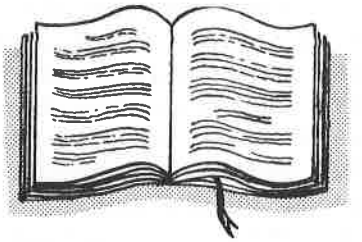
The Christian Courier



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AUGUST 1986

"DANGLING OVER THE PIT"

I have heard that it is a good idea to try to turn negative experiences into positive one. So I have tried to turn a recent, very frighening experience into a learning experience and will share it with you.

At work, not long ago, I was pulling a specially designed hoist down a line of huge pressure cookers. (The hoist drops cans in a large steel basket down into the cookers). While pulling it along to an empty cooker, I somehow lost by balance and almost fell onto one of the full ones. These cookers are of course very hot and if I hadn't regained my balance, the fall would have resulted in my recieving severe burns. I know it was God who rescued me because James 1:17 says; "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Make no mistake about it though, God blesseed my work, [James 1:25 & Job 1:10]. I was struggling with all I had. AND GOD RESCUED ME.

This very accurately describes our position when we were out in the world. We were dangling over the pit of hell. [11 Thes 1:7-8] "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire takeing vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ." [Mark 9:47-48]. "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire." Where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched."

But God rescued us through Jesus Christ His Son and the plan of salvation; FAITH - [Rom 10:10]. REPENTENCE - [Acts 11:18]. CONFESSION: [Rom 10:10]. BAPTISM - [Gal 3:27], which brings us into contact with Christ's shed blood, [Rom 6:3-4]. His shed blood then cleanses us from our sins, [John 1:17]. This plan of saving grace, [Eph 2:1-10], begins our Christian lives, [Acts 2:38-47], to save us from the eternal damnation of hell, [Rev 20:13-15]. All that read this that are not yet Christians, please understand this is not to condemn you but to warn you. Please consider your sitiuation and your desperate need to become a Chrisitan. Please become one today!

This incident also describes our situation many times during our Christian lives when we stumble and sin and once again are dangled over the pit of hell. We read in [James 1:13-16]; "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted, with evil, neither temteth he any man; but every may is tempted, and when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin, and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren". Lets go to the fifth chapter of the book of James. Noticing in verses 12 & 13 that he is talking to those who are already Christians, we find in verse 15; "And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." So Christ can catch us in this situation too.

We find in the Bible that Christ can not only forgive our sins, but can also help us overcome the temptations in the first place. In fact, we can't do it without him. [1 Cor 10:13] says; "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it". We find in [Rom 7:22-25] Paul describing us. "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wreched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Then in verse 25 he answers his and our painful question. I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." This last part is important too because [James 1:25] says God blesses our work. Therefore let's follow James's advice in [James 4:7-8]; "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse you hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye doubleminded." Also [Rom 6:12-13]. "Let not sin therefore reigh in your mortal body, that ye should

obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instraments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. One final thought from that incident that I want to draw two quick points from is this. As I was struggling to regain my balance, I noticed people already on the way to help. Thanks to God, they wern't needed. The first point from this is; sometimes preachers step on our toes when they preach, and sometimes our freiends give us correction. Let's not get mad, but rather thank them. [Pro 13:20]. "He that walketh with the wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." [James 5:19-20]. "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert himn; let him know that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

The final point is this. There are many in the world who are in the same condition we were, dangling over the pit of hell. Will we rush to try to save them? [Matt 28:19-20] Here Jesus commands the apostles, (and us, see 11 Tim 2:2); "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world."

Brethren, let us examine ourselves, and ask God to rescue us and to help us help him rescue others.

In Christian Love; Terry Warford - 409 S. 1st. St. Stilwell, Ok. 74960

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"THERE IS NO SIN ANYMORE?"

Proverbs 23:7.

"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:..."

This is the reason that no one sins anymore. If I don't think it is sin, then to me, it is not sin. [Rom 14:14] Paul said; "I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to himn it is unclean." Here we find Paul saying that there is nothing that is wrong unless I think it is wrong. So there is nothing that I want to do that is wrong. So when we take everyone in the church and add this way of thinking to their life, then there is no sin in the world today. For we can't hardly find any two people that will agree on what is wrong. [1 John 3:4] "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law; for sin is the transgression of the law." John wrote telling us that sin is the transgression of God's law: but if I don't think that what I do is disobedient to God, then my actions is not

disobedient to His law, and to me it is not wrong. So when we offer this thinking to all members of the church, then what is sin? NOTHING But God has given us an answer to this way of thinking. [Proverbs 14:12] "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end therof are the ways of death." [Rom 3:12] "They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." [Rom 3:9] "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jew and Gentiles, that they are all under sin." [v 10-11-12] "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." So now, who is right us, or God? Paul said in [Titus 2:11-12]; For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world." [Rom 3:23] "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." But if I don't think that is is sin, what then? Where is sin? Where is disobedience to God? Let me point you again to the word of God. [Rom 3:3-4] "For what if some did not believe? shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid: yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." (So here we have it) God is true, regardless of what we think, so when he said in Duet 22-5, that this is an abomination, then it is. So the Lord said in Isa. 59:2; "But your iniquities have seperated between you and your God, and you sins have his his face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your ;fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness." So <u>again</u> God <u>is true.</u> "None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth; they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they concieve mischief and bring forth iniquity." So it is today. [Rom 3:9] "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise; for we have before proved both Jew and Gentiles, that they are all under sin." So we see today, some forms of gambling, drinking, dancing, shorts, sun-suits, swim-suits, hot pants, short-legged jeans and all the body that can be exposed is OK according to the way we think. But what said God? [Gen 3:7-10] Their eyes were opened. They knew they were naked. "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?"

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

PRAY FOR THE BRTHREN EVERYWHERE THAT THEY SIN NOT!

OUR TREASURE, THE BIBLE!

My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

On my twenty-first birthday, I was given a Bible by my parents. That was twelve years ago and little did I know at the time what a treasure I was given. This magnificent book has supplemented my life in so many ways. First it has been an infallible authority [Mark 13-31], my deed of inheritence [Acts 26:18], my guide for life [Psalm 119: 105]. and above all, my strength [Psalm 119:28]. I have read scripture many nights lying in bed and the importance of this I now know, for it was at these times that my Heavenly Father planted those seeds of knowledge to know him by. What a great joy and warm feeling I now have in my heart because Christ dwells there. It is so that our Lord has blessed us with ears for hearing, but then we must remember that it is our heart that first hears our Lord's Words. My dear brothers and sisters, give a Bible to your children whatever age they are, also remember your friends and acquaintances for I know God will richly bless these efforts and you may gain Him a soul.

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

Ken Williams
For the Waterford Church.

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

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

I haven't written in a long time so I will try to catch up on the news here. We have had some sad news and some good news. We will get the sad news out of the way first. We are having our share of sickness and injuries here. Bro. & Sis. Buchannon were in a car accident and Sister Maysel was on crutches a while, but is doing better now. Sis. Litha Ferguson fell at the Baron meeting & broke a rib. She was back at church Sunday morning for the first time. It is still bothering her but we are glad she is improving. Bro. James Vanderpool had open heart surgery July 1. It was touch and go for a day or so, but he is home now & was also at church Sunday morning. He just missed church one Sunday. I think that is great after having major surgery.

My grandmother, Sis. Lawson is sick again. She was in the hospital nearly a week, but is home now but not doing to well. Her body & her mind are just worn out after 92 years. It just doesn't look like she will be strong enough to go to church anymore. She always enjoyed it though. She went the night before she got sick & was dressed

to go when she had to go to the hospital.

Now lets get to some better news. We are very proud of the young people that were baptized in the spring. The boys are both leading singing & reading chapters & doing a good job. Sister Erica Ferguson is in California spending the summer with relatives. Bro. Gabe & Sis. Dot Auslam from La Harbra, Ca. has been here visiting. We are always glad to see them. Bro. Terry Warford from Baren, Ok. has been back and gave us another good lesson which we enjoyed.

We have had three meetings in this area in about one month. Some of us were able to attend Bro. Al Way's meeting at Baron and enjoyed the lessons and seeing everyone. We had a meeting her June 1 - June 8th whith Bro. J.W. Bedingfield as speaker. We had excvellent crowds and good lessons. There were about 5 states and about 10 congregations besides Goshen represented. They were Bohannon Mt., Arkansas; Stilwell Ok.; Baron, Ok.; Tiner, Ok; Oklahoma City, Ok.; Duncanville, Tx.; New Castle, Tx.; Humble, tx.; Flora Vista, N.M.; and Yakima, Wa.; I hope I didn't leave out anyone. If I did I'm sorry. June 30 - July 6, we had another meeting with Bro. Al Way as speaker. We didn't have very good crowds due to so much sickness, but had good lessons. There were two states, and 6 congregations represented there. They Were Baron, Stilwell, Broken Bow, and Loco in Oklahoma, And La Habra & Bellflower in California. Thanks to all the visitors for putting out the effort to come & especially to Bro. Bedingfield and Bro. Al way, and their families.

I hope I haven't left out anything or anybody. If I have it wasn't intended. This is a long letter so I'll close, with christian love.

Paul Andrews, Rt. 2, Hindsville, Ark. 72738 (501) 798-5878

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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Here is a report of the news from the congregation at Baron. We had an excellent meeting. Bro. Al Way and his family were a real joy and we miss them very much now. Bro. Al gave great lessons and we thank him very much for holding the meeting for us. He also did a great job at Goshen the following week. Even the lessons that stepped on our toes the hardest were messages of hope, and we thank him for them. We wish to thank all our visitors. We had visitors from the congregations of Bellflower, Ca.; Lugert, Oklahoma; Randlett, Oklahoma; Broken Bow, Oklahoma; Stilwell, Arkansas; Goshen, Arkansas; and Bohannon Mountian, Arkansas. Also one young lady, Sis. Karen Taylor, who I'm not sure where her home congregation is. My apologies, Sis. Karen. We also had visitors from the nearby towns of Stilwell and Westville.

We had a pretty serious accident during the meeting. Sister Letha Ferguson was visiting Brother Jim and Sister Ruby Brown Sunday afternoon the 22nd. As they were leaving for services, she fell on the front stairs and broke a rib. This is pretty painful so please pray for her. Please pray also for Brother James Vanderpool of the Bohannon Mt. congregation and Sister Rosie Allgood of the Stilwell congregation. Brother James had very serious heart surgery. We were afraid we had lost him, but God answered our prayers and he made it through. Our deepest thanks and praise go to Him for that. Brother James is home recovering now, and was even strong enough to attend worship services yesterday. [July 13 th]. We also thank God for helping Sister Rosie through her surgery. She is also home recovering now, but still sore.

Let us also remember to pray for Sister Lawson of Goshen, Bro. Paul Andrew's grandmother, who is battling illness and is over 90 years old. She was such an inspiration at Goshen's first meeting with Bro. Bedingfield. She came several times despite difficulty moving until she had to go to the hospital. She is an inspiration to in another way also. I don't think her hair has ever been cut, nor her daughter's (sister Margie Andrews). While we can't change the past if we keep our hair improperly, we can ask for forgiveness and repent, (change). Let us all, men and women, follow Sister Lawson's and Sister Andrew's example from this day forward and keep our hair the way that is most pleasing to God. [1 Cor 11:14-15].

One final illness to report. This one is from here at Baron. Sister Bonnie Johnson's husband had heart surgery last week. We understand he is still in the hospital as of today, [July 14], but is recovering. Again, our thanks and praise go to God. In proof reading my letter, I see I forgot something very important. During the meeting two brethren, Bro David Brown of Baron, and Bro Bob Eldridge of Stilwell, came forward for the prayers of the church.

I think that is all or our recent news. My apologies if I have missed anything or anyone. Let us love, pray for, and thank God for each other.

In Christian love; Terry Warford for the Chruch of Christ at Baron.

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NEWCASTLE, TEXAS

Dear Christian Friends:

We always look forward to reading the Christian Courier each month. We are sending a check so that we may continue receiving the paper. We were in Goshen, Ark. for part of Bro. Bedingfield's meeting. We enjoyed the meeting so much. Also it was good to see old friends and to meet new ones. We would be happy to have anyone come and worship with us at the church in Newcastle, Tx. or visit in our home, 501 N. Ave. O, Olney, Texas.

In Christian Love
Ed & Francis Tate

AUSTIN, TEXAS

Looking for work?

If you are looking for work, come to Austin, Tx. We need you.

We have been worshiping her for three years and invite you to come and worship with us. Church of Christ, Austin, Texas. Anderson Mill Church of Christ. Located on Hwy 183 at the Bank of the Hills building. 10:00 A.M. each Sunday.

Contact Bro. Steve & Sis. Jill (Herbert) Martin. [512] 258-2130.

Address: 12915 Covington Trail. Austin, Tx. 78727

We have about 12 meeting here.

In Christian love, Steve and Jill Martin.

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	Gospel Meetings	
BELLFLOWER, CA.	July 20 - 27	Tom Broadway
PORT ORCHARD, WA.	July 27 - Aug 3	Rex Mickey
YAKIMA, WA.	Aug 3 - 10	R. Walkingstick
YAKIMA, WA.	To-be-announced	Lloyd Allgood
LOCO, OKLAHOMA	Aug 3 - 10	Gerald Perigen
SAN PABLO, CA.	canceled-canceled- canceled	
FURNISH CANYON, OK.	July 6 - 13	Tom Broadway

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TWO CAME FORWARD

During the meeting at Baron, Ok. Brother David Brown of Baron, Ok. and Brother Bob Eldridge of Stilwell, Ok., came forward asking the prayers of the Church. Let everyone that can, give them all the love and help they can, so God will be glorified and so they will be strengthened in the Lord.

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PRAYERS NEEDED

As we all can read in this months Christian Courier, there are many that have had injuries, surgerys, sickness and we all, each and everyone of us need to pray continuely for these and for all the brethren and loved ones that need the healing hand of our loving God.

So please remember these in your prayers. Please remember all those who have gone astray. Pray that God will use us to help bring them back into the fold. It may take a little work on our part, but we should never falter when God chooses to use us to bring the lost back. And we should especially remember Sister Lawson at Goshen, who has given many of her 90 years to the service of the Lord. From what I read, she IS and SHOULD BE an inspiration to each and every one of us, for it seems that she has presented her reasonable service and beyond.

Editor