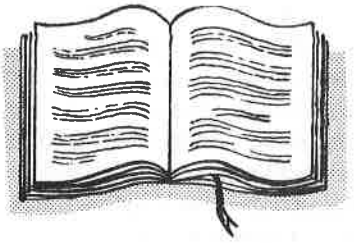
# The Christian Courier



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June 1987

## CHURCH OF CHRIST BRAINWASHING

'The Church of Christ is too technical on everything. You preach that a person must obey every command exactly. Why, that's mere legalism. You're just brainwashing people.'

Have you ever heard these or similar accusations? Probably so. Well, brothers and sisters, I can't answer for you, but I know that before I became a Christian, my brain needed a good scrubbing. And do you know what? It still does; EVERY DAY.

Think about it. How much time do you spend cleaning your physical house? Now, how much time do you spend keeping God's spiritual house clean? [1 Cor 6:19-20] "What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's? [Eph 2:19-22] "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone; Im whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Do we put in time and effort keeping this habitation of God, (ourselves) clean?

Obviously, when we put brainwashing in this light, we are not talking of the deceitful teaching and repetition of lies. This is our usual image of the Word. But when we take the Word literally, we can apply it to ourselves as the pure, straightforward teaching, hearing, and

study of the truth in order to change ourselves from worldly to Godly.

We all like clean clothes to wear, don't we? So we take the time, effort, and money to do our laundry often enough to keep them clean, Do we keep our spiritual laundry clean? [Rev 7:13-14] "And one of the elders ansered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. ANd he said to me, These are they which came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." [Heb 9-14] "How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?" Christ's blood is first applied in baptism, [Rom 6:3-4]. Then once applied continues to bless us. [Gal 2:20]

How often do we bathe our physical bodies? It's rare that we miss even one day, isn't it? How often do we cleanse Christ's spiritual body, the church? [Col 1:18] "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the pree;minence." [1 Cor12:12-13] We find that we are the members of that body. "For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit."

Cleaning this spiritual house, clothes, and body is literally a brain-washing. [James 4:8] "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you. Cleanse you hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded." [Rom 12:2] "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." How do we go about this brain-washing? This question is answered in [Psa 119:9] "Wherewithall shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word." This simple two-step formula we must follow. 1. TAKE HEED TO OUR WAY. 2. ACCORDING TO GOD'S WORD. We must examine ourselves and examine the scriptures. We must have an open mind and an open Bible.

[11 Cor 13:5] "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?" [11 Tim 2:15] "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." The need to use the scriptures, and not man's opinion, to wash our brains with is shown in many scriptures. [Gal 1:5-9; Rom 7:18; Jer 10:23; Prov 14:12; Psa 19:7-11]

Let's quote the last one. "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul: the testamony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the lord is

clean, enduring forever: the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward." Here we find all these blessings come from God's Word.

When we as christians examine ourselves and the scriptures and find uncleanness within ourselves, we need to have it cleansed by God throught prayer. We can get it forgiven, and have help in overcoming Satan's temptations in the future. [Heb 4:16] "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in the time of need." [James 5:15-16] assures us this as christians, (see verse 13). "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. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed." Healed of what? Healed of those FAULTS. "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Let us conclude by following the example of the Bereans from this day forward. [Acts 17:11] "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so."

Brothers and Sisters, without this daily brainwashing, cleansing our way by the Word of God, how can we be clean in the day of judgement?

In Christian Love

Bro. Terry Warford - 8229-A S. Yorktown Ave. - Tulsa, Ok. 74137

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## WORTHY

[Eph 4:1] "I therefore, the prisioner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called." Now, we see here that we have a calling. What is our calling? [1 Cor 1:2] "Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of the Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours." We were called to be saints. A saint is a person sanctified, a holy or Godly person; one eminent of piety and virtue. It is also one of the bless in heaven. (Webster) So we see that if we are saints we walk a different life. [Eph 4:17-18] "This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:" What is the result of this kind of life? [Rom 10:1-3] "Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they

have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignor- of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteous- ness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God." In plain words, they do what they want to do and still go to church and worship. [Eph 4:19] "Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto laciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness." (Webster - Lasciviousness - 'loose, wanton, lewd, lustful, men who's desires are for lust of the flesh, eyes, ) and we might add, PRIDE OF LIFE. "That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind." (v 22 & 23) [1 John 2:15-16] "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If ANY MAN love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust therof; but he that doeth the will of the God ABIDETH FOR EVER." [Jer 25:5-7] Like the Jews of old, God sent them and said "Turn ye again now everyone from his evil way, and from the evil of your doings, and dwell in the land that the Lord hath given unto you and to your fathers for ever and ever." We would be pleasing to our- selves if we would not turn from out evil ways, desireing selfish things. We would be worshiping our own selfish desires if we desire the things of this life more than worshiping God. "Yet ye have not harkened to me, saith the Lord; that ye might provoke me to anger with the works of your hands to your own hurt." [Jer 23:25-26] "I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesyt lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. How long shall this be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, they are propehts of the deceit of their own hearts. Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have for- gotten my name for Baal." (Verse 30) "Behold, I am against the prophets saith the Lord, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. Behold I am against the prophets, saith the Lord, that use their tongues, and say, He saith." [Duet 16:19] "Thou shalt not wrest judgement; thou shalt not respect persons, neither take a gift: for a gift doth blind the eyes of the wise, and pervert the words of righteousness." So you see, they twisted the scriptures to please the people. Like King Saul. [1 Sam 15:20-22]. And so will preachers today, [11 Peter 3:16] to their own destruction and the destruction of those who follow them. [2 Peter 2: 1-4] For if God spared not the angels that sinned (lascivious people) but cast them down to hell, so will he us. [Rev 20:11-15] TAKE HEED!

Written in Christian Love:

Your Brother in Christ, Lloyd Treat -13 N. Bock - Broken Bow, Ok. 74728

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

BELLFLOWER, CA.

Dear Brethren:

Everyone here at Bellflower seems to be in pretty fair health. We are thankful to the Lord for that.

We've had quite a few visitors this past month. Brother and Sister Howard and Nell McCay from Selah, Wa.; Brother and Sister Tom and charlene Broadway from Rogue River, Oregon; Brother and Sister Bill and Debra Taylor and their daughter, Robin from Port Orchard, Wa.; Brother and Sister Clif Brockman and Brother Larry Brockman from Chico, Ca.;

It was nice having each and every one of our visitors, and welcome anyone who can be with us at any time.

In addition, we are happy to announce that Brother Howard Taylor and Brother Audley Barnes, both from Loco, Oklahoma, have agreed to split our weeks meeting this year. It will be held June 28th - July 5th. Anyone wishing to hear some good uplifting Gospel lessons and participate in Christian fellowship are encouraged and are welcome to attend. And of course, as ususl we will plan on having some fun activities. Come and join us.

The congregation at Bellflower, Ca.

Good News from Goshen, Arkansas:

Isaac Newton Ferguson and Letha Myrl Ferguson of Goshen, Arkansas (formerly of La Habra, Ca.) will celebrate their GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY celebration. It will be held on May 17, 1987. This will be an open house given by Brenda McDonald's daughter and Vickie Ferguson's daughter-in-law. It will be from 1 P.M to 3 P.M. with a buffet luncheon and cake.

Family and friends are invited and those unable to attend may wish to exparess good wishes through cards and letters.

Thank you;

Vickie Ferguson

Goshen Church of Christ

Please note: I am sorry for the delay but I didn't recieve this notice until May 5th, and the Courier had already been printed.

Editor.

## LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear ones in Christ:

It has been awhile since we have written, and getting the Courier with no news letters in it, puts us to shame. We enjoy the paper and hearing news from other congregations.

All here are fine and are looking forward to the meetings we will be able to attend this summer. Our meeting will be July 26th - Aug 2, 1987. Brother Tom Broadway will be doing the speaking. We are looking forward to having Brother Tom and Charlene in our home.

We had a pleasant surprise the middle of April, when Brother Paul Andrews from Goshen, Ark. and his Mother and Dad visited us over the week end. Also Brother and Sister Jim Brown and son Brett, their daughter Beverly Ross and children, Bryan and Angie, all from Baron congregation. We had a great visit with all and Bro. Paul gave us a fine lesson Sunday morning. We invite all to come worship with us during our meeting, or anytime you might be passing this way.

In Christian love from Loco, Oklahoma.

Brother Howard Taylor.

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## DELTA, COLORADO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We want to welcome each and every one to the Big Spruce, Colorado Gospel camp meeting this July 4th to July 13th, 1987. It won't cost you anything once you get there. It is free. Free food and lodging, etc. Don't miss 'the boat'. July 4th is almost here and it is time for the most exciting, and rewarding week of Christian fellowship and Gospel preaching you have had in a long time. Come and bring your questions too. This is a good opportunity to have those questions answered during the discussions that will be going on every day. Bring as many families as you can, it will be rewarding.

Boys and girls will meet other young people their age, or near their age, and the whole family can enjoy being there too. Nights are cool, so bring approiate clothing, and bring your personal bedding too. Rooms for adults, Dorms for boys, and Dorms for girls, bathrooms, showers, kitchen, dinning room, ect, are available. R.V. hookups too.

There will be supervision at all times on the grounds, and in the Dorms. Due to rules of the campground, there will be curfew hours. (any questions, ask Bro, or Sister Baldwin) Please, no radios allowed, no shorts allowed. Remember, this is the Church of Christ, and there may be others there that we could offend. So lets act like Christians, because we ARE. Let us be "filled with the Spirit" and leave the world

out this whole week of learning and clean fun.

There will be preaching and singing each night, Bible discussions each day, and the youn Brethren will have services too. There will be many things planed for the week as far as out side activity too. As it is with every meeting, there are rules that have to be followed, by young and old. Lets keep the grounds clean, etc... We too must watch out for the little children and keep them safe. Everyone should be in every service if possible, and not forsake the assembly. See the Camp Meeting Committee before leaving the grounds. And please, no distribution of private literature. Yes, there is a wake up bell. Yes, there is an early breakfast. But you can provide for yourself if you want too.

DIRECTIONS!

Take highway 92 east out of Delta, Co. go 4 miles to junction 65, TURN north and go through Cedaredge until you come to "Camp Cedaredge". Go PAST, 1 mile and TURN right at "U-50 road". Go 1.7 miles to 2494. TURN RIGHT at the sign to the campgrounds. CAMP PHONE IS: (303) 856-3741.....

WELCOME FROM THE BALDWINS - TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - TO OUR HOUSE

Love and prayers; Bro. Ken Baldwin - Box 188 - 541 Howard St. Delta, Co. 81416

P.S. You can't enter the camp until Saturday afternoon, July 4th.

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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a few words to let you know that my wife had major surgery the last of April, 1987. It was 4 surgeries in one, you might say. But she is home now. We wish to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts for her speedy recovery, and for her good Doctors.

The church here is as usual. Can't seem to get anyone interested in going to church these days. We have the same group here. Bro. Stepp and his wife came faithfully from Dequeen (?), which is about 27 miles. We are thankful for them making the trip. So please continue in the work of the Lord and let us keep up the good work of the Lord.

With Christian Love.
Brother Lloyd Treat

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MORE GOOD NEWS FROM BROKEN BOW, OK.

The children of Brother and Sister Robert Roberson, of the Tiner congregation, wish to extend and invitaiton to Brothers and Sisters in Christ to join their parents in the joyous occation of their 50th ANNIVERSARY reception. August 1, 1987 at Eastside Community Bldg. Broken

Bow, Oklahoma.
Cards may be sent to: MR. & MRS. R.J. ROBERSON
RT. 4 Box 116
Broken Bow, Ok. 74728

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We are saddened by the death of Bro. Ben Guzzaway, who was killed in an automobile accident in Indio, Ca. April 20, 1987. Our love and prayers go out to Sister Oda Guzzaway and family. Also Bro. Earl Broadway has been ill with kidney infection and was in the hospital for a while. Bro. & Sis. Ken Baldwin has left us to go back home after spending the winter months with us.

Everyone is welcome to come and worship with us when you can. We have camper & R.V. hookups at the church. Come and enjoy our winter months here. We have learned of a new Brother in Christ. Bro. & Sis. John Sheppherd's son Matthew has been baptized in to the body of Christ. I had the pleasure of visiting in Payson for services and Matthew is already helping with the services. We older christians should always encourage the younger ones and never become a stumbling block. Our prayers are with Bro. Matthew and all the faithful everywhere.

In Christian Love
Sister Verla Nelson.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

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|---|---|---|
| LORENZO, TEXAS | May 16 - 17 | Roger Walkingtick |
| LORENZO, TEXAS | June 21 -28 | Ken Harper |
| BARON/STILWELL | June 14 - 21 | Richard Johnston |
| [Baron June 14-17 & Stilwell June 18-21] | | |
| GOSHEN, ARKANSAS | May 31 - June 7 | Howard Taylor |
| CEDAREDGE, CO. | July 4 - 13 | CAMP |
| PORT ORCHARD, WA. | June 28 - July 5 | Harry Dye |
| YAKIMA, WA. | July 12 - 19 | Harry Dye |
| LOCO, OKLAHOMA | July 26 - Aug 2 | Tom Broadway |
| BELLFLOWER, CA. | June 28 - July 5 | Howard Taylor |

[Bro. Howard Taylor will split the weeks meeting with Bro. Audley Barnes]

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DEATHS

Brother Ben Guzzaway, taken by automobile accident April 20, 1987.
Let us all remember the loved ones left behind in our prayers.

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BAPTISMS

We all welcome Bro. Matthew Sheppherd into the Body of Christ. Our prayer is that you will continue to abound in the work of the Lord.