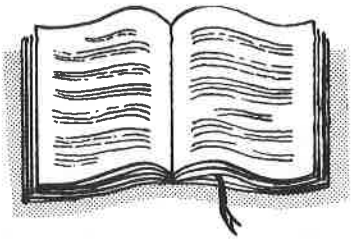
The Christian Courier



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As you may have noticed, there was no July 1988 issue of the Courier. This was due to an equipment failure. The typewriter had to be repaired, at a cost of $239.00. It was far less than having to buy a new one. It is working fine now, and Lord willing, the Courier will be put out again on a regular basis.

Editor

I would like to use this space to let you know what has been happening among the different congregations. There have been quite a few that has gone on to meet their reward. Since December of 1987 we have had Sister Hope Arnett, Sister Alice Weakley, Brother Lawrence Arnett, Brother Les (Buddy) Baker, and my uncle Stanley Bryant pass from this life. And now, still another, Sister Tommy Henderson who died around 7/6/88. All of these were members of the Church of Christ at Waterford, with the exception of Sister Weakley, who for some time resided at Southern California.

The reason that I am writing this about our dear ones in Christ is to show that we are not long for this life. Any one of us could go at any moment. This is why we all should take heed and "Let us therefore fear, lest a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it." [Heb 4:1] "Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts." (verse7) "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." "For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him?" [Heb 2: 1-3] "Wherefore, (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:..." "Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God." [Heb 3:12]

Pray each and every day that we will be ready when out time comes to meet the Lord. Pray that we will stand justified in that day when Jesus will judge us all.

Editor

WHO CARES WHAT GOD SAID?

[Isa 30: 1-8]

Here we see that God had Isaiah to write to a rebellious children and tell them what was their way of life and what was going to happen to them and as for Egypt, Pharoah would be their king. (v. 3) The trust in the shadow of Egypt your confusion. (v. 8) God said now go write it before them in a table and note it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever: (v 19) This is a rebellious people, lying children, children that will not hear the law of the Lord. Which say to the seers, See not, and to the prophets, Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits: (v 11) Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. (or, Who cares what God says?) But some say this is not for us to day; we are not like them. [Rom 15:4] For whatsoever things were written afore time were written for our learning that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. [2 Tim 3:16] said that all scriptures were inspired of God and are profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction in righteousness that the man of God may be throughly furnished unto Good works. (I ask, is Isaiah and Jeremiah and the prophets, SCRIPTURES? If so then they are for our learning. For they are for the man of God. (Are we not God's people?) (Who cares what God says?) I notice in reading the religious mews, that one says, we should prepare our sermons so that they will not condemn someone, or bring guilt upon someone, or accuse someone. But is to be so no one is condemned: ....but God said for us to preach the Word, reprove, rebuke, exhort, for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. (who cares what God said?) We are told in religious news that salvation is free. but Paul said [Phil 2:11-12] To work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. [Matt 16:24] Christ said; if any man come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me; [1 Peter 2:21]Christ suffered for us leaving us an example. [2 Peter 2:1-8] Lot vexed his righteous soul from day to day seeing and hearing their unlawful deeds. [Prov 27:5] says that open rebuke is better than secret love. [Eccl. 7:5] better to hear rebuke of the wise than to hear the sons of fools. [Prov 28:23] He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue. [Luke 17;3] if thy brother trespass against thee rebuke him; [1 Tim 5:20] them that sin rebuke before all that others fear.

We could go on, but 'who cares what God said'? Religious news tells us; 'don't lay the blame or fault on someone. [Titus 2:1-12] tells the aged women to teach the younger women to be sober, love their husbands, to love their children, to be descreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the

Word of God be not blasphemed. But if there is trouble between husband and wife, our actions speak loud and clear what we are teaching. If we argue about the money not being enough, especially in front of our children, what are we teaching them? (Our actions speak louder than our words.)

WHO CARES WHAT GOD SAID?

[1 Tim 2:9-10] "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." But what is modest? One preacher said anything that was a custom of the country was modest: If this is so, there is a lot of modest coloneys in the U.S.A. Are they modest? The religious news says; 'don't hurt their feelings; So actions says "who cares what God says?"

I would like for all to read 11 Thess. 3:6-12, and let us heed what God said, not men!

Yours in Christ, Lloyd Treat

WORD AGAINST THE LORD

Malachi 3:13-14:

We learn from this scirpture that there were some who openly spoke against the Lord in Malachi's day. They asserted that divine worship, obedience to God, and repentance were useless; That if they did those things they were no better off; and if they refused they were none the worse off. There are many today who speak against the Lord in every conceivable way.

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD'S EXISTENCE!

They say the idea of God is only a fable, They say that they can't believe in Him because they can't see Him. But then neither can we see electricity, pain, nor sorrow; but they exist. Such people are called fools [Psa 14:1] Even the heavens declare the glory of God. [Psa 19:1] If we could see God, we wouldn't be living in faith, but it is by faith we are justified. [Rom 5:1] And what is faith? We find the answer to that in [Heb 11:1]. So anyone that says they can't believe in God because they can't see Him, simply means they have not faith.

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD'S CREATIVE POWER!

They try to explain the world in terms of evolution. The only explanation of creation is found in [Gen 1:1], which beginswith all-powerful, self-existent being. Also [John 1:3]

SOME SPEAK AGIANST GOD'S WORD!

They deny that the Bible is God's Inspired message. The Bible is inspired.[2 Tim 3:16] [2 Pet 1:21]

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD'S SON!

They say that Christ was a good man but not the son of God. But if he was a good man, and he was, then he was the Son of God. Otherwise his whole life would have been built upon a lie. Christ said he was the Son of God. We can read in [John 5:17-23] He was the only begotton Son of God. [John 1:14] Begotton by the Spirit, and born of a virgin. [Matt 1:18-23] The dual nature of Jesus, Son of man and Son of God--qualifies him as the one mediator between God and man. [1 Tim 2:5] Because a mediator should be equi-distant between the two parties.

SOME UTTER WORDS AGINST GOD'S ABILITY!

They accuse God of writing a book that man is unable to understand. This reflects upon God's ability. Christianity is a religion to be taught and can be understood. [Matt 28: 19-20] [Isa 35:8] [Matt 13:15] [John 8:32] [2 Tim 2:15] It is evident that if we understand it at all, we understand it alike.

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD'S IMPARTIALITY!

They accuse God of electing some people to salvation and others to condemnation, without a choice of either. But God loved the whole world [John 3:16] and would that all be saved. [1 Tim 2:3-4] Jesus died for all [Heb 2:9] and invites all. [Matt 11:28-30] Man makes his own election sure. [11 Peter 1;5-10] God is no respecter of persons. [Acts 10:34-35]

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD'S FAIRNESS!

They accuse the Lord of holding an infant responsible for the sin of Adam and Eve. But sin is an individual thing.[Ezek 18;20] The infant in born guiltless. [Matt 18;3] and becomes guilty of sin only in youth, not in infancy. [Gen 8:21]

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD'S SINCERITY!

They accuse the Father of hyprocisy. They say that God is behind all the religious faiths, doctrines, and religious bodies in the world. They say that God has called one man to deny what he has called another to affirm. If one man were to preach one doctrine one night and preach the very oposite the next night, you would say that he is a hypocrite. Well, what does it make God if he does it? God is not responsible for the divided state of christendom. [Matt 16:18] [Eph 4:4-6] [Phil 3:16] [1 Cor 1:10-13] [John 17:20,21]

SOME SPEAK AGAINST GOD BY TAKING HIS NAME IN VAIN!

We read what the Lord has to say about that. [Exod 20:7] And in [James 3:9-12]

SOME THINK GOD IS GOD OVER JUST A PRARICULAR PART OF THE WORLD! (where they are)

But we read that He made all nations one blood. [Acts 17:26] We read that God loves the whole world. [John 3;16] Jesus tasted death for every man. [Heb 2:9] [Acts 17:31] Judge the whole world.

SOME THING GOD IS PHYSICAL!

God is a spirit. [John 4 23;24] A spirit doesn't have flesh and bones. [Luke 24;39]

SOME THINK GOD IS LOCAL!

He cannot be confined to temples. [Acts 17;2] Or localities. [Psm 139;7-10] If man can be in spirit several place at the same time, then how easy it is for God who is a Spirit to be every place at the same time.

SOME THINK GOD CREATED MAN AND THEN LEFT HIM ON EARTH WITHOUT ANY INSTRUCTIONS! But let us read [2 Tim 3:16-17]

SOME THINK GOD IS AFAR OFF! Read [Acts 17:27-28]

SOME THINK GOD IS LIKE MAN! [Psm 50;21] Man hides from man....

Some think that they can hide from God [Gen 3:8] Man deceives man: so he thinks He can deceive God [Acts 5:1-10] Man thinks one religion is as good as another; so he thinks God feels this way, but HE DOES NOT. [Matt 15;9,13,14]

To be saved, we must BELIEVE [Rom 10;9-10] REPENT, [Luke 13:3,5] CONFESS: Christ before men. [1 John 4:15] And be baptized INTO the body of Christ. [Acts 2:37-38] And we must study and grow in the Grace and knowledge of God. [2 Tim 2:15]

Submitted in love of the truth. Kenneth Harper

"IS THERE SIN IN THE CONGREGATIONS TODAY?

Brethren, I wish to ask a question for our consideration. Is there SIN in the congregations of Christ's Church as there was in the congregations of God's people (Israel)? [1 Cor 10:5-8] "But with many of them, God was not well pleased for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things were our examples to the intent we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. Neither, be ye idolators as were some of them, As it is written; The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play (dance).Neither let us commit fornication as some of them committed and fell in one day three and twenty thousand." Now, as we read the Old Testament, we see how the Lord dealt with these people. Why did Paul tell us, these were examples to us if we are not to heed them? It is amazing to me to hear brethren teach on Love, Peace, and Mercy as if this is ALL of the Gospel of Christ, when ALL the Holy writers teach against and condemn sin in the church of our Lord. Probably half of the New Testament teaches against worldliness and sin and tells us of the results, yet some liberal brethren refuse to teach aginst these things and try to hinder others from teaching against them. Webster defines "liberal" as "one who wishes to be full of restraint not to be strict to be toloreant or broad-minded." Is this not

what some teach? "Don't accuse anyone:" "Don't condemn anyone:" (By the Bible of coarse) "Don't make anyone feel guilty:" (of sin) "Don't make people feel bad:" Brethren, it is the duty of every preacher, brother, sister in the congregation to try and keep the church pure and free from sin. Paul in writting to the church at Corinth on the sin in the church there, He didn't write to the sinner but to the church , condemning it for not taking action and warned them what would happen if they didn't. We find in all the letters to the churches that the congregations were held responsible for the sins in them. John, writing to the church at Ephesus [Rev 2] threatened to remove their candlestick (Christ speaking). He tells the church at Pergamas to REPENT, or else, and went on to Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicia. Note; The congregations were repromanded because they were allowing sin in the church. I'm sure the ones who sinned will be lost (except they repent) But if we condone or ignore the sin, we too will be lost. We cannot be passive when sin is conceived. We MUST be active and fight. We must be faithful watchmen on the walls of Zion. (the church) and sound the alarm or we will be held accountable to God. [Eph 3:17-21] Let us drive sin out of the church. Let us keep ourselves unspotted from the world. I believe with all my heart in the Mercy of God, for without it All would be lost. But I also believe that we MUST fight the good fight of faith to lay hold on eternal life; And this, my beloved brethren, is the battle for the Lord against sin in the church. [Eph 6:12] Tells us "We wrestle (or fight) against spiritual wickedness in high places (the church). What will, each of us, what will we do about it?

A fellow soldier:
Howard McCay - 3904 Knobel Ave #8 - Yakima, Wa. 98902

CALVARY: THROUGH THE EYES OF BARABBAS!

We all realize that we should be very thankful that Christ died on the cross in our stead. But sometimes we don't understand how much that means. Humbly, looking through the eyes of Barabbas can help us with that understanding. [Matt 27:16] All that Matthew's account says about Barabbas is that he was a notable prisoner. The other gospels shed more light on his character. Mark's record reveals that he was quilty of insurrection and murder. [Mark 15:7] Ironically he was guilty of this; trying to overthrow the government, that they falsely accused Jesus of. [Luke 23:1-3] Luke confirms the crimes of Barabbas that Mark revealed. In [Luke 23:18-19] he recorded that he was guilty of sedition and murder. [John 18:40] adds that he was a robber. So we have a very sinful man that was released so

that they could crucify Jesus Christ, a perfect man. When Barabbas was released, we don't know what he did. He may have fled as fast as he could. Or he may have stayed and watched the crucifixion. But in either case, he knew what was going to happen to Jesus, and Barabbas knew that he should be the one dying. But Christ was dying instead. Brothers and Sisters, each of us is in the same position as Barabbas. We were the ones who were worthy of death. But Christ died in our place. [Rom 3:23] "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." The wages of sin is death. [Rom 6:23] But Christ paid the price so that we don't have to.

[1 Peter 3:18] "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit." [Isa 53:4,6] [Surely he hath bore our grief and carried our sorrows, yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all." We don't read that Barabbas was ever thankful! That Christ died in his place. WE don't read that he ever repented and obeyed the gospel. It's possible that he was one of the 3000 on the day of pentecost, or maybe he obeyed later. But we don't read it for sure. WHAT ABOUT US? Christ's death enables us to escape the second death. Are we thankful enough to believe on Him, repent of our sins, confess him before men, and be baptized INTO his death! [Rom 6:3,4]

If we have become a christian are we so thankful that we crucify our desires and dedicate ourselves to serving him? [Rom 6:13] "Neither yield ye your members as instruments 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." [11 Cor 5:14-15] "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then we're all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them and rose again." Brethren, let's understand that just as Christ's death prevented Barabbas's death, it saves us from that second death. Let's always be thankful for this wonderful blessing. Let's understand that this thankfulness bears the responsibility to serve him always.

In Christian Love
Brother Terry Warford
Baron, Ok. Congregation

PROVERBS 25:25
"AS COLD WATERS TO A THIRSTY SOUL, SO IS GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY"

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

Let's begin the report from Baron with the good news. This past Sunday, Brother Michael Barker was baptized. We are rejoycing here, as they are in heaven. We had lots of quests Sunday. We had visitors from Bohannon Mtn., Ark: Oklahoma City, Ok., Arizona and California. Brother Roger Walkingstick from Ok. City gave us a lesson entitled: "Forever a novice". He brought out that we begin as babes in Christ, but it is sinful to remain one. We must grow spiritually. It was an excelent lesson. The previous Sunday, Bro. Richard and Sis. Karla Jones visited with us. We enjoyed the visit very much.

We've had the entire Pleasant View congregation as visitors the past few Sundays. We have enjoyed the fellowship but it is bad that their building burned down. Their new building isn't complete yet. So we've combined the two congregations until their building is finished. They hope to have it in time for our meeting.

I'll close for now. May God bless your efforts to resist the Devil and serve God. In Christian Love

Bro. Terry Warford - 5709 E 71st - #512 - Tulsa, Ok. 74136

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We at Waterford are all doing pretty well. As I write to you today, June 10th, we are in preparation for our meeting which wil start the 19th of June with Brother Roger Walkingstick. I do have some sad news in reporting the passing or our dear Brother Les Baker. I"m sure many are familiar with the family for the many years they have been in the church. Bro. Homer Bryant performed one of the most beautiful services many had heard in a long time. And agin we thank him, as I'm sure Sister Vivian and her family thank you for all your love and prayers, or however you may have contributed.

Dallas Mickey came by one Sunday. He was in California on business, and gave us a very fine lesson. Dallas is a capable speaker and his exposure to us or to whom ever he speaks, proves this. Also Bro. Dennis Bentz from Chico, Ca. congregation, gave an excellent lesson one Sunday. On behalf of our congregation let me extend our love and sincere hope that we will fellowship with you at our meeting.

With Christian Love - Ken Williams

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

We here at the Bellflower congregation send our love to all the brethren. We all have so much to be thankful for. It seem that whatever dificulties we may have, all we have to do is look around and we can see where God's blessings overshadow any problems we may have. The words written in Heb: 13:5 strengthen us and helps us make it through this life...."He hath said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee." What a comforting thought.

Everyone here is about the same. Sister Berdett has had eye surgery and seems to be recuperating real well. Sister Myrtle Lee is able to attend church almost every Sunday. We are looking forward to our meeting this summer with Bro. Oliver. Those who can, we invite you to come and hear God's Word and share Christian love and fellowship. We would love to have the building full every night. Our meeting dates are August 14 to 21.

In Christian Love

For the Bellflower congregation - Gerald Brockman

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear ones in Christ:

Just a few lines from the Yuma, Ariz. congregations. Our Bro. Earl Broadway has been in the hospital with a severe bout with kidney stones. He is home at this writing, but may go to Phoenix for further treatment. He hasn't been well for some time, and would probably enjoy hearing from some of the brothers and sisters in Christ. A little love and encouragement goes a long way. He faithfully attends services, and many times you know he really doesn't feel like being out. Brother Bud and Sister Willie Davis met in Phoenix with Bro. Abe and Sister Gail Loboto the weekend of June 5th. Bro. Tony and Sister Louise Brister and their children and Sister Ann Lytle were in from Citrus City and met with us last month. Tony brought us a good lesson. He is an able speaker, they are a good christian family. We are looking forward to our meeting next fall with Bro. Terry Warford doing the speaking We've heard many good reports about him. Fall is a good time to visit the Southwest. Plan on taking your vacation then and be with us. We have excellent facilities for visitors.

In Christian Love, Verda Nelson

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA (#2)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have just completed our meeting with Brother Roger Walking-stick and feel it was a huge success. Bro. Walkingstick is a skilled speaker that all can understand, many young ones sat in the front row and could follow his chalk board outlines very well. It was a pleasure having Roger, Jan, Joshua, and Cory with us for a week. We had many visitors from other congregations including: Yakima and Port Orchard, Wa.; Flora Vista, New Mexico: Chico, San Pablo and Bellflower, Cal.. WE also had several local visitors. We had dinner in the basement before each evenings' service and both Sundays and this added time of fellowship seemed to be enjoyed by all. (The food was great) A week of excellent sermons and lots of fellow-ship was a spiritual lift for all of us and three were baptized, my daughter Milissa Williams, Lisa Callahan, both from our congrega-tion and Travis Lamb from Yakima, Wa. The Sunday after our meeting, Melissa Baker was baptized, so we now have three new young sisters in Christ here.

We are saddened by the passing of our beloved Sister Tommie Henderson on July 5, 1988. She leaves Brother Sam Henderson, her husband, two daughters, Diane Cutler, Janice Boothe, and two sons, Larry and Rodney Henderson, and five grandchildren. Sister Tommie has been a faithful member of the Church of Christ for many years, and will be missed very much by all.

Brother and Sister Don Dabbs from Arizona were passing through and met with us July 10th, he brought a lesson for us. We welcome all passing through to come and meet with us as this summer many are planning on attending some of the other meetings and we wil be small in number.

In Christian Love

Ken Williams, for the Waterford congregation

What did Chirst say to the Jews concerning the study of the Scripture?

"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternallife and they are they which testify of Me." [John 5:39]

For what were the Bereans commended? "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 be so." [Acts 17:11] For what spiritual enlightenment should everyone pray? "Open mine eyes, that I may behold wonderous things out of Thy law." [Ps 119:18]

Let us all attend all services, and especially all meetings we can, so we can search the scriptures and pray that our eyes may be opened to the wonderful Gospel of Christ.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

BELLFLOWER, CA	Aug 14 - 21	Brother Oliver
YUMA, ARIZONA	Oct. 23 - 30	TERRY WARFORD
LORENZO, TEXAS	Dec 25/88 -Jan 1/89	ELLIS FORSMAN

BAPTISMS

SISTER BECKY ANGLE	@ Cedaredge, Co.	Seattle, Wa. cong.
BROTHER BRENT McCAY	@ Cedaredge, Co.	Lorenzo, Tx. cong.
SISTER PENNIE BURT	@ Cedaredge, Co.	Lorenzo, Tx. cong.
SISTER MILISSA WILLIAMS	@ Waterford, Ca.	Waterford, Ca. cong.
SISTER MILISSA BAKER	@ Waterford, Ca.	Waterford, Ca. cong.
SISTER LISA CALLAHAN	@ Waterford, Ca.	Waterford, Ca. cong.
BROTHER TRAVIS LAMB	@ Waterford, Ca.	Yakima, Wa. cong.
BROTHER MICHAEL BARKER	@ Baron, Ok.	Baron, Ok. cong.

There were also (10) ten who came forward for prayers at the Cedaredge Camp Meeting July 3 - 10.

DEATHS

STANLEY BRYANT (my dear uncle, who resided at Ceres, Calif. and was a member of the Church of Christ at Waterford, Ca.. We will miss him very much.) The church he attended was not the Church of Christ out on the highway in Waterford. They did not break the bread.

We also are saddened by the death of our dear brother Les Baker, who was a member of the Church of Christ at Waterford. (we do break the bread).

We are saddened also by the passing of our beloved Sister Tommie Henderson, also of Waterford Church of Christ. We send our prayers and christian love to all those who grieve after their loved ones who have gone on to their reward. May God's tender love comfort you in your hour of sadness.

"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven." "Wherefore we labour that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him" [11 Cor 5: 1,9]