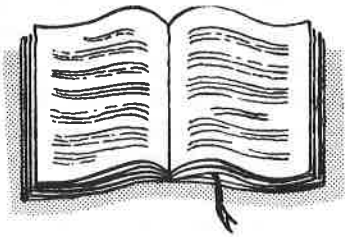
The Christian Courier



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"...a sure foundation." ?

[Isa 28:16]

"Grace be unto you, and peace from God the Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ." [Gal 1.3] What better thing could I ask the Father to bestow upon my brothers and sisters in Christ? The "Grace and Peace" of God are so fundamental to the Christian. Maybe this is why Paul (and Peter) always began with these comforting words. Always first. Always the foundation of an inspired epistle....of an inspired Christian life. Grace and Peace.

"I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that is called you unto the grace of Jesus Christ unto another gospel; which is not another; but there be some that would trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. [Gal 1:6-7] What happened? How could someone standing firm in the gospel; (grace of Christ) wander away from it? WHY?

First, let us look at where they were to begin with (in the gospel) and see what it involves. Gospel...evangelion (2098) means the "Good News" or "Good Tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." [Luke 2:10-14]. The "good news" of the birth of the Saviour. The beginning of the "gospel". "Moreover brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received and wherein ye stand; by which also ye are saved, If ye keep in memory what I have preached unto you <u>first of all</u> that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures." [1 Cor 15:1-4] The gospel. Hope dies.....and the He rises triumphtly! Sin and death are conqured once and for all! We can now be reconciled to God through the power of the "Blood" and the Spirit!". "good will toward men..." "Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift." [1 Cor 9:15].

Praise God! My sins are gone! I have been cleansed by that circumcision "made without hands" [Col 2:10-13] What now? Is the grace of God a one time shock treatment for sin that wears off? God forbid us to ever teach such a principal! The "good news" is not over. "Praise

ye the Lord for His mercy endureth forever." [Ps 106:1] "....wherein ye stand, and rejoice in hope." [Rom 5:2] "...that He would grant you according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit, in the inner man," [Eph 3:16] "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure." [Phil 2:13] Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. [1 Peter 4:10]

The Galatian brethren were wrestling with the same questions that I am in this article. They were pursuaded into deciding that the answer was to incorporate some "law". Wouldn't a little circumcision help us to earn our way into heaven? Was the issue really circumcision, or was it building our foundations of faith on the carnal ordinances of the flesh and death as opposed to the "grace of Christ"? I believe the former represented the latter general problem. "O foolish Galations (Christians, you,...me) who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? This only would!! Learn of you, received ye the Spirit by the works of law, or by the hearing of the faith? Are ye so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are now made perfect by the flesh? [Gal 3:13] Well, are we?

What do we teach, preach, and live? It is gospel, or is it just a "glorified-law-of-Moses "? In other words, a 'perversion' of the gospel of Christ. Brothers and sisters; Let's pray. Let's study. Let's yield to the Spirit. REad Rom 7 & 8. Look very carefully at the letter to the Galatian brethren. Are we building on the "Rock" of Christ? Or are we earning our way to Heaven? When do we preach the "good news"? God's love? His grace? The cross? The tremendous life changing power of the indwelling Spirit? THE GOSPEL?as IF it is only the last 5 minutes of our talk, then where is the true Gospel in the other 25 or 31 min?

LET US BUILD ON THE POWER OF GOD, AND NOT ON OUR OWN!

Written in love to encourage all of the brotherhood In His service.

David McCay
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ABORTION: Our vote and our choice.

Brethren, it would be nice if we could just ignore the problem of abortion and it would go away. But every day we spend just wishing it would go away, another 4000 innocent babies are murdered. And our tax dollars are being used to do the killing, whether we like it or not. It is time that each of us do something about it. We can oppose abortion with our vote and with our voice. Each of us has the consti - tutional right of free speech. We can write our elected officials and

let them know how strongly we oppose abortion. Let them know the scientific and scriptural evidence that the unborn are alive. [Gen 25:22] [Jer 1:4-5] [Luke 1:41] [Psa 139: 13-16]

It seems common sense is not enough for our government. Many people tell us that we as christians have no right to involve ourselves in the government. They tell us that there is a separation of church and state. Brothers and sisters they are lying to us. The constitution states that the State cannot interfere with the church, or any individual's right of free worship. It does not say that religious people can't be involved in the government. In fact, it guarentees of relig and our religon definitely includes opposing evil. [Prov 25:26] [1 John 4:1] The Apostles, when confronted with a government that opposed them, replied; "We ought to obey God rather than men." [Acts 5:29] We have a government that we are free to express our concerns to. How can we be lazy and not let them know our opposition to abortion? Let's use our voice and may God bless our efforts.

Let's talk about our vote for a minute. I can't tell you who to vote for. I will tell you that one presidential candidate favors abortion rights, and one candidate opposes abortion. I beg each of you to forget party affiliations, and look at each man; see which is which and vote accordingly. In addition to the Presidential race, look at the candidates running at all levels of government. Find out two things. 1. Do they oppose abortion. 2. What are they going to do about it?

I realize that some of you don't vote for religeous reasons I'm sensitive to this. If it offends you, don't. [Rom 14:23] But I would beg you to consider these two scriptures and see if there is any reason to doubt. And everyone that does vote, please consider them and the issue of abortion before you vote.

[Prov 24:10-12] "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small. If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain; If thou sayest, Behold we knew it not; Doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall he not render to every man according to his works?" [Prov 31:8-9] "Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy." Please consider these scriptures, candidates, and vote accordinly. Speak out, cast your vote against this evil. Pray that God will bless our efforts to resist the Devil in this battle.

Yours in Christ's service; Bro. Terry Warford
5709 E. 71st, place 512, Tulsa, Ok. 74136

ARE THE WAYS OF THE LORD EQUAL?
EZEKIEL 18:25

"Yet ye say, The way of the Lord is not equal."

When we read the Word of God and are commanded to be all of one mind: [1 Cor 1:10]. Speak the same thing, mind the same thing. One does one thing and another does something else, while we both say that we are following Christ. Is His ways unequal? [Rom 14:11] "...As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. (12) So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." Does God have two laws by which we are judged? [Ezek 18:30] "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, saith the Lord God. Repent, and turn yourselves from all your transgressions; so iniquity shall not be to your ruin. (31) Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why wil ye die, O house of Israel." But says one, 'That is not what that means to me.' I ask, 'what is transgression?' [1 John 3:4] IT IS SIN! [Rom 6:23] SIN IS DEATH! [Isa 55:8] "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." So your ways are not His ways, nor are your thoughts His thoughts. [Rom 8:5-8] "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit do mind the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is inmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God." (v 9) "...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Question: 'What is a carnal mind? What does it think on?' How much time do you spend on thinking on the Word of God? [John 6:63] "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." [Luke 8:14] Does the thoughts of this life and pleasures take up most of your time? If so, the Word is choked and becomes unfruitful. [Isa 59:2["But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. (v 3) For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness." Why? Because you did not prove it when you said you loved God with all your heart. (v 12) "For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them." [1 Cor 11:1-18] We see this plain commandment disobeyed about everywhere we look. Also in [Eph 4:26] We see this command also being disobeyed. [James 4:4] Friendship with the world is inmity against God, yet people had rather be with the world and spend their money on pleasures instead of giving to some elderly person that barely gets

by. Iniquity, pure and simple. Are like those in [Matt 7:22-23] and say Lord, Lord and do not what He has said? He will say, depart from me, ye that work iniquity, I never knew you. Are we like the 5 foolish virgins? [Matt 25:1-12] To whom he will say, "I know you not." [Matt 25:27] He said thou aughtest to have put my money to the exchangers and they at my coming, I should receive mine own with usuary. (interest) But it seems that we throw it away on worldly pleasures. [Amos 3:1] Hear the Word of the Lord that He hath spoken against you, O children of Israel: (v 2) I will punish you. for your iniquities. [Rev 18:4] "Come out of her my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not of her plagues; for her sins have reached unto Heaven and God hath remembered her iniquities. [2 Cor 6:16-17] Come out from among them and be ye seperate sayeth the Lord, and tou.ch not the unclean thing. (idolotry of worldly things) and I will receive you and will be a father to you and ye shall be my sons and daughters, sayeth the Lord Almighty." [Amos - chap 8-9-11] "...lo I will command and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations like as corn is sifted ina sieve. Yet shall not the last grain fall upon the earth. All the sinners of my people shall die by the sword which say; The evil shall not over take us. (when will he do this?) In that day wil I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen down: (when did this this day come?) [Zech 14:4] said, in that day his feet (Christ's) shall stand upon the mount of olives. Which is before Jerusalem. [Matt 17:5] He stood upon the mount of Transfiguration (or olives). Then [Joel 2:28-32] Here Joel said God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh; (Which is the world) "And the sun turned into darkness and the moon into blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord come"...And [Acts 2:16] Peter said this is that which was spoken by the Prophet Joel. It shall come to pass. I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: So hence we can't say this don't apply to me. [1John 2:15-16] Plainly says "love not the world neither the things of the world: Brethren, what he did to the Jews of that day, he will in like manner do the Jews of today (which are called christians) so let us keep his commandment more and more each day and draw nigh to God so we can live.

Yours for the truth; Lloyd Treat

OFFEND

The Scriptures speak of "offending", making to "offend", "offense", ect.... At different times we will hear someone use the expression, "such a thing "offends" me." or "that is offensive to me." I for one believe that we, as christians should avoid offending others. This is just a common courtesy. However, it would be profitable to investigate the Scriptural use of the words "offend" and "offense."

OFFEND (Skandalizo)

Jesus said [Matt 5:29-30] "....if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, ...if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off." It is hard to understand how one can become "offended" at his hands and eyes, in the present common usage of the word. The word here used is "skandalizo" and means to "entrap, trip up, entice to sin." The thought then becomes clear; if your eye or hand causes you to sin (entice to sin) its better to be without them. [Matt 18;6] "...who shall offend one of these little ones....." The thought here is clear. Whoever causes a little one to stumble (sin) has incurred God's wrath and displeasure.

Paul says [1 Cor 8:13] "....if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." The thought here is not about offending our brother, but rather "making my (our) brother to sin". The idea that if by my indulgence in meat-eating, my brother is caused to sin, I must refrain in this liberty rather than cause him to sin. Nor is there any liberty which a christian can claim when by it a brother is caused to sin (offend). In the noun form (skandalon) it is used in [Rev 2:14] of Balaam. "....who taught Balac to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel..." The word here means a snare or a trap. Thus when one is snared, trapped, etc...He is made to stumble (err); Thus, a stumbblock. he caused Israel to sin by putting a snare (occasion to fall Rom 14:13) in their way.

It is also referred to as an "offense" in the sense that the Gospel is a stumbling-block to those who refuse to believe it. [Rom 9:33] [Gal 5:11] [1 Peter 2:8]

OFFEND (Ptaio)

Another word rendered "offend" is used in [James 2:10] Means to stumble, trip, etc.; "....keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point...." This also implies guilt. Note: "he is guilty of all."

Also referred to as "fall". [2 Peter 1:10] "...if ye do these things, ye shall never fall." Peter is telling us how to avoid stumbling.

[Romans 11:11] Paul asked of Israel, "....have they stumbled that they should fall?" "Fall" here means to fall forever, utter disaster. The question is, have they sinned to their utter ruin?

OFFEND (Hamartano)

When accused, Paul defended himself by saying, "...neither against the law of the Jews - - against Caesar - - against the temple, have I offended anything at all." Used properly, this means to "miss the mark." [Acts 25:8] In [1 Peter 2:20] Peter says, "What glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults (sins), ye shall take it patiently?" John refers to it as "sin" [John 5:16] "...if a man see a brother sin a sin that is not unto death...." Also [Matt 18:15] is it translated as "trespass"; "...if thy brother trespass against thee." Also [Luke 17:3-4] Concerning the idea wherein one is offended by another, we

find it used in the scriptures generally where some were offended at Jesus. Either his doctrine [Matt 13:57 - 15:12] or his acts [Matt 26; 31-33] Also [Mark 6:3 - 14:27, 29] It seems that this pricipal is embodied in what we commonly call the golden rule. [Matt 7:12] If we would not be offended by others, we should avoid all occasions to offend.

Brethren, if we become peeved or get our nose out of joint because a brother teaches something that differs from our own prediliction, we should re-examine our oun position. It is possible that in being offended at our (Brother), our own peevishness has led us to be offended at our Lord.

Your Brother in Christ; John D. Logan

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

BARON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Allow me to apologize for waiting so long to send in news from this summer. I've hesitated because, how do you put into words the best summer of your life? I still can't, fully, but I'll do the best I can. I personally was blessed to be able to attend four meetings this summer. Each one was terrific. Let me report on the one here at Baron and Pleasant View first. Brother Bill McCay Jr. did an excellent job. The effort put forth in his lessons was appreciated very much. Plus he's one of the best singers I've ever got to hear and sing with. We had a lot of visitors from many different places. We enjoyed the fellowship of all. I neglected to keep a list this year. I apologize, and will try not to forget this in the future. I also got to attend the meeting in Goshen, Arkansas with Bro. Mark Perigen: Lorenzo, Texas, with Mark and his Dad, Brother Jerry Perigen and the meeting in Loco, Oklahoma with Brother Al Way. The hospitality shown by each congregation was terrific. The speakers did an excellent job, and every lesson was needed and appreciated. All of these things I have enjoyed at every meeting I've ever been to, yet there was a difference this year. The people "had a mind to work". Bro. Wayne Orendorf taught me by example the meaning of zeal. He had the zeal to spread the Gospel to work for the Lord in ways, many, myself included, was afraid to do. Now the whole church seems to be aware that we need to be doing more for the Lord than we are now doing. ANd not only aware, but willing and even eager to be about our Father's business. Let's take that spirit, and each of us work hard, laying up treasure in heaven, and be the kind of Church that Christ will not be ashamed of come judgement day.

And of course, falling in love didn't hurt either. Isn't that right Suzie? This leads to something I'd like to see in the Question and Answer section. Sister Suzie and I have discussed marriage, and of course, one day, Lord willing, we would like children. How about some articles from older brethren who have kids working in the Lord on raising children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. What are some specifics that help to train up a child in the way he should go, so he will not depart from it?

This coming Sunday afternoon is the singing at Baron. We are looking forward to it. Let us all be like the family of Stephanas, as Paul reported in 1 Cor 16:15. ["I beseech you, brethren, (ye know the house of Stephanas that it is the firstfruits of Achaia, and that they have addicted themselves to the ministry of the saints,) that ye submit yourselves unto such, and to every one that helpeth with us, and laboureth." Yes, addict ourselves to the ministry of the saints.

In Christian love: for the Baron congregation
Brother Terry Warford

LORENZO, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a note to catch all of you up on what has been happening with the congregation here in Lorenzo. Many of our number have been blessed with the opportunity to travel, and attend many of the gospel meetings across the country. My wife, Sheila, our daughter, Britni, and I were able to make it to a small part of the meeting at Baron/Stilwell to hear brother Bill McCay Jr. speak. He did a fine job of representing the Word of God while we were there. Then we headed for Colorado and a week at the Big Spruce camp meeting for 1988. Space would not allow me to comment on all the events, and spiritual growth we enjoyed and participated in while there. You'll just have to come next year and see for yourself. Our meeting with brothers Jerry and Mark Perigen was a huge success, as always when the Word of God is combined with the "numbers", but in our hearts, growth, encouragement, etc... Many were stirred to recomit their lives to God, and came forward to do so, and for help, through prayer, of their brothers and sisters. God also saved two more people, as a young couple from our community came to God and were added to his Church. We welcome our new brother and sister Pat & Rhonda Mullin.

We're looking forward to the meetings still to come in the year. Sheila and I will be in Yuma in October for their meeting with brother Terry Warford, Lord willing. Don't forget our meeting with Brother Ellis Forsman during the last week of Dec. this year. We would love to have any and all who can make it to stay in our homes, and enjoy a full week of christian fellowship to pick us up in mid-winter. i'm

sure we'll all be blessed if we brave the weather to spend some time with God, and with His people.

Our love to the brotherhood
David McCay - Lorenzo, Texas

GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

This has been a very busy and enjoyable summer for us. Speaking for our family, we were able to be at the Delta camp meeting back in Colorado, which we all thoroughly enjoyed. The food, the fellowship, and the study of God's Word were all wonderful. Lord willing, we will be there again next year. Shortly after getting home from the camp, our meeting here at Port Orchard started with Brother J.D. Johnson from Aztec, New Mexico, doing the speaking. We heard some very fine lessons from Brother J.D., and had a full house througout the week. THe list would be too long to name each person attending, but we would like to thank you all, once again, for coming. Especially those from great distances. Brother Donald Dabbs, his wife, Linda, her daughter Sherry Wilson, and his son Donald Dabbs, Jr. have moved up to our area and are now meeting with us. Sister Tina Best has just recently moved back into our area from Denver, Co. where she was living.

We were very happy to see the Seattle congregation finally get their permanent meeting place remodled and ready to use just this past weekend (August 21) after having to wait so long for it. We were also very happy to be there last Sunday when Ellis and Lynell Forsman renewed their wedding vows for their 25th weddig anniversary.

If any are ever up our way, please call or stop by and worship with us. you are welcome at any time.

Love to all, Lou and Trisha Herbert
(206) 851-4034 - 14105 -118th Ave. N.W.
Gig Harbor, Wa. 98335

GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We enjoy the Courier very much. Here is a small check. We here at Goshen are well, except for sister Campbell, who is not doing to well. We do hope all is well there.

In Christian love, Ernest and Maypel Buchanan

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The church here sends our love to all the brethren. We have just

concluded our gospel meeting with Brother Henry Oliver. Brother Oliver gave us a week full of scriptures and Bible teaching. He certainly laid it out for us by following that old saying; "speak where the Bible speaks and be silent where the Bible is silent."

We all enjoyed talking and visiting with Brother Henry and his wife Bonnie. But I think we all especially enjoyed the hours we spent talking Bible with them. It's reassuring to find people who are totally dedicated to serving the Lord. We had a very good meeting with lots of visitors from other congregations. We appreciate all the help and support shown during the meeting. Many came from great distances to attend the meeting, We know that all who came had to be spiritually uplifted from the fine lessons we heard. Thanks again to all who came, and to Brother and Sister Oliver who worked so hard.

In christian love,
Gerald Brockman for the congregation at Bellflower.

STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Well, summer is nearly gone. With it some nice memories. We traveled to Gid Harbor, Wa. in June to see our oldest Grand-daughter, Christina Foundation graduate from high school. While there we met with the congregation at Port Orchard one Lord's Day. J.D. spoke there one Sunday and we were made feel so very welcome by all. In July we attended Delta camp meeting in Colorado, which was such a blessing, very uplifting to have people show us so much love. We have met with Sacramento, San Pablo and Olivehurst since we came home from Colorado. Brother Lee McDonald of Olivehurst lost his Mother, Sister Myrtle McDonald in August She was about 85 years old. Our prayers go for the family. They are such fine christian people.

We visited the Fargo family recently. They sure have had their share of physical problems. Brother Ray Fargo had open heart surgery a few years ago, and is doing well now. Sister Norma has had cancer for a few years. Surgery and treatments, and now is somewhat weaker and is on strong medication. Hospice is helping some. Norma's Mother, sister Mayme Peikert has had eye surgery twice and is seeing much better now. She is in a wheel chair. We're sure your prayers would be greatly appreciated. They live in Riverbank, California, not far from Modesto.

Our prayers and concern were directed for the Ken Harper family at Penn Valley, Ca. Sept 11-13th, as a forest fire raged out of control very near their home, but thanks be unto God, they and the school building the meeting, was spared. Several called here because they could not call up there because the lines were down. We know that your calls and prayers were appreciated by the Harper family. Love to all the brethren every where. J.D. and Fern Logan, Stockton, Ca.

GOSPEL MEETINGS

YUMA, ARIZONA	Oct. 23 - 30, 1988	TERRY WARFORD
LORENZO, TEXAS	Dec. 25-88 to Jan 1-89	ELLIS FORSMAN

BAPTISMS

SISTER SHANNON ANN O'CONNELL	8/24/88	SAN PABLO, CA.
BROTHER TONY TREAT		BROKEN BOW, OK.
SISTER LESA TREAT		BROKEN BOW, OK.

Late news from Baron, Ok.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Please allow me to report a couple of late news items. The young The young people of the Pleasant View and Baron congregations organized a mini-camp-meeting this past labor day week-end. It was a whole lot of fun, and very edifying to all. There was a lot of good food, singing, fellowship, Bible discussions and young men's services. The young men read chapters and gave lessons, some for the first time. They did a super job. We had great attendance. We had visitors from New Mexico, Texas, Arkansas and other Oklahoma congregations. The best news is that two were added to the body of Christ. BROTHER ROY MULLINS and SISTER KIMBERLY McCORMICK of the Randalett, Ok. congregation were baptized saturday afternoon. [Sept 3rd] Everyone was thrilled for them. Brother Roy then led a song that night at services.

We would like to announce our weekend meeting for this fall. It will be thanksgiving weekend, [Nov 25-27] Brother David McCay will be our speaker. We are really looking forward to it. Everybody who can make it, please come. We at Baran and Pleasant View send each of you our love.

Yours in Christ's service;
Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, Ok. congregation

So, with this late news, there are two more baptisms to report and another meeting scheduled for thanksgiving. Welcome to the body of Christ to the two new "babes in Christ." Remember them in your prayer and also remember all of our members and loved ones that are on the bed of effliction. We know that the prayer of the faithful "availeth much". Pray for the meetings and for the guidance of those who are holding the meetings, that the Word of God be spread abroad and that our Lord receive the PRAISE, GLORY AND HONOR.

Editor