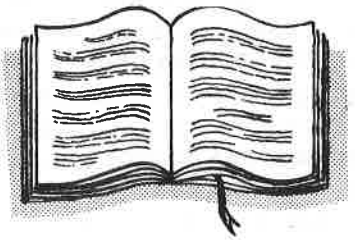
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The Christian Courier



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Back on track:

I am sure that everyone enjoyed hearing how everyone enjoyed and were edified at the Cedaredge, Co. camp meeting. There were so many letters this year. That is wonderful. I thank the Lord that the meeting went well and that everyone is looking forward to next years' meeting. Let us not forget all the other meetings that are going to be held this next year. Let us all pray for them and for those who work so hard having them. Also let us not forget to pray for the ministers and their families, who sacrifice their time and work for the Lord and for getting out His Word. And another thing that is very important: Let us all help with the finances too. We who have attended meetings know that it costs money. Money for the caring for those who attend and money for the expenses of the ministers who, sometime travel great distances, to bring the Word of God to us. If you can't attend, do the next best thing; Pray for the meeting. Then do the next best thing. Send money to help out.

Next subject is, why haven't you sent in any articles? Why havent you sent in any letters? Have there been no baptisms, or confessions for prayer? Have there been no illnesses that we ALL should pray for? How else can we let others know? Yes I have gotten some letters and some articles, mostly from just those few who have been faithful in sending them in. But I know there are many out there that are capable, but just don't, for one reason or another. "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom. Preach the word; be instant in season, and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned into fables." [11 Tim 4: 1-4]

Yes, we are back on track and will be getting out the Courier this month and next month, then comes the end of another year. Let me ask one question: How many souls would you bring to Christ if you were getting paid for each one? Would you bring in at least one or two if you were to get, say, $100.00 for each? No, I'm not trying to be funny. This is a serious thing, this soul-winning. We will reap much more than just mere money when we help someone come to the "light" of the Gospel. That is what this paper is all about. So please help us spread the Word.

Editor

HOW TO DESTROY THE CHURCH!

A congregation of the Lord's body can be destroyed in many ways. Sad to say, it seems almost every way possible has been tried, and has succeded, at one time or another in the past. However, we will deal with only a few in this article. Allow me to make myself clear on this one point. I do not advocate or favor the destruction or dismemberment of any congregation. I intend for this to be an excercize in what Christians should not be engaged in. In this, I am following good precedent: Paul constantly was engaged in warning others what to avoid. So, if you want true harmony and peace in the Lord's body, the following should be avoided at all costs.

TALEBARING [gossipping]

This is an exceptionally good way to destroy peace and harmony either within a congregation or between congregations. It takes little effort to engage in it. One can speak to others, write letters, or with the wonders of modern electronics, use the phone. It requires little effort. Israel was warned about sin. [Lev 19:16] "Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people." Listen to Solomon: "A talebearer revealeth sectets, but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter." Does it matter whether the tale is true, or only assumed to be? Should it transmitted to others?" "The words of a tabernacle are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly." [Pro 18:8] Wounds of this sort are greivious and the hurt goes deep. "Bread of deceipt is sweet to a man;.....He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips." [Pro 20: 17-19] To plain for comment! [Prov 26:20] "Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth." This clearly delineates the problem and suggests the remedy. Take away the fuel and the fire will die.

We call all see the poison of the talebearer and the gossip that is spread by him or her. Some years ago I received a letter from a person in which it was undertaken to describe the shortcomings of several brethren throughout the country. The writer used the expressions, 'it is alleged'; 'who told', ect. as the source of the information. One can see this to be gossip and the letter to be talebearing. In direct conversation, this person said to me; 'I was told.' and 'I was let to believe.' We should ask ourselves what God thinks of this sort of talebearing? Those who participate in this sort of activity will seldom reveal their 'sources of information.' I once saw a brother accused of saying something, and he asked by whom it was said, but was refused the information. How can a person defend himself from this sort of milicious gossip? Yes, the "words of a talebearer are as wounds" they go deep.

TATTLERS

"...and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not." [1 Tim 5:13] This sin has probably destroyed more congregations that any other act indulged in by christians. There doesn't seem to be anything, true or false, that will not titillate the mind of the gossiper. It it's destruction we want, this is good way to get it.

BUSYBODIES (meddlers)

'Vine' says of this word: "..to waste one's labour, to be meddling with or bustling about other people's business." Page 161.

[2 Thes 3:11] "...some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies." Were they not working at their own business but rather meddling in other's?" Peter admonished; "..let none of you suffer as a busybody in other men's matters." [1 Peter 4:15] It is becoming, for a christian, (especially a preacher) to be busybodying in matters in which he was or is not concerned; the affairs of others. This is a good way to destroy a church, since it seems to give so much pleasure to the busybody.

BACKBITING (slandering)

David said: [Psa 15:2-3] "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, not taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is condemned...."

We should be ashamed if we have been guilty of bearing slanderous, or untrue tales about a brother amongst the congregations. This is what backbiting is! Paul warned [2 Cor 13:20] "..I fear, lest when I come, I shall not find you such as I would, lest there be wraths, strifes, backbiting, whispers, swellings, tumults."

I believe housecleaning begins at home. It seems that the preachers of the church have more than their propotionate share among themselves of this sort of thing. Going about through the brotherhood in an effort to demean the character fo a fellow-preacher is nothing more or less than backbiting. It is character assasination. The same word is rendered "evil speaking" [1 Peter 2:11] In it's verb form it is called "speaketh evil." [James 4:11] "..speak against: [1 Peter 2:12, 3:16] If we desire to destroy the chruch, this is a good way to go about it.

PRATING AGAINST

'Strong' says: (page 76) "..to be a babbler or a trifler, i.e. to berate edly or mischievously." John warns us of this sin. [3 John10] "..Diotrophes, who loveth to have the preminance among them receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth,

prating against us with malicious words; and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church." When a man sets out to follow this ill-gotten example, his method is that of a babbler, his weapons are "malicious words" (usually untrue) and his reason is usually that he "loveth to have the preminance in (or among) the churches.

Do we, as individuals, want to destroy our Lord's church? It we do, this is an excellent way to do it.

Brethren, this list is not complete, far from it. But it will, if we study the scriptures noted, give us pause to consider our past actions, and reconsider the future. It is not too late! If we are sincere, and truly wish peace and harmony in the church, we can have it, but if we seek to destroy, we need look no farther. We know how to do it.

Written in love of the truth
John D. Logan

COCKATRICE EGGS
[Isa 59:1-7]

"Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear; But your iniquities have seperated between you and you God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that he will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; for you lips have spoken lies, you tongue hath muttered peversness. None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth; they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity. The hatch conkatrice's eggs, and weave the spider's webb; he that eateth of their eggs dieth, and that which is crushed breaketh out into a viper. Their webs shall not b become garments, neither shall they cover themselves with their works; their works are works of iniquity, and the act of violence is in their hands. Their feet run to evil, and them make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths."

Here we see the prophet telling of a future time in the plan of God and what the condition would be. Also described the things that his people were doing, even down to this present time of them that follow their examples. For they are examples: [1 Cor 10:6-11] But some say no this does not apply today. Well, if it does not apply today, then how come they are examples and how come in [Isa 59:15-17], that the Lord saw that there was no man and wondered that there was no intercession and he brought salvation unto him. His righteousness sustained him. For in Christ is salvation and righteousness; for Christ is the

saviour. [Matt 1:21] [Gal 3:27] Now let us see what they were doing. They were defiled with blood, their fingers with iniquity and lips spoken lies and tongue perversness. How does a man become defiled with today? [1 John 3:15] "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him." I believe anytime we become murderers, we shed blood. [1 John 4:20] Anytime we say we love God and hate our brother, we are liars; [Isa 59:2] So we see here is one of the cockatrice eggs, that they hatch. So what are cockatrice eggs? Well, Webster says they are the king serpent eggs and in [Rev 20:1-3] the serpent is the devil which was cast down to the earth. And the first egg he laid was a lie. [Gen 3:4] When he decieved Eve. And they did die just as God said. Also [Isa 59:5] he said that he that laith of their eggs dieth. [1 John 4:20] The person that did this also died. For all liars shall have their part in the lake of fire." [Rev 21:18] Now, Christ said in [John 8:44] "Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own; for he is a liar, and the father of it." So we see that he that speaketh a lie bites his eggs, and as Isaiah said, he dies. Also [Isa 14:29] "..for out of the serpent's root shall come forth a cockatrice, and his fruit shall be a firey flying serpent." So again when anyone speaks a lie to someone else and then he tell it to someone else, it becomes a flying serpent. It travels from one to another. [Rev 21:8] We see that the fearful and unbelieving, and the abominable murderers, and whoremongers, and the sorcers, and idolaters, and all liars," are the fruits or eggs of the serpent. (Satan) Paul spoke of this kind of people. [11 Thes 2: 1-12] THEY WOULD NOT RECEIVE THE LOVE OF THE TRUTH THAT THEY MIGHT BE SAVED. [Ezek 16:49] This is the iniquity of thy sister Sodom Pride, fearfulness of bread abundance of idleness, feed not the poor. [Isa 59:2] Iniquity separated between you and your God. Jesus said [Matt 7:23] to those that said they had done many wonderful works, depart from me ye workers of iniquity, I never knew you. So here we see that Jesus was teaching things that pertain to the kingdom of God. We see iniquity at work here. It is very plain. So again in [Isa 65:17] he speaks of the new heaven and the new earth, and the former shall not be remembered. [2 Peter 3:9-13] he speaks of a new heaven and a new earth; [Rev 21:1] John saw a new heaven and a new earth, so we see Isa. was speaking of things in the future and not a some say, those were Jews way back then. Paul wrote; [Rom 3:9-18] What then are we better than they? No, no not one. There is no wise for we have before proved Jew and Gentile that they are all gone out of the way, their feet are swift to shed blood. [Acts 7] There is no fear of God before their eyes. So we see that we are in no ways better

than they. So look around and see if what Isa. 59:1-6, Matt 7:21-23 Hosea 6:6-8, does not work in the church. Which ought not to be.

Lloyd Treat

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

PENN VALLEY, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We want to express our deep appreciation to all of you who called, and who tried to call, and wrote letters, during and after the "49er" fire. It made us realize how many people really care. [Gal 6:2] "Bare one another's burdens," and you all certainly have. We were blessed as well, in that the fire never got to us. It was about three miles away on two sides and one about one and a half miles away on the other side. However we personally know people who lost property in the fire, including one family who once went to church with us.

There have been people who asked if we lost the church house. The fire got close, but we did not loose the church house, and we would like to invite any and all of you to come and visit and meet with us.

In christian love
The Ken Harper family and sister McCluskey

CEDAREDGE, CO.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a short letter to let everyone know that Bro. Abe Lobato (Phoenix, Arizona) has had back surgery. He is slowly getting better, but would appreciate hearing from all his Brothers and Sisters and friends. Lets all write or send him a get-well card, to let him know we care. His new address is: P.O. Box 365 - MAYER, ARIZONA 86333 Phone is (602) 632-9525. The church is also located in Mayer, Az. Just a short drive from Phoenix. Look on your map, or call Bro. and Sister Lobato for directions to the church. Services are at 10:30 each Lord's day. Mayer is just off of I - 17 (Blach Canyon Highway)

Lord willing, we will be meeting with them soon. We have a doctor's appointment in Phoenix in October, 1988. Lord willing, we plan to attend the meeting at Yuma, Az. Oct, 23, 1988.

May God bless you all.
Ken and Verlie Baldwin

HUNTINGTON BEACH, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I would like to write a short THANK YOU to the Loco church of Christ congregation and all who supported their Gospel meeting this year. My wife, OkJa, my son Alfred, and I enjoyed the christian love and fellowship of everyone. The meeting really helped us in our christian walk, and gave us encouragement seeing so meany fine people working for a home in heaven. I pray we can all win this fight we're in with Satan, and with God's help, we can.

Study, pray for wisdom, and for understanding, live each day as if it were your last, and remember that nothing on this earth is worth losing your soul for.

In christian love
Brother Al Way

BELLFLOWER, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The busy rush of summer is over and we look forward to the rain and the coolness of winter. The brethren here are doing quite well at the time, of course we have our colds and flu as with almost every year, but in general, we sure can't complain.

Myrtle Lee is still ill, but gets the strength to come to chruch on Sundays almost without fail. Kelly McCay was down our way this past month for a few days and visited with us. He brought two fine lessons that were uplifting. Come back anytime, Kelly, we love you. We continue to be uplifted from the lessons we heard at our Gospel meeting. We are working hard to phase out the world out of our lives and make each moment count for Christ. Praise be to God for Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

We have changed our mid-week Bible study somewhat. We now meet twice a week. On Wednesdays and Fridays at 7:30 P.M. Keeps us busy, but we sure enjoy and need it. We express our love to all, and invite you to worship with us, and keep you in our prayers daily. May the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord be with the faithful everywhere.

In Christian Love
The Bellflower Church of Christ

GRANTS PASS, OREGON

Dear one's in Christ:

We enjoy reading the church papers, it seems the articles are getting better as time goes on. For me, its so refreshing to hear and read about the new young preachers that are comeing along, growing

in the Word of God. May the Lord's mercy guide them away from any gossip or bickerings of the past and continue in the Grace and Truth of the Gospel.

In case there are some who are looking for a new loaction, we would sincerely welcome any that would come to move into the Medford area. I feel certain Brother Roy McCay would welcome any that wanted to settle in the Springfield, Oregon area and help with the services and put forth efforts to help it grow.

In catching up on church visitors news, going back several months, we had Brother Robert and Sister Ellen McCay from Port Orchard, Wa.; The Mickeys, Brother Rex and Sister Tina from Flora Vista, New Mexico. Brother and Sister Kellems from southern California, Brother and Sister Bearden, their daughter and two sons from Temple, Georgia. I greatly appreciated the help in the services and visiting with all of those dear ones. Hope they come back again, and we hope that others will come and be with us soon. Enclosed is a check in support of the church paper. Written for the church at Howard and Kenneth Streets, in Medford Oregon.

Sent with christian love
Bro. Henry Wegley

YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our camp meeting is over all too soon. Brother Terry Warford is a young man, but he is a very able speaker. He brought forth many good lessons, starting on Saturday night. There is so much enthusiam about him, lots of spiritual uplifting. We all received much edification by his presence and his lessons. We love him very much.

We had one baptism, a young lady from the Citrus City congregation. Sister Susan Brister. One came forward for prayers. There was good attendance each night. We had visitors from Washington State, and also from Texas. We were so glad they could all come. We enjoyed David McCay song leading very much. They are a nice young christian family. We enjoyed their presence very much. Also all our visitors and friends. Some we haven't seen for awhile. We enjoyed all the visiting and association with one another. Had good support from the Citrus City congregation. Also Sister Suzie Johnston flew down from Washington to be here. We enjoyed haveing her company. Sure did miss her and Terry when they had to leave. We drove them to Phoenix to catch their flights back home. One to Oklahoma, the other to Washington. We love them both. Hope to see everyone and more next year. We are planning to set our meeting date next year at a time when families could come and meet with us. It is still in the planning stage. Watch for our announcement. We have several young families here and want to invite others. We are

all one big family in Christ anyway. Lets get aquainted.

Thank you all for coming and thanks to Brother Terry. You did a fine job. Everyone, come and visit us when you can. If you can't find our building, our telephone number is; 783-8580 (Marvin Boling) or Brother Horace Orendorff, 782-6444. Meeting times are: 10:30 Sunday morning; 6:00 Sunday night. During the thanksgiving week, we all plan to be at Citrus City congregation for their meeting. So there will be no Sunday night services here on the 20th or the 27th of November.

Please remember us in your prayers.
In christian love
Sonny & Lavetta Boling for the church at Yuma.

Note: We also recieved with the letter from the Bolings, a check to help with the Courier, and we are thankful to learn about her brother who lives in Lake Oswego, Oregon. He is a member of the church of Christ and will be receiving the Chrisitan Courier, this issue. If anyone wants to write or send a card, he is Brother Lloyd Lytle, 50 S.W. Briarwood, Lake Oswego, Oregon. 97340. He is in a Board and Care home there. I'm sure he would enjoy hearing from the church members.

Editor.

HUNNINGTON BEACH, CA.

To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father. We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you.

We are happy to report that except for colds all doing well at this writing. We have a new handsome boy in our midst. STEPHEN CLAUD PERIGEN, born October 19, 1988; 7 pounds 8 ounces; 19½ inches. The proud parents are Mark and Tammy Perigen. Stephen will bew one month old this week. (11-16-88)

Our visitors this month have been J.L. and Eunice Jared; Vernon Bentz and Joan Shea. We welocme them and everyone else passing this way, to stop and worship with us. May you all have a happy holiday season enjoyed in good health.

Remember us in your prayers as we are always in rememberance of you.

In Christian love
The Bellflower congregation

SAN PABLO, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Everyone here in San Pablo chruch of Christ is doing fine. We are still working on our building. It is quite old and we need to repair the ourside now. We have the inside fairly well done. We enjoy working on it together.

Pat and I became grandparents (for the first time) October 15, 1988. Our daughter, Barbara Carter had a big beautiful boy; CHRISTOPHER CARTER. Rick and Barbara live in Bremerton, Washington and attend the Port Orchard church of Christ. We were up to visit them and saw the other babies that had been born lately. We have quite a few new young ones that will be growing up in the church to carry on with the work for the Lord. For this we are thankful.

Lord willing, we hope to be at Delta this coming year, 1989, and hope to see all our loved ones again. We missed last year and it was such a success by all the letters that was sent to the Big Spruce Special Edition. Lets all plan to go next year. If you haven't been there, you are truly missing one of the great blessings that God offers to His children.

In Christian love
Written for the chruch at San Pablo, Ca.
Gene McKinney

SPACE RESERVED FOR YOUR LETTER OR ARTICLE

GOSPEL MEETINGS

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

BAPTISMS

BROTHER ROY MULLINS	Randalett, Ok.	Labor Day Meeting
SISTER KIMBERLY McCORMICK	"	Labor Day Meeting
SISTER SUSAN BRISTER	Citrus City	Yuma Gospel Meeting

(second report for some, but well worth repeating)

BIRTHS

CHRISTOPHER CARTER October 15, 1988 Bremerton, Wa.
(Proud parents are Rick and Barbara Carter (Mc Kinney)

We have heard that there are other new babies out there. Give us a report of this blessed event if this is so. OK?

STEPHEN CLAUD PERIGEN October 19, 1988 Hunnington Beach, Ca.
(Proud parents are Mark and Tammy Perigen)

We hear of many who have had surgery, or some other illnesses and this affords the opportunity of helping in the best way possible. That is helping with prayer. We all know that God answers our prayers. And we know all we have to do is to pray, not so we can heap His abundance upon ourselves, but so His power can work in us. Read the letters and find out who needs prayers. Like Brother Abe Labato who has just had back surgery. Also Sister Usrey of Sacramento, Ca. who is going in for hip surgery. I'm sure she would be thankful for your prayers. Pray for the new ones that have just entered this life. Pray that they will be brought up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Pray for those who have just been baptized into the Body of Christ. Pray that they will have strength to carry on. Let us all USE the POWER

Editor