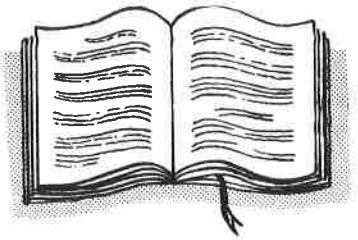
Feb. 1989

The Christian Courier



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The Church of Christ

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FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 1988

1987 Balance brought forth:		749.02
Donations 1988		2529.00
		3278.02
Expenses: 1988		
Supplies:	550.23	
Postage	1222.60	
Printing	1485.17	
	3258.00	-3258.00
Ending Balance Dec. 30, 1988		20.02

Editors note:

— We wish to thank those few who have kept up their support so we could have a Christian paper this year. Our desire would be that more would help out with the expenses. If everyone who receives the paper would help, the burden wouldn't be so heavy on just a few. As you can see, the cost of getting out the paper goes up each year. However, we now have a postage meter. By using a meter, I don't have to stand in line at the Post Office for up to an hour sometimes, and the Courier can be mailed out much faster with the meter. There is one way to cut the cost of postage, and that is send out the Courier 3rd class. This would delay you getting it up to a week. Sometimes sooner, sometimes longer. I will leave it up to you. Do we keep sending it out FIRST CLASS? Or do we send it out 3rd class. Savings? Approx. 20%.

As you can see, our balance got down to $20.02, and I didn't know if we could even send out the paper this month or not. But we now have enough to send it out. We have had three congregations send in $355.00, so we now have enough for one or two months. The Lord has seen fit to provide the money, so let us provide the articles and correspondence.

Many of you have not been sending in anything to print. Why not? I know that there are many out there who have good instructive articles that we need to print, so others can attain the knowledge from God's Word. How about it? Sit down now and get busy. Editor

WHERE DOES YOUR FAITH STAND?

[1 Cor 2: 4-5]

"And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demostration of the Spirit and of power: That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God."

We cannot afford to let our power stand in any human. It can bring misery in this life and torment in the world to come. This is not to say that we cannot have close personal ties with others. This does not preclude our deep respect for another for his love of the truth. Paul expressed such deep love for fellow Jews that he was willing to be accursed from Christ for them if such would do them any good. [Rom 9:4] He said he would gladly spend and be spent for the Corinthians [2 Cor 12:15] One must not become so selfcentered and suspicious of others that he will not allow himself to get close to brethren. Neither can we afford to get so wrapped up in them that our very faith stands or falls with them. The danger of such a course, is beyond our measure. We cannot become so attatched to a person that we will not only absorb his virtues, but will copy his faults. The danger is even more present if the object of our faith has been known for his soundness. When he stumbles we may well stumble with him. If Barnabas could be led astray by Peter's hypocrisy; [Gal 2:11-13], how much more cautious we must be not to be led away by those whom we love and respect. We can't afford to be so wrapped up in any man or group of men, that our position on religious questions is determined by which way they go. We can and should respect a may by receiving what he says with all readiness of mind. But we must show respect for God by searching the Scriptures daily, whether those things are so. [Acts 17:11]

There is also the danger of being disillusioned and disapointed into total discouragement. If one is not careful he can place such confidence in an individual that if that one departs from the faith, it becomes more than one can bear. The what-is-the-use, attitude takes over the mind. The idea seems to be that if my brother could not endure, then nobody can. If brother Blank, as fine a person as he is, could not hold out, how can I expect to hold out? Thus, people sometimes quit the Lord because they have become disapointed in some brother.

Let your faith stand in the power of God; He never errs, nor will he disappoint you. As long as our faith stands in Him we are secure. Place it elsewhere, and we will be disappointed sooner or later.

Submitted by Lee MacDonald of the Olivehurst congregation.
2183 Gold Leaf Way, Marysville, Ca. 95901

DO WE KNOW WHERE WE ARE GOING?

[Isa 35:89]

Here, Isaiah said there shall be a highway and a way and it shall be called the way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it but it shall be for the wayfairing men, though fools shall not err therein. No lion or ravenous beast shall go up thereon; it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there. Here we see Isaiah saying there will be two ways over there. An highway and a way: God knows which one we are traveling. [Matt 7:13-14] Jesus said, wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to distruction and many go in thereat because straight is the gate and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it. (So, is heaven your destination? [Matt 7:21-22] "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works.? [Gen 1:27] God created man in His own likeness and image and gave him a body and life. So we come from God and we go back to God. [Eccl 12: 7] But God has two places for people to go. [Luke 16: 22-24] If we go to rest, we must keep His commandments. [John 14;15] for heaven is a place of rest. [Rev 14:13] It is for the blessed that keep God's commandments. [Rev 22:14] They are the redeemed that walks in the way. [Isa 35:8-9] And Jesus will say; [Matt 25:34] come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom of God, prepared for you. [Matt 17:21] Just those who do the will of God will be on the right road. READ [Matt 25:28-34]

So to do his will is to obey [Heb 5:8-9] What he has said [Rom 6:17-18] here you obeyed from the heart (mind) that form of doctrine , and was made free by obedience, so now to stay free from sin we must add to our obedience . [2 Peter 1:5] The requirements is to be very diligent and do these things. Why should we be so careful? [1 Peter 4:17] Judgement will begin at the house of God. (us) and if it at first, it began at us, what will the end be of those that do not keep the commandments of God? [2 Peter 1:10] We are to do this to make our calling and election sure. [2 Peter 3:9] For God is not slack, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering, not willing that any should perish. [James 1:25] Blessed is the man that looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues therein. Not a forgetful hearer but a faithful doer of the Word. [James 2:24] We see how a man is justified by his works and not by faith only. We can't fool God. [2 Tim 2:19] The foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal the Lord knoweth them that are His, and let everyone that names the name of Christ depart from iniquity. [Prov 10:8-9] The wise in heart will receive God's commandments but a fool will fall. (verse 9) He that walketh upright, walketh surely but he that perverteth his ways shall know that 'we can't fool God.'

[Pro 10:11] "The mouth of the righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked." (v 14) "Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction." (v 17) "He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth." [Prov 28:18] "Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once." So we see that we can't fool God. We may think we are doing right, yet be deceived [Gal 6:7-8] "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." [2 Tim 3:13] "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived." [2 Peter 2:1-2] "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that brought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not." [Rev 2: 4] This church had left their first love. They had a lot of good works, but was not acceptable because they had done this and was told to remember from whence they had fallen and repent and do the first works, or else. So we see we cannot fool God. So again I ask: "Do we know where we are going? We could be like the 5 foolish virgins, who waited to late to trim their lamps and to get oil. Or we could be like the one-talant man. [Matt 25:24-30] Or like those at the judgement. [Matt 25: 32-46] which thought they had done what God said and had not. Or we might be like the kings of the earth; [Rev 6:15] and <u>all</u> mighty men and cry for the rocks and mountians to fall on us, because we waited to late to make sure. [2 Peter 2:10] Peter said; give all diligence to make your election sure. Which state will we be in? [2 Cor 5:10] For we will all stand before the judgement to receive the things done in this life, whether good or bad.

DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE GOING?

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

ADULTRY/FORNICATION

In the past I have made myself look foolish, but even worse, misused the Word of God, because I did not understand the meaning of the word (s) I was using. This is an area I have been trying to better myself in lately, however I appreciate very much the word-study articles in the papers. They are very edifying, especially to someone such as myself who is young in the faith.

When words are translated from Hebrew/Greek to English, they sometimes loose depth and clarity they once carried, because our language may have no exact equivalent for the original. Such would seem to be the case with a word like baptism. The word litterally means "to dip or immerse", but the transliteration of this Greek word in to English has produced much confusion among the denominations on this very important subject. To make things worse, our language is now changing faster than ever. Words may have several meanings, or meanings may have changed over the years. Today "bad" can mean either good or bad. We are all aware, unfortunately, that "gay" no longer means the same thing in casual conversation that it used to. These being just a few of thousands of examples we could use.

For all of the above reasons it is very important that we as Christ ians stay "fresh" on the meanings of the inspired Word of God. For a few moments, let us look at some definitions for the words "fornication" and "adultry". After careful, prayerful examination, we can then "rightly divide the Word of truth" by using proper definitions when we come across these words.

FORNICATION

WEBSTER: "..human sexual intercourse other than between a man and his wife." VINE'S EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF BIBLICAL WORDS: "Illicit sexual intercourse." [Matt 5:32] and [Matt 19:9] it stands for, or includes adultry; it is distinguished from in in Matt. 15:19 and Mark 7:21;" #4202 (Strong's exaustive concordance)

NEW INTERPRETERS DICTIONARY OF THE BIBLE: "..The practice of sexual immorality and holotry; hence a symbol for idolatry. In the O.T. it is equivalent to "playing the harlot" (Gen 38:34, Duet 22:21; etc.... see prostitution) In the N.T. the words "fornication", to practice fornication, etc...refers to every kind of sexual intercourse outside of marriage."

ARNDT & GINGRICH GREEK LIXICON OF THE NEW TEATAMENT: "Porneia"...prostitution, unchastity fornication, of every kind of unlawful sexual intercourse."

ADULTRY

WEBSTER: "Sexual unfaithfulness of a married person."

VINES: "Moichos (#3432) denotes one "who has unlawful intercourse with

the spouse of another. INTERPRETERS DICTIONARY: "...voluntary sexual intercourse between a married man and someone other than his wife, or between a married woman and someone other than her husband."

Basically, from the above definitions, I gather that fornication is all illicit sexual intercourse. While, adultry is intercourse where one/or both parties are married to someone else. Adultry is a form of fornication since the latter is a general term and adultry is the specific term.

I hope this study has helped the brethren in some small way. If there is anything that needs to be changed or added concerning these definitions, plese let myself and the brotherhood know. I would not want to teach something that was not the truth.

In His service
David McCay
Rt. 1 Box 72
Lorenxo, Texas 79343

GODS OF THE WORLD
[Joshua 24:15-16]

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the Lord, to serve other gods;" And yet, they quickly forgot this promise and went after other gods even as people today obey a form of doctrine and soon forget they promised to serve Christ who died for their sins. [Eph 4:6] "One God and Father of us all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all." [11 Cor 4:4] "In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (god of this world? SATAN) [1 Cor 8:4] Tells us there is only one true god. (verse 5) "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many)

So let us consider some of these gods which blind the eyes of men. MONEY AND RICHES: [1 Tim 6:9-10] They that be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is th root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." [Mark 8:36] "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world

and lose his own soul?" Many, while going after the great god of MONEY, have forsaken the Lord. Sometimes we move away from the church where God is and go to some town where He is not, for the sake of a better job (money and position) and maybe we forsake the assembly where Christ is, to work for the worldly god, MONEY!

The next god to consider, is "FASHION". Most people, even church members want to dress fashionably and be like the people of the world; (in whos land ye dwell). Both men and women go about showing their bodies to the eyes of all. Not covering their nakedness as God commanded. [1 Tim 2:9] says that women should adorn themselves in modest apparel, not wearing expensive jewelry, etc.....We know God covered Adam's nakedness as well as Eve's. He told the children of Israel that their nakedness was a shame. But still people worship the god FASHION.

The next god to consider is POPULARITY, which goes along with fashion and what we teach. For if we teach what people don't want to hear we will not be popular. [Gal 1:9] "As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I would not be the servant of Christ." Brethren, are we preaching what people want or God wants? Are we desiring to please men or God? Are we wearing our hair and clothers as becometh Godliness or worldliness? Are we conducting ourselves in word (conversation) and in deed (what we do) as becometh Christians, or as followers of the gods of this world? Are we looking to the god of drugs and alcohol; the revelings and so called "good times", or are we doing as Paul told us? [Titus 2:12] Denying ungodliness and worldly lusts; we should live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world. As you all know, dearly beloved there are many more gods of this world that could be mentioned. Also many more scriptures that could be used to support what has been written but for those who are striving to be Christians and not just worldly church members, these should be enough to cause us to think and strive for Godliness, which is in Christ Jesus and not of the world.

Written in the love of the truth!

Howard McCay - 3904 Knoble Ave. - Yakima, Wa. 98902 (509) 965-3721

Proverbs 25:25

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

We are still in need of your letters and news items. We also need your meeting dates so people can plan their vacations. Please send them in.

Editor

OLIVERHUST, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I would like to let everyone know that we are doing alright, exept my wife, Rita, who has had the flu. Also Sister Hurley has had a cold. But this time of the year the flu and colds are going around. This year will soon be gone. As the year ends, I recall our last pot-luck dinner. We had visitors from Oregon and Washington. Brother Howard and Sister Nell McCay: Brother Gerald and Sister Anna Lee Warner. They were traveling together and had been to Yuma, Az. and San Diego, Ca.. They had been visiting Brother J.D. and Sister Fern Logan of Stockton, Ca. and all came up to Oliverhurst for Lord's Day worship and pot luck dinner. After services in Penn Valley, Brother Ken and Sister Laverne Harper, and Brother Bret and Brother Kirt, and Sister Peggy Harper, and Sister Luraina McCluskey joined us. Also Brother Eric and Sister Lillian Smith and their three children were here from Sacramento, Ca. for services, as well as local members. Brother Loyal and Sister Marie Hurley, my daughter, Sister Terry MacDonald and Sister Bonnie Luther. We all had a wonderful time fellowshipping and visiting. Please remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love
Brother Lee MacDonald

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Happy Hollow church of Christ would like to extend a warm thank you to all the people who attended and helped with the 1988 camp meeting, without whom we would not have had such a successful camp year. And a special thank you to all the individuals who sent contributions to support our annual meeting.

The new year is upon us and it is time, again, to think about the meeting for 1989. This years camp meeting will be held from July 2nd through the 9th, 1989. We would like to invite each and everyone to attend this years' meeting. We look forward to renewing our fellowship with old friends and meeting new ones. Contributions are appreciated and are now being accepted. If you send in early, it helps the plannig for it.

BUDGET REPORT FOR 1988 CAMP MEETING

Rent	$912.50	Contributions (Indiv)	$2,578.03
Gas	44.00	1st Lord's Day	322.07
Electirc	154.32	2nd Lord's Day	310.26
Groceries	1,210.18	Total contrubutions	$3,210.36
Misc.	30.60	Balance	$ 858.76
Total expenses	$2,351.60		

Now is the time to plan for our meeting. Mark your calenders and plan to be there and enjoy being with Christians. Remember, July 2-9, 1988.

Yours in Christ, Eddie Wilkerson
Happy Hollow church of Christ
1605 2125 Drive, Cedaredge, Colorado 81413

CUCAMONGA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We always enjoy the articles and news letters in the Christian Courier. We are enclosing our check to help in the cost of getting out the Courier. We want it to continue coming and we really appreciate your labour in getting the work done.

We are thankful that we are able to worship with the good people of the La Habra congregation. Brother Marion Serrano continues to give us good Bible lessons.

In Christian love
Randolph & Olive Kellems

LORENZO, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have just completed our winter meeting with Brother Ellis Forsman from the Sea-Tac. (Seattle/Tacoma) Washington congregation. It was a very good meeting, and lots of good lessons and fellowship. IT seemed as if the week was over all too quick. With Brother Ellis, came his wife Lynell, daughter Lori, and father-in-law Howard McCay. While they were here, they received word that all the details were finally settled and the property for the church at Seattle was finally theirs. This brought much joy to all here. We wish to thank all the people who attended. Those that I can remember right off hand are: Jim and Jatta Loftis from Graham, Texas; Jo and Tooler Goodwin from Olney, Texas. They are from the Newcastle, Texas congregation; Howard and Leola Taylor from Comanche, Ok. (Loco congregation) Brian Ross, Angie Ross, Kim Barrett, Cheryl Warford, all from Baron/Stilwell area. We also had some local visitors.

All of us here are fine. It has been very dry and several have had touches of colds, allergies, sore throats and what-have-you. Lord willing, we will get over most of it when we get some moisture to settle the dust and pollen in the air.

On Wednesday nights we either sing, or play games with the kids, taking popular games from T V; 'win-loose-or-draw' 'wheel-of-fortune' 'bingo' consen tration' etc....and putting a Bible theme to them. It is surprising how much, not only the kids get out of it, but also the older ones [over 18] learn too. A lot of fun and educational too.

Some here have wondered about the idea of a new directory of the churches. Some have lost theirs and some churches did not make it into the last one, or have moved since then. ?Yes - No - Maybe???

That is all from here for now. I know we have been slack in writing the paper and were justly chastised by Brother Homer. We will try to do better. I hope this finds everyone well. Our love goes out to the faithful everywhere and remember. NOT OUR WILL, but God's Will be done in everything.

In Christian love for the church at Lorenzo.
Errol Forsman

What about it? A complete church directory? I will print it if you will send me the information. Send the following: (1) The church location, Town etc. (2) What other name of location, like "Sea-Tac" etc... (3) List principals of the church: Elders etc... so we know who is in charge when we come. (4) List all members, NAMES-ADDRESSES-PHONE NUMBERS ETC.. list each family and members individually. (5) Among the names, list whether they are a member or not. Please note that this information is what I would like to see in the directory. What about you. This will make it much easier to find certain people and certain church locations when traveling, or corresponding.
Editor

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Greetings from the OKC congregation:

It has been much too long since our last communication to the Courier. It is always good to hear of news from afar, but too often we fail to realize that someone has to put the words down on paper before someone can read them.

All here has been going well. The little congregation has grown and been blessed by God. We have met at this location for nearly 35 years. Many faces have come and gone over the years. The passage of time makes us all a little older and hopefully a little wiser. We have tried to keep the purpose the same all these years, to teach Christ and to do his will. Any who have labored at a similar task know that sometimes keeping a church going can be a tough task (not because of

God's shortcomings, but because of our own). I want to commend all the churches everywhere to keep at the work of Christ. We don't always understand why things go as they do. A church will grow, or it may just disappear. Sometimes it seems that we just get tired. We must continue to work His work "in season and out of season." It is not too hard when the church is full and times are good, but the true test of our faith comes when the times are tough. When leaders have died or grown too feeble to lead, when Brethren move away to other areas, when division has occured; these are the tough times that many churches have faced and will face if time continues. We must prepare ourselves for these times also. As a teacher of the Gospel, I have tried to be a watchman. I think all who teach have taken this role. It is our duty to warn of the bad times as well as tell of the good times. If the church you attend is facing tough times, please do not give up. Continue to do God's Will. You are greatly needed. Have hope and faith. God will provide for you your needs. Realize though, what you perceive as a solution may not be the solution that God has chosen. Let God work though you and accept His council. It may not always be easy, but it will always be worthwhile.

Love to all from the OKC congregation. Please continue the good work wherever you are.

OKC congregation

P.S. It was good to see you again Brother and Sister Cooper. We think of you often. It was also nice to meet you Brother Homer We hope to see you all agin soon. God bless you all.

DEATHS

SISTER INEZ USREY	January 8, 1989	Sacramento, Ca.
SISTER Norma Frago	January 12 1989	Modesto, Ca.

Our prayer goes out to the family of these two dear sisters. We Pray that God will give you strength to carry on. We will miss them also. May God bless them and may they enter into His rest.

$ $ $ $

You all have told me, by the money that you have sent in, that you want the Christian Courier to continue. Thank you all for sending in donations in abundance. We now have enough money for several issues, so we will now be able to get out the Courier and also, I believe, have enough to get out that Church Directry, if you all will send the information in. I do think that it is greatly needed. We also need to know when your meeting is being held this year. Most of us have to plan ahead so we can attend all the meetings we can. Again, thanks for all the donations.

Editor