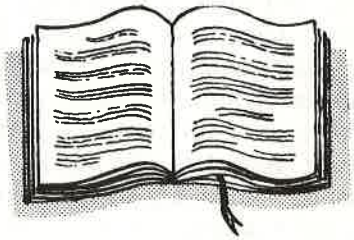
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The Christian Courier



Published monthly by

The Church of Christ

PHONE (415) 682-2600

The Christian Courier is published monthly by the Church of Christ. This issue will be the last issue coming from Concord, Ca. It will be coming from the Bellflower congregation. Please send all future materials to be printed to them. Editor (213) 925-0786
Christian Courier, 17103 Bixby Ave. Bellflower, Ca. 90706-Mark Perigen

1984 - 1989

Here it is 5 years later. That's right. We started publishing the Courier 62 issues ago. 1984. That was a year of learning. A year of growing and a year that we struggled through, trying to put in print the Word of God, and to provide a means of commucation between all the brethren, where ever they may be. It has been a learning experience for me and I thank God for that experience. And for the opportunity that He gave us to do our best at a job that no one else wanted.

Well, it is now timefor others who Love the Lord, and who Love His Word, to take over the job. This issue will be the last one we will get out. Brother Mark Perigen and others at the Bellflower congregation, will be publishing the next issue. After this issue goes to press, we will be taking the equipment down to them. There may be a delay in the November issue, but PLEASE give them the support that you have given us here. For without money, and printed materials, they can't do the job. It takes ALL OF US to keep the Word of God going out. Yes, it does take money, but it also takes commitment. Commitment on the part of those who will physically print the paper and commitment on our part to keep the money and the printed materials comeing. They can't print a letter with your news in it if you don't send it in, ON TIME! Learn about their cut off time and get your letters and article to them in time for them to do the research, the typing and the final printing of the paper. Yes, research has to be done. They will be responsible for correct scripture being printed. Every scripture has to be checked and double-checked to insure that it is correct.

I will pass on to you what is the most difficult part about printing the paper. And that is, having enough material that is up-to-date. And on time, allowing enough time to get it on paper so it can be mailed out to you. We do not like to print dates of certain congregations who have had baptisms, 1 or 2 months ago. Or when someone is sick, it does little good telling the church about it 2 or 3 months later. Prayer needs to be done now! When the need is there. If you can't get it in a letter in time, call. It does not cost very much to call and see if it can be reported when the need is there.

COMMITMENT. Brother Mark has committed himself and others to geting the Courier out. Let us be committed also, to help get it out. Not just one month. But each and every month. For "God is not slack" neither should we be.

Thanks for your support
Homer Bryant
Past Editor

WHY DON'T WE USE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS IN THE WORSHIP?

[Col. 3:16-17]

"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

Here we see that we are commanded to sing and make melody in our hearts and whatsoever we do, we are to do it in his name. (which is by His authority or permission) No where can we find that He has given us permission to play music with our hands, in the worship. Now in [Amos 6:1-5] God had the prophet to write; " Woe unto them that are at ease in Zion;" and goes through verse 5, which states; "That chant to the sound of the viol, and invent to themselves instruments of music, like David;" So we see that God has placed a woe on anyone that chants (sings) to the sound of the music of the viol. He also connects the last of this sentance with 'AND" which makes a woe placed on them also. [Isa 5:11] "Woe unto them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them." Verse 12, And the harp, and the viol, and the tabret, and the pipe, and wine, are in their feasts: but they regard not the work of the Lord, neither consider the operation of his hands."

Now we see that the Lord has placed a woe on those that chant (sing) to the sound of music and also has classed music in the same class as wine and strong drink. We also see that the church at Corinth had divisions among them. [1 Cor 11: 18-22] They were doing these things when they came together to worship and was despising the church of God and shamed them that was not doing the same. They were condemned for their acts. So we see, they were not doing this by the Lord's permission and was condemned. The words of Christ was not dwelling in them richly. [Isa 5:11] This scirpture has linked strong drink and music together and they were getting drunk. [Matt 28:18] Christ has all authority and has not given us the permission to do such things; [Matt 4:4] "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." No where did God say 'play' music in the worship. [11 Peter 1:3] God has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that has called us to glory and virtue. (But God has not given us musical instruments in the worship) so it is no part of life and godliness and can't be used. Or God will add plagues that are written in this book. [Rev 22;18] For in doing so, would be adding to God's Word. [Duet 18;20] "But the prophet, which sall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have

not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die." And God has not spoken to us either by His Son or the apostles to tell us to use musical instraments) and if we do we will surely die. (Spiritually). [Eph 5:17] "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is." His will is; (verse 19) "Speaking to yourselves in psalm and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." For it is not written in the Word of God (Matt 4;4) for the church to use musical instraments, therefor it is a sin to do so. [Rom 14;23] ".....for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Also 10; 17; "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." It is a fact, that we cannot worship God with our hands playing some instrument. [Acts 17:25] "Neither is worshiped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." [Heb 2:12] " Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." (note; he did not say play praise to thee). [Eph 4:7] "But unto everyone of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ." Verse 11; "And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers (12) for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." (which is the church; Col 1:8) But no where did He give us musical instruments in the church. And we know that it can't be used for the perfecting of the saints! [Psa 19:7] Nor for the edifying of the body. That would be adding to; [Rev 29:18] the Word of God. (and that is sin) [1 John 3:4] It also would be transgressing God's law. [2 Tim 3:16-17] "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, instruction in righteousness that the man of God might be perferct, throughly firnished, rightly dividing the Word of truth." Playing a musical instrument in the worship is not a good work, and must be refused.

Written for the learning and the love of the truth.
Lloyd Treat - 13 N. Bock - Broken Bow, Oklahoma 74728

TRUE REPENTANCE

Many people seem to think that being sorry for something is repentance and this is <u>not so</u>. A man can tell a judge he is sorry he stole, but is he sorry that he stole or just sorry that he got caught? True sorrow is if he makes up his mind not to do it again. But even this is not repentance. [2 Cor 7:10] Paul says Godly sorrow <u>worketh</u> repentance. But it is still not repentance. While repentance is a change of mind, it <u>always</u> brings about a change of action in the kind of life we live. [Matt 4:7-8] John the baptist told the people; "O generation

of vipers who hath warned you to flee from the world to come; Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance." Or to show we have repented. [Acts 26:20] Paul says he told the people that they should repent and turn to God and do works meet for repentance. Jesus tells us in [Matt 7:16, 20] that by their fruits (deeds and works) ;ye shall know them. So we conclude that it is not by what we profess but by what we do that we show if we have truly repented. It is not enough to say "God, I am sorry, I repent" or to a brother or sister; "I'm sorry, I repent". We show both God and those around us that we have repented by our works. If a brother or sister asks our forgiveness, we must forgive them as God has promised to forgive us if we ask. But we show repentance by our works.

Written in love of the truth.

Howard McCay
3904 Knobel Ave.
Yakima, Wa. 98902

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

BELLFLOWER, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at Bellflower are doing pretty well. Our meeting ended with Bro. Dan O. Teague. Brother Teague did an excellent job for us. Thank you Bro. Teague.

Amongst our visitors were Bro. Teague's daughter Lola and son-in-law, Dean, and their two daughters from Texas. Bro. Tom and Sister Charlene Broadway from Rogue River, Oregon; Sister Jeanne Bentz and her three children; Bro. Vernon Bentz; Sis. Eunice Bentz; and Brother Larry Brockman, all from Chico, Ca. Brother Bill and Sister Debbie Taylor and their daughter Robin, from Port Orchard, Wa.; Brother Homer and Sister Bonnie Bryant: Brother Gene and Sister Pat McKinney, from San Pablo, Ca.; Brother Earl and Sister Zelma Broadway from Yuma, Az.; Brother Marion and Sister Mary Serrano from La Habra, Ca. and their grandaughter, Erica Ferguson from Goshen, Ark.; We had great support and we thank each and everyone for coming. We had some fun activities during the week and a lot of good visiting.

We were deeply saddened by the passing of Brother Henry Oliver. Our prayers and thoughts go out to Sister Bonnie for her loss. We will surely miss him and we are thankful for the time we were able to know him. He was truly striving to do the Lord's work here on this earth.

Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse is out in Texas for about a month visiting her family. We surely miss her. Sister Burdette Perigen was up in Washington for a couple of weeks visiting her son and family, and was safely returned home. We missed her and are glad to have her back. Sister Karen McCullough was out for about a week for an FHA convention here in the L.A. area. She was able to meet with us for Sunday morning and Sunday evening services. We had the pleasure of her company once again at our Wednesday night bible study. We all had an injoyable visit.

Brother Mark and Sister Tammy Perigen and Stephen, and Brother Gerald and Sister Natalie Brockman have returned from a week-end meeting held by Brother Mark at Furnish Canyon, Ok. Brother Jerry and Sister Betty Perigen have just returned from a weeks meeting at Goshen, Ark. They had a nice trip and a good meeting. Brother Dan and Sister Alyce Ross and their two daughters from Washington were with us two sundays this month. Brother Dan gave us some very good lessons to think about.

Other members of our congregation are going to be doing some traveling thoughout the rest of the summer months. We pray for everyones' safe traveling.

In Christian Love
The Bellflower congregation

LA HABRA, CA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The news I'm sending to you for the Courier is not good. Our dear sister in Christ, Ina Nunnally died August 8, 1989 at Ontario, Ca. She was 84 years young. She was a memeber of the church of Christ longer than I have been alive. I am 54 years old. I can tell everyone with great joy that Ina was as good a christian you would find anywhere in the whole world. Ina's son, Joseph O'Guin and grandson, Clarence Gaddy spoke some beautiful thoughts at her funeral. Ina was sick at home and in and out of the hospital many times for about 1½ years. I remember back for many years, Ina used to drive herself with her husband, Hugh Nunnally, to church in her little red car. She was up in years when she stopped driving and it never ceased to amaze me what courage she had and many times, when sick, she would still come to chruch. I pray that all members of the church would have as much desire to serve God as she did.

Other news in the church; Sister Florence Millard has been sick and in the hospital, but is doing some better. She and her two daughters Ilene and Estille, are very faithful members and come all the time. Brother Gabe Auslam hasn't felt to good either but he and Dorothy, his wife, are very faithful too, and come to church regular. My son-in-law, Mike Burkhart has taken hold of the pulpit and is giving us

some very good lessons. He is only a young babe in Christ, but has a lot of desire to please God. My daughter, Pamela, her husband and two children have moved back to Arkansas and are now meeting with the church at Goshen. The church at La Habra wishes them well, and we hope they will be happy in Arkansas. We have several members who have been sick lately but I think we're doing pretty good now.

Let's serve God as best we can while we're here because eternity is awaiting us. Let me share a thought on eternity with everyone. If a great eagle picked up one grain of sand at a time and took it to the sun, and took all the grains of sand from all the oceans to the sun, eterinity would just begin. Note: the sun is 186,000,000 miles from the earth.

Yours in Christ
Marron D. Serrano
For the La Habra congrgation

YAKIMA, WA.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It has been some time since I have written. Nell and I had a very good summer but we are glad to be home. The Lord blessed us with a safe journey of 7,600 miles lasting 10 weeks. We were able to attend 4 Gospel meetings at which we met many old friends and some new ones. It was good to see the efforts being put forth by so many brethern, striving to promote the Gospel of Christ. More and more seem to be getting their priorities straight, attending Gospel meetings instead of serving their own earthly pleasures. God has given us each so much time, how are we using it? Hoping to see many of you at the Yuma, Az. meeting, if the Lord allows us to go.

In Christian Love
Howard and Nell McCay

RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We at the Randlett, Ok. congregation, enjoy receiving the Courer and would like to inform you of our activities of the past few months. We have had many visitors from several congregations. We would like to thank them for their love and support. We are sorry if we fail to mention anyone.

Lorenzo, Tx: David and Sheila McCay and Children McCay; Michelle Forsman Jerry, Danny and Brent McCay; Errol, Earlene and Chris Forsman; And from Baron, Ok.; Terry and Suzie Warford: Stilwell, OK.; Bob, Shirley and children Eldridge. Cedaredge: Ken and Verlie Baldwin: Loco, Ok. Preston and Annabelle Barnes, Andy, Darla and Children Barnes; Ladon, Linda and Mike Lewis.

Linda and Mike Lewis:

We gladly welcome any and all visitors to come worship with us. We would also like to announce our upcoming wedding of Brother Roy Mullins and Sister Kim McCormick on Sept. 30, 1989.

We would appreciate 4 more copies of the Courier. Enclosed is a small donation to help with the expenses.

In Christian Love

Your Brothers and Sisters in Christ
Randlett, Oklahoma church of Christ.

P.S. Anyone wishing to contact the Randlett church, you can call any one of these members.

Leroy & Darlene Mullens	(817) 569-1956
Sam and Nora Jo Elliott	(405) 281-3630
Kim McCormick	(817) 569-1543

GOSPEL MEETINGS

CITRUS CITY, ARIZONA	Nov. 19 - 26, 1989	REX MICKEY
YUMA, ARIZONA	Dec. 24 - 31, 1989	Guest Speakers

DEATHS

HENRY OLIVER	ALAMAGORDO, NEW MEXICO	1989
INA NUNNALLY	ONTARIO, CA.	Aug. 8, 1989

SOON TO BE MARRIED

Brother Roy Mullins, and sister Kim McCormick, of Randlett, Oklahoma.
Wedding date is set for September, 30, 1989
Particulars to come later.

Christian Courier

NEW ADDRESS: 17103 Bixby Ave.-Bellflower, Ca. 90706/ Mark Perigen

THIS IS NOT GOOD BY

This is just saying so-long to the satisfying spiritual pleasure we had getting out the Word of God by means of the Christian Courier. I would like this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your support and for the Christian love that has been shown me, especially when I needed it. I look forward to sending in articles and news letters to the new editor and giving him all the help I can. I pray that you do the same. Don't forget, this is a very good means of keeping in contact with each other and instructing each other in righteousness.

May God bless you all, and if you like, you can still write to us here in San Pablo once in a while. Love to hear from you.

We love you all, in Christ. Homer Bryant