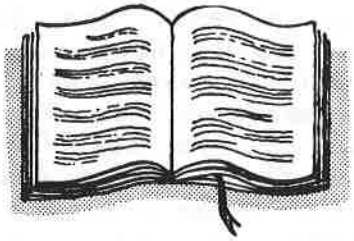
The Christian Courier



DECEMBER 1989

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"O send out thy light and thy truth: let them lead me; let them bring me unto thy holy hill, and to thy tabernacles."
Psalm 43:3

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"DECISIONS"

There are many decisions one must make in life. But for some reason the heart of man has a very difficult time when it comes to humility, repentance, confession, and especially trust and devotion to one higher than himself. The two words one must keep in mind when concerning a decision to follow our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are surrender and devotion. These two things are essential for a happy Christian life. It is almost always the difference between success and failure in a Christian life. Sometimes these are faced daily in our lives. Let's look at a case of decision, Matthew 19:16-22, "And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet? Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me. But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions." The commandments that Jesus

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gave this young man were ones that many (moral) men are capable of keeping. It was in the application of God's greatest commandment, one he did not disclose but certainly one He put this young man to the test on. Listen to the response of Jesus when asked by a Pharisee lawyer on what the greatest commandment was. Jesus' response, Matt. 22:37-40, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets." And this the greatest decision for you not only as a Christian but for man in general. Is Jesus Christ truly first in your life? Look at this young man, he had youth, wealth, position, and intelect but he walked away from Jesus sorrowful because of earthly possessions he wished not to give up. Nothing more was written about this young man but if he did not what Jesus told him to do, then he did indeed love his money more than God. Therefore, he violated the greatest commandment of God.

My message to all my brothers and sisters is this, in all your decisions, not just concerning money, devote and surrender all your love to Christ and I know that our heavenly Father will direct your decisions and give direction in all things, and like this young man who had everything at present, let us not learn someday when it is too late that our decision has lost us everything.

In truth and love,
Ken Williams
Waterford, CA

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"PRIORITIES"

A few years ago at a meeting in San Pablo, CA we heard an excellent sermon on this subject. I do not recall just what was said, but just the word "priorities" brings thoughts to my mind. I wish to share some of them with you. More people seemingly are turning to the world and getting further from God. It takes a clear mind to stay on that narrow way. There were some things I observed while travelling which I want to tell about, and let you draw your own conclusions. A young lady changed the time of her wedding so that it would not interfere with a Gospel meeting and people could go to both. In Matt. 18:20 Jesus said, "For where two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst

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of them." John 12:26 "If any man serve me let him follow me and where I am there shall my servant be." Are we found at Gospel meetings with the Lord or off at the lake, rodeo, ball games, picnicking, etc. with friends and relatives having a so called good time? Jesus said his servants would be where He was. Do we put forth our best effort to go to a friend or relative's wedding, but can't seem to make it to the marriage supper of the Lamb? People go great distances to attend the funeral of a loved one, but often miss the memorial of our Savior's death. We will miss gospel meetings (where Christ is) to go to birthday parties, wedding anniversaries or get togethers of most any kind. Who are we honoring, God or man? Matt. 6:33, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." Our first priority is to Christ and what He wants and if by so doing we interfere with the plans of others, which is the most important?

I've seen brethren travel hundreds of miles to gospel meetings, but can't get out to a Sunday evening service at home. Is Christ just at gospel meetings or at every meeting of the Church? People spend great effort and money on their family home, but don't seem to want to put forth much time or money for a house for the family of God. Just any place is alright (seemingly) for Christ to be with his people. The list goes on and on of things we observe, but the main thing is each of us must give account of himself to God. Let us be very sure where our priorities are, realizing we may deceive ourselves and others but we will never deceive God. We often put on our very best clothes to go to a wedding or funeral of a relative or friend, but any old clothes are good enough to be with our Savior. I am not saying jeans and tee-shirts are not alright to wear if they are the best we have. But let's not kid ourselves, who are we showing the most honor to? Pleading with you to think on what we are doing and where our priorities are.

Written in love,
Howard McCay
3904 Knobel Ave. Apt. 8
Yakima, WA 98902

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"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is begotten of God, and knoweth God."
1 John 4:7

"I AM ALREADY A NEW MAN"
(2 Cor. 5:17)

Here we see that Paul said, "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." In the church today it seems to me that some are saying, "I am already a new creature, so all I have to do is be baptized, go to church, and live as I used to, and I will go to heaven." But in Rev. 2:2 Jesus said to the church at Ephesus, "I know thy works, and thy labor, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars." (What! evil and liars in the church) - how can this be since they were in Christ, and new creatures? (Or were they?) I say not, because the old things were not passed away. If they were in Christ, the church, why were they not new creatures? (2 Cor. 5:17, 1 John 3:3-6) Just one good reason I can think of, they thought they were new creatures, but just as many today, they are baptized (Rom. 6:3-4), but then continue in sin (Rom. 6:1), they have not crucified the old man (no repentance). Jesus said, "Except ye repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3).

The church in Pergamos held fast Christ's name, had not denied the faith, and some had been martyred, but they had some that held the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel. Were these new creatures or did they think they were already new creatures? (Rev. 2:12-16).

Again, in the church at Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-22) they permitted sin to be practiced, were told what it was, and if they didn't repent they were headed for great tribulation. Christ said he would give unto everyone according to their works (2 Cor. 5:10). The mystery of iniquity was already at work then (2 Thess. 2:7), so what is it today? They are turning their ears from hearing the truth while Christ is saying, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches" (Rev. 2:17).

At Sardis, their works were not found perfect before God, they were told to "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die", "Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent" (Rev. 3:1-3).

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The church at Corinth had a leaven in it that if not purged out would leaveneth the whole lump (1 Cor. 5:1-6). They also had divisions (1 Cor. 11:18), and this is contrary to God's law (1 Cor. 1:10).

The Galatians had been bewitched and were not obeying the truth (Gal. 3:1). All these churches were not following the things taught because of the old man of sin. Why were they not new creatures? Because they thought they were already good enough. (Read Jude 4-19).

In Rev. 3:14-16 the church was lukewarm (what we mean by lukewarm is - I don't see anything wrong with my life, so why should I worry.) The Lord said they would repent or be cast out of his mouth (verse 19 & 16).

The grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men teaching us to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously, and Godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12).

We either change our lives from the old man of sin, the places we used to go, the things we used to do, the things we used to wear or be cast out in the judgment (Matthew 7:18-23). The choice is yours!

Yours in Christ for a better life,
Lloyd Treat

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"THE KINGDOM: ITS BEGINNING TIME AND PLACE"

In considering the coming of the kingdom, we find that the kingdom was established on the first pentecost after the resurrection of Jesus Christ in the city of Jerusalem. Daniel of old said, "I saw in the night visions, and, behold one like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days [or to where God is], and they brought him near before him. And there was given him domination, glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed" (Dan. 7:13-14). Daniel, looking into the future said, "I saw one like the Son of man..." Jesus ascended on high, and a cloud received him out of their sight. "...behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:9-11).

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Jesus is now in heaven seated at the right hand of God. Isaiah prophesied: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills [or earthly kingdoms]; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2,3). Moses received the law on mount Sinai, and the word of the Lord (the gospel) was preached in Jerusalem. Jesus told his disciples to wait at Jerusalem, until they received the promise, or were endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:1-4). The kingdom came with power, and the apostles spake as the Spirit gave them utterance. Repentance and remission of sins were to be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). Isaiah, the prophet, said, "All nations [or people] shall flow unto it." We find recorded in Acts 2:5: "And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven."

Jesus gave the commission to the disciples: "Go teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19-20). "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:15-16). This gospel began to be preached in Jerusalem on the first pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. The prophet Joel prophesied: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh [or all people]; ...I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, fire, and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and terrible day of the Lord come" (Joel 2:28,30).

The crucifixion of Christ: "And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was rent in the midst" (Luke 23:44-45). Again: "And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent" (Matt. 27:51). On pentecost the multitude came together having heard a great sound as of a rushing mighty wind. Everyone heard the apostles speak as the Spirit gave them utterance. Jews and devout men out of every nation understood in their own tongue wherein they were born. They were confounded, and some were amazed. "Others mocking said,

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These men are full of new wine." But Peter said, "These are not drunken, as ye suppose... But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God. I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh" (Acts 2:14,16). Joel prophesied, and it was fulfilled on pentecost in Jerusalem.

We shall now notice another prophet. God speaking through the prophet to David, said, "And when thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels, and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever" (II Sam. 7:12-13). The apostle Peter, preaching the first gospel sermon in Jerusalem, said, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption... Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear" (Acts 2:29-31, 33).

These people witnessed the fulfillment of the prophesy of Daniel, Isaiah, Joel, and Samuel. These holy men all prophesied of the coming or the establishment of the kingdom. God's covenant with David is sure: "My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure for ever and his throne as the sun before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven (Ps. 89:34-37).

We conclude that the kingdom was established on the first pentecost after the resurrection of Christ. He ascended into heaven, is sitting at the right hand of God on David's throne, and is now reigning. He is Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Written by W.A. Nelson
Submitted by Ken & Verlie Baldwin

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"So then, as we have opportunity, let us work that which is good toward all men, and especially toward them that are of the household of faith." Gal. 6:10

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." Prov. 25:25

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LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Again we have been lax in writing to the Courier. This message should have been sent at least a month ago. We want to report about our wonderful week's meeting with Brother Mark Perigen doing the speaking. Brother Mark is young in years, but a lot of us older ones can learn from him. He put forth a great effort and everyone should take heed to the messages he brought to us. As he brought out in one lesson, I'm afraid it's the little things that may cause us to fall short at judgment day.

A very warm thank you to all the congregations that came to support our little congregation and Brother Mark. There was representation from long distances as well as short distances - Selah, Washington; Lorenzo, Texas; Duncanville, Texas; Newcastle, Texas; Ringgold, Texas; Randlett, Oklahoma; Baron, Oklahoma; Stilwell, Oklahoma; Lugert, Oklahoma; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Goshen, Arkansas; Bohannon Mountain, Arkansas; Cederedge, Colorado; and of course the Way's and Perigen's from Bellflower, California. We hope we did not fail to mention any who attended our meeting.

In Christian love,
Audley Barnes

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STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We here at Pleasant View seem to be doing fine healthwise with the exception of a few. Brother John and Sister Viola Brown have both been sick and hospitalized recently, but are now on the rebound.

Brother Mick Boen was put in the hospital this past Sunday afternoon for what was thought to have been an allergic reaction to some medication he was taking. We all pray he is doing better now.

We all had a pleasant visit with Brother Ken and Sister Verlie Baldwin who came to visit us for a while. They are

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always a joy to be around and we all enjoyed their visit tremendously!

I hope everyone is making plans for the Delta Camp Meeting for 1990. This is a very important time for Christians all over the U.S. to come together for a wonderful week of Christian fellowship. This past summer's camp was really great, but if more of us can come to the camp next year, it will be even better! Lord willing, my family and I are planning to attend.

Also, if any of you are planning to be in eastern Oklahoma, be sure to come and visit. There is plenty of room in all of our homes and you are all welcome any time.

I urge all young Christians to write to the Courier and get more involved because we are the future of the Churches of Christ (and besides it's good practice!)

In Christian love,
Saundra Ross (Age 22)
Rt. 5, Box 141
Stilwell, OK 74960
(918) 696-7487

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SELAH, WASHINGTON

The congregation that meets at Selah, Washington would like to relate to our brothers and sisters in Christ the passing of our dear sister, Geneva Roark, on August 15th. Sister Geneva was a member of Christ's body for many years and enjoyed greatly the fellowship of Christians. She often had brothers and sisters to her home to visit and study the word of God, in which she took great joy. Before the death of her husband, Bro. Vernon Roark, in 1982, Sister Geneva and Bro. Vernon traveled across the U.S. many times, meeting with other congregations as they traveled, and always on the look-out for faithful congregations with whom they could worship in the future.

Sister Geneva was born in North Carolina. Her roots remained there even though she lived in a number of different places. Always evident was the charm of innocence steeped in the traditions of the 'hills' of home. This, plus her unshaken faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, endeared her in the hearts of many.

Following an extended illness, Sister Geneva has gone on to be with the Lord at the age of 69. We all miss her.

SELAH, WASHINGTON

Nell and I are over here in Seattle to be with Lynell during her surgery. The operation, a total hip placement, was very successful, thanks to the Lord and all your prayers. She came home Saturday, October 14th, and is happy to be back with her family. Brother Gerald Morris is back from his travels. We were glad to see him. On arriving here, we found out Tom Putz had been baptized while in Arizona. We are all so happy. While a faithful church attender, he had not been baptized. There is much rejoicing by all. Tom and his wife, Laura, and their two children moved here from Arizona about two years ago.

While there has been the flu going around, all have survived and are in good health. Nell and I will probably start south for the winter soon. We are sorry to hear about Javan Wood breaking his leg while riding his bicycle in Ralls, Texas. He was hit by a car coming home from a friend's house. It is terrible that he had to spend his 8th birthday in traction in the hospital. All our prayers are with him and his family during his recovery.

We hope this letter finds all our brothers and sisters in good spirits and may God bless you all.

In Christian love,
Howard McCay

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RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We hope that this letter finds everyone healthy and well. We, at the Randlett, OK congregation, have a little news to report.

Roy Mullens and Kim McCormick were married Sept. 30th by Bro. Robert Eldridge of the Stilwell, OK congregation. We appreciated all the love and generosity shown by everyone.

Brother Sam Elliott has been ill and has had tests run. He is now waiting for results. Please remember him in your prayers.

We have started having Sunday evening services at 6:00 p.m. We would love to have visitors come and share this fellowship with us. We meet Sunday mornings at 10:30 also.

In Christian love,
The Randlett, OK cong.

SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings to all from the congregation here in San Pablo, California. Our prayers are with you always. We pray that you are in good health and that our God will watch over you and keep you.

We have had Brother and Sister Cotton and Pauline Lowery meeting here with us the last few Sundays. We sure enjoy having them here. They have moved to Pittsburg, California which is about 35 miles from the church house. We look forward to having them with us as much as possible. We also have the neice of Brother Louis Glynell visiting here. She has been coming to the services now for about 3 weeks. We are thankful for her presence.

Our prayers are with the brethren in Bellflower who now publish the Christian Courier. We do encourage all of the body of Christ to help out by sending them articles and letters and especially donations.

We are all doing fairly well. Brother Gene McKinney had an operation on his hand on the 10th of November. He had a large jack fall on it some time back and his finger would not heal properly, so they had to go in and remove a bone fragment from it. He is doing fairly well. Also, Sister Pat McKinney fell and injured her shoulder. She is alright, just sort of whip-lash.

We pray for all those who need the healing hand of our Lord, that He would heal them. And we pray also for those who have backsliden that they will realize their condition and come asking for forgiveness and we aresure that our gracious God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, will forgive.

That is about all the news we have for now. Remember us in your prayers.

In Christian love,
San Pablo congregation

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"So then, after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following."

Mark 16:19-20

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

The congregation at Bellflower, as a whole, is doing very well. We've all had our share of colds and flu, but nothing serious. Sister Myrtle Lee went to Austin, Texas to visit her daughter and came back very ill, but is now back on her feet and able to attend services each Sunday. Sister Earlene Chessman recently had surgery - we are happy to report she is back with us again.

Our daughter, Lori, and David McCarthy were married October 14th and they have moved to the Denver, Colorado area. We wish them happiness, as they begin their married life together.

Mark and Tammy Perigen have announced they are expecting a new addition to their family in very early June. We are all anxiously waiting to see if Stephen Claud will have a new brother or sister.

We all rejoiced with Earlene Chessman, when her daughter, Regina Dunn, was baptized a few weeks ago. Our hearts were uplifted to see her begin her walk as a babe in Christ.

Recent visitors have been brothers and sisters Bill and Veda McCay, Robert and Ellen McCay, Kelly and Kathy McCay and their family, Dean and Kay Guyer, Al and Charlotte Burtis, Vernon Bentz, Larry Brockman and Eric Harper. Many of these brothers spoke for us and we heard some very excellent lessons. We are always happy to see our loved ones and to meet brothers and sisters from other congregations as they pass through. We are small in number and it's nice to see some different faces.

Our love to the brethren,
Jerry Perigen for the
Bellflower congregation

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"Then said he unto the disciples, It is impossible but that offenses will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones. Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him."

Luke 17:1-4

"TO YOKE OR NOT TO YOKE"

II Cor. 6:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with an unbeliever."

I had heard three opinions on this verse -- 1) not yoked in marriage to unbelievers, 2) not yoked in business to unbelievers, and 3) not yoked at all to unbelievers, which appears to me to be right.

Since we are not to be yoked to an unbeliever, the question seems to be, what is an unbeliever? Some feel that anyone who believes there is a God is a believer, which gives a lot of latitude. As by a recent survey, it was concluded that 99% of the people believe there is a God. What does the Bible teach?

I Cor. 6:5-6 "Is there not a wise man among you that shall be able to judge between brethren? But brother goes to law against brother and that before the unbeliever.
Conclusion: unbelievers are not brethren.

Luke 12:40-46 Speaks of the unfaithful servant who, when the Lord comes, will have his portion with the unbelievers.
Conclusion: unbelievers are not servants of God.

Acts 14:2 "The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles against the brethren.
Conclusion: While the Jews believed in God, they opposed the Church of our Lord.

Romans 11:31 Even so have these also now not believed (RV: obeyed) that through your mercy they also may obtain mercy. For God hath concluded them all in unbelief that he might have mercy on all.
Conclusion: He will have mercy on all that obey him.

I Tim. 1:13 "I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.
Conclusion: We know Paul was very zealous and believed in God, but he hadn't obeyed Him.

Jer. 11:11 "Thus sayeth the Lord, God of Israel, cursed be the man that obeyeth not the words of his covenant which I command.
Conclusion: is it not only a matter of believing in God, it is in obeying Him.

Rom. 6:17 "God be thanked that ye were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you. Being then made

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free from sin ye became the servants of Righteousness. Conclusion: All who are not obedient members of God's family are unbelievers.

Written in Christian love,
Howard McCay
3904 Knobel #8
Yakima, WA 98902

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"WHAT A BARREL OF WHISKEY CONTAINS"

A barrel of headaches, of heartaches, of woes;
A barrel of curses, a barrel of blows;
A barrel of sorrow, for a loving, weary wife;
A barrel of care, a barrel of strife;
A barrel of unavailing strife;
A barrel of cares, a barrel of debt;
A barrel of hunger, poison, of pain;
A barrel of hopes all blasted and vain;
A barrel of poverty, ruin and blight;
A barrel of tears that run in the night;
A barrel of crime, a barrel of groans;
A barrel of orphans, most pitiful moans;
A barrel of serpents that hiss as they pass;
That glow from the liquor in the bead of the glass;
A barrel of falsehoods; a barrel of cries
That fall for the maniac's lips as he dies;

Look not upon the wine that sparkles in its flow,
for death is slumbering there, beneath its ruddy glow.
No happiness it bringeth, at last it only stingeth;
It biteth, and it wringeth the heart with bitter woe.

Lift up the tempted soul now fallen in despair.
Direct his thoughts above, to God, who heareth his child's prayer.
His arm in mighty power can bid the demon cower,
And in temptation's hour, will an escape prepare.

- F.E. Belden

EDITORS' NOTE

We at Bellflower are happy and thankful to be offering our services to the congregations and to Jesus Christ in putting out the Christian Courier. We realize what a great undertaking it is, as we have had this responsibility in the past.

Responsibility is the key word in that sentence. We as a body of editors are responsible ultimately to God and our Lord for what this publication prints and for what it stands for. We regard this responsibility to God very greatly. Our first and only criteria for what is printed will be truth. However, the truth can be used in such a way as to tear down, point the finger, or raise the level of turmoil already existing in the church. Timing of certain topics is crucial also. Sometimes, with the best intentions, we submit an article that will only heighten tensions among brethren. We need to be sensitive to these concerns as well.

Therefore, our standard for articles is this: to teach in truth AND sincerity, and we ask all potential authors to consider motives and timing when writing. We welcome articles with strict teachings or observations of problems in the church as a whole, this is primarily what Jesus, Paul, Peter and other writers were concerned with in their ministries. Remember: teach the truth in love and leave personal differences on a plane that is not so public.

As far as editing is concerned, (the decision of which articles will or will not be printed), we will compare articles with what we see scripture teaches. All articles that the editors feel don't match with biblical teaching will be returned to the author with a full explanation of the discrepancies we have found. Let's be practical, we all have differences of opinions on certain important issues facing the community of believers today, and this will no doubt be reflected in the tone of the paper. This is only natural. We have no doubt that wherever the paper goes, to any congregation in the Church, that their belief system will enter into the editor's decisions. Please be understanding about this and know that we are sincere in our endeavors to print a paper that is based on truth and grounded in love.

As mentioned earlier, the editing will be done by the men of the congregation at Bellflower providing a broad based level of decisions.

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We pray that all we do is in keeping with scripture and the love and leadership of our Lord Jesus. We will try to provide a publication to build up, restore, and enhance our walk with God. And, Lord willing, he will lead us to grow together through your articles and letters to The Christian Courier.

- The Editors

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Yuma, Arizona	Dec. 24-31, 1989	Guest Speakers
Glenwood, Washington	July 29-Aug. 5, 1990	Dan Teague
Cederedge, Colorado	June 30-July 8, 1989	Camp

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MARRIAGES

Brother Roy Mullens and Sister Kim McCormick of Randlett, Oklahoma were united in marriage on September 30, 1989.

David McCarthy and Lori Perigen were united in marriage on October 14, 1989.

Congratulations to both couples and may you have a long, healthy, and happy together in the Lord.

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DEATHS

We were saddened to hear the deaths of Sister Geneva Roark of Selah, Washington who passed away on August 15, 1989 and the death of Danny Lyons, son of Sister Betty Jones of Citrus City, Arizona.

Our love and prayers go out to their families and loved ones.

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Brother Jim Rollins of Ashland, Kansas has had two surgeries and is very ill. He is home now and would appreciate the prayers of everyone. Cards would also help him to know that we all care. His address is: P.O. Box 91, Ashland, KS 67831.

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Please send all correspondence to 17103 Bixby Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706. The deadline for the printing of any current articles and newsletters is the 15th of each month. This will enable us to reach our goal and have The Christian Courier printed and sent out to each congregation by the first of each month.