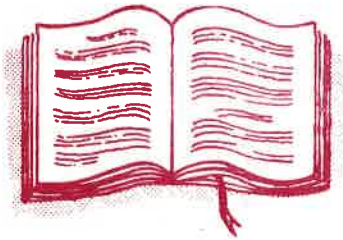
The Christian Courier



Send all correspondence to 17103 Bixby Avenue, Bellflower, CA 90706

MAY 1990

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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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"TEMPORALITY OF TRIBULATIONS"

The optimism of Christian patience rejects the false notion that sorrow and pain are ultimate facts. They are only temporary, just like life is on the earth temporary.

Someone frantically said one day: "They say that the world is coming to an end." And I heard someone say, (I can't remember who it was) "Never mind, we can get along without it." Yes, the Christian can survive without the world. He knows that it is not his eternal abiding place. He calmly endures the stresses and strains of his earthly existence because his faith is pointed heavenward and his hope, or confident desire and expectancy, is to inherit life in the realm of eternal day. (Romans 8:24-25) "For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for what we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." (2 Cor. 4:16-18) "For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen

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are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." (Acts 14:22) "Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God." (Romans 5:3-4) "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope." (2 Thess. 1:4-5) "So that we ourselves glory in you in the church of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure: Which is a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer." (James 1:12) "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (2 Peter 3:13-14) "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless."

In Christian love,
Homer Bryant
San Pablo, California

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"HOW MANY STANDS?"

In I Cor. 10:1-12 we have a lot of things that are common to man brought forth, and Paul concludes by saying (verses 11 and 12) "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." Yet after this warning, how many of us ever give a thought but that we are right.

I was invited to a religious Easter service of celebration and the one that invited me thought she was right. I told her that the Bible said (Col. 3:17) "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name (by the authority) of the Lord." She agreed, then said they were going to celebrate it, thinking she was right. As I Cor. 10:7 says "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play." (Ex. 32:6) and when they were doing this, they sure weren't eating and drinking of Christ, and neither are we (I Cor. 11:26-27) when we mix in with the worldly pleasures of the

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people around us. They think it strange that we won't go with them in their pleasures of life (1 John 2:15-16).

We find in James 2:14 "What does it profit, my brethren, though a man say he has faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" Why do people go spend $40 or $50 to go see a football game and they will not give $20 to help a brother in need? James 2:15-16 says if you see a brother or sister have need, naked and in need of daily food and you don't give them what is needful, I ask, can your faith save you?

What about giving more earnest heed to Eccl. chapter 11 and Hebrews 2:1-3. Why is it that we as young people see nothing wrong with the world we live in and way that we live and dress? (2 Cor. 6:16-17) We are to be different people for we know God will bring us into judgment (Eccl. 11:8) with every secret thing, and why is childhood and youth vain? For the Spirit speaks in 1 Tim. 4:1 that "some shall depart fromthe faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils." And 2 Peter 2:2 said, "many shall follow their pernicious ways: by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of." Now Jude 11 said "Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core." As did those in verse 12, "These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds they are without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead." The first time when they know they ought to do right and don't do it, (James 4:17), and the second time when they continue in sin (Rom. 6:23). With whom was he not well pleased? So let us fear and take heed lest we fall (or be deceived) even by our own mind.

Stop; Look; Listen - before doing things you think are okay.

In love of the truth,
Lloyd Treat

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We are the sheep in the pastures here below to our Good Shepherd we must always go in prayer with love to our Father above. He knows our needs but he likes to hear us ask him please.

We shall eat of his flesh and drink of his blood until we drink it anew around the great throne with our Father above where there is indeed pure love.

What a joy to know there is a wonderful place to go, peace and joy in store with our Lord and Saviour forever more.

-Submitted by June Auslam

"THE PROGRESSIVE CHURCH"

I remember hearing this phrase when I was very young and thinking what a nice sounding word "progressive" is. It was explained to my young ears that these were churches who left the original patterns left to man by God and moved on to their own belief systems and practices, thus improving God's ways. Why don't I hear this phrase any longer? Perhaps it is because we have become "progressive"ourselves.

I can remember in my short lifetime of 27 years when missing a church service was termed a "sin" and something to be taught against. What's happening leaders? Why does attendance drop 40% or more on Sunday evenings? Is it any less important simply because communion is not observed?

Take a look at Hebrews 10:25 and for a much needed change, consider the verse following. Verse 26 reads "For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins." Missing services is not so trivial as we make it out to be. Leaders, it's your responsibility to teach this publicly and privately to the flock you have been charged with.

What other area have we progressed in? Well, can anyone think back 50 years or so when adultery was considered a bad word? Shame on us for making perhaps the most repugnant sin in the sight of God something the Church passively approves of. Oh, but on paper or in debates we adamantly uphold God's disgust for such a sin. But back home when we have to think of "the kids" or "the unity of the congregation" or "maybe if we love them, they'll repent", and we most actively agree that, yes, "leaven" can be in the "lump" and if we tip-toe around the subject, the "leaven" will be made as whole as the "lump". Amen? Wrong!!

Paul tells us just the opposite in 1 Cor. 5. It is the local congregation that is tarnished and poisoned when the adulterer(s) are accepted and approved of. Boy, we have come a long way in 50 years! Our arguments "justifying" adulterers are becoming more elaborate as the years go by. The plain truth is - it's sin. The plain truth is - they're sinners. The plain truth is - we think we have a better idea of discipline than God does. The plain truth is - we're progressive.

Concerned for the Church,
Mark Perigen

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

Prov. 25:25

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RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

Dear Loved Ones in Christ:

We would like to write and let everyone know how appreciated their visits are to us at the Randlett congregation. In February, Brother George and Sister Retha Morris visited and we had a great time of fellowship. Brother George brought us a good lesson Sunday. In March, Brothers Gerald Buckner, Russell Morris, and Dennis (sorry Dennis, we never really did get your last name) drove down from Stillwell, Oklahoma. We all enjoyed the time spent together visiting and worshipping. Brother Gerald also brought a good lesson that Sunday.

We always have an open home ready for visitors to come visit and meet with us. Our congregation is growing and we are excited that the Lord has blessed us in this way.

We hope to visit some this summer. We hope no one will hesitate to do the same. We look forward to each and every one.

Love in Christ,
The Church of Christ
Randlett Congregation

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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brethren:

There is not much news from here. We are very happy that Brother Isaac Ferguson is giving lessons on Sunday mornings again. He did a real good job on the one lesson he has given so far. We need all the help we can get.

We want to announce our meeting this summer from June 3rd to June 10th. Brother Audley Barnes from the Loco, Oklahoma congregation will be the speaker. We are a little

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late planning this, but anyone that can, come and be with us during the week.

We can find a place for everyone to stay. All visitors are welcome at any time.

In Christian love,
Paul Andrews

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings from all of us here in San Pablo. We send our love and prayers to you all, thanking God for His love and tender mercy toward us. We pray that all is well with you and we continue our prayers for Kim McCay while she is recouperating from her operation. God has answered our prayers in that the operation went well and she is on the road to recovery. Our prayers also go out to Sister Way for a speedy recovery, and for Brother Al Way also.

We have been blessed with many visitors during our singing we had March 4th. We had a wonderful sermon from the Word of God brought to us by Brother J.D. Logan of Stockton, California, and after services we enjoyed a fine lunch prepared by the Sisters and dear friends, who came to be with us. We enjoyed all who attended, and of course we were blessed with some good singing. The fellowship was a blessing and we welcome all to come back as soon as they can. Everyone is welcome at any time.

In attendance were J.D. and Fern Logan, along with their grandson, Aaron Logan; Brother and Sister Mike and Charlotte Brockman, their daughter, Angela, and son J.R.; Brother Louis and Melody Glynell, and son James; Sister Kathy Maddox, and daughter, Rhonda, and grandchildren, Jason and Rachael. Sister Melody Glynell had her brother and his fiance visiting also. And from Vallejo, California, Paris English and family were with us. Brother and Sister Cotton and Pauline Lowery from Pittsburg, California attended. All together we had 37 there, and for us that is a large crowd. Like most congregations of the Church of Christ, we are only a few in number who are trying to follow after God's teachings.

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I don't think I have left anyone out, except those who attend regularly like myself and my family, and Brother and Sister Gene and Pat McKinney, and Brother and Sister Jack and Mable Cooper. I did forget one other person, and I hope she forgives me. Our beloved Becky McKinney. Sorry Becky. We love you and were thankful you were there too.

All here are well and are thankful for our good health, and some of us are looking forward to attending some of the meetings that will be held this year.

In Christian love,
Homer Bryant
San Pablo Congregation

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Church here at Yuma is doing well. There are several who are ill at this writing. Brother Ken Baldwin has injured his back and is going to Pheonix for examination and treatment. Sister Mary Long has had several strokes and doesn't do very well much of the time. Sister Ruth Duncan has a permanent back injury and is in pain much of the time. Sister Valerie Davis is bravely combating a battle with cancer. She has cancer in her spine, liver and chest wall. She is but thirty years of age with two young daughters. In your prayers for all, please say a special prayer for Valerie.

This past Sunday, April 1st, we had lunch at the kitchen here. We had a wonderful time together. At this time we are having singing and sometimes a cook-out on Saturday evenings. We are having the best of times, singing and being together.

Plans are to have a meeting this winter. Guest speakers everyday has been decided. There are R.V. facilities and the kitchen is available for guests. The Christmas school break may be a good time for some and will be announced a bit later.

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Brother Tony Brister and family, Al Jones and wife of Citrus City were guests this past Sunday, April 8th, with Brother Tony being our guest speaker.

Our love and prayers to all,
The Church of Christ
Avenue B, Yuma, Arizona

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LA HABRA, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Shame on me for not writing to the Courier before now. We seem to get tied up in our own world and forget to stay in touch with some of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In reading the April issue of the Courier, we noticed a couple of articles which were not very good news. One referenced Sisters Betty and Tammy Perigen being rear-ended by another car. The other stated Brother Al Way having a bout with cancer. We pray everyone will recover fully.

In the La Habra congregation most everyone is okay, except as noted. Brother Gabe Auslam continues to fight against liver cancer, and Sister Jane Ferguson continues to have migrane headaches. Please pray for those here who continue to be ill.

Now for some good news. Brother Mike Burkhart is coming along nicely with his share in the preaching. Brother Mike and Sister Christine had a beautiful 8 lb. 9 oz. baby girl on March 23rd, 1990. Her name is Linay Yolanda Burkhart.

Mary and I, with God's help, are making plans to sell our home in Fontana and move to Arkansas, where Lord willing, we will start a business. I am leaving my present job as of May 11th and hope to set up shop in June or July in Arkansas. Hopefully, we will go to the Goshen Church of Christ. Please pray for us.

In Christian love,
Mary and Marion Serrano

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

Greetings from the OKC Congregation:

We in OKC are doing fine. I have not written to the Courier since Bellflower has begun publishing the paper. I will try to improve and write more often. We have some bad news from this direction. Sister Oneeda Johnson of the Elk City congregation passed away March 14, 1990. She was a fine lady and a good Christian. I got to know her and her husband Cletus through their son, Geary of the OKC congregation. She will be missed by many. The Elk City congregation has had a difficult year. Sister Nora Atchley died in January and now Sister Oneeda in March. They were very good friends as well as Sisters in Christ. Please remember the Elk City congregation in your prayers because they are few in number and their losses have been great this year. Sister Oneeda and Cletus would have celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on March 24, 1990.

We also have some good news from this direction. The Church in OKC has purchased some property and Lord willing we will begin having services there beginning on June 10th. Until that time we will continue to meet at our present location. The address of the new building is:

Church of Christ, 2100 N. Moore, Nicoma Park, Oklahoma

We do not receive mail at this location, but that is the address of the building. We also have enclosed a map to aid any who are in this area in finding our new meeting place. We want to thank all for their support in aiding in our obtaining this building. I cannot list all who have helped, but I would like to give a special thanks on behalf of Sister Oneeda who found out of our plans to acquire a building for the Church here in OKC and gave us help both emotionally and financially. I want to also thank her husband, Cletus, for his gift in her name.

God bless each and every one of you. Life is difficult, and death reminds us of that, but God has given us hope - and his name is Jesus Christ.

Love,
OKC Congregation

(Please continue for directions of the new building).

DIRECTIONS TO OKLAHOMA CITY'S NEW BUILDING

Exit from Interstate 40 on Anderson Road (8 miles east of Downtown Oklahoma City). Go north approximately 2 miles to SE 15th, go west 2 miles to Post Road and SE 15th. Go approximately 2.6 miles north on Post Road to NE 17th. Go 2 blocks east on NE 17th to Moore Avenue. Go north on Moore approximately 3 blocks. The Church is on the east side of the road.

Due to printing limitations, we were unable to print a copy of the map that was sent. If anyone needs a copy of the map, please write to the Courier for a copy or contact:

Roger Walkingstick
700 S.E. 38th
Moore, OK 73160
(405) 793-9489

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We at the Bellflower congregation are doing fair. We are still passing colds back and forth, but hopefully are on the mend now that the weather is warmer.

My wife, Okja, my son, Alfred, and I took a week's vacation to visit my mother in Oregon. We were able to visit and worship with Brother and Sister Tom and Charlene Broadway on the way (April 8th). We were also able to visit with Brother and Sister J.L. and Eunice Jared while we were in Salem. We really enjoyed ourselves and had a wonderful time. Unfortunately, while we were on our vacation, we were involved in a minor car accident (rear-end collision). The Lord was watching carefully over us and we were not seriously hurt. My wife and I have been seeing a doctor to get our backs and necks in place.

Sister Betty Perigen is now recouperating from an operation (hysterectomy) performed on April 19th. She was in the hospital for about 5 days, but is home now and on the road to a full recovery, with the Lord's help.

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Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse was not able to be with us last Sunday, as she has her good and bad days.

We are praying for Sisters Betty and Myrtle Lee and ask your prayers for all of us here.

Brother and Sister Gerald and Natalie Brockman were visiting the Chico congregation on April 15th. We were glad to see them return as we are small in number and when someone is gone, we really notice it.

We are looking forward to our meeting and invite any and all to come worship with us.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you, our love be with you all in Christ Jesus.

Written for the Bellflower congregation,
Al Way

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"The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that he may judge his people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: for God is judge himself. Selah."

"If I were hungry, I would not tell thee: for the world is mine, and the fulness thereof. Will I eat the flesh of bulls, or drink the blood of goats? Offer unto God thanksgiving; and pay thy vows unto the Most High: and call upon me in the day of trouble: I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

- Psalm 50:1-6
Psalm 50:12-15

GOSPEL MEETINGS

GOSHEN, AR	June 3 - 10	Audley Barnes
CEDAREDGE, CO	June 30 - July 8	Camp
WATERFORD, CA	July 1 - 8	Bill McCay Sr.
		Bobby Lamb
BELLFLOWER, CA	July 8 - 15	Howard McCay
LORENZO, TX	July 22 - 29	Mark Perigen
GLENWOOD, WA	July 29 - Aug. 5	Dan Teague
YAKIMA, WA	August 5 - 12	Camp

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"CAMP MEETING TIME"

It's camp meeting time in Delta - Cedaredge, Colorado. The date is June 30th to July 8th and we are expecting you and your friends. IT'S FREE!!

If you are planning on flying into Grand Junction or Montrose, Colorado, let us know and we will arrange for someone to pick you up. See you soon!!

Love & Prayers,
Ken & Verlie Baldwin

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BIRTHS

We are joyed to report an addition to the Kingdom of God. Born to Brother and Sister Mike and Christine Burkhart of the La Habra congregation was a baby girl, Linay Yolanda Burkhart. Congratulations to both of you and to the grandparents as well.

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DEATHS

Sister Oneeda Johnson of the Elk City, Oklahoma congregation passed on to eternity on March 14, 1990. Our hearts go out to her family and friends. We all know too well how it feels to lose a loved one. God bless you and give you comfort in your grief.