# The Christian Courier



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

AUGUST 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."

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## "LOVING GOD: OUR ULTIMATE RESPONSE"

There are not enough people who encourage us in life. As a matter of fact, I find that a majority of people have a way of discouraging us rather than affirming us and offering us fresh confidence to go on.

I would like to use a good example: A young man told this story and I would like to use it as an illustration, that pertains to this subject. Quoting, as I remember it: "There was a large restless croud on a pier. Upon investigation I discovered that the object of all the attention was a young man making last-minute preparations for a solo journey around the world in a homemade boat. Without exception everyone on the pier was vocally pessimistic. All were actively volunteering to tell the ambitious sailor all the things that could possibly go wrong. "The sun will boil you." "You won't have enough food or water." "Why that little boat of yours won't withstand the waves in storm." "YOU WON'T MAKE IT!!!"

When I heard all these discouraging warnings to the adventurous young man, I felt an irresistible desire to offer some optimism and encouragement. As the little craft began drifting away from the pier out toward the open sea, I went to the end of the pier, waving both hands and shouting....Bon voyage....have a great trip....we are proud of you....We

are with you....may God go with you....and give you a safe journey...."

Can't you picture that scene? Everybody on the pier saying, "You'll never make it" and here is one lone person saying, "Yes, you can".

What is true in life in general, is also true about the christian life in particular. You and I are in the little boat. And that little boat has put out to sea. We are on our journey toward knowing and obeying God. Have you noticed how few there are who stand alongside as we push out into the worldly sea, saying: "Good for you! Go for it! You can make it! You're on the right track! God be with you!"

I feel like we need many more who can say such affirming things to all who desire to grow in their knowledge of the Word of God. In fact, I think as myself on the pier cheering you on...(as a minister of God)...because I believe in your journey. And I believe that if you have made the decision to come to God, through Jesus Christ, His Son, He will honor that decision and give you a good head wind and a strong helm so you can discover that ocean of truth that stretches out before you.

May I encourage you to never stop exploring the Word of God. Never lose that love for knowledge. Never stop rowing your little boat.

Tucked away in the fifth book of the Bible is a profound statement and a wonderful command. I want you to see both statement and command together in Deuteronomy 6, verses 5 and 6. The command is preceded by the statement. Let's look first at the statement, which talks about knowing God, and then let's observe the command, which addresses the importance of loving God.

Deuteronomy 6:4 is one of the most familiar statements in all of Jewish liturgy, "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord". You can't see it in the English language, but in the Hebrew that word ONE conveys the idea of "one in multiple", one as in a "cluster" or "group". ECHAD is the Hebrew word...it is the term for one, as in a cluster of grapes. "The Lord our God is one Lord, one in the Father, one in the Son, one in the Spirit." Moses says: "Hear, O Israel, and come to know him as your only God". That statement has to do with knowing God. Now the command: (verse 5) "And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might." How significant was this? He now explains its importance. "And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and


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shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."

God is saying... This is something I want you to put on your heart, men and women. And then as I bring children into your family, these are the things I want you to teach them. Not simply as an intellectual exercise, but I want it to be the warp and the woof of your lives. I want my word to characterize your lifestyle. And I want your children to absorb my word so when you are no longer there, they will cling to them and my word will guide them in their lives.

Question: Would your children still be strong in the faith and love God if you were not on the scene? Have you taught them enough about the Word of God that they will love it, and love God no matter if you are there or not? Think on this. Do you love God enough to teach your family the word of God? Do you love your family enough to teach them the word of God? Your children not only need the word of God taught to them, but they need it modeled. Yes, they need those things woven into the fabric of their childhood memories. They need encouragement.

In Christian love,
Homer Bryant
1273 Plumleigh Lane
Concord, CA

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"DESTRUCTION"

Why did God make man? To destroy him? Consider Prov. 31:8 "Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction". I ask this question because I cannot find all of the answers. If others would write and send me scriptures on this subject, it will be greatly appreciated. I will give some to consider here.

In Rom. 9:13 "As it is written, Jacob have I loved but Esau have I hated". Why did God hate Esau even before he was born? God speaks on this in Rom. 9:17-23 "For the Scripture saith unto Pharaoh, Even for this same purpose have I raised thee up, that I might show my power in thee, that

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my name might be declared throughout all the earth. Therefore hath he mercy on whom he will have mercy, and whom he will he hardeneth. Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will? Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus? Hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honor, and another unto dishonor? What if God, willing to show his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much long-suffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: and that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory".

We see in this reading that God made Pharoah and raised him up that he might destroy him. Why? Why does he make vessels unto honor and others to be destroyed?

In Prov. 30:12-14 there is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. "There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up: there is a generation whose teeth are as swords, and their jawteeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men." Did God make them that way? If so, why?

In 2 Peter 2:1 we see that there were to be false teachers in the last days. Did God make them that way? "As there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction." Did God make them for destruction?

2 Peter 2:6, 10, 12 "And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly." Verse 10 - "But chiefly them that walk after the flesh in the lust of uncleaness, and despise government. Presumptuous are they, self willed, they are not afraid to speak evil of dignities." Verse 12 - "But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption." Did God make them that way?

Rom. 1:28 "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient." Did God make them that way? If so, can the thing formed say to him that formed him, "why hast thou made me thus", if God has hardened their heart. As in Rom. 9:21, are they the vessels



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made to dishonor? Notice verse 22 "the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction." As we find in Gen. 25:23 there were two manner (or kind) of people born to Rebekah, Jacob's wife. One God loved and the other he hated, as Rom. 9:13 states. The two boys were two nations of people and God hated one and loved the other. Why? In Matt. 7:13-14 "wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat." Are those in the broad way made to go there? In 2 Tim. 4:3-4 those people will "not endure sound doctrine: but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears: and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables." Did God make them for this purpose?

In Acts 20:30 "Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." Why? The elders of their own group were going to do this. Were they those "vessels made to destruction"? I Cor. 3:18 "let no man deceive himself? If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise." Are we among this group? Gal. 6:7-8 - Are we deceived, who are the vessels made to destruction?

Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, OK 74728

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

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## OLIVEHURST, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a few lines to let everyone know we are doing fine after some of the members had colds. Some of the members here, myself included, went to the Penn Valley congregation for worship on June 10th for a pot-luck dinner and we heard a good lesson from Brother Eric Smith and his family who were also visiting from Rio Linda, California. Brother Ken Harper and his family and the congregation were all doing well and enjoyed having visitors. Mr. Aceol Wells came with

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and he lives in Olivehurst and has been attending worship with us here. He came forward, confessed Christ and I baptized him. There was much joy here for our new brother in Christ. We hope this finds all well - everyone is welcome to come and worship with us. Keep us in your prayers.

In Christian love,
Lee McDonald
2183 Gold Leaf Way
Marysville, CA 95901

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## FURNISH CANYON

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a note from those here. Everyone is fine. Sister Millye Francis is still doing fine healthwise.

Sister Carmen Couchman passed on. She was residing in a nursing home at Trinidad, Colorado. The burial was at Kim, Colorado the last of April, by the side of Brother Clyde Couchman.

Enclosed please find a check to help with the Courier.

For the Church at
Furnish Canyon,
Kenton, OK 73946
Billy L. Richardson

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## YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Our love and best wishes from all of us to all of you. The Church here in Yuma is doing well. The summer months are here and quite a number of people have left unto the cool weather returns.

Several brothers and sisters are not feeling well. Brother Earl Broadway hasn't been doing very good since he had his pacemaker implanted. Sister Valerie Davis has not been doing well either.

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The Cedaredge Camp Meeting started the first and Robert Davis and family, Harry Davis and family are attending the meeting.

Everyone remember the meeting here in Yuma from December 23rd thru the 30th. We will have guest speakers each day. R.V. hook-ups, kitchen, showers and bathroom facilities are available. There may be a couple of camp trailers available.

Our thoughts and prayers are always with you,
The Church at Yuma

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

We here at Bellflower have just completed a very uplifting meeting held by Brother Howard McCay. We wish to thank him for his efforts and all those who came from so far to support him and hear him preach God's word. He brought us some very uplifting and strengthing lessons admonishing us that as Christians we must be zealous in word and deed keeping ourselves unspotted from the world.

We had two young ladies request prayers of the Church.

Included amongst our visitors that came were Clif and Wanda Brockman of the Chico, Califonia congregation; Earlene, Kim and Chris Forsman of the Lorenzo, Texas congregation; Brandon Howe of the Duncanville, Texas congregation; Jerry McCay of the Lorenzo, Texas congregation; Ellis and Lynell Forsman of the Seattle, Washington congregation; Threasa and Shawna McKinney of the Seattle, Washington congregation; Gene and Pat McKinney of the San Pablo, California congregation; Homer and Bonnie Bryant of the San Pablo, California congregation; Jo Williams of the Loco, Oklahoma congregation Beverly, Brian and Angie Ross of the Baron, Oklahoma congregation; Vernon Bentz of the Chico, California congregation; Larry Brockman of the Chico, California congregation; Bret and Peggy Harper of the Penn Valley, California congregation; Lori Forsman of the Seattle, Washington congregation; Eric Harper of the Sacramento, California congregation; Kurt and Jeanine Harper of the Waterford, California congregation; Marion and Mary Serrano of the La Habra, California congregation; Jason Thompson of Visalia, California; and Myrtle Lee Clouse's daughter, Ruby, attended also who is visiting


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from Texas.

Once again we thank you Howard and all those who attended to help make our meeting spiritually uplifting. In addition, we wish to express our appreciation to Sister Nell McCay for the the numerous hours of toil she put into making covers for Bibles for all who were here.

Unfortunately, we have some illness amongst our congregation. Sister Burdette Perigen is having a bout with re-occuring cancer. Presently she is having tests completed and is expected to have surgery soon. Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse has been hospitalized and in intensive care due to pneumonia and other complications. She is out of intensive care now. Our prayers are with them and that the Lord will restore them to their normal health.

Brother Mark and Sister Tammy Perigen and Brother Jerry and Sister Betty Perigen will soon be leaving for the meetings Brother Mark will be holding in Texas and Oklahoma. May the Lord grant them a safe journey and may much good come from Brother Mark's labors in the Lord.

We ask that you pray for those that are sick, those who are weak and for the brotherhood everywhere that we will remain faithful in the Lord.

In Christian love,
Martin Brockman for the
Bellflower congregation

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## GOSPEL MEETINGS

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| GLENWOOD, WA | July 29 - Aug. 5 | Dan Teague |
| YAKIMA, WA | August 5 - 12 | Camp |
| YUMA, AZ | December 23 - 30 | Guest Speakers |

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## BAPTISMS

Aceol Wells of the Olivehurst, California congregation.

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## DEATHS

Sister Carmen Couchman of the Furnish Canyon congregation.