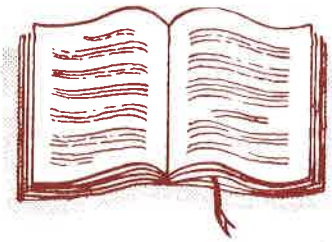
The Christian Courier



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

APRIL 1991

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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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THE WAY GOD DEALS WITH CARNAL WAR

God's way - Romans 13:1-6 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is not power but of God: The powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? Do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the SWORD in vain: for he is the minister of God. A revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing."

The sword spoken of in this passage is the Carnal (fleshly) sword to be carried out by the world and the leaders that God has put into power, to subdue evil or evil leaders. They are the ministers of God's will.

How does God expect Christians to respond to Carnal War? 2 Cor. 10:1-4 "Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you: But I beseech you, that I may not be bold when I am present with that confidence, wherewith I think to be bold against some, which think of us as if we walked

according to the flesh. For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;). Matt. 26:50-52 "And Jesus said unto him, Friend, wherefore are thou come? Then came they, and laid hands on Jesus and took him. And, behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand, and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear. Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword." Rom. 12:19 "Dearly beloved avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, vengeance is min; I will repay saith the Lord." (Refer to Rom. 13:4). Matt. 26:39 "And he went a little farther, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: Never the less not as I will but as thou wilt." We hee here Christ submitting his self unto God's will. And we are to be Christ like (Christian) submitting ourselves unto God's will.

Now we see through this study we find that God has two ways of dealing with the world: 1) Carnally, with rulers; 2) Spiritually, with Christians.

Concerning the young Christian men and women that might be subject to the draft or contemplating going into the armed forces, there was a letter submitted to the War Department of the United States in 1928 that states that the Church of Christ members are conscientious objects to war and what it involves. Please take into consideration the facts.

Fact: Christ said if you love me keep my commandments. Matt. 5:44 "Love your enemies bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you. And pray for them that despitefully use you, and persecute you. Heb. 10:25 "Not to forsake the assembling or yourselves together as the manner of some is." Acts 20:7 "Upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread." John 6:53 "Unless you eat of my flesh and drink of my blood, you have no life in you." 2 Cor. 4:14 "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness?

Breaking these commandments will surely jeopardize your soul salvation at the day of judgement. If any would like a copy of the letter that was submitted tot he war department in 1928 and is now on file to the defense of our conviction please write me requesting a copy and I will send one to you. The letter of 1928 is filed under file no. AG00031 Church of Christ (1-25-28) with the government.

Submitted with Christian love,
John McKinney
911 South 11th Avenue
Yakima, WA 98902

MISLEADING THE YOUTH

What message are we sending our youth? It seems we have more brethren preaching conformity than we have brothers preaching abstinence as the best policy for young christians. What's happening to our sense of example and leadership? Let's stop beating around the bush - if you want to prove that dancing is okay, say so. Which is it? Folk, two-step, dirty dancing, slow, or all. Is it okay at a club, school, beach party, bar, boyfriend's house? Young Christians want to know!

How much alcohol can I ingest? One, two or three beers? Is it only wine we can drink or can I tip the bottle of whiskey with my buddies (in moderation of course)? When do I stop drinking - is it when I start to feel warm inside, happy, fuzzy headed, or dizzy? Young Christians want to know!

As a young Christian, I'm looking to the 21st century when liberalism has swept my country when, as in Sweden, heroine and cocaine are legal to ingest. May I indulge? I have heard proponents of marijuana insist that they are much more "in tune" with their surroundings after smoking pot then when they have had just a couple of drinks. I think the day is coming when this drug will be sold openly and legally (as it was not many years back). What about this drug? Young Christians want to know!

I want you all to think very hard - you are promoting the use of a drug which kills teenagers every day, which is involved in most violent crimes; wives are battered, children abused, homes are wrecked under its influence.

Brethren, there are teenage alcoholics - kids that never had a chance once they experienced its grip. Kids that maybe never had anyone to say "just stay away from the stuff." What is the church telling them - sips are alright but use your own discretion? I'm so sad in thinking that kids are going to quote Bro. so & so as their green light to drink.

As teachers, look beyond the thrill of intellectual victory and realize that you're not just proving your point, you're proving to be dismal leaders to many young people who struggle with these questions every day.

From a Young Christian
Who Wants to Know

THE UNFRUITFUL WORKS OF DARKNESS

Eph. 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." NAS "And do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead expose them."

Many times it goes through a Christian's mind, "why can't I go to a bar and have a drink?" or even more so, "why can't I go to a dance hall with my friends as long as I don't drink?" I've been faced with these questions myself and I know there are others in the church who face them as well.

There is a phrase in Eph. 5:11 that we must dissect - we must study the individual meanings of the parts of the this phrase so that we can understand the whole phrase. "...the unfruitful works of darkness..."

Let's look at "unfruitful." To paraphrase John 15:1-6: if we do not abide in Christ and produce fruit by doing Christian deeds and functions, we will be gathered like unfruitful branches and cast into the fire. (Not only this, but we have been chosen and ordained to bring forth fruit - John 15:16) So how can we be a part of anything unfruitful?

The second part of this phrase explains why such worldly participation is unfruitful. Because it is the "works of darkness..." But why is going to a dance hall or catching a bar on the way home from work, school, etc. considered to be works of darkness?

First and foremost, because these things were not invented by God. God gave us plenty of fruitful works to do. Look to Gal. 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, against such there is no law." I know if I did all these things in one day, I would be much too tired to go to a dance hall.

Secondly, we are told not to participate in worldly activity, and since God id not invent bars and dance halls, they are worldly. The works of the flesh are named in Gal. 5:19-21 but notice especially the 21st verse "drunkenness, revelling, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have told you in the past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God." Ephesians 5:7 makes it pretty plain: "Be <u>NOT</u> ye therefore partakers with them."

We cannot go to places that promote drunkenness and partying. Even if we don't participate in these ugly deeds, we are saying that they are okay just by being there.

Lastly, it's not about how much liquor a person can handle before they are actually "drunk". It's not about being able to resist the temptation to party if you go to a dance hall. It's about <u>setting an example</u>. Letting our light sine so that God is glorified by our <u>good</u> works (Matt. 5:16).

Look at Eph. 5:10-12 "Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord." Prove that doing good works is acceptable to God. Prove this by your works. Verse 11 - "And have NO FELLOWSHIP with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them." Show others why going to bars and clubs is wrong according to the scriptures. Prove to others that we must bear good fruit, so that more souls will be saved to the glory of God! Verse 12 - "For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret." If you go barhopping and someone asks you what you did over the weekend, you're going to have to speak of unfruitful works and the Bible says that it is a shame to speak of such things.

There is plenty of entertainment that a christian can do. If you're selective of the movies you see, you can go to a show house. There are no liquor signs flashing in the windows of a show house, in fact all that is advertised is coming attractions. Plus, a show house does not promote partying like clubs and bars do.

So see a movie, play games, go to a ball game, sing, study; but always set the right example. Be a Christian!

In the most sincere Christian love,
Cheryl Baird
Springdale, Arkansas

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THE CUP

Cup is indeed a small word, but people seem to get rather confused over it. Men of scholarship seem to be agreed that "cup" is a small drinking vessel regardless of shape or material. God used the word cup both figuratively and literally. Some places in scriptures where God uses the word "cup" figuratively are Ps. 116:13, "I will take the cup of salvation and call upon the name of the Lord." Zech. 12:2 "Behold I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about." Matt. 26:39 where Jesus prayed "let this cup pass." Folks it doesn't take a Solomon to see that in all the places where God used "cup" figuratively that the drink or contents were just as figurative as the cup. We cannot have a figurative cup and a literal drink. If we dispensed with the cup in the communion because "cup" was figurative we would also dispense with the drink. We read in Matt. 26:27, Mark 14:23 and Luke 22:17 and 20 where Jesus instituted the communion that "cup" was something Jesus took; hence literal, something takeable.

Now we read Matt. 26:27 "And he took the cup, and gave thanks (blessed) and gave it to them, (disciples) saying, Drink ye all of it." Verse 28, "For this is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Mark 14:23 "And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it." The above scripture proves Jesus took the takeable, and the disciples drank the drinkable. Matt. 26:27 says Jesus gave it, singular, one volume, to them saying "Drink ye all of it," singular, one volume. Mark says, "they all drank (past tense) of it." singular, one volume.

Some try to make us believe fruit of the vine is cup. So we will try it that way. Jesus took fruit of the vine, cup, and gave thanks and gave it (singular, one volume) fruit of the vine cup to them saying, "drink ye all of it", but it was singular, one volume. So we read again Mark 14:23, "and he took the cup (fruit of the vine) and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, (but it was singular, one volume) and they all drank of it" (cup, fruit of the vine). But it (cup, fruit of the vine) was singular, one volume. So instead of gaining they lose for they would all have to drink of it (singular, one volume) just as Mark 14:23 said they did.

Now we will read Luke 22:17, "And he took the cup" (standard American revised version and Smith-Goodspeed both use the term "a cup" in Luke 22:17). So we read on: "and gave thanks and said take this, and divide it among yourselves." Some argue if the disciples were to divide it among themselves we can divide it among ourselves as we see fit. To that, I ask, who would be the authority on how it was divided since man is divided on that very point? Some say into two or three volumes, some say into as many volumes as there is participants, and we would not have unity as there would be no standard of authority as to how many volumes it could be divided into. So we will see what divine authority says, "divide it among yourselves." It is singular, one volume, and it was to be divided after being given to the disciples. So it is undisputably one volume when Jesus gave it to the disciples, and furthermore Jesus did not tell them to drink it or of it in Luke 22:17.

Does cup represent anything in the communion? The answer is Luke 22:20, "This cup is the new testament" (Standard Revised Version says 'new covenant in my blood'). When Jesus said, "this (referring to the prepared bread) is my body" Matt. 26:26, we understand it is an emblem of his body. When he said "this (referring to the prepared fruit of the vine) is my blood", Matt. 26:27, we understand it is an emblem of his blood. Now dear reader, he said "this cup is the new testament (covenant) in my blood," that cup is an emblem of the new testament or covenant. Smith-Goodspeed translation in I Cor. 11:25 says, "This cup is the new agreement ratified by my blood." Well one might say if cup is new testament (covenant) then since each of us

can have our individual new testament book, we can have our individual new testament cup. Well the old saying is pretty true, "A drowning person will grab at a straw." Testament, is will, God only has one. Testament, is covenant, God only has one; the new one, Heb. 8:8-13. You could pile up all the new testament books in the world and you would just have God's will or covenant, the mind of God that was active long before we had the book, the written mind of God, new testament; and the new testament in the mind of God is what Christ had reference to, for the new testament book was not written when Jesus made the statement. You could drink (imbibe) into your mind all that is in your individual new testament book and it would still contain all that ever was in it, but you drink all that is in your individual new testament cup and there is nothing left in it. Quite a difference isn't it. I Cor. 11:25 Paul repeats Luke 22:20 that Jesus said, "this cup is the new testament in my blood," and goes on and says, "this do ye as oft as ye drink it in remembrance of me." And in the 28th verse, "let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup." One of Websters definitions of "that" is denoting the person or thing mentioned. Could anything be plainer that the cup described in the new testament, Luke 22:20, and I Cor. 11:25 is the cup we drink of in the communion. No one need get confused as clear as that is. The 28th verse says, "drink of that cup" (singular).

We reach the blood of Christ through the one covenant, we all are jointly participating in obedience of God's covenant; hence we have communion or that one covenant. God never gave us individual covenants, only one for all. How simple it is that we all contact the emblematic blood of Christ through the emblematic cup, new testament. I Cor. 10:16 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? And suppose we notice the cup of blessing is singular. I believe all would agree with me if I say the blessing is the blood of Christ and Christ's blood is singular, one blood, his blood; hence one blessing for all. Now suppose we parallel Matt. 10:42. A cup of cold water. Every one understands this quotation to refer to a cup containing cold water. Should I say a, or the cup of juice, every one would agree it was a cup containing juice. Then it is just as simple to understand I Cor. 10:16. The cup of blessing is a cup containing a blessing. The blessing being the blood of Christ, one blood. The cup being the emblem of the new testament (covenant, and the fruit of the vine being the emblem of the blood of Christ. We contact the emblematic blood of Christ (one blood) through the emblematic new testament (covenant) cup, but there is just one covenant.

I Cor. 10:16 "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" Verse 17 "For we being many are one bread, and one

body: for we are all partakers of the one bread." And he paralleled it with the cup of blessing, therefore, we are all partakers of that one cup of blessing. Now the 18th verse, "Behold Israel after the flesh: Have not they that eat of the sacrifice have communion with the alter." I quoted Standard American Revised Version. King James translation, "Behold Israel after the flesh; are not they which eat of the sacrifices partakers of the alter?" One of Websters definitions of partake is, to share in common with others. Now suppose we see some of the later translations. Smith-Goodspeed, "Do not those who eat what is sacrificed have fellowship at the sacrificial alter?" There it is folks, and Paul is paralleling the sacrifice and alter with the cup of blessing I Cor. 10:16. No getting around it folks. We must all partake (share in common with others) the cup of blessing, and Paul said cup (singular). And in Paul's parallel teaches we have communion of the cup as well as the blessing (blood). To further strengthen what Paul has said I Cor. 10:18, we will turn to Matt. 23:16-19, Jesus speaking, "Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor! Ye fools and blind: or whether is great, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold? And, whosoever shall swear by the alter, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gift that is upon it, he is guilty. Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gift, or the alter that sanctifieth the gift?" Jesus makes the alter and the gift of equal importance. One is just as essential as the other, and Paul parallels it with the cup of blessing I Cor. 10:16.

The gift or sacrifice was just a lamb until it was put on the alter; that sanctified, set apart. The fruit of the vine is just fruit of the vine until it is in the cup, the emblematic new testaments that sanctifies, sets apart, and thanks is given or blessed, it then becomes the communion of the blood of Christ: cup of blessing, I Cor. 10:16. We can contact the emblematic blood through the emblematic new testament or covenant. I Cor. 10:21, "Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of devils." Let me note here that Paul said, cup, singular, not cups plural. Now some people tell us we can't drink a literal cup because we couldn't swallow it and give that for logic that cup of the Lord is not a literal cup. Some joke isn't it? Well if some poor cups fellow should believe he had to swallow the vessel known as the cup, he still wouldn't drink the cup by so doing as Webster gives drink to swallow a liquid, and a literal cup is a solid. But we can do as Paul said, I Cor. 10:21, drink the cup of the Lord. He tells us, and he didn't stutter, "let a man eat of the bread and drink of that cup." Webster gives the definition for the word "of" from, out of, belonging to, according to, proceeding from. So you see Paul gives the identical how we drink the cup. "Drink of" I Cor. 11:28. So there it is

friends, pure and simple, may be that will save some poor cups brother from getting choked trying to swallow literal cup thinking he had to do so to drink the cup of the Lord.

(Part 2 continued next month).

Written by W.E. Daniels, Broken Bow, OK
Submitted by Melvin Daniels, 999 Watson Cir., Fayetteville, AR 72703

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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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INDIAN SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA

As many of you already know, on January 24th, my wife (Sister LaVerne Harper) fell from a ladder and struck her head on our concrete driveway. She was taken by ambulance and paramedics to Grass Valley Emergency. Her condition was grave and getting worse. They could not stabilize her and after evaluation and emergency treatment, the local doctors decided she should be air lifted to a trauma center with a neurological surgeon on duty. She was taken by helicopter to Enloe Hospital in Chico and taken to Neurological I.C.U. The fall had resulted in a basil fracture of the skull and brain concussion.

After 2 weeks in Enloe and a total of 12 days in I.C.U., she was transferred to the Northern California Rehabilitation Center in Sacramento, which specializes in head injuries. She came home February 26th.

LaVerne has had a miraculous recovery - the medical physicians cannot understand - but we know what has happened. LaVerne and I and the entire family would like to thank each and every one who sent cards, letters, phone calls, flowers and gifts - but most important, your prayers.

Praise God - he hears our prayers and more important he answers our prayers. We have living proof!

Sister McClusky has been quite sick for some time with what appeared to be a nerve problem in her face. The doctor did a biopsy of her face. Not finding what they feared, they are trying to regulate her problem with medicine. Sister Dorothy Johnson stayed with her while LaVerne was in the hospital and all the family away. All the prayers were appreciated very much.

We love you all and thanks again,
Bro. Ken & Sis. LaVerne Harper & family

RANDLETT, OK

Hello everyone! We, at the Randlett Church of Christ, have a little news to share with all. Of course, we have all had our bouts with colds and aches, but are doing fine. We have had few visitors throughout the winter months and hope that with the weather change, will bring more guests.

We would like to announce a weekend meeting coming up in May. We have asked Brother Jim Brown from the Baron Church of Christ congregation to speak and he has accepted. The meeting will be May 24, 25, and 26. We hope that this will give all sufficient time to plan to come share and be a part of this special time. We welcome visitors from all over and have plenty of room for them all. We hope that all will plan to attend. For anyone needing directions or a place to say, please call Leroy Mullens at (817) 569-1956; Roy Mullens at (817) 569-1543; or Sam Elliott at (405) 281-3630.

The Randlett Church of Christ meets in Randlett, Oklahoma, three miles east of Interstate 44, three blocks north off highway 70, across from the Randlett Post Office. Randlett is a small town and does not have any street markers.

In Christian love,
Randlett Church of Christ

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Greetings and best wishes to all the brotherhood. This month our spring weather is about us, very mild weather and everything is budding and blooming. The citrus is in bloom and the entire country is engulfed with the fragrance.

The Church here is doing well, our attendance is still fairly well, even though some have begun to leave. Most, probably already know, but Brother Ken Baldwin is very ill and was flown to Grand Junction. He has been in the hospital there and is to be released today to go home in Delta. Sister Verda Nelson is with the family at this time. Bro. and Sis. Baldwin need the prayers of all their loved ones.

Brother and Sister McCay are leaving today to be with their son, Jerry, in Lorenzo, Texas. Howard will hold a short meeting there, then a short meeting in Oklahoma. Afterward they will return home to Washington. We had a going away supper at our singing this past Saturday to bid them farewell and wish them well while they are away.

Sister Mary Long has not improved in her illness. We miss her at church and pray for her recovery. This is about all the news from Yuma. We send our love to all and may God be with us and bless us all.

The congregation in Yuma by
The Harry Davis family

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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I will write a little news from here. I have had the flu for about 2 weeks and am not completely over it yet. My wife is in the nursing home and is not any better. She got to where I could not handle her for I rehurt my back and could not walk from the first week bwfore Thanksgiving until the last week in January. We sure need the prayers of all the churches. As for the church, we are not doing any better but are still keeping house for the Lord. Although few in number, we invite all to come worship with us. We also have a couple coming back to church of which we are thankful.

In Christian love,
Bro. Lloyd Treat

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Although we are located in beautiful "sunny" California, we have recently seen many unusual weather scenarios - including a lot of much needed rain, snow, sleet, hail and as of the last two weeks even tornados! It has presented some change from the "earthquake" topic of conversation, which usually comes up in connection with our locale. The Lord has watched over all those in our congregation and thus far we haven't suffered any damages, other than a few leaky roofs and getting wet quite often.

All at church seem to have gotten over their various viruses that went around all winter. We are together so much, we just passed everything around from person to person and back again.

Our hearts were saddened by the passing of our dear brother Ken Baldwin, who was loved and respected by those of our congregation who knew him for many, many years. Al and Okja Way were able to attend the funeral services in Colorado and we were thankful they made the drive safely in spite of adverse weather conditions.

We are all looking forward to our meeting this summer - hopefully seeing many visitors from other areas. If you haven't already done so, we urge you to make plans to come and be with us, as you will benefit not only from the good lessons presented by Brother Jim Brown, but also from the fellowship and spiritual "high" produced as a result of many christian friends getting together, talking, studying, and worshipping together. So, don't be left out - we need you!

In Christian love,
Jerry Perigen

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We would like to thank all of you who sent in the needed contributions. It is unfortunate that the cost of printing and postage is so high. We also want to thank everyone for the abundance of articles. We would like to be able to print all of the ones that we receive at one time, but unfortunately the cost of printing and especially the amount of postage it takes to have them mailed becomes too costly. We are trying to print as many of them as we can and ask that you please be patient. We are trying to make each edition as big as our budget allows.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Duncan, Oklahoma	April 12, 13 & 14	Howard McCay
Randlett, Oklahoma	May 24, 25, & 26	Jim Brown
Cedaredge, Colorado	June 29 - July 7	Camp
Bellflower, California	June 30 - July 7	Jim Brown
Goshen, Arkansas	July 21 - 28	Jerry Perigen Mark Perigen
Selah, Washington	July 21 - 28	To be announced

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DEATHS

As most of you know by now, our dear Brother in Christ, Kenneth Baldwin, has passed away. Our prayers and sympathy go out to his wife, Verlie, and all the rest of his family.

Kenneth has been a strong leader of the church as one can remember. No one will remember the Delta camp meetings without remembering Kenneth. Loved and respected, we will sorely miss this kind man.