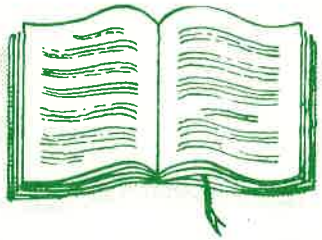
The Christian Courier



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

MAY 1991

****

"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)

****

THEIR GOD IS THEIR BELLY (Phil. 3:18-19)

In this scripture we have Paul saying that there are many who walk in this manner and mind earthly things, and their glory is their shame. I wonder today how many there are who do this. In verse 2 of the chapter, he says, "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." Here are three things he has warned us about. So I ask, who are dogs and evil workers, and who are the concision. Well, are there any of these people today? In order to understand what a dog is, you have to observe what dogs do. One thing I see by watching dogs, is when they feed, each one cares about itself. They think only of their own want, which makes their god themselves, or their belly, v. 19. Now James 1:7 says, "Let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord." Why - for he is an evil worker. Matt. 32:33 says, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God..." but these seek their own good first.

The concision (according to Webster) are those that still believe in circumcision. For they are yet carnal (Rom. 8:5) and mind the things of the flesh, for they are enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, for they have not set their affection on things above, but the things of the earth (Col. 3:1-2). Col. 3:6 says, "For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience."

He says to beware of evil workers in Phil. 3:2. Who are these? We'll let Paul say, in Col. 3:8-9. Here we are told to put off anger, wrath,

malice, blasphemy, filthy communication and lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds. But I ask, have we? When we see malice in the congregation (which is ill will) toward a brother because he may have said or done something we don't like.

Paul said in 1 Thess. 4:4-5, "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour; not in the lust of concupiscence (the coveting of carnal things or an irregular appetite for worldly goods), even as the Gentiles which know not God." Jesus said also in Matt. 6:31-32 to take no thought saying what shall we eat or drink or wherewithal shall we be clothed, for after all these things do the Gentiles (world) seek. For your Heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things, but after all this warning, they still are inclined toward unlawful enjoyments. They still lust after the pleasures of this life, which choke the word (Lk. 8:14) and bring no fruit to perfection (they do not perfect anything in their time).

Jesus said, Lk. 12:15, "Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Also in Lk. 12:1 he said "Beware of the leaven of Pharisees, which is hypocrisy." After all these warnings, we still see plenty of pleasure-seekers going to church, claiming to worship God. Look at 2 Tim. 3:1-5 and let us examine ourselves. Do we love ourselves more than anyone else? Also let us read 2 Cor. 13:5 and see if we just might not be one of those of whom he speaks. Also read 1 Tim. 4:1-2.

Are we covetous? Do we want more wages so we can get more of the things of this life? In Lk. 3:14, when the soldiers asked Jesus what they were to do to have eternal life, He said to be content with their wages. Ask yourselves, are we content? Do we ever get enough? Are we not covetous? Do we look at a new car and desire it (covet), then get ourselves in debt because we did? Are we boasters - do we drive the new car around and show it off (proud), when we could not pay for it, if it was required, and we boast about our new car.

Are we heady, highminded? Do we take the new camper and boat to the same lake and have pleasure and then come to church on Sunday and give, $1, $3, $5, or $10 to the church, when we pay $100 or $250 on the camper and boat? Can we not see that if we gave $10 each Sunday, that is only $40 a month and then look and see what we pay for a new car per month. See that we are lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. We have a form of Godliness, but deny God the right to rule over us, through His word. Can we not see that we could be one of those who Paul warned us about in Phil. 3:18-19, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly (or desires). Can we not see in Eccl. 5:10 "He that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity (or vain)." Does not James say in 1:26 that this man's regligion is

vain, because he cannot walk worthy of the Lord (Col. 1:10) for 1 Tim. 6:7-8 says "For we brought nothing into this world and it is certain can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content." BUT I ASK, ARE WE?

Yours in love of the truth,
Lloyd Treat

****

TO "A YOUNG CHRISTIAN WHO WANTS TO KNOW"

"What Message are we Sending our Youth?" (April issue)

The question you ask is timely, one which demands an answer. The youth of today are the parents of tomorrow and also the church leaders to be.

You address your question(s) to the church and its leadership and that is as it should be. What message(s) do you receive back? How are you led?

Isaiah, prophet of Israel, addressed much the same question in his day. "Therefore the Lord will cut off from Israel head and tail, branch and rush, in one day. The ancient and honorable, he is the head; and the prophet that teacheth lies, he is the tail. For the leaders of the people cause them to err; and they that are led of them are destroyed (lost)". (Isa. 9:14-16). Note the words of Jesus, "--they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch." (Matt. 15:14).

From the above we can see how the Lord is displeased when the leaders of His people send a misleading message to the young.

You say, "let's stop beating around the bush --" and you are right. You speak of dancing and this demands an answer. More important than the type of dancing is the question, "what kind of company do we keep when we are at this kind of occasion?" "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." (I Cor. 15:13). In our speech today we would say, "bad company corrupts good morals".

When we attend a dance, with whom do we attend? Think of this! It would seem that if we attended dances only with people of good character, we would expect to find these people in the church. Would anyone suggest that the church sponsor dances so our young people would have the proper company? I haven't heard that one yet, but one never knows, does one?

The various places you mention, more or less, answer your question. What sort of people do you expect to find at a "club", school (dance), beach party, bar, etc? Would one attend with any and all who come or only with christian youth? About "boyfriend's house"; this would probably introduce other questions of propriety. You should ask yourself a question. Would I

be there alone, and if so, would this be proper? Also, if your boyfriend is a christian, would he ask you there alone? If not alone, what sort of companions would be there?

Also, if you attend such places that those not of the church, but of good moral character, what sort of example are you setting? If, through your influence, someone is corrupted morally, or equally important, is not influenced to enter Christ's body, are you not responsible? "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matt. 5:16). Can you do this at such places and occasions as you mention with the type of people usually found at such occasions? I think not!!

Young christians (and older ones) should abstain from these occasions and devote their energies and time to more spiritually profitable pursuits.

You ask about drinking alcohol. Can anyone really believe there is much difference between beer, wine, whiskey, etc.? The only difference is one of degree and potency. Why ask, "when do I stop drinking?" when you really should be asking, "why should I start drinking?" I asked one brother several years ago the same question you asked, "what are the signs that should warn one to stop drinking?" To this day he has not given me an answer although I suggested several as you did. (Of course, I hypothesized the situation).

Let's look at what the scriptures say about alcohol.

PERVERTS JUDGEMENT: "It is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the judgement of any of the afflicted." Prov. 31:4-5.

MAKES UNAWARE OF IMPENDING EVIL: "Come, let ye make our father drink wine, and we will lie with him, that we may preserve seed of our father." Gen. 19:32.

BLURS DISTINCTION BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL: (To the Levites, priests and attendants) God commanded to abstain when in the tabernacle and then states His reasons "--that ye may put difference between holy and unholy, and between unclean and clean." Lev. 10:8-10. Are we to distinguish holy from unholy, unclean from clean? If so, let us abstain.

DISTORTS VISION: Isa. 28:7 "But they also have erred through wine, and through stong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgement." (Refer back to Pro. 31:4-5).

THE NATURE OF THE PRODUCT: "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise." (Pro. 20:1) "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth its color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." (Prov. 23:31).

Study well this last verse. Use your lexicon. Consult your alternate translations. You will find the following. Strong wine (which gets its redness from fermentation) "giveth its color" (efferdesces) in the cup. It "moveth itself aright". Translators and lexicographers agree that this means "to go down smoothly." Thus, the meaning becomes clearer. Strong wine initially goes down smoothly, but "at the last" (end result) "bites like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Who needs this?? Surely you can see the deceivable nature of this substance!

Could you find a better reason to abstain? The nature of the product is: a mocker, raging, a deceiver, bites like a snake, poisons like a serpent. If you allow this product to work its spell on you, you are "not wise". (Prov. 20:1).

Alcohol in its many forms is the most common drug used by society today, and is responsible for the preponderance of violent crimes, divorces, accidents, deaths on the highways and waterways of America, more than all other drugs combined. When you use this substance, what message are you sending to others? What example are you setting before others? Think on this!!

As for the other drugs (marijuana, heroine, cocaine, etc.) read your news sources, watch TV news, and remember these are illegal substances. It beggars the senses that anyone would contend that to use these substances is acceptable christian behavior. However, some leaders of the church do not seem to know how dangerous these substances are. Perhaps he who would so contend for the use of alcohol should visit the rehabilitation ward of the local hospital and develop a healthy fear of such things.

You say, "--that kids are going to quote Bro. so and so as their green light to drink." This very thing has happened, sad to say, and I'm afraid the one who gave this advice will be responsible to the Lord for his bad part. What is more, when older brothers drink and contend for it's use, I fear for their souls in the day of judgment because of the bad example they are setting.

I agree that teachers who so teach are "dismal leaders" to many young people who struggle with such questions.

So, to sum it up, we should consider our actions in all things we do so as to set a good example for others.

1) Avoid the company of worldly-minded people in all things that we can. "--in honor preferring one another." (Rom. 12:10). This will probably limit our "entertainment" inasmuch as the majority of our brethren who are not worldly-minded will not be in such places as you describe.

2) About alcohol (including all OTHER drugs, marijuana, heroine, cocaine, etc.); abstinance is the only way you can avoid the consequences of the use of such. To try to "drink in moderation" is the worst advice of all to give, and if attempted you would not "be wise".

3) The church (and its mature leaders) should be telling you these things. It is to the shame of the church and its leaders in any place that it is not so doing. So, when anyone (and I care not his or her name) advises you to drink (in moderation or otherwise) be wise and ignore such; it's bad advice.

Keep up the good work and remember Solomon's advice, "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it and pass away." (Prov. 4:14). Sure doesn't sound much like indulgence, does it??

God bless you in your quest for the truth,
John D. Logan, 3708 Mission Road,
Stockton, CA 95204
(209) 464-4961

****

THE CUP (Cont.)

If you will turn to I Cor. 11:25-28 you will see it was the cup described new testament that Paul said let a man drink of. Paul when he said, "drank of that cup" (Webster's definition of 'that': first, denoting the person or things mentioned. Second, indicated or understood) he had just described cup identical with Luke 22:20. So that cup was denoting the thing mentioned, "This cup is the new testament in my blood." How could God have made anything plainer, and that cup, I Cor. 11:28 is singular, one. It was the same as Luke 22:20 where Jesus said, "This cup is the new testament in my blood" that Paul said drink of, I Cor. 11:28.

We could quote numbers of scholars on "drink the cup" that would tell us that we drink the cup by drinking what is in the cup, but Paul being a scholar himself has told us in no uncertain terms how we drink the cup, "drink of that cup", and Webster backs him up. So I am willing to take Paul's authority. How about you dear reader? Suppose we just except Bible terms of landguage as we use a well established law of language, as when I ask a friend to have a cup of coffee with me and he says, "Thanks, I have just drank a cup", or as my wife informed me when I passed my cup for the second cup of coffee she replied, "You have already drank one cup." Anyone can see, cup, is named to suggest its contents just as we say the kettle is boiling, or my radiator is boiling, meaning the water in them is boiling. But suppose we put the water in several kettles (plural) we would not say the kettle is boiling, but would say the kettles, plural, are boiling. What is in kettle is not in kettles, and what is in cups is not in cup. Fruit of

the vine in cups, bottle, or bottles cannot logically be suggested by the word cup, singular. When we drink a bottle of pop, we never say we drank a cup of pop. Some fall for the idea that we can take water from a well and put it in various containers and drink the well because it was well water. That involves another law of language which we have just been dealing with. If you drink well water from a jug, bottle, or cup you would not drink of the well but would drink of the jug, bottle or cup, as Paul said in I Cor. 11:28 "Drink of that cup." It would be well water because of its origin but would only be suggested by bottle, jug, or cup, by its relationship in such containers. The place where a thing originates hold to it always and can only be suggested by other containers while contained in them. For example, I am an Arkansain by birth and will always be that, but when I moved to Oklahoma I was no longer called an Arkansawyer but an Oklahoman, because of my relationship in Oklahoma. When I moved to Texas I was no more an Oklahoman, but a Texan because of my residence. We suggest the contents by naming the thing that conatains it. If wine were in a jug, a bottle, or cup we could get either of them by naming the vessel containing it, but we would never say jugs, bottles, cups, in the plural if we just wanted the jug, the bottle, or the cup, singular. There are some that think they win a victory in favor of a plurality of cups in the communion service by going to Prov. 6:6 "Go to the ant thou sluggard." Then they contend all the ants. The man of God, all the men of God. The Bible, all the books called Bible. The cup, all the vessels known as cup, etc. Poor fellows well educated, but try to make us poor uneducated people believe a class noun applies to individual. The ant used in one sense includes all species of insects known as ants, but should I say the ant stung me, you would not think all the ants stung me. No, of ocurse not. Should I say I took the ant to the laboratory, you wouldn't understand I took all the ants to the laboratory. It took the man of God into my house, doesn't mean I took all the men of God into m y house. I read the Bible through, but I didn't read all the books known as Bibles through. I took the cup, but my wife affirmed there were several left in the china closet. Guess I didn't know the trick? They, by their use of the cup would have Jesus taking all the vessels known as cup when he took the cup. Matt. 26:27 I wonder how they would like to quote from American Standard Revised Version, "a cup". Matt. 26:27.

Now let's go back to I Cor. 10:16 "The cup of blessing which we bless." The blessing must be in a cup to be the cup of blessing. What is in cups cannot be the cup of blessing. "Drink the cup of the Lord" I Cor. 10:21. We drink the cup by drinking the contents of the cup, as Paul shows I Cor. 11:28, "Drink of that cup". There is no law of language that I have been able to find that the fruit of the vine can be suggested by the word "cup" unless it is in a cup. What is in cups or other containers is not in cup,

and can't be the cup (singular) of blessing I Cor. 10:16. Some talk of individual communion cups. Now wouldn't that stump you? There is no such thing as individual communion since communion is a joint participation or fellowship. Then how can one commune with his individual cup or how would an individual cup be a communion cup? Fruit of the vine must be in a cup to be called by the name cup. People must be in the Baptist order to be called by that name. People must be in the Methodist order to be called by the name Methodist. Jesus used the very terms of language we have been dealing with in this little article and we accept them as Jesus used them until we come to cup, then Oh! Oh! Oh! The top blows off. Jesus didn't know how to say what he meant. We can go to Matt. 23:21 for an example of Jesus' usage of the language we have been dealing with, and I think all will agree with Jesus, "Woe unto thee Chorazin, woe unto thee Bethsaida." Everyone knows cities are mentioned to suggest the people in them, and it didn't include anyone not in the city named. You had to be in that city to be called by that name, and what is in city is not in cities. If there is a law of language that a thing can be suggested by the name of another object without relation to a cup, then people can be called body, Church of Christ, without any relation to the body of Christ; that is they can be the church of Christ without being in the church. If volumes of the fruit of the vine in the different denominations of containers are the cup, one cup, then people in the different denomination of churches are the church, one church. If wine is cup, one cup, without being in a cup, and you can drink it, of the container of your choice, then people are christians without being in Christ, and you can join the church of your choice. Both are governed by the same law of logic. If fruit of the vine can be called cup without being in a cup then I can be called an Oklahoman without being in the state of Oklahoma. If not, why not?

Paul said, "Let a man drink of that cup," I Cor. 11:28. But there has to be something in that cup before we can drink of that cup since drink is to swallow a liquid. But what is in cups or other containers is not in cup or that cup. Now what would be the sensible conclusion? Well, Jesus took the takeable, the disciples drank the drinkable. Matt. 26:27; Mark 14:23.

With brotherly love I remain
Yours in Christ,
W.E. Daniels
Submitted by: Melvin Daniels

AN APOLOGY

I have written many articles for the various church papers during the last 40 years. I have always tried to make my position clear, without producing an article of excessive length.

Recently, I have failed to do this. Apparently, I wrote something that did not reflect my true position on drinking. This is my sincere and humble apology to any reader who got the impression that I was in favor of drinking, or that I was giving a green light for others to do so. This was not my intention, and I am truly sorry that my writing suggested that such was true.

I do not drink any alcoholic drinks. I cannot imagine any situation or circumstances that would ever cause me to drink, or to desire to do so. My conscience does not allow me to drink beer, wine, or liquor, even if I had a desire to do so, which I have not. My life long experience and observation with alcohol has all been bad; nothing good.

If I have ever taught my young Christian friends, by word or by example, that drinking alcohol was approved behavior, I sincerely regret it. I pray that God will forgive me if I have misled, or cast a stumblingblock in the path of any brother or sister. I ask your forgiveness and your prayers.

Sincerely,
J.W. Bedingfield

****

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

****

SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren:

The congregation here at San Pablo are doing fine. We have had the usual colds and flu.

Bro. and Sis. Buddy Davis from Yuma stopped by in February. Bro. Davis gave us a very uplifting lesson. It is so good to have visitors come and bring the word of God to us.

Then in March we had Bro. and Sis. J.D. Logan come by and Bro. Logan brought a lesson for us. We don't get many visitors, so we really do enjoy everyone who stops by to see us.

We have received some much needed rain. We are thankful for what we have received.

Brethren, don't forget to pray. We all need prayers and the Lord does answer them. II Cor. 1:11 "Ye also helping together by prayer for us, that for the gift bestowed upon us by the means of many persons thanks may be given by many on our behalf."

If anyone traveling through be sure to stop, we would enjoy having you.

In christian love,
The San Pablo congregation

****

DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

We have just had a weekend meeting with Bro. Howard McCay doing the speaking for us. Bro. Howard gave us four very uplifting sermons straight from the word of God. Three people came forward for the prayers of the church. We really enjoyed having Bro. Howard and Nell spend a few days with us.

We would like to thank the visitors who came from other congregations to support our meeting. We had visitors from the churches at Loco, Oklahoma; Randlett, Oklahoma; Broken Bow, Oklahoma; Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; and Ringgold, Texas.

If you are ever in the area, we invite you to stop and meet with us.

Don Lewis for the
Valley View Church of Christ

****

RINGGOLD, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We of the Ringgold, Texas congregation are planning to have a meeting July 5, 6, and 7 if the Lord is willing. Brother Dan Teague of Duncanville, Texas has agreed to preach four sermons from the word of God, Friday night, Saturday night, Sunday morning and Sunday afternoon; that we might grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many of the details have not yet been determined but there will be plenty of room for everyone that may be able to come. We would in christian love like to invite everyone who may have the opportunity to meet with us and stay in our homes for these few days. We have been a troubled congregation over the years and we really need the spiritual uplift of worshipping with others who wish to obey the

commandments of our Lord. Please come and meet with us in fellowship and stay in our homes.

Enclosed is a check to help in the editing costs of the Courier.

Larry Pollan (405) 255-4169
J.D. Pollan (405) 437-2314

****

RANDLETT, OKLAHOMA

Hello everyone! We are getting ready for our meeting, May 24th, 25th and 26th and failed to mention in last month's letter the times for the meeting each night.

Friday's meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday's will begin at 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday we will have two meetings, one at 10:30 a.m. and one at 2:00 p.m. with a lunch at 12:00 noon. We hope that all will try to attend. As we mentioned in last month's letter, Brother Jim Brown from the Baron, Oklahoma congregation will be the speaker.

We hope to see a lot of familiar faces as well as some new ones. If you need any further information, contact Leroy Mullens at (817) 569-1956 or Andy Barnes at (405) 439-5956.

Sincerely,
Randlett Church of Christ

****

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dearest ones,

Greetings to all. It has been some time since we have written to the Courier but here we are. There isn't much to report from our part of the country, but we do want to announce our meeting, June 16th - 23rd with Brother Tom Broadway doing the speaking. We haven't seen Tom and Charlene in about four years so we are looking forward to being with them again and hearing his fine sermons. We invite all to come and be with us during our meeting or any time.

We also want to report the birth, January 29th, of our great granddaughter, Hali Shacole Normile, daughter of Tony and Traci, granddaughter of Audley and Teresa Barnes.

With Christian love,
Howard Taylor

YUMA, ARIZONA

Our prayers are that all is well in the brotherhood, both spiritual and physical. Most everyone here is up and about. Sister Mary Long has not improved; remember her in your prayers.

We have good news, March 31st Clara Freeman was baptized into God's family. We are glad to have a new sister in our congregation. I may have failed to mention, but January 20 Cissi Doherty was baptized. She lives in San Joses, California (5818 Hillview Ave., San Jose, California 95123). Anyone having opportunity, check with her. I misspelled Shauna Wardle's name in the January letter, so am making correction.

Our attendance has still been good. We are still having singing on Saturday evenings and Bible study on Wednesday evenings. Harry Booth baked Grandma Booth's chocolate cookies one Saturday evening and this past Wednesday for the Bible study. He also gave the lesson this past Sunday night. He gave a very good lesson and everyone enjoyed it and are looking forward to hearing him again soon. This past Sunday we had lunch after services. The weather was beautiful and we had a good time.

We send our love and best wishes to all. Let us hear from you soon.

For the Yuma Church,
Harry Davis and Family

****

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I hope this letter finds all well. As I write to you this night it is windy and raining. We are very thankful to finally have what looks like some winter weather. At this writing I do not believe we are going to have a meeting this year. But I would like to take this opportunity to tell you I will be sharing a meeting in Yakima, Washington with Brother John Bedingfield. This will start July 7th throught the 14th. I am honored to be asked and will do my best to bring the word of God.

We have made many improvements on the church building including an addition of a wheel char ramp. Brothers Dean Guyer, Paul Lucas, and Frank Morse did a great job on it. Brother Dean has done so much around the church with his carpentry skills one cannot but admire his craftsmanship. We are grateful for his gift. Sister Vivian Baker has had an operation and is recuperatiing. Sister Doshia Arnett-Hagel has been unable to attend because of her bad leg but with the completion on the ramp has attended the past two Sundays.

We had Brother Buddy Davis with us one Sunday and enjoyed the lesson he brought to us. As Brother Homer Bryant mentioned in his last newsletter, my family spent a Sunday in San Pablo with their congregation. We went out after services and had lunch and really enjoyed the fellowship with Homer and Bonnie Bryant, Tony and Shannon Bryant, and Gene and Pat McKinney. Harry Dye was at church also as he was in the area helping a friend work on a house for his daughter. I always enjoy talking with Brother Harry as he is another man of many talents.

We have all taken our turn with the flu this season and other than that my prayer is that I will see many of you this coming year. Those of you who do the paper do a wonderful job. Don't forget all are welcome anytime to come visit us.

God bless all,
Ken Williams

****

BARON, OKLAHOMA

The Baron Chruch of Christ would like to invite all to a weekend Gospel meeting August 30, 31, September 1 and 2 (Labor Day weekend). The church building is located about 5 miles north of Stilwell on Hwy. 59. RV hook-ups and tent space are available across the highway from the church on beautiful Baron Fork Creek. Tent camping is available on the church grounds along with a large kitchen/dining facility equiped with showers. Christian homes are open to those not fond of camping out. Interesting activities are being planned to involve all who attend. Speaker and additional information will be announced later. Contact Jim Brown (918) 778-3240; David Brown (918) 723-3879 or Robert Eldridge (918) 696-6317.

Several have been ill during the winter months with various ailments but seem to be much better as of this writing except Bill Ross who is still experienceing some health problems. I am sure he would appreciate your prayers.

We have one baptism to report. Terry Remmington, husband of the former Bonnie Gardenhire. We welcome Terry to the congregation.

Baron's congregation has been blessed with healthy growth and has enjoyed many visitors from other congregations in recent months. We are always happy to have visitors from other brethren in Christ.

My family and I recently visited the Randlett congregation in Randlett, Oklahoma which was uplifting as always, especially to see an increase in members. While there we enjoyed visiting with Howard, Nell, Jerry and Brent

McCay who had also stopped in at Randlett. The congregation and visitors were served a wonderful meal prepared by the sisters before heading back home.

We also visited the Goshen congregation which has had increase since we were last there. It is always wonderful to see congregations growing in number and faith.

We were saddened by the death of Bro. Ken Baldwin. He will be missed greatly. His dedication to the gospel was fruitful and inspiring. He and Verlie has spent the months of August and September for the past three years in this area visiting the brethren.

By the time this letter is in print, I will probably be at Lorenzo, Texas as I have been asked to hold a meeting June 9th through 16th. Hope to see you there.

In christian love,
Robert Eldridge

****

SELAH, WASHINGTON

We at the Selah, Washington congregation would like to invite our brothers and sisters in Christ to our gospel meeting July 28 - August 4. Our apologies to our two guest speakers, Bro. Jim Brown and Bro. Brian Ross for not announcing their assistance earlier. We were waiting for mail response from other participants and misjudged the amount of time it would take. We are now prepared to announce our plans.

During the meeting, Brothers Jim and Brian will share speaking responsibilities for the ten worship services. During the weekdays we will experiment with a different idea. Seminars will be offered to edify us in the areas of spiritual works and items of worship. Seminar leaders will offer instruction, methods, and some hands-on experience. Questions and discussion will be encouraged. This will be an excellent opportunity for the young members to learn new skills and veteran members to expand or refine old skills. We have also planned some recreational activities, singing, and old fashioned socializing.

There is camping space available and homes for those without recreational vehicles. If you have questions and would like to call, the numbers are Robert Farley (509) 697-4273 or John McKinney (509) 457-8453.

We are looking forward to this meeting to boost our enthusiasm as we continue to work in the vineyard of our Lord. We hope you can join us.

More information will be forth coming in the next issue.

Sincerely,
The Selah congregation

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

The Happy Hollow Church of Christ would like to invite everyone to attend the 30th annual Big Spruce Camp meeting to be held June 30 - July 7 in Cedaredge, Colorado. Mark your calendars and plan to spend one full week of fine lessons, christian fellowship and night after night of great gospel singing. Come one and all to renew old friendships and make new ones. The camp has run year after year on donations alone; any contribution you could make would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Eddie Wilkerson for the
Happy Hollow Church of Christ

****

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

We are currently being blessed with an abundance of "California sunshine" and are enjoying the beautiful spring flowers that go with it. Yesterday (between Sunday worship services) we had a Bar-B-Que at the church and spent the day together. In spite of everyone's busy, hectic weekday schedules, we seem to find time on the Lord's day for food, fun and fellowship, and that's as it should be.

Since last writing, we have very much enjoyed the company of several visitors from afar. From the Yakima congregation, Richard and Monica Johnston, their son Jeff, his wife Debbie and son Christopher, and their daughter Suzie Warford all came down for a few days visit and, of course, Disneyland. Brother Richard presented a very good lesson for us Sunday morning and we all reminisced about the last time he had done so, some 15 years ago. Time passes quickly and we don't realize it until something like this calls our attention to it and we stop to think how quickly 15 years of our life can go by.

From Denver, Colorado our daughters Lori McCarthy and Shar Perigen came home for a quick four day visit. We really miss having them here and hope they will move back in the near future.

We also enjoyed visiting with Sister Wanda Brockman from the Chico congregation. Her stay was also very short but we all were happy to see her again.

Mark, Tammy, Stephen and Chelsea Perigen; Marty, Tayna, Jeffrey and Kindra Brockman; and Gerald, Natalie, and Monica Brockman all spent Easter weekend in Chico, worshipping with the brethren there. Fortunately for us, it was the same weekend that the Johnston's were here - otherwise we would have had rather a small bunch at church.

We are all focusing on our meeting June 30 - July 7, with Brother Jim Brown from the Baron, Oklahoma congregation. Hopefully, we will have lots of visitors - many have already said they are coming - and we are all looking forward to seeing loved ones and friends from various parts of the country. If you haven't made plans to join us, please do so. We will make every effort to see that you are well taken care of and enjoy the week. Dinners will be served each night and both Sunday afternoons at the churchhouse, family style, as has been done in the past, leaving plenty of time for Bible discussions, visiting, volleyball, all of us have room at home, so the more the merrier. I'm sure Brother Brown will give us much spiritual nourishment from the scriptures and our mortal bodies will be well fed also.

In Christian love,
Jerry Perigen

****

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Randlett, Oklahoma	May 24, 25, & 26	Jim Brown
Lorenzo, Texas	June 9 - 16	Bob Eldridge
Loco, Oklahoma	June 16 - 23	Tom Broadway
Cedaredge, Colorado	June 29 - July 7	Camp
Bellflower, California	June 30 - July 7	Jim Brown
Ringgold, Texas	July 5, 6 & 7	Dan Teague
Yakima, Washington	July 7 - 14	Ken Williams J.W. Bedingfield
Goshen, Arkansas	July 21 - 28	Jerry Perigen Mark Perigen
Selah, Washington	July 28 - Aug. 4	Jim Brown Brian Ross
Baron, Oklahoma	Aug. 30 - Sept. 2	To be announced