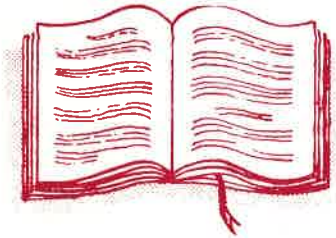
The Christian Courier



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

DECEMBER 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 DEAD; WHERE ARE THEY?

"But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth." (I Tim. 5:6). We see here that when we live in pleasure we are dead, and will remain that way unless we get understanding. Prov. 21:16 says if we wander out of the way of understanding we shall remain in the congregation of the dead, also in II Tim. 3:1-7 we see that in the last days perilous times shall come where men will be lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, and from such we should turn away.

Let us not be like those in Luke 8:14 which fell among the thornes, and were choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and brought no fruit to perfection. We can see the pleasure seeking crowd all around us in the world today and we, as God's chosen, must not become like them. If we do, we are dead while we live. Heb. 10:38 says the just shall live by

faith, but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. Let us not draw back, but go forward unto perfection.

We know when we have went to a funeral of someone and we get to the cemetery we turn away and leave them there. Why? Because they are dead. Why is it, then, that we won't do the same with the world and its pleasures? Eph. 2:2 shows we walked according to the course of this world at one time, and we were dead (verse 1) - are we still dead?

Rom. 8:6-8 "For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh, (people that please only themselves, and the flesh) cannot please God." Verse 13 says if we live after the flesh (or like the world around us) we will die. Rom. 6:12 warns us - let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Verse 16 - know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Rom. 12:1-2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service and be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God."

Sincerely for the Church,
Lloyd Treat

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GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

In the wake of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, America has experienced a revival. Despite the protestors, this nation pulled together to become the "united" states. We were united in support for the troops, and united in prayer. It was encouraging to hear President Bush pushing prayer and faith in God. As a matter of fact, polls showed that membership in church was on the rise, perhaps for fear of the unknown; but I feel people were moved by the faith of the righteous.

Comparably, the casualties of the war were minimal, and it was soon over.

It seems the United States has always been blessed, especially in comparison to other nations. In 1789, when George Washington became President, there was a king of France, a Holy Roman Emperor who ruled much of Europe, a czarina in Russia, a shogun ruling Japan, and an emperor of China. Of all these powerful offices, only the Presidency still exists. But, there is a concern over the ever-present moral decay of this nation. How long will God continue to bless the U.S.A.?

I Tim. 2:1-2 states, "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, and for all in authority: that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." As Americans and as Christians, we should pray for our president, and all other leaders of the nations who have been given authority to govern. We ought to pray that our leaders will be open to God's leading and that He will grant them ways to administer justly amongst the ethnic communities of our nation and the small nations of the world. And pray that God will keep them from the arrogance of power and the blindness of nationalism.

"Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34). America has the freedom to be a righteous nation, but are we exercising that freedom anymore? If so, are we following God's commandments, or those of man? "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:8-9). We are guaranteed the freedom of religion by the First Amendment to the Constitution, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." Those who worship the only true and living God have been blessed. It only stands to reason that a nation that worships God, would be a nation so blessed. Benjamin Franklin once said, "The longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of man; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice (Matt. 10:29), is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?" So, what's the problem? Why has there been a steady decline in traditional values? Is America mirroring Phil. 2:15, "...a crooked and perverse nation..."? Does this accurately depict America today?

Yes, there is a problem, but what can we do? Brethren, we can start by praying for our leaders. And continue to pray that the Lord will help us to know what our roles are, as citizens of this country and as inhabitants of the world. The youth in the church is becoming more and more apathetic. Parents, what is happening? "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes." (Prov. 13:24). Brothers and sisters, we must take an active part in removing the moral decay in America, and it all begins... within ourselves.

For the consideration of
my Brothers and Sisters,
Brian J. Ross
Baron Church of Christ

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REPENT

Luke 13:3 "Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." Luke places a must on repentance. You cannot get to Heaven without repenting. In Acts 2:38 Peter told the people on the day of Pentecost to repent. 2 Peter 3:9 says the Lord is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. So the question is what must I do in order to repent?

Rom. 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God." To repent is a changing of the mind to quit being carnal minded, which is seeing unrighteousness and serve God; which is to bring into your life righteousness, God's commands. Acts 8:22 "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." It still shows that the mind is to be changed in regard to sin. I will serve God and his righteousness and not the carnal mind because to be carnally minded is death. Rom. 8:6 "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

Acts 26:20 says that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance. Again it shows that repentance is a changing of the mind from carnal to serving God. It also tells us that something else must also take place with a

repented person - works following repentance showing he did repent. It would not do any good if one said "I repent of what I am doing" but went right on doing it. His works shows he did not repent. For example Matt. 21:28-29, the son said about working in his father's vineyard "I will not"; but later repented and went. He repented and works followed, he went. If he had said "I repent" and did not go, he spoke in vain. What he did after he said he repented would prove he did not.

Col. 3:2 "Set your affection of things above, not on things on the earth." Luke 3:8 "Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." Luke tells us the same thing that Acts 26:20 does. After repentance, there must be works worthy or proving the repentance. The scriptures do not teach that it is okay for some people not to bring forth fruit worthy of repentance, but it does teach that each and every repented person must bring forth fruit worthy of repentance.

Luke 3:9 "And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire." Let's notice what James 2:20 tells us - that faith without works is dead. James 2:18 "Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works." A man's works will shew forth what his heart is; it shows the real me. You cannot get around it.

Works must follow repentance and if we don't bring forth good fruit (righteousness), it's the fire; if we do, it's eternal happiness. When the scriptures condemns us and it is quoted to us, it is not the person that quoted it that condemns us, it is God that condemns us for going against His word.

John 12:48-49 "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak."

Yours in Christ,
Melvin Daniels
999 Watson Circle
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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GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Once again it has been a long time since sending in anything, but not much news from here.

It seems like the cold and flu season has hit early. These sudden changes from hot to cold has brought on the flu. We are thankful no one has any serious illness.

We had a weekend meeting October 18-20 with Bro. Brian Ross doing the speaking. We didn't have large crowds, but had four very good lessons. We had visitors from Bohannan Mountain in Arkansas and Baron, Loco and Broken Bow, Oklahoma. I'm sure everyoen there benefitted from the lessons and we thank them for coming and supporting us. We also thank Bro. Brian for holding the meeting.

We don't have many visitors during the winter season, but all visitors are welcome anytime.

In Christian love,
Paul Andrews

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Hello to everyone throughout the brotherhood. Our hope and prayers are that all is well. Not all our news is good news at this writing. Our Sister Mary Long has passed away. As most knew, she had been ill for a long time and hasn't been able to attend services with us for quite some time. She was baptized into God's family many years ago. When I was a small boy, she was already a christian. Everyone please remember Bro. Donny and family in your prayers that each day God's healing power will lessen the sorrows of their lost. Sister Ruth Duncan has

not been doing well for quite some time. Please include her in your prayers as well.

We will soon have a positive date for our spring meeting with guest speakers. We are trying to find when most of you have your spring school break, but jot this down in your memory for the time perior of Easter. The weather is great that time of the year and we hope you can be here.

We enjoy all the newsletters of late. It is so good to hear from you! We send our love and prayers to all. May God bless us all.

For the church in Yuma,
Harry Davis and family

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BROKEN BOW, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

I thought it about time to report on the activities of the year as the year is fast closing. As reported earlier, I have travelled this year all year through the churches and most all are doing very well. I visited Duncanville, Texas two times and we enjoyed the fellowship and worship. I also went to a good weekend meeting with Bro. McCay in Duncan, Oklahoma. I spent two weekends at Randlett, Oklahoma with Bro. Jim Brown the first weekend and then guest speakers the next weekend. We sure had good attendance and much fellowship. I have also been back to Randlett between meetings. Those that were not at those meetings sure missed a lot of christian love and a good time.

I also attended the meeting at Goshen, Arkansas which was a wonderful meeting. There was much love and I had a good time also. The weekend meeting at Baron, Oklahoma was real good and also the Stilwell meeting with Bro. Kelly McCay was wonderful. We also had a wonderful meeting at Broken Bow. We had lots of attendance and good worship services. I was at Lorenzo, Texas for part of their meeting which was real good. Several were baptized also. I have been back to Lorenzo twice since the meeting and one more was baptized.

I also was at the Delta camp meeting which was real good and a lot of singing and studying God's word. All who missed it

sure did miss out on some wonderful worship and fellowship. Please try to make plans to be there next year. I was also at Selah, Washington two weekends and enjoyed the fellowship and worship there. I spent one Sunday night at the Yakima service. The brethren at each place is wonderful and seem to try to build up their strength.

I wish all that could, would plan a weekend meeting next year and write it in the Courier so all can plan to attend as many as possible. We need to stir up our pure minds by way of remembrance like the churches in the days of Paul and the apostles visited and fellowshipped.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Lloyd Treat
13 N. Bock
Broken Bow, OK 74718

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings to all from the San Pablo congregation. We pray all is well with you. And we send our love to one and all. There are some here that have gone through operations and we are pleased to report that our Heavenly Father has answered prayers. Bro. J.D. Logan had back surgery and doctor found some bone fragments and removed them. Last Lord's Day (12/1/91) we visited him and he was still hurting, but doing real well, being that his operation was the Friday before and he was home on Sunday. Sister Lola Prado went into the hospital again, and we were worried that she may have more cancer, but the doctor says that is now more cancer that he could find. So we have very much to be thankful for.

We had a surprise visit from Brother Bud Davis from Yuma, Arizona. He was passing through and stopped to worship with us and he gave us a very inspiring lesson. We look forward to having him here again. All are welcome to come and worship with us when you are in the area. You are welcome to come to our Thursday night Bible study also.

Brother Gene and Sister Pat McKinney just returned from their trip to see their daughter, Barbara Carter, and their grandchildren in Oregon. On the way home, they had a narrow escape. A pickup sideswiped them and almost caused them to run off the road. We are thankful that they were not harmed and arrived home safely.

We continually thank God for His Word and for all the brethren in Christ. And that we all will strive for unity. And we thank the brethren there in Bellflower for their labour of love getting the Christian Courier out each month. We can help by sending in letters and articles and don't forget the needed money to keep the paper going out.

In Christian love to all,
San Pablo, CA Church of Christ

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We pray that all is well in the brotherhood. We, at Bellflower, are doing pretty good, for the most part. The cold and flu cycle has hit and we are all experiencing one type or another, but other than that, our sickness has been nothing major.

We have had a few visitors for which we are thankful. Bro. and Sis. Tom and Charlene Broadway from Oregon visited with us for awhile and we were blessed to have them worship with us for two Sundays. Bro. Tom gave us a very good lesson. We also had Jo Williams from Oklahoma with us for several days and she worshipped with us also. Bro. and Sis. Howard and Nell McCay and their daughter, Lynell Forsman, popped in for a quick visit. We all got to have a brief visit with them on Wednesday night. So, we have had a few visitors for which we are thankful.

One Sunday (after Thanksgiving), our church building was not so full. Gerald, Natalie and Monica Brockman; and Martin, Tayna, Jeffrey and Kindra Brockman were visiting in Chico, California. Bro. and Sister Jerry and Betty Perigen were visiting their daughters in Denver, Colorado. We are small in number and when that many families are gone at once, our church

building seems very lonely. We are thankful that all of them made it back safe and sound.

We have a new face worshipping with us. His name is Vincent Johnson and he is a member of the church. We are blessed to have him worship with us and he is a real inspiration to us.

That about covers the news from this congregation. Please keep us in your prayers. Anyone travelling this way, please feel free to stop and worship and visit with us. God bless.

In Christian love,
Mark Perigen

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FROM THE CRADLE TO THE CROSS

We never saw the Holy Child,
So tender and so fair,
But we have read of those who did-
God's chosen few were there.

Just a manger in a stable,
No cradle for his bed.
There they laid him, Precious Jesus,
No pillow for his head.

God sent his son to do his will
Thou envied by the King,
More precious is his righteousness
Than any earthly thing.

He had compassion on the poor,
The lame he made to walk.
He raised the dead to life again
and caused the dumb to talk.

A blind man cried as He passed by,
"Have mercy, Lord, on me
Thou son of God, restore my sight"
And he was made to see.

Condemned to death by cruel men,
They nailed Him to the cross,
But all of those who follow Him
shall never suffer loss.

A greater Love was never known,
Nor sacrifice more free,
Than that the Lord of heaven sent
By way of Calvary.

By Perry S. Hall (1947)
Submitted by Randolph Kellems

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TO THE YOUNG MEN WORKING IN THE LORD'S VINEYARD

The Lord is dear, he is always near, when we call his name, he is always the same.

Mark, Paul and the ones I know not their names, following the Saviour in the path of right, I pray they will always be a shining light in the pathway of right guiding us to our Heavenly home.

The pathway seems rugged and long the detours are all along the way watch your steps and never falter and fall. Jesus is there all you have to do is call his name.

My legs are getting shaky and old, but my faith is strong Jesus is there to guide me along. What a delight to know that Jesus is the light in the darkest night. I ask in his name for that heavenly home waiting for his own.

In love to all the young men
teaching God's word,
Written by June Auslam

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I want to thank each of you who sent cards, letters and called concerning my recent back operation. I am doing much better and living with less pain. My problems are nothing compared to the many who suffer so much each day, my heart and prayers go out to and for you. Some day, my dear friends, we

shall escape the bonds of this flesh and leave it behind, may God's will be done and his purpose for us completed. I, for one, am looking forward to that day. God bless you.

- Bro. Al Way

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IN MEMORY OF JOHN ALLEN SHEPHERD

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours: and their works do follow them.

God has seen fit to call one of his workers home. John Allen Shepherd was born Oct. 24, 1939 in Flagstaff, Arizona. He passed from this life November 12, 1991 in Payson, Arizona. To those of us who have known John these many years, this leaves a saddness that only God and time can heal. He truly did labour for the Lord, and willingly. For years he conducted services for his family in their home. He was always delighted for visitors to come along and lend a helping hand. The hospitality of this family is legend. Their door was always open not only to other Christians, but to friends, who were many.

If at times someone was in need, there was a helping hand offered. If someone just needed a smile, it was freely given. Rest in peace, John.

In Christian love,
Verda Nelson

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Delta, Colorado	June 28 - July 5	Camp