The Christian Courier



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

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1992

****

"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

****

THE NEW YEAR

This past year has come to a close and no one can state that it was not an eventful one. We saw war which shows man does not learn but seems destined to repeat his mistakes. We see from its results searching hearts for peace. But with no presence of God all we see are hollow faces and empty hearts. Until man finds God he will not find peace. John 16:33 "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

The peace that Jesus came to bring was not the peace of appeasement or the peace of compromise and conformity. It was a spiritual peace. The world doesn't give peace for it doesn't have any peace to give. It fights for peace, it negotiates for peace it maneuvers for peace, but there is no ultimate peace in the world. But Christ gives us true peace because we trust in Him.

Being true Christians we should not be awed by the dissolve of the Soviet Union. Time after time in the Bible we see what man has built is subject to be lost. The Soviet Union was built by man's hand and ideas. This event should only further strengthen our faith that we build on the foundation of God and His word. Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withereth the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever.

We know that this world will not resolve to obedience to God's word for the Bible states this. Read Matthew 24, especially verse 37 "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Decaying morals do not surprise God, but just add to what one day will be the fire of God's judgment. In Noah's day moral disintegration was so bad that God allowed the world to be destroyed by a flood. Take a look around you this coming new year ask yourself, will the world change or is history repeating itself?

Peace be with you,
Ken Williams
Waterford, CA

****

THE WORLD'S GREATEST FAMINE

The Bible speaks of several bad famines. The world endured seven years of famine in the time of Joseph. In Acts 11:28 we read of another. "And there stood up one of them named Agabus, and signified by the spirit that there should be great dearth throughout all the world: which came to pass in the days of Claudius Caesar."

While these great famines were truly miserable for the people to endure, they were not the greatest famine of all. These in their worst times could only cost physical life. We read in the Bible of a famine that can cost our eternal life.

This famine is found in Amos 8:11-13. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord: And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it. In that day shall the fair virgins and young men faint for thirst."

This is the worst famine of all because we read in Rom. 10:17. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." Connecting this with Heb. 11:6, we see, "But without faith it is impossible to please him;..." So, a famine of hearing in our lives can cost us our eternal lives.

To avoid this we can apply the same general principles that Joseph used to cope with his famine. In the 41st chapter of Genesis, Joseph stored up food in the seven years of plenty, so that Egypt would have food in the seven years of famine that would follow.

We have a Bible written by the apostles and prophets themselves, who were inspired by the Holy Spirit. All this was given for our benefit. In II Tim. 3:16-17 we find "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Since we have this great blessing so accessible, we should store up God's word in our hearts and minds. II Tim. 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

In the last part of the 41st chapter and first part of the 42nd chapter of Genesis, we see that the whole world, including Joseph's brethren, came to Egypt when the famine struck to buy food.

Likewise Prov. 23:23 advises us to: "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." This is not speaking of paying a preacher but of valuing God's word. Prov. 8:10-11 "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold. For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it." Prov. 4:7-9 "Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee."

Joseph put his brethren through some trials, but in the end, Gen. 45, he shared with them, and moved them to Egypt.

In like manner, we need to share God's word with others. We read in II Tim. 2:24-26, "And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, <u>apt to teach</u>, patient, in

meekness instruction those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will." Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life: and he that winneth souls is wise."

So, let us follow these steps, be always eager to listen to God's word, and thus overcome a famine of hearing.

Let's close with the words of Jesus in Rev. 3:22 "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the spirit saith unto the churches."

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
27606 Pacific Hwy. S. #A204
Federal Way, WA 98003
(206) 529-1643

****

THE BRIDE OF CHRIST (THE CHURCH)

Isaiah 61:10 "I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.

Can we truly say we have put on the garments of salvation. Faith, repentance, confession and baptism and the robe of righteousness? 2 Pet. 1:5-10, Gal. 5:22. We as christians must be clothed with these works of the Spirit if we want to see God.

Rev. 21:2-3 "and I John, saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband, and I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God.

John saw this great city prepared and made ready. It was holy, it was the tabernacle of God and it would be with man. John 1:29 speaking of Christ, he said: behold the Lamb of God. Rev. 21:22, 24 "and the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the lamb is the light thereof. And the nations of them

which are saved shall walk in the light of it; and the Kings of the earth do bring their glory and honor into it. Rev. 21:9-11 "and there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven viles full of the seven lost plagues and talked with me, saying, come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem descending out of heaven from God. Having the glory of God; and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

Here we find that John the revelator tells us that the new Jerusalem is the bride of Christ. Rev. 19:7-9 "Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he said unto me, write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. and He said unto me, these are the true sayings of God." Yes, the righteousness of saints or christians if you please is what the Bride of Christ is adorned with.

Rev. 21:22-23 "And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it. And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it: for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof." Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ guides his house, he is the light of it and no one can take his place. The apostles were called to the marriage on Petecost. Rom. 7:4 "Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God." Just as the marriage law is to a husband and his wife, till death do you part, the first testament had to pass on from existance before the second could be brought forth.

Rev. 22:17 "and the Spirit and the bride say, come. And let him that is athirst come and whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." Yes the bride of Christ (the church) is pleading for sinners to come and drink with Christ. Isaiah 62:1-5 "For zion's sake will I not hold my peace and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness

and all kings thy glory. And thou shalt be called by a new name, which the mouth of the Lord shall name. Thou shalt also be a crown of glory in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. Thou shalt no more be termed forsaken; neither shall thy land any more be termed desolate: but thou shalt be called Hephzibah, and thy land Beulah: for the Lord delighteth in thee and thy land shall be married. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee; and as the bride-groom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee.

Let's notice what these scriptures tell us. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God in John 1:29; the new and great city, Jerusalem, is the Bride of Christ; it's clothed with the garments of salvation and covered with the robe of righteousness. This is what saints or christians have adorned themselves with, and this s the tabernacle in which God will dwell with men, Christ is the light of it. This great city has the glory of God and that light that it has is Jesus Christ, and it can be clearly seen if your light is that precious light (the gospel of Christ). Christ is gone to prepare a place for his bride (John 14:1-3, I Thess. 4:13-17).

When Christ comes back he will present her to the Father, but before he does he will make sure that his bride is presentable before he shows her to the Father. If we offend or do iniquity, if we are one of those sinful spots on the robe of white, we shall be gathered off and cast into the fire. So let's make sure we are not one of these spots.

Matt. 13:41-43 "The son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; and shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father, who hath ears to hear, let him hear."

Melvin Daniels
999 Watson Circle
Fayetteville, AR 72703

****

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

****

CEDAREDGE, COLORADO

Hello to all the Brotherhood!

Here it is January, 1992 already and time for all of us to make plans for the new year. The Colorado camp meeting is only a few months away - June 28th through July 5th. We will open the camp starting June 27th (Saturday) to July 6th (Monday). Please make your plans now to be here. We have had a lot of response from loved ones who plan to be here. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you. We are excited and will start making plans for a big year.

We have all been pretty well this winter except for colds, etc. We are very happy to have Bro. Skip and Sis. Pam Berry and their 3 children; and also Sister Debbie Newman and her 3 children meeting with us again. It is really great to have them back. Our weather is beautiful for here, lots of snow, but no wind. So we all enjoy going sledding, etc. after church and every chance we get.

Our camp meeting should be a very pretty time this year on the Grand Mesa with all of the wild flowers and God's creation. Mark your calendars.

Love and best wishes to all,
Happy Hallow Church of Christ

****

DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brethren:

We are planning a week-end meeting April 3rd, 4th, and 5th. Services will start at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights and Sunday morning service will be at 10:30 a.m. After lunch, we will have singing and an afternoon service will start at 2:30 p.m. We are planning to have guest speakers. Mark the dates on

your calendars. I'm sure there will be plenty of good preaching, good singing, and good Christian fellowship. If you can make it for all or part of the meeting, come on down!

We have been in our new Church home one year. We are very happy here. I'm sure most of you had never heard of the Valley View Church of Christ before my first letter in the Courier last spring. This congregation had always been small and kept a low profile. This church was started by my great-grandfather, R.L. Taylor, in the spring of 1919. They met in a country schoolhouse located nine miles east of Duncan. The school's name was Valley View School and the name has stuck to the church ever since. My grandparents, Bro. and Sis. Joe Taylor met and married while attending the Valley View church. The building we now meet in was built in 1952, a mile east of the original site. Various leaders kept the Valley View church going until 1982, when the last male member became too ill to conduct services and the church was closed. My family had attended church at Valley View quite a bit while I was growing up and after I had married. We had many fond memories of the times we attended the Valley View Church, and decided to open it back up. After a tremendous amount of fixing up and cleaning up, we had our first worship service December 16, 1990. At the present time there are 17 of us - men, women and children. And we have visitors almost every Sunday.

We would like to invite anyone who lives in the area or anyone just passing through to stop in and meet with us. Our worship service starts at 10:30 every Sunday morning. Don't forget our upcoming meeting.

In christian love,
Don Lewis

****

GOSHEN, ARKANSAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I will send this in but no much has been happening here. Most have had colds and flu, but nothing more serious than that.

Bro. Brian Ross from the Baron, Oklahoma congregation has agreed to come one Sunday a month to speak for us. We look forward to it, especially since we only have two speakers.

Bro. Audley Barnes has agreed to hold our meeting next summer. We don't have an exact date yet, but will try to send it in when we do. We are looking forward to that. Bro. Audley is a good speaker and we invite everyone who can to come.

The best news is that one Sunday night after services a brother asked for prayers. There is much rejoicing here and I know in heaven. We invite all visitors anytime.

In Christian love,
Paul Andrews

****

YUMA, ARIZONA

Greetings and best wishes to all in this new year ahead. The past year has had some sad moments for us, but we must count our many blessings and for our answered prayers. We have had some growth and lots of good times together and remain strong in unity and faith.

We have some good news this writing. On December 30, 1991, Diane Stottlemire (age 13) was baptized; then on January 5, 1992, Ben Corey (age 16) was baptized. Lewis Boling conducted the baptism with Diane; Robert Davis conducted the baptism with Ben. This was the first baptism for Lewis and he did a very good job. We are glad to have these two young christians join with us in the Lord's service. May we all be of help to them and all new christians, for this is a critical time with them. Most often the conduct and behavior of older christians has all to do with their growing strong.

The dates for our spring meeting are beginning on April 12th and ending on April 19th. We will have guest speakers for each service. This is a very pleasant time of year here in Yuma and hope everyone will have opportunity to be with us some or all of the meeting. There are normally some accommodations here at the church, R.V. hook-ups, and our homes. Call or write for more information; Harry Davis (602) 783-0474; Horace Orendorf (602) 782-6444; Sonny Boling (602) 783-8580; Bud Davis (602) 783-5214; Verda Nelson (602) 783-5369; and Robert Davis (602) 782-2986. These a few numbers you may call; try to be with us if you can. All are welcome.

We have some illness in our group - Bro. Phil Bumgardner, Sis. Betty Carlson, Bro. Howard McCay, Sis. Alice Davis, and Sis. Ruth Duncan. May our prayers throughout the brotherhood be often for those ill, injured and depressed.

This is most of the news from Yuma at this time. We are having a wet winter and should have wild flowers on the desert this spring. The success of this new year depends much on us. Let us all work hard for the Lord, He won't be happy with us if we don't. May we strive for unity and being of one mind in the Lord. May God bless and keep us all.

In Christian love,
The Harry Davis Family

****

LOCO, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

It has been some time since we've written, so I'll will try to remedy that now. We are all still alive and, most of the time, well. There has been the usual round of flu and colds that are around this time of year.

Since our report on our 1991 meeting, we have had several visitors, for which we've been very thankful. In the early fall, Bro. Paul and Sis. Marge Andrews from Goshen, Arkansas were here for a few days. Paul gave us a good lesson on Sunday. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jaetta Loftis from Lorenzo, Texas have been here a couple of times. On one trip, Jim gave Howard some assistance with rebuilding a law mower. I'm sure all help was appreciated.

Bro. Earl and Sis. Olene Howe, also from Lorenzo, came and spent a few days. On Thanksgiving night, Bro. Evert and Sis. Becky Forsman and kids, and Bro. Jim and Sis. Jaetta came and stayed with us until Sunday after lunch. We enjoyed hearing Bro. Evert speak on Sunday.

Around the first of January, Bro. James and Sis. Beulah Vanderpool from Bohannan Mountain, Arkansas came and visited a few days and we were glad to hear Bro. James speak on Sunday. Although only for a few hours, Bro. Ed and Sis. Francis Tate from Newcastle stopped by Howard and Leola's one afternoon for a visit a few months back.

On the Thursday before Christmas, Sis. Karla Jones had a severe gall bladder attack and was hospitalized until Dec. 23rd. The doctors wanted to wait about three weeks to let the bladder "cool off" before removing it. It wasn't to be that way. She had another attack on January 2nd and was hospitalized the following morning for surgery. It was hoped the laproscopic method could be used and Karla could retrun the following day. Half-way through surgery, we were told that the common bile duct was totally blocked, so more radical surgery was performed. We had a pretty sick girl for a few days and final tubes were only taken out on January 20th. At least, now she won't be plagued by any more gall bladder attacks. We are all very thankful for Karla's recovery and for the calls and cards sent from loved ones.

Thanks to all the visitors that came the past few months and gave us your support. We love you all. One of the most valuable blessings we have is brothers and sisters in Christ. Come again any time.

In christian love,
Audley Barnes

****

BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We have all been a little hectic around here after the holidays and two new additions to our congregation. Bro. and Sis. Gerald and Natalie Brockman brought a new little girl into the world on January 4, 1992. Her name is Heather Elise and she weighed 6 lbs. 2 oz. She was not expected until February 4th, but she came early and we are thankful she is very healthy. Bro. and Sis. Martin and Tayna Brockman brought a new little boy into the world on January 5, 1992. His name is Gregory Thomas and he weighed 5 lbs. 11 oz. He was almost three weeks late and are very thankful that he was healthy. He had a little problem keeping his body temperature regulated, it kept dropping, but is a healthy baby now. We are very blessed to have two new babies born within hours of each other and both of them being healthy.

Most in our congregation are experiencing colds and flus. Sister Myrtle Lee Clouse was in the hospital with pneumonia, but is at her son's home now slowly recovering. Please pray for her. The weather does not help with the colds and flus as it is hot one day and then cold another. We have had some much needed rain this winter though.

Sister Tara Ross was out visiting for a little over a week after Christmas. Sister Wanda Brockman was with us two Sundays helping out with the new babies. We really enjoyed having them visit and invite them and any others out to visit with us any time.

We also want to announce our meeting this year. We have asked Bro. Bob Eldridge to speak for us. We have heard he is a very good speaker and we are really looking forward to hearing him and having him and his family here. Our meeting dates are set for July 5-12. Anyone who can come, please plan on attending - I'm sure you won't be disappointed. If you need any information or directions call Al Way (714) 842-1633; Jerry Perigen (310) 866-0656; Martin Brockman (714) 598-2109; Gerald Brockman (714) 595-1801 or Mark Perigen (310) 925-0786.

In Christian love,
Mark Perigen

****

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Lorenzo, Texas	March 6, 7, & 8	Guest Speakers
Duncan, Oklahoma	April 3, 4, & 5	Guest Speakers
Yuma, Arizona	April 12 - 19	Guest Speakers
Baron, Oklahoma	June 21 - 28	Bob Farley
Delta, Colorado	June 28 - July 5	Camp
Bellflower, California	July 5 - 12	Bob Eldridge
Goshen, Arkansas	To be announced	Audley Barnes

****

The congregation at Lorenzo, Texas would like us to let everyone know that they are now having basket dinners each 2nd Sunday of every month. They invite anyone who can to come and fellowship with them.