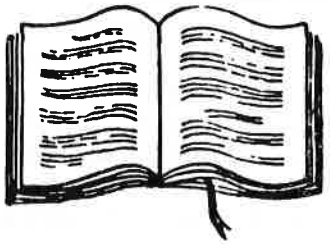
The Christian Courier



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

JULY 1992

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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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PECULIAR PEOPLE

I am writing today to speak on a subject that hs troubled me in my Christian walk these past few years. The problem is more of a feeling than a solid concrete subject. Brothers, have you ever had the feeling that those outside the body of Christ were getting ahead of you? Have you every turned down invitations to social gatherings because you didn't think that Jesus would be found at such gatherings? Do you feel like your co-workers think you are a little strange because you want to talk about the Bible, or share your personal experiences of what Christ has done for you? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, then I know how you feel. I have done some reading in the Bible that may help. I often find myself just a shade different than those that do not profess Christ as their savior. The Bible tells us in Titus 2:14 "Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works."

If you feel peculiar, than you are probably doing something right. Standing up for Christ is a daily duty, and you will feel the weight of

the cross that Christ tells us we must bear in Matt. 16:24-25 "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it."

If we find that in our daily lives that others are getting ahead without Christ, we must thank Christ increasingly that we have a far better keeper of treasures than any earthly bank or investment firm. Our treasures as Christians are in heaven - Matt. 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal."

Corruption in today's society is all around us. We must shine as an example for those in darkness. While often those in the world shine brighter than we do due to possessions or some other material gain, we know the truth through Jesus Christ our Lord. We must not be taken in by what glitters and shines in this world. We must stand apart. We have been called by God the Father and are a chosen people as seen in 1 Peter 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

We know that our stand for Christ is absolute. Brethren, we cannot go both ways. We must choose everyday which path we are going to take. Jesus speaks about the choice of whom to serve in Matt. 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." It is so easy to get off the path to eternal life and we must always carefully examine the intent of our mind and heart. The world is lost already: we know this from reading Matt. 7:13-14 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." We must not tread down the broad path which leads to death, but stay on the road Christ paved for us with his precious blood on the cross. When you see others getting ahead of you remember what Jesus said before his crucifixion and ascension into heaven - John 14:12-3 "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; and where I am, there ye may be also."

Do not worry about what you do not have here on earth. Be concerned about what you will have for eternity in heaven. God bless you.

Bro. Steven Coody
Valley View Church of Christ

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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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BARON, OKLAHOMA

Greetings to the brotherhood:

The church here at Baron is doing fairly well with good attendance on Sundays. We had a wonderful gospel meeting with Bro. Bob Farley. He presented us with ten good gospel lessons, he is a wonderful speaker. We enjoyed him, his wife and his daughter, Candie, in our homes so very much. Three came forward asking for prayers. We were all encouraged by his lessons. Eight congregations were represented here. We had very good attendance all week. We had as many as 84 people the last Sunday morning. The sisters here did a great job cooking up some tasty food for everyone. We had plenty of room for all that come and could have found some more space had it been necessary. All in all, we had a wonderful week of christian fellowship.

Love and prayers to all,
James F. Brown

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SAN PABLO, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings from the San Pablo, California congregation. Our prayer is that it is well with all and that God has blessed you. Also, our prayers go out to Robert Edwards of the Seymour, TX congregation. We pray that the doctor's hands be steady and directed to do what is necessary so Robert will be able to raise up in good health.

Our prayer for Bro. Jack Cooper here in San Pablo will have good news about his left eye. He has an appointment to see what can be done. The doctor says he has a dried blood clot. So, remember him in our prayers too.

Bro. and Sis. Gene and Pat McKinney is on a trip to Washington to check out some property. They plan to retire there. We pray for a safe journey for them. We miss them already.

Not much news to report except we are few in number and are still striving for the truth. We are not able to go to the meetings around the country and we sure miss them. We really prefer to be with christians than with those out in the world. May the Heavenly Father use us to teach them about the good news of the gospel of Christ. Just think how the Church of Christ would grow if each one of us would just bring one person each year into the body of Christ.

Remember those new babes in Christ and always be there for them as they grow in the church. God bless you Robert and Cindy Delacruz of Salem, Oregon as you start your new life in Christ. May God bless us all.

In Christian love,
Homer and Bonnie Bryant and family

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FURNISH CANYON, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Enclosed please find a check to help with the publication of The Courier. We enjoy it each time we receive it. Sorry I've been so lax in writing, but it seems this last year nearly every member has either had surgery, sickness or some ailment. Thanks to the Lord we are all better now.

Sister Millye Francis at 100 is still going strong. She still resides in a nursing home but is up and about.

We have had some fine rains this spring and summer. The country looks good. Hope this finds everyone in fair health.

In Christian love,
Billy L. Richardson
For the church at Furnish Canyon
Kenton, OK 73946

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YUMA, ARIZONA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I am writing a little letter from the Church of Christ here in Yuma. Most of our crowd is doing very well. We hope and pray all is well with all the congregations. It is pretty warm here but we are surviving. Some of our brothers and sisters are up in the Arizona mountains. We sure od miss all of them. Sister Verda Nelson is at her cabin in Heber, Arizona and Buddy and Willie are at their cabin in Alpine, Arizona. They have been attending some the meetings up in Washington, but should be back home or back to their cabins this coming week. Our crowd is very small but still keep going, thank the good Lord.

Bro. Earl Broadway isn't doing very well. They were out today for the service but he is having dizzy spells. Bro. Donny Long isn't doing well either. Bro. Al Jones has had his third heart surgery in Tucson and it was announced today he came home yesterday but is very weak. Please remember them and all the rest in your prayers - we need it.

We have a new couple and 2 girls who have been meeting with us the past 3 or 4 weeks. Their names are Mr. and Mrs. Ken Sewell. He works at YPG and we are happy to have them meeting with us. Bro. Tony Brister and family were here from Citrus City and he gave a wonderful lesson. We always enjoy hearing him. Two sisters went forward for the prayers of the church.

We enjoy reading the Courier very much. Let us strive for unity and try to all be of one mind in the spirit. I am sure that would be pleasing and a blessing to the Lord.

This past Sunday Bro. Billie Martin and family from Citrus City drove in and gave us a good lesson. We need more good speakers. We are sending our best wishes and love to all.

Sister Ruth Duncan
for the Church at Yuma

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NEW CASTLE, TEXAS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Greetings and best wishes to all. Bro. Jim and Sis. Jaetta Loftis invited my wife and I to go to Yuma, Arizona with them for their meeting in April. We enjoyed our trip there. Thanks to all for your wonderful hospitality. In June, we invited them to go to Goshen, Arkansas for their meeting. Bro. Audley Barnes preached some very good lessons that we enjoyed. Thanks to all there for a wonderful time and for the hospitality we received there. We went from there to Baron, Oklahoma for their meeting to hear Bro. Bob Farley for 4 nights. Again, we had a wonderful time there. Thanks to all there for putting up with us. Especially thanks to David and Debbie Brown and boys for a nice place to stay. We left Baron on Friday to go to the Delta, CO camp meeting which we enjoyed very much.

We send our love and prayers to each one and that we may dwell together in love and strive to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

In Christian love,
Ed and Francis Tate
501 N. Ave. O
Olney, TX 76374
(817)564-2598

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DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

We are all doing well in the congregation here at Duncan. We are planning a week-end meeting September 4, 5 and 6th with Bro. Bob Eldridge doing the speaking. I'm sure Bob will bring four very good, uplifting lessons.

We have good news to share. On Sunday, July 12th, Kevin and Jamie Williams were baptized. Luke 15:7 says "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Let's always be very supportive of our new members as they grow in the church and we will all be strengthened.

We are also happy to announce that Bro. Steve and Sis. Danese Coody are meeting with us full-time now. They live 120 miles away from church

and they are really to be commended for making the trip every Sunday morning.

Last Sunday we reserved a pavilion at the park and had a big dinner to help Bro. Joe Taylor celebrate his 95th birthday. Bro. Joe is well loved and respected by all of us. He was baptized eighty years ago. When he leads opening prayer and asks God to bless this little congregation, it give me such a sense of well being.

Don't forget our upcoming meeting. I'm sure there will be a lot of good christian fellowship. For those who would like to come down and spend the whole week-end with us, we have plenty of room in our homes. If you feel at home around country folks, you'll fit right in with us. We would love to have you attend all or part of our meeting.

Our church building is located out in the country, but if you can find Duncan on the map, you shouldn't have any trouble finding us. Take highway 7 east our of Duncan about ten miles. You will come to a gas station/convenience store called "Robinson's Corner"; turn north 1 mile then east 1 1/2 miles. The church building is on the north side of the road. If you have any problems finding us, call me at (405) 255-7278.

In christian love,
Don Lewis

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BELLFLOWER, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We have just finished up a very uplifting and wonderful gospel meeting with Bro. Bob Eldridge doing the speaking. We had lots of visitors and are very grateful for all of the support. We had 2 baptisms and one sister came forward for the prayers of the church that she be strengthened. Shelley Buie was baptized the first Sunday. She lives in Dos Palos, California and is Bro. Bob Eldridge's niece. Shawn Swift was baptized on Saturday. He lives in Stilwell, OK. There is much rejoicing here on earth and in Heaven. We all benefited greatly for the wonderful sermons that Bro. Bob brought to us. We really enjoyed Bro. Bob and Sis. Shirley Eldridge and their daughters, Kayla, Wendy and Jana.

The visitors we had are as follows: Sam, Sandy, Shelley and Davie Buie from Dos Palos, CA; J.L. and Eunice Jared from Salem, OR; Clif and Wanda Brockman and Larry Brockman from Chico, CA; Shawn Swift from Stilwell, OK; Jo Williams from Duncan, OK; Tom and Charlene Broadway from

Rouge River, OR; Jerry McCay, Brent McCay, Michelle Forsman, and Kim Forsman from Lorenzo, TX; Ellis and Lynell Forsman, Amy Orendorff and her kids, Shaya, David and Hanna from Seattle, WA; Eric and Lori Harper and their son, Jonathan, from Sacramento, CA; Joan Shea and her family, Marion and Mary Serrano, and Sis. Auslam and her family from La Habra, California.

Sis. Myrtle Lee Clouse is now in Texas with her daughter, Ruby. We had a very sad and tearful good-bye and want her to know that our love and prayers will be with her always.

We had a pleasant surprise as Bro. and Sis. Ken and Connie Williams and their daughters, Melissa and Jessica, came for a visit last Sunday. Bro. Ken gave us a very good lesson Sunday morning and we really enjoyed our visit with them.

Everyone seems to be in good health. Keep us in your prayers as we remember you. God bless you.

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GOSPEL MEETINGS

Lorenzo, Texas	July 26 - Aug. 2	Dan Ross
Duncan, Oklahoma	Sept. 4, 5, and 6	Bob Eldridge

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EDITOR'S NOTE

We want to thank all of you who support the paper both financially and with news and articles. Unfortunately, the financial burden seems to fall on the same congregations and generous individuals. Let's all think about this as we all seem to enjoy the paper. We have had several newsletters this month and it is a joy to see that we are helping to keep everyone in touch with each other. We have also had some contributions lately that we really needed and appreciate. Let's keep up with the support of the paper and we will try to keep up with putting the paper out each month. Thanks again and may God bless you.