Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Louise Brister	Citrus City, AZ	Health issues
Lou Dye	Citrus Ciry, AZ	Health issues
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Ericka Ferguson	Clinton, NJ	In prison
Lynn Iker	Duncan, OK	Heart surgery & financial need
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe pain
Don Hammett	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Ola McKenney	Gleed WA	Tumor removal & age.
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Severe aching joints - age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, extreme pain, & life threatening blood clots
Bob Stacy	Glenwood, WA	Fighting cancer & mini strokes
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & financial hardship
Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & spinal problems
Sharon Moore	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting breast cancer
Brenda Casarez	Lorenzo, TX	High blood pressure, eye problems
Ellis Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Dangerous & costly African travels
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Reba Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Serious Lupus & kidney failure
Renee Seaton	Pleasant View, OK	Blindness
Christine Burkhart	Springdale, AR	Health issues & financial need
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma
Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues
Gerald Warner	Waterford, CA	Stroke complications and age
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's & head injury from fall
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's

And all Those in nursing homes.

If you have any updates or corrections to this list, please email me at editor.christiancourier@gmail.com so I can keep this list current.



The Christian Courier

October, 2011

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Rat Race

FROM THE RAT RACE TO THE PEARLY GATES

In Matt. 24:37-39, Jesus warned us about living our everyday lives without Him in it. "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

We understand that God destroyed the world in the Flood because of man's disobedience and violence. But in this particular passage, Jesus was warning us of a different aspect of disobedience, that of just going on in our everyday lives without God. There is nothing wrong with eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage. We have to eat and drink to survive. We are told marriage is a gift from God. In addition, we need to go to work each day to provide for our families, or to school to learn. But if we just go through the motions of our lives every day, without living it for Jesus, we will find ourselves unprepared when He returns.

One thing that can help us each day is to do these everyday life activities in a way that pleases God. In doing so, we turn them from doing things out in the world without God into service for Him. These things are certainly not the only things we should do for the Lord every day. But they are often overlooked, and can be changed from worldly activities to godly activities with basically a change in attitude. It's an exciting concept, one that can really bless our Christian lives.

So how can we change the daily activities of eating and drinking into service for Jesus? It's all in our attitude. We find 3 parts to this change in attitude.

First of all, recognize that these blessings come from God. James 1:17. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Phil. 4:19 says. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Follow that first step up with trusting in Him to provide these blessings, so that we can focus on more spiritual matters. Matt. 6:31 -33. "Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Don't worry about the necessities of this life. Trust in God to provide. Psa. 37:3. "Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed."

The next step is thankfulness for these blessings God provides. Develop an attitude of gratitude, as we read in I Tim. 4:3-5. This scripture applies this thankful attitude specifically to our food. And we need to not only be thankful to God, but also express our thanksgiving to Him in prayer. In this passage Paul was pointing out several false doctrines. One had to do with our food. "Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer."

We could just eat and drink with our minds elsewhere, and never think about God or our food at all. Or we could focus only on the flavor and nutrition of our food, and cherish the experience itself for its own sake. Or we can remember that our food comes from God, trust in Him to provide it, be thankful for it and express that thanksgiving to God in prayer through the name of Jesus Christ. Doing so each time we eat and drink helps us to stay focused on Jesus throughout the day. Doing so takes eating and drinking from a mundane activity way past even a gourmet experience into the realm of service for Christ. Just by an attitude adjustment.

The second thing Jesus mentioned was marrying and giving in marriage. Marriage is a blessing God has given to all mankind. You don't have to be a Christian to get married. Heb. 13:4 says. "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." How then, can we turn our marriage from an everyday worldly activity into an activity for Christ?

1 Kings 21:17-22:1

17 And the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

18 Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, which is in Samaria: behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, whither he is gone down to possess it.

19 And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine.

20 And Ahab said to Elijah, Hast thou found me, O mine enemy? And he answered, I have found thee: because thou hast sold thyself to work evil in the sight of the LORD.

21 Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel,

22 And will make thine house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for the provocation wherewith thou hast provoked me to anger, and made Israel to sin.

23 And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel.

24 Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat.

25 But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up.

KJV

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

November 11-13	Broken Bow, OK	Guest Speakers
March 18-25 2012	Yuma, AZ	TBA

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Sue (Bixler) Dodge	Aztec, NM	Stoke(2), Heart Attack & Diabetes
Jackie Brown	Baron, OK	Serious lung problems
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Lung infection
Jake Hollan	Baron, OK	Lip cancer
Doyle Wilson	Baron, OK	Severe headaches
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Arthritic problems
Al Way	Bellflower, CA	Heart problems

BIBLE HEADLINES

Each of these newspaper headlines describe an event recorded in the Bible. Write the name of the person or story to which the headline refers on the line following each headline:

Queen Goes to Dogs _____

Boy Honored As War Hero _____

Man Seen Weeping on Street _____

Spear Barely Misses Musician _____

Monster Swallows Man _____

Man and Wife Forced From Home at Sword's Point _____

Great Physician Does Bone Transplant _____

Fiery Vehicle Carries Man to Outer Space _____

Man Kills Brother in Fit of Anger _____

Boat Stranded on Mountain _____

Slave Becomes Ruler _____

General With 300 Men Defeats Huge Army _____

Missionary is Shipwrecked _____

Government Leader Gives Secret Information to Woman Spy _____

Slaves Rebel Against King _____

Man Survives Lions' Den _____

Local Young Man Joins Missionary Group _____

Earthquake Damages Jail; No Escapes Reported _____

First of all, just as with our food, recognize that our marriage is a blessing from God. Eccl. 9:9 reads. "Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun." And Prov. 18:22 says. "Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."

This leads us again to thankfulness. Eph. 5:20. "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;". "All things" would certainly include our marriage and our spouse.

Follow through on this by living our marriage as a Christian should. Don't let the daily grind wear down our marriage as the world does. Put in the effort, commitment, giving, forgiving, and love that a Christian should, and do so every day. Eph. 5:24-25. "Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing. Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;". Don't love our wives like the world does. Love her like Christ loved the church! Col. 3:17 is a familiar passage. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." The next two verses apply this instruction to our marriage. Col. 3:18-19. "Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them."

In this study, we also want to explore our work or school. We do so, because of the time it takes up in our day. A normal full-time job is 8 hours a day, or roughly a third of each day, 5 days a week or more. Many of our jobs require even more time than that. Again, the right attitude will change 8 hours of the rat race into 8 hours of laying up treasure in Heaven. Let's see how.

Again, it begins with recognizing that your work or school is a blessing from God and being thankful for it. I Thes. 5: 18. "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

Second, we want to be sure that we are working for the right reasons. We aren't in it to get rich, or great possessions for ourselves. Jesus said in Luke 12:15. "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Instead our goals are to provide for ourselves, our families, and to be able to share with others in need. We read in I Thes. 4:11-12 that we need to provide for ourselves. "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing." In I Tim. 5:8, we see that we need to provide for our families. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel." And in Eph. 4:28, we read that we need to be generous to others. "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth."

Then we wrap up our change in attitude toward our job by working as though Jesus Christ is our boss, (or teacher). Col. 3:22-24. "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God; And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."

So we change eating and drinking into service to Christ by recognizing that these blessings come from God, trusting in Him to provide these necessities of life, being thankful to Him and expressing our thanks in prayer.

We change our marriage from mundane into Christian by again recognizing this blessing comes from God, being thankful for our marriage and our spouse, and living for them as a Christian should. For example, husbands love our wives as Jesus loved the church.

And we change our jobs (or school) into Christian service by once again recognizing God's blessing and being thankful for it, by working for the right reasons – not greed, but to provide for ourselves, our families and to be able to help others, and by working as though Jesus Christ is our boss (or teacher).

As we make these changes in attitude, note that we are turning these normal daily activities into service to Christ. But we are also developing a strong work ethic, love, and a giving and thankful spirit. So these steps also bless other areas of our Christian lives. It will probably even make our marriages and jobs better. It definitely helps us steer our mental focus away from the rat race of daily living into a life lived for Jesus to be rewarded on Judgment Day.

Col. 3:1-2. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth."

Offered in Christian love,

Bro. Terry Warford

6020 South Cedar Street

Tacoma, WA 98409

turtle64@wamail.net



News from Abroad

African Update, October 11, 2011.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Since we got back from our trip into Uganda and Kenya in September, I have been working on creating church songbooks in Swahili and converting my lesson outlines into tracts (pamphlets) in Eng-

Lorenzo, TX

Greetings from the Lorenzo congregation. We are doing pretty well here health wise. Angela Boling is recovering from her neck surgery and the therapists are having trouble keeping Nell McCay from RUNNING on their special low gravity treadmill.We have mixed news from our extended family though. Bad news first. Jimmy and Jaetta Loftis' daughter Sharon Moore is fighting breast cancer and has begun her Chemotherapy, which is taking its toll on her. Please keep her in your prayers. On a brighter note Jerry McCay, our resident social butterfly, was able to make it out to the meeting in Stilwell OK that Bro. Roger Walkingstick held and also met with the Flora Vista NM congregation while visiting his son Brent in Farmington NM. While there, he found out that his grandson Noah McCay (12 yrs. old), who had very aggressive cancer a couple years ago, is still cancer free and has even started growing again. The doctors feared he might not grow anymore because of his cancer treatments. Amy Orendorff's son David is getting closer to finishing up his Doctorate degree in computer science, and has been offered a job from Google (the internet search engine company). Any job offer coming out of college is a blessing in this economy, and Google is supposed to be a great company to work for. We are still working on the dates for next summer's meeting and will get them posted in *The Courier* as soon as we can. In the meantime we are looking forward to some winter weather, as this summer has been the hottest on record (most days over 100 ever).

God bless you all, from the Lorenzo TX congregation.



Yourtown

Keep those letters and meeting updates coming folks! We would love to here from you and I'm sure the other congregations would too!

Editor



family members that are necessarily watching and waiting for good news. I know of no better way to get good results than through the power of prayer. Sister Flo Fuller, my mother-in-law, seems to be holding her own against the Alzheimer disease and her cancer that she had is in remission and not a concern at this time. Our brother Carl Carlson is having some physical problems, he states that he is unsteady on his feet, we notice a stagger once in a while. Brother Carl is attempting to get into a retirement home where he will be more secure with round the clock assistance that is available there. Carl said that he has to administer breathing treatments three times a day, he's border line diabetic. His doctor has suggested that he move in to a care facility. I believe that the rest of us are all doing pretty good health wise. I was sent by the Department of Labor for a second opinion regarding the condition of my knees, this is I believe the 4th "second" opinion that they have sent me to. I haven't received any word from them so I don't know if they got the prognosis that they wanted or not, they do keep trying. I can't fail to mention the weather and how beautiful it is. It is just wonderful to be outside just about any time of the day, although the weather report suggests that we are in for about two to three days of 100 degree temps and then back to normal highs from around the 80's to mid 90's. Not bad for us.

Brother Sonny Boling from the Citrus City congregation came in Sunday before last and brought us a lesson, a valuable lesson on sin. It provoked a lot of thought, especially with me. Brother Sonny always has been one to provoke thought, good thoughts, necessary thoughts. We had our regular first Sunday of the month lunch after services and as usual we had lots and lots of good food to eat and some additional time to spend together talking. I am sure that everyone enjoys the food but the added time together "is the blessing". Brother Harry Davis went out to Citrus City this past Sunday and I'm sure they enjoyed him being out there, I know that he enjoyed being with them.

Susie and I truly enjoyed visiting all of the congregations this summer and, God willing, we will see you again next Summer. I said that I hoped to get up to Flora Vista, Nm in my last letter once before we had to go home. Well we made it. Brother Jerry McCay and sister Wynetta drove up to Alpine, Az before we went home and from there the four of us went to New Mexico and Jerry gave a lesson there at the Flora Vista church. We stayed for three days and visited with them. Susie and I then went back to Alpine and packed up and came back home to Yuma. It was certainly nice to be home again, though that itch is coming back to go visiting again.

Ok, it's time to bring this letter to an end but first I need to mention our upcoming meeting. The dates are being set for March 18th through March 25th 2011. So if it all possible make plans to be here with us. We have heard from several that are hoping to be here and as you know the more that come the better the meeting will be. As always the need for travel trailers, motor homes, etc would be welcomed, come early if possible and stay a while. We love the company. So, God willing, maybe we can make this the best meeting ever. We love you all, keep us in your prayers, as we keep you in our prayers

Denny and Susie Davis, for

the Yuma Congregation

lish (nearly 100 completed so far). I have one person busy translating the tracts into Swahili that will be used in Tanzania and Kenya. Since Swahili is not spoken in Uganda, I will be sending the English copies there where someone will copy into Luganda.

Bro. Cosmos Auma Awuor, a member of the church in Nairobi, had heard about us and decided to come to Tanzania and check us out. He knew Boaz from the school of preaching in Arusha; they were both instructors there. We spent quite a bit of time discussing the Bible with him.

On October 1st, we traveled to Ramadi, Tanzania (between Bunda and Mwanza). Bro. Lukas Mchembe, a brother from the 2nd congregation in Bunda was working in that village to get a congregation started. I spoke on “The Blueprint for Christ’s Church”. The audience he had ready for us was very receptive. Bro. Cosmos traveled with us to observe. Two people went forward asking for prayers.

We traveled on south to Mwanza where I spoke on “The Blueprint for Christ’s Church” and “The Holy Spirit And Miracles”. One woman, Agnes Daniel, was baptized between services at the shore of Lake Victoria.

On the way back to Bunda, Boaz received a call from a member of the church west of Nairobi that they were changing their communion practices.

Bro. Cosmos also announced to Boaz and I that he was going to change the communion practice, as well, when he got back to Nairobi. This man is a gold mine. He is very knowledgeable on the Bible and he speaks English very well. As I said, he was an instructor at the school in Arusha.

On October 8th, We went back to Ramadi where I spoke on “Can One Be Saved Outside The Church?”. Five people came forward requesting to be baptized, which we performed on the shore of Lake Victoria. The following were baptized: Lazarus Matias, Joyce Matias, Josey Charle, Nyanda Charle, and Maria Mashake. This congregation now has a good start.

We then traveled north to Utegi, Tanzania. There are 3 congregations in this area — in the town of Utegi, another 5 miles out, and the third 10 miles out of town. The last one of these is where we had a meeting. I spoke twice during the day and Boaz spoke at night with the aid of a kerosene lantern. We baptized 7 in the morning at a small pond. They were: Ernest Onyango, Edward Benard, Elva Joseph, Velma Nasson, Jenna rosa, Rosa Bita, and Julieta Ndege. Visitors came from the other two congregations at Utegi.

We now have 48 congregations with 32 more to visit in November and December which we have been invited, but not yet visited.

I need to make a correction on the September Update. I mentioned John Odunga, a man in his 60’s, who rode a bicycle every Sunday from his home in Kenya to a church in Uganda. I said he traveled 100 miles each way; I checked my notes and talked to Boaz, I got miles and kilometers mixed up, and the distance was round trip. He travels 52 miles round trip. That’s still a lot of biking! That’s two miles farther that our one-way trip from Seattle to Glenwood for church (only his distance was round trip).

Keep us in your prayers,

Ellis Forsman



This is the congregation at Kola in the mountain region of Machakos, Kenya.



Audience listening to the "Open Air Preaching" at the market place at Machakos Town.



Baptism of Agnes Daniel from the Mwanza congregation at Lake Victoria.



Baptism of 7 people from the Utegi, Tanzania, congregation at a pond. Left to right: Ernest Onyango; Edward Benard; Elva Joseph; Velma Nasson; Jenna Rosa; Rosa Bita; and Julieta Ndege.



Baptism of Patrick Guambua At Machakos Town, Kenya.



Boaz is instructing the five people in front before they are baptized in Lake Victoria at Ramadi.

The five are: Lazarus Matias, Joyce Matias, Josey Charle, Nyanda Charle, and Maria Mashake.



(Left) The preachers at the "Open Air Preaching" in Machakos Town. The four pictured from left to right are James Mwanzia (66 year old man we discovered that was meeting in his home with his wife and grown daughter; they are now meeting with the congregation at Machakos Town. They walk 7 ½ miles to church one way.), Paul Mutiku, Laban Ambogo (standing behind Paul), John Bithi, and Boaz. Not pictured, but who worked at this meeting is Johnson Muteti (who was the one who got Boaz into the church when he was a teenager).

Donation information:

Remember, a bank account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank for your support (Account number 8891458054). Checks can be made out to "African Mission" (the bank's name designation for this project of working with groups of people in Africa for account purposes) and sent to % Ellis Forsman, 6718 Santa Fe Dr., Lubbock, TX, 79407, or deposited directly at your nearest Wells Fargo Bank.



Cards and Letters

YOU missed a GREAT TIME, the 2nd week in October in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Several members of different congregations met at the Comfort Inn in W F for Christian fellowship, Bible study, and several games of train. Members from Stilwell, Ok., Newcastle, Tx., Flora Vista N M, Ringgold, TX. and the Lorenzo Tx. were in attendance. There were several different Bible question discussed and some agreements reached. W F is kind of a central location of several congregations within an hour of W F. It is our plan to try to meet again in W F the weekend of the second Sunday of December (weather permitting). We plan to visit a different Church each time we are able to get together. We want to invite **EVERYONE** to join in GREAT CHRISTIAN FOLLOWSHIP each time we are able to meet. This time we visited the Ringgold Church.

Join us in the next several months in trying to build on a group effort to spread THE LORDS WORD.

For dates and motel information please E-Mail me at stanleygoodwin@sbcglobal.net

P.S.; We were almost successful in getting Brother Jerry McCay arrested!!! (**We love you Jerry**)

Yuma, AZ

Hello brothers and sisters, I must apologize about having missed the last edition of the Courier. I have been getting pretty lazy about sitting down and writing. I keep all the copies of my letters and going back to read them I find myself apologizing far too often for missing deadlines for the Courier. I know that brother Matt Matlock and the rest of the congregation at Lorenzo work very hard to publish this important paper. It is important to the Church of Christ congregations across the country to know how our brothers and sisters around the "world" are doing even if it's a simple hello. I know that I look forward to hearing from congregations that we visit because we love you all and worry about your well-being and how your lives are going. So, I will try to give you a run down on the Yuma group. Since we are such a small congregation it won't take long. Sister Ruth Duncan is still feeling poorly and is having deep concerns for her daughter Barbara Carlin who lives in Lake Havisu, Arizona. Barbara, a cousin, has cancer and is in need of prayers, so if you would please remember her in your prayers. We all know how cancer is, how bad it is for the patient and for the