The Christian Courier

June, 1996

Send correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168
Writers are responsible for their own articles.

Call

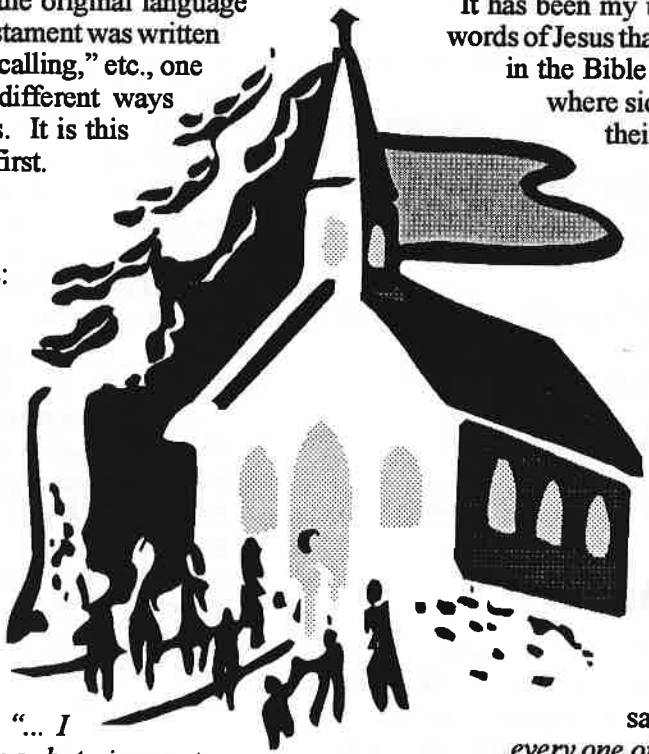
Much is written in the scriptures concerning "calling." As Christians, we should understand the various thoughts involved for they touch upon vital issues which affect us all.

There are three words in the original language (Greek) in which the New Testament was written which are translated "call," "calling," etc., one of which is used in many different ways similar to the English usages. It is this word that I wish to consider first.

Call (by God)

The definition is as follows: *KALEO* "to call, bid, invite, call forth" (Strong's); "to call anyone, invite, summon. Nomenclature or vocation, to call by a name, to name; (passive voice) to be called by a name, to bear a name." (Vine).

We should note the words of Jesus and the Apostles about people being bidden, invited, summoned, called forth, etc.



In Mark 2:17, Jesus said, *"... I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."* This is precisely the reason why the Churches of Christ have always offered an invitation whenever the Gospel is preached. We urge those in sin to repent and turn to God, obeying the commands of our Lord.

Imagine my astonishment when, as a young man, the congregation where I was visiting was called in question for offering an invitation at the conclusion of the sermon. It seems that some felt this to be an intrusion upon the "purity" of the worship of the church. I found this reasoning to be spurious then, and also in subsequent years when the subject arose.

It has been my understanding from studying the words of Jesus that the Church of Christ as revealed in the Bible is similar to a hospital; a place where sick people come to seek a cure for their illness. Jesus said, *"... They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: ..."* (Mark 2:17). Some feel uncomfortable in an assembly that includes adulterers, fornicators, etc. I feel, on the otherhand, that I would like to see the seats filled with sinners of all kinds, including the above, because it was to these that the *"call"* of Jesus went.

Imagine yourselves in Peter's place on that memorable Pentecost when the Gospel was first preached in its entirety and strength. In summation he looks over his audience and says, *"... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."* (Acts 2:38-39).

God's call is to all sinners to come to him. Of course, if we have never sinned and have no shortcomings, we would have no need of hospital, physician, or cure. But we all know better than that, don't we?

Who Are Called?

"Even us, whom he hath called, not of the Jews only, but also of the Gentiles." (Rom. 9:24). There is no partiality or preference on the part of God. Should there be on our part?

Purpose of God's Call

God calls sinners. Nothing could be more important than to understand to what one is being called. Please note the following list of those things to which God calls sinners. I will list these without comment, as I believe they speak for themselves.

- *"... shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;"* (1 Pet. 2:9).
- *"... beloved of God, called to be saints ..."* (hagios, holy) (Rom. 1:7).
- *"... from him that called you into the grace of Christ ..."* (Gal. 1:6).
- *"... by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord."* (1 Cor. 1:9).
- *"... but God hath called us to peace."* 1 Cor. 7:15).
- *"... eternal life, whereunto thou art also called ..."* (1 Tim. 6:12).
- *"... called, that ye should inherit a blessing."* (1 Pet. 3:9).
- *"... called ... that ye should follow his steps:"* (1 Pet. 2:21).
- *"... brethren, ye have been called unto liberty ..."* (Gal. 5:13).
- *"... peace of God ... which also ye are called ..."* (Col. 3:15).
- *"... God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory."* (1 Thess. 2:12).
- *"... God hath not called us unto uncleanness ..."* (1 Thess. 4:7).
- *"... God hath ... called us unto ... holiness."* (1 Thess. 4:7).
- *"Whereunto he called you by our Gospel ..."* (2 Thess. 2:14).

Call (Identify)

We often hear the saying, "What's in a name?". Without looking further, we might be prone to agree. However, if we inquire of Jesus and the Apostles, we find they placed high importance on the manner they were identified (called) and on the name they wore.

Speaking of the relationship between Jesus and his followers, Paul says, *"... he is not ashamed to call them brethren."* (Heb. 2:12). Some wish to be called "German Brethren," "Grace Brethren," "Lutheran," etc. While I do not wish to infringe upon their right to be known as such, it would be far better to be **called** (by Jesus) his brethren.

Truly, the followers of Christ were known only as Christians early, toward the beginning of this age. Acts 11:26, *"... the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch."*

Note Acts 15:14,17: *"Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name."* "That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my **name** is **called**, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things." Clearly, the Apostles understood that Christians were to be **called** (identified) by the name of the Lord (Christ); thus: "**Christians**," "**Brethren**."

All who have accepted the Gospel and obeyed the Lord's commands share in this **calling**. Likewise, they are identified as "**The Called**." *"Among whom are ye also the called of Jesus Christ:"* (Rom. 1:6). Also, *"... all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."* (Rom. 8:28).

Children

"... in the place where it was said unto them, Ye are not my people; there shall they be called the children of the living God." (Rom. 9:26).

"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: ..." (1 John 3:1).

"Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." (John 15:14). Truly it is an honor to be known as the friends of the Lord! Abraham was known as the friend of God. *"... Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."* (James 2:23).

Likewise, we are known as the seed (offspring) of Abraham. *"And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."* (Gal. 3:29).

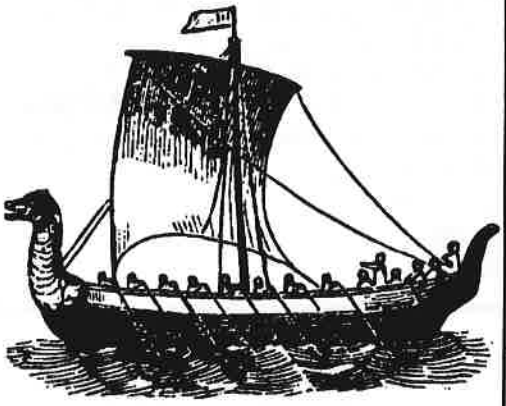
Truly this is a signal honor that God has bestowed upon all those who have obeyed him. Should not all those reciprocate by bearing only the names and identifications which the Lord has authorized?

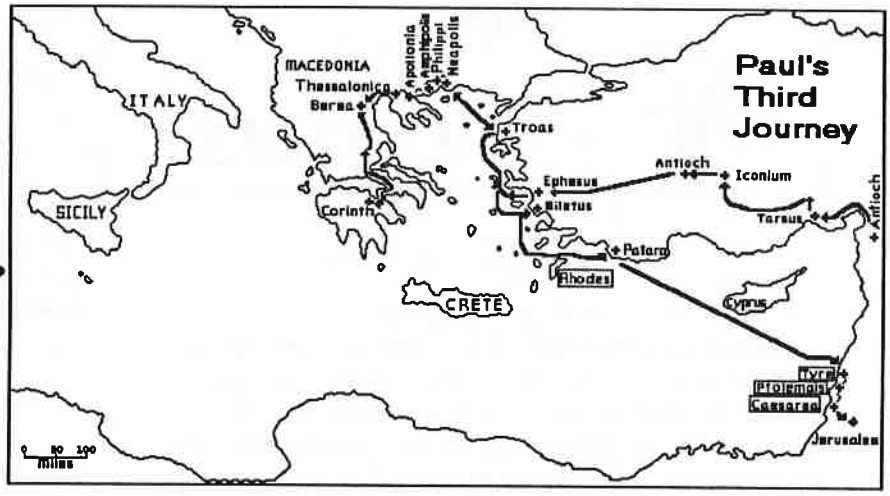
In a following article, I hope to complete the study of our calling revealed to us in the Holy Scriptures.

Yours in Christ
John D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd.
Stockton, CA 95204

The Travels of Paul: Third Journey

Return to Jerusalem





After their emotional departure from the Ephesian brethren at Miletus (the Greek text indicates they had to tear themselves away), Paul and his party, carrying the *"collection for the saints"* at Jerusalem (1 Cor. 16:1), set sail again. On succeeding days they landed at Cos and Rhodes. They departed the ship at Patara in the Lycian Sea (Acts 21:1), and searched for another to continue their journey to Jerusalem. They found and boarded a ship readying to sail to Phoenicia (vs. 2).

Passing within sight of Cyprus, they landed at Tyre in Phoenicia (vs. 3). This fulfilled a prophecy of Isaiah concerning the Gentile Christians coming to the aid of Israel (Jewish Christians): *"Surely the isles shall wait for me, and the ships of Tarshish first, to bring thy sons from far, their silver and their gold with them, unto the name of the LORD thy God, and to the Holy One of Israel, because he hath glorified thee."* (Isa. 60:9).

Since the unloading of the ship at Tyre was to take several days, they went ashore and found the disciples there (vs. 4). These disciples knew in advance that Paul was coming, for it was revealed to them from the Holy Spirit. However, they misunderstood the message, for they told Paul he was not to enter into Jerusalem. The true message, as before, was that Paul would be put in bonds at Jerusalem. Perhaps, they thought if Paul didn't go to Jerusalem this could be avoided. Paul knew what he had to do. Before boarding the ship again, they all knelt down on the beach and prayed, then bid each other farewell (vs. 5-6).

The ship ended its voyage at Ptolemais (vs. 7). After Paul and his party departed the ship, they spent one day with the local brethren (vs. 8) before going on to Caesarea (most likely by foot). Philip, the evangelist, who was one of the seven at Jerusalem chosen to take care of the daily ministration of the widows (Acts 6:1-5), was their host.

Philip had four daughters who prophesied (vs. 9), but it is highly improbable that they were evangelists like their father, as some commentators believe. Their work was more likely done in private, for a woman (even though a prophetess) was not permitted to speak in the church assembly (1 Cor. 14:34-35; Rev. 2:20).

While Paul was still at Philip's house, Agabus (a prophet from Judea) came to him, and bound his own hands and feet with Paul's girdle, then told him, *"... Thus saith the Holy Ghost, So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man that owneth this girdle, and shall deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles."* (vs. 10-11). This is the same prophet who foretold the famine during the reign of Claudius (Acts 11:23).

Believing this grave adversity could be avoided, the brethren pleaded with Paul not to go to Jerusalem (vs. 12). However, the prophecy was not that "If you go you will be bound," but that "You will be bound."

Paul answered their pleading and weeping with, *"... I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. ... The will of the Lord be done."* (vs. 13-14). They accepted his decision without further ado.

As Paul and his company continued their journey to Jerusalem, they were joined by disciples from Caesarea (vs. 15-16).

Next article: Problems in Jerusalem.

Written in love of the truth.

Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th
Seattle, WA 98168

Cards and Letters



Broken Bow, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

We at Broken Bow have finally gotten organized after the death of our beloved Lloyd Treat. Our congregation is small, but the Lord has blessed us with Brother George and Sister Tammy Phipps coming back into the fold. We still miss Brother Lloyd very much, and we could use any brother and sister to come and worship with us. It makes it difficult to go to visit other congregations with so few brethren to hold services.

We were blessed with Brother Merle and Sister Ola McKinney coming out in March to visit. We have also had Brother Gerald and Sister Wilma Buckner, Brother Robert and Sister Christine (Gerald's younguns) and family to visit us a couple of times.

This is belated, but we do thank all of you for your prayers, cards, flowers, and phone calls we received back in October when Brother Treat passed away. His love for Christ and the church was very powerful. A lot of us were blessed having him in our lives.

We at Broken Bow extend each and everyone to come and visit us here in passing through. If you wish to contact us for a visit call (405) 981-2243 for Brother Doug Ferguson, or (405) 584-6897 for Dan and Kathy Treat. May God bless each of you in this life and the life to come.

In Christian love,
The Broken Bow congregation
509 N. Costilow
Broken Bow, OK

Ringgold, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Ringgold, Texas, congregation would like to announce with great joy the body of our Lord has gained two new members. My daughters, Jennifer and Cheryl Pollan, were baptized May 11, 1996, at Newcastle, Texas, by Brother Bob Eldridge. This is what we raise our sons and daughters to do, and the direction for them to take in their lives. This is the greatest gift we can give to our children, and I am very proud of Jennifer and Cheryl. The joy I feel in my heart makes all the everyday troubles seem very small. Raising our children in the nurture and admonition of our Lord is the greatest duty we have as parents, and the legacy we are commanded to give our children; and it is very encouraging to know that there is another generation to continue the tradition of righteousness of our Lord and Saviour.

We would like to invite anyone and everyone who passes through our area to our homes, and especially to be with us on the Lord's day. May the grace and love of God be with all in Christ.

In Christian love,
Larry Pollan
Duncan, OK

Selah, WA

Dear Brethren,

Spring is upon us with summer approaching soon. The weather is getting nice, and feels good to be outside.

Many here have been ill with the flu and other illnesses. We are sorry to hear of Brother Errol Forsman's illness. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Sister Pat McKinney went to our daughter's in San Diego for a couple of weeks. She had one Sunday to go to church at Bellflower. Pat had a nice visit with Barbara and family. They are few in number at Bellflower, but they make up for it in spirit. We hope to visit them this summer if our plans are on schedule.

I drove Dad and Ola to California for my brother's 40th wedding anniversary. Pat flew into Oakland where I picked her up, and we got to see our youngest granddaughter, daughter, and family. That Sunday we went to San Pablo, and saw all our loved ones there. Time was short, and our visit was fast; but it's always nice to visit other churches on our travels. We finally left for home, and Dad (Merle McKinney) had trouble with his hip. We hope to know what's wrong soon. They are running tests on him to find the trouble.

If anyone is traveling in this area, please stop by. We meet at the Selah Civic Center.

In Christian love,
Gene McKinney
Selah, WA, congregation

The way to heaven is to turn right and keep straight.

Goshen, AR

Dear *Christian Courier*:

I am writing to ask if you would please put me on the prayer list.

I had cancer three years ago (Lymphoma) with 60 radiation treatments. Now I have it again for the second time. I need all the prayers I can get.

Thank you so much.

In Christian love,

Sister Letha Ferguson

Goshen, AR, congregation

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Brother Ellis Forsman has returned from Lorenzo, Texas, after being with Brother Errol Forsman for over two weeks. Brother Errol has been taking radiation treatments for Lymphatic cancer. An effort is being made to move him from the farm house where he has lived for several years to a house in Lorenzo across the street from the church building. Several people have asked where they can send financial support for him. A special account has been set up at the Lorenzo State Bank for this purpose. For those wishing to help Brother Errol, send your donation to: Church of Christ Special, account number 964-515, Lorenzo State Bank, P.O. Box 490, Lorenzo, TX 79343-9990.

Brother Terry Warford is currently at Stilwell, OK, holding a meeting with Brother Richard Johnston. As our numbers are small here at Sea-Tac, we certainly miss him, but wish them well with their efforts there.

Brother Matthew Shepherd and family and Brother Steve Silva and family from the Aloha, OR, congregation visited us last weekend (May 26th). After services on Sunday we enjoyed ourselves at the beach at a local park on Puget Sound.

Amarissa Orendorff and her mother Amy are doing well after Amarissa's birth in April. However, another baby is not doing so well. Mileah Angel, who was born in November, is in the hospital with viral pneumonia. Our prayers go out for her that she may get well soon.

Remember us in your prayers as we remember all of you in ours.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Stand Up for Jesus

You talk about your business,
Your bonds and stocks and gold;
And in all worldly matters
You are so brave and bold.

But why are you so silent
About salvation's plan?
Why don't you stand for Jesus
And speak out like a man?

You talk about the weather,
The crops of corn and wheat;
You speak of friends and neighbors
Who pass along the street.

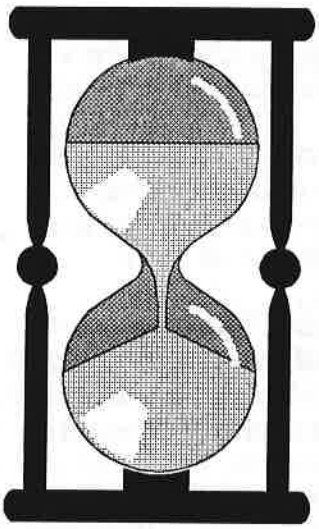
You call yourself a Christian
And like the gospel plan —
Then why not stand for Jesus
And speak out like a man?

Have you forgotten His suffering?
Did He die for you in vain?
Then take a stand for Jesus
And speak out like a man.

— Author unknown



Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, June, 1956.** Brother W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, announced that Brother Elmer Hunt of Garden Grove, CA, would hold their meeting in June. Bellflower, CA, also announced that Brother W. H. Francis of Mangum, OK, would hold their meeting in June.

***The Christian* Courier, June, 1966.** No file copy exists.

***The Christian Courier*, June, 1976.** Brother Gerald Buckner, OK, reported that they had five new members, having been baptized over the past two months: Daniel Wilson, and his wife Reba, Paul Brown, and his wife Leolana, and Charley Cantrell. The Glenwood, WA, congregation wrote that Brother Robert McCay and his wife, Sister Ellen McCay, had returned from their stay in California. They also announced the baptism of Greg Staley on May 13th; and that brother Horace Orendorff would hold their meeting in July. The Furnish Canyon, OK, congregation announced that Brother Jerry Perigen of Bellflower, CA, would hold their meeting in July. Brother Claude Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported that the Al Way family were involved in a freeway car accident on the way to church Sunday night, when a tire went flat and they went into the wire divider. Fortunately, they only received a few cuts and bruises. They also announced their meeting in July with Brother Richard Johnston of Yakima, WA. Brother W. R. Farrar, Elk City, OK, reported on their meeting in April with Brother Carl Johnston of Springdale, AR.

***The Christian Courier*, June, 1986.** Brother Terry Warford, Baron, OK, reported that Angie Ross was baptized on April 20th. He also announced that Brother Al Way of Bellflower, CA, would hold their meeting in June. Brother Billy Richardson, Furnish Canyon, OK, announced that Brother Tom Broadway would hold their meeting in July. Brother Gerald Brockman, Bellflower, CA, wrote that they were saddened by the loss of Brother Claude Perigen. Brother J. D. Logan, Stockton, CA, reported that there was a small group of Christians meeting at Olivehurst, CA, just south of Yuba City. Brother Howard McCay, Selah, WA, reported that Gerald Warner of Springfield, OR, was baptized on April 28th. He married Sister Anna Lee Roberts of Florence, OR, on April 30th. Brother Gerald Buckner, Stilwell, OK, reported that Sister Viola Brown had been sick, but was once again attending services; Sister Emma Brown was in a local nursing home; and Brother John Brown was home from the hospital after a surgery. Brother Rex Mickey, Aztec, NM, reported on four baptisms on May 11th: Tim Mickey, Ken Patterson, Jeff Baker, and Tonya Baker. Sister Verlie Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, encouraged others to come to the Delta Camp Meeting. She reported that Brother Ken Baldwin was in Phoenix, AZ, recovering from a major surgery.

What Would He Say?

If He should come today
and find my hand
So full of future plans, however fair,
In which my Savior has no share,
What would He say?

If He should come today
and find my love so cold,
My faith so very weak and dim
I had not even looked for Him,
What would He say?

If He should come today
and find that I had not told
One soul about my heavenly Friend
Whose blessings all my way attend,
What would He say?

If He should come today,
would I be glad,
Remembering that He died for all
And none through me had heard His call,
What would He say?

— Author Unknown

Church of Christ

32nd Annual

Colorado Old Time Gospel Camp Meeting



Invites you to join us in Cedaredge, CO for

"DELTA CAMP MEETING" 1996

Held at the Big Spruce Church Camp

June 29 through July 7

Location:

Take Highway 92 - 4 miles east out of Delta ; turn left (north) onto Hwy 65 and go through Cedaredge, continue north past Camp Cedaredge and Aspen Trails Campground for one mile. Turn right onto U50 Road; continue one mile to Big Spruce Camp on the right.
Follow the signs.

Facilities:

Full hookups for RV's and trailers.
RV spaces, rooms and dorms available. To reserve an RV space, room or dorm space, please call: (970) 856-7481
or write to Sister Verlie Baldwin - P.O. Box 663 - Cedaredge, CO 81413

Things to Bring:

Your own sleeping bag, bedding, pillows and flashlights.
Sweaters and warm clothes as the nights are cool. Days can be warm.
Your own towels, washcloths and personal items.

Policies (Strictly enforced) at the Church Camp:

All clothing for men, women and children must be to the knee or below
"No Exceptions"
Dress appropriately for all church services.
Do not hand out literature without approval.
Please use King James Version Bible in the services.

Important Phone Numbers:

Any questions, please call: Eddie (970) 856-3875 or Keith (970)856-6274
Verlie (970) 856-7481 or Chester (970) 856-7408
Camp phone number is (970) 856-3741 in case of emergency.

THERE ARE MANY WONDERFUL EVENTS PLANNED THIS YEAR FOR OUR GOSPEL MEETING. WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOU JOINING US!

Donations are appreciated to help with rent of the camp & groceries. *Everyone welcome-Y'all come!*

Hosted by the HAPPY HOLLOW CHURCH OF CHRIST
P.O. Box 663 - Cedaredge, Colorado 81413

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 16-23, 1996	Lorenzo, TX	Mike Geho
June 23-30, 1996	Goshen, AR	Jim Brown
June 29-July 8, 1996	Cedaredge, CO	Camp Meeting
June 30- July 7, 1996	Comanche, OK	Mark Perigen
July 7-14, 1996	Yakima, WA	Harry Dye & Ken Williams
Nov. 24-Dec. 1, 1996	Citrus City, AZ	Rex Mickey

Baptisms

Jennifer Pollan	Ringgold, TX	May 11, 1996
Cheryl Pollan	Ringgold, TX	May 11, 1996

Births

Orion Sky Maloney to Kevin & Sheila Maloney	Aloha, OR	May 13, 1996; 7 lbs., 2 ozs.; 19"
Alyssa Michelle Perigen to Mark & Tammy Perigen	Waterford, CA	April 26, 1996; 6 lbs.,14 ozs.; 20"

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Hugo Denny	Baron, OK	Serious heart problems
Sue Wilson	Baron, OK	Sick for some time.
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Errol Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Luke Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Jessica Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Kathern Ann	San Pablo, CA	Diabetes
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Mileah Angel	Sea-Tac, WA	Viral pneumonia
Jerry Barker	Stilwell, OK	Leukemia
Dorothy Williams	Yuma, AZ	Surgery
Horace Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Very ill
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In a rest home

Our ongoing and continual prayers are also for those of you who we are not aware of by name, but have needs of various kinds. We would entreat the Lord's blessings on each of you as well. Please let the editors know if some have physical or financial needs that we as a Christian family are not aware.