The Christian Courier

July, 1996

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

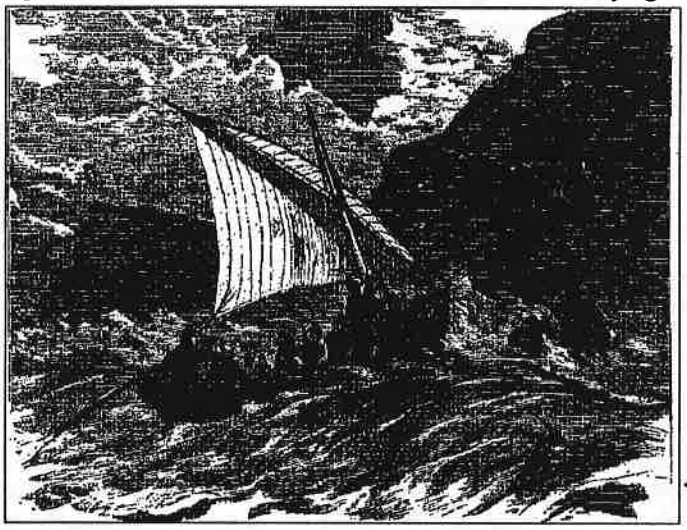
Sailing the Seven C's

As a kid, I would hear about the "Seven Seas" from time to time. They seemed exciting, though I never learned exactly where they were.

But in the Bible, we want to look at seven "C's" that are very exciting; and helpful to us in our Christian lives. Most exciting is that they help us in our journey to heaven.

Courage

When God gave Joshua the task of leading the conquest of the promised land, He gave him a command of courage. Josh. 1:6. *"Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them."*



Likewise, the tasks God gives us as Christians demand courage. God has not promised an easy journey, but we can take courage in the promise that He will help us overcome anything. I Pet. 5:10. *"But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."*

We see the need for courage in Rom. 8:35-36. *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."* We take courage from the promise in the next verse. *"Nay,* (they won't separate us from the love of Christ), *in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us."* And so verse 31 tells us. *"...If God be for us, who can be against us?"* Phil. 4:13. *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."*

Commitment

The second "C" that we want to sail is commitment. We have to commit our lives to God, put our trust in Him, and do the things He requires.

Jesus, from an early age through the time of His death, showed a tremendous commitment to doing His Father's will. I Pet. 2:21-23. *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.*

We should develop the same commitment to doing God's will. It will help us overcome the obstacles. I Pet. 4:19. *"Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator."* Notice: how do we develop that commitment? **In WELL DOING.**

God is a faithful Creator, and our commitment will be well rewarded. II Tim. 1:12. *"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is*

able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day." The only question is: What have we committed unto him?

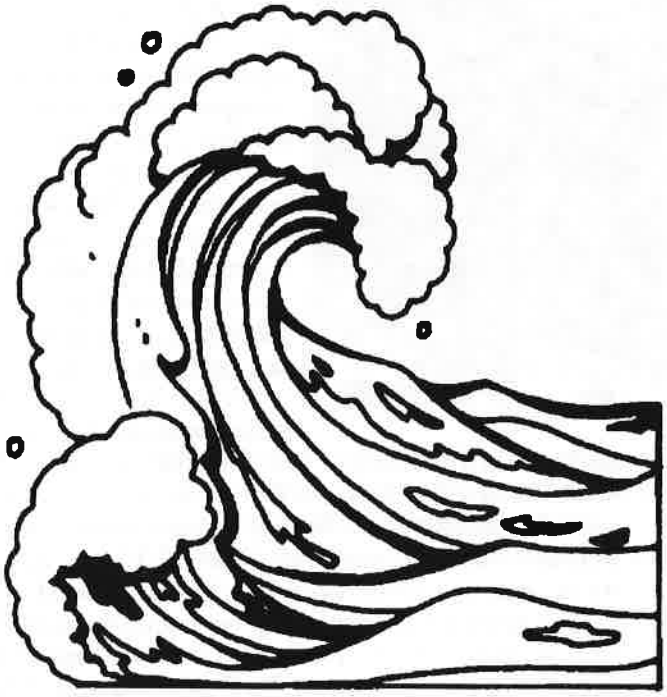
Comfort

The scriptures don't spare us from the realistic truth that the journey is hard. But they do provide comfort even in those parts that are hard. Psa. 119:49-50. *"Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope. This is my comfort in my affliction: for thy word hath quickened me."*

The reward revealed in the scriptures gives us comfort. I Thes. 4:16-18. *"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."*

Confidence

Courage, commitment and the comfort of the scriptures give us confidence. When we are using these things to do God's will we have a good conscience, and confidence toward God. I John 3:18-22. *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight."* Confidence is so important. Just be sure it has the firm foundation of doing God's will.



Contentment

Changing direction, we sail on to another C. Contentment is the "C" we wish to explore next.

I Tim. 6:6-10. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and have pierced themselves through with many sorrows."*

Contentment comes from knowing that God will take care of us. Heb. 13:5-6. *"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."*

Courtesy

Paul, in his travels, sailed to the C of courtesy. He and his companions received courtesy as recorded in Acts 28:7. *"In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously."*

This is the way we should treat each other as well. I Pet. 3:8. *"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion* (another C!) *one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:".*

Charity

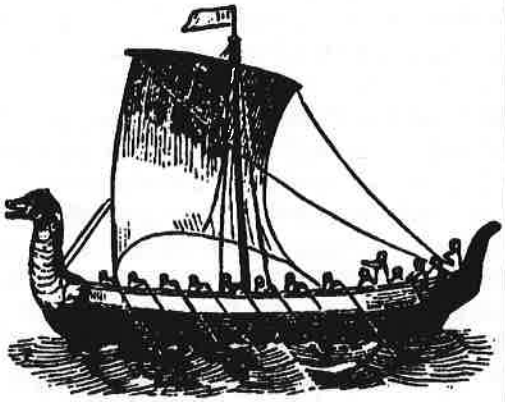
This leads us to the final C we wish to explore in this article. There are certainly many more that are good. But for today, we close with charity, or love. I Pet. 1:22. *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:".* Col. 3:14. *"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."*

I hope that you have enjoyed and profited from our journey through the Scriptures today, sailing these seven C's.

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198

The Travels of Paul: Third Journey

Problems in Jerusalem





Upon the disciples' arrival at Jerusalem, concluding Paul's third missionary journey, they were gladly received by the brethren (Acts 21:17). They anxiously listened to Paul's Asian missionary report (vs. 18-20). However, there may have been some apprehension at his appearance. Many reports had emerged, prophesying that he would be bound and imprisoned while at Jerusalem. Paul had many enemies among the Jews who repeatedly received negative reports from distressed Jews throughout Asia, upset with his gospel message.

While it is understandable that the Jews hated Paul, there appeared to be a great danger that many Jewish Christians would despise him as well. James, our Lord's brother, was aware of this potential problem. He told Paul there were thousands (the Greek reads "*myriads*" — approximately ten thousand) of Jewish converts to Christianity, but that they maintained a close association with the Mosaic Law (vs. 21). They were aware that Paul was preaching the gospel to the Gentiles, but believed that God had two plans — one for the Jews, who had to continue in keeping the "*customs*"; and one for the Gentiles, who didn't; only "*that they keep themselves from things offered to idols, and from blood, and from strangled, and from fornication.*" (vs. 25).

James knew there was but one plan, but perhaps because of his own weakness against sheer numbers, he allowed this error to continue. This was the very thing for which Paul withstood Peter to the face while at Antioch, prompting a council meeting in Jerusalem at which James attended (Acts 15: & Gal. 2:).

He told Paul that others would soon know of his presence (vs. 22), and offered a temporary solution to diffuse this possible explosive situation. He told of four men who had a (Nazarite) vow, and were about to undergo a week's purification. If Paul would join these men in this, others would see that he was still obedient to the Mosaic Law, and peace would remain (vs. 23-24).

Paul consented to this, not because of the Law, but because he *"... became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law"* (1 Cor. 9:20; Acts 21:26).

When his seven days of purification were almost completed with these four men, he was seen in the temple by the Jews who came down from Asia (vs. 27). The powder keg was lit! The men cried out, *"... Men of Israel, help: This is the man, that teacheth all men every where against the people, and the law, and this place: and further brought Greeks also into the temple, and hath polluted this holy place."* (vs. 28). They thought falsely that Trophimus, the Gentile Ephesian who had traveled with Paul, was also in the temple (vs. 29).

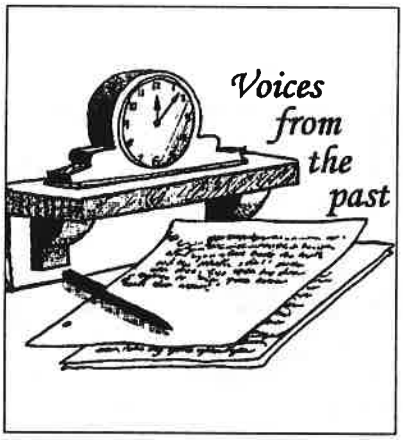
Word spread rapidly throughout the city (vs. 30). A mob consequently gathered and dragged Paul out of the temple. The Roman chief captain, having heard of these events, quickly took soldiers with him and arrived as they were beating Paul and attempting to kill him (vs. 31-32). He had Paul bound with chains, then demanded to know who he was, and what he had done to cause this uproar (vs. 33-34). The crowd began shouting, some one thing, and some another, so that he could not get the straight of it; so he had Paul taken to the castle.

Next: Paul's defense

Written in love of the truth.

Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th
Seattle, WA 98168

Love



Love is a subject that one seldom sees discussed through our papers, as well as from our church lessons upon the first day of the week. To my mind it is one of the most neglected subjects of the New Testament. I believe that all divisions and strifes in the body of Christ were brought about by the brethren failing to manifest a true spirit of Christ. I believe if one will honestly sit down and think, he will realize that one or perhaps all the brethren that had a part in any trouble in the church failed to manifest a true spirit of the love of God. The result was all had sinned which is not only harmful to them but to the whole body of Christ.

In Eph. 5:25-27 Paul said, *"... Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish."* Notice, Paul said that **Christ loved us** to the extent that he gave his life for us, and he expects us to love one another to the same extent. In John 15:12-13 Jesus said, *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."*

In verse 14 he said his friends were those who did whatsoever he commanded (Christians). Paul said, *"But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to* ***love one another.***" (1Thess. 4:9).

Notice 1 Pet. 1:22, *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:"* This is a manifestation of the love of God shed abroad in our hearts so strong that we will still love our brethren no matter what happens. It leaves no time or chance for us to render evil for evil. Let us carefully study 1 John 3:11-12, *"For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."* John is illustrating the difference between love and hate.

He was talking about killing someone, and thus a murderer. Perhaps some will say, "Oh, I never did anything that bad." Well, let us look at 1 John 3:14-16, *"We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren."* I am sure that we all realize that if we don't love our brethren we hate them. Love is of God. *"Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God;* ***for God is love.***" (1 John 4:7-8). Hatred is one of the works of the flesh (Gal. 5:20) and is condemned. We do not have to kill our brethren to be a murderer, for John said, "*Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*

Brethren, if we study the subject of love until we know it perfectly, and teach it with all our strength, but fail to show or prove our lives while living the Christian life, it is worthless to ourselves and to all the brethren. Let us heed the instructions of the apostle John, *"My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth."* (our works) (1 John 3:18).

I fear that it is more serious than most of the brethren think. They seem to think that they can hate some of the brethren because they have done something that did not suit them, and still love God. Let us heed the teaching of 1 John 4:20, *"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?"* And again in 1 John 5:1, *"Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God: and every one that loveth him that begat loveth him also that is begotten of him."* (the Christian). In verse 2 he said, "*By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments."*

Again Paul said, *"I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."* (Eph. 4:1-3). Thus, it is impossible for us to keep this *"unity of the Spirit"* without proving or manifesting our love. If we prove our love toward each other, we should have no fear. John said, *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."* (1 John 4:18).

Brethren, the only way this can be accomplished and become a reality is for us who have indulged in such shameful acts to meet together and confess our faults or sins, and pray one for another as the apostle said in James 5:16 and 1 John 5:16-17. Please consider Acts 8:14-24.

In verse 21 Peter told Simon his heart was not right in the sight of God, therefore he must repent of his wickedness and pray God for his wickedness; and in verse 24 Simon asked Peter to pray for him. Christ said, *"And when ye stand praying, **forgive**, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses."* (Mark 11:25-26).

If we fail to obey the above scriptures we do not love God, for he said, *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."* (John 14:21). I am sure that if we fail to love God, we are in a sinful condition, and as such we are ungodly members of the body of Christ, and unless we repent of our wickedness and pray for each other while we live in this life, we will be lost.

Brethren, this is a serious thing to my mind; for that reason I pray daily for the heavenly Father to forgive myself, and all my brothers and sisters of all their sins and trespasses, that we may be able to stand before him in peace and love on that great day that he has appointed. If we cannot live together in peace and love here on earth, how can we expect to live together that way in heaven?

I am willing to meet any brother or sister in this world that has aught against me, to confess our faults one to another, pray, and forgive one another that we may be pure and spotless in the eyes of the Lord, and go on to fight the good fight of faith together in peace. My prayer is that this may be accomplished; that the cause of Christ may grow and prosper as it should. Life is uncertain and death is sure; I intend to do my part; who will do theirs?

F. H. Logan

(reprinted from ***It Is Written*, April, 1956**)

The Bible and TV Guide

On the table side by side:
The Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
One is well worn but cherished with pride
(Not the Bible, but the TV Guide.)
One is used daily to help folk decide.
No. It isn't the Bible; it's the TV Guide.
As pages are turned, what shall they see?
Oh, what does it matter, turn on the TV.
Then confusion reigns; they can't all agree
On what they shall watch on the old TV.
So they open the book in which they confide
(No, not the Bible, it's the TV Guide.)
The word of God is seldom read.
Maybe a verse e'er they fall into bed.
Exhausted and sleepy and tired as can be,
Not from reading the Bible, from watching TV.
So, then back to the table, side by side,
Is the Holy Bible and the TV Guide.
No time for prayer, no time for the Word.
The plan of salvation is seldom heard.
Forgiveness of sin so full and free
Is found in the Bible, not on TV.

(Author Unknown)

Cards and Letters



Cedaredge, CO

Dear Christian Friends,

We are looking forward to the 32nd annual Delta Camp Meeting June 29 to July 8. Hope to see many of you soon.

We would like to share with you the wonderful news from Happy Hollow Church here in Cedaredge, CO. Marty Guy was baptized Sunday, June 9th by Bro. Keith Wilkerson. Bro. George Cowgar brought the wonderful word of God to us. We are very happy that Bro. Marty has joined the family of God. Marty and Christina were married March 24, 1996 by Christina's Grandfather, Bro. Rex Mickey.

Bro. and Sis. Robert Bearden and son Jason are visiting us from Temple, GA. We are so glad to have them.

We have had several visitors lately. I am not going to mention names for fear of missing some of you.

Sister Flora's son - Joe Bixler and his family were here recently. Bro. Joe gave us a great lesson.

Brother and Sister Eddie Wilkerson and family are in California and Arizona visiting. Also (Mae) Movelle Wilkerson, Sue and Les Severson and daughter. We miss them and will welcome them home.

Sister Dixie Fauch is recovering from major surgery. Please keep her in your prayers.

I hope I haven't left out any news. If I have please forgive me.

See some of you at our gospel Camp Meeting.

Our love and prayers to all,

The Happy Hollow Congregation

Cedaredge, CO

Newcastle, TX

Dear Christian Friends,

We had a good meeting in May with Bro. Bob Eldredge doing the speaking. We had several visitors and we appreciate them so very much.

Bro. Larry Pollan and his three daughters were here for part of the meeting. The older girls, Jennifer and Cheryl, obeyed the gospel and were baptized. May the Lord bless them in their efforts to live a Christian life.

Please add this date to your meeting list. Bro. Jim Brown from Baron, Oklahoma will be our speaker in Newcastle, Texas on August 2, 3, and 4. Services will be 7:30 PM on Friday and Saturday and at 10:30 AM and 2:00 PM on Sunday. We will be happy to have all that can come.

Christian Love,

Newcastle Church of Christ

Yuma, AZ

Greetings to all and a bit of news from the congregation here.

Summer is here with some unseasonably warm weather. The fact that many leave for the summer hurts worse than the weather. We are glad for them, but they are missed. In the fall, it is good to see them return one by one.

This past Sunday, June 9, Brother Eddie Wilkerson and his family were with us. He brought us a lesson on Sunday evening, which was enjoyed very much.

There are still several ill amongst us. Bro. Orendorff is still ill. Sister Dorothy Williams likewise is not recuperating very well, and Sister Sally Holmes - mother to Alice Davis, Ann Lytle and Sonny Boling - is gravely ill. Please remember them and all who are ill in your prayers.

This is about all the news from Yuma at this time. Let us all be thoughtful and prayerful for each other, and above all forgiving one of another.

In Christian love,

The Yuma congregation

Church of Christ, Avenue B, Yuma, AZ

Words That Hurt

There are many warnings in the Bible about the consequences of our words. The most powerful is expressed by Jesus. He said, *"But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment."* (Matt. 12:36). This is a strong admonition to guard against what is spoken. Think about the consequences.

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Brother Terry and Sister Suzie Warford have returned from Stilwell, Oklahoma, where Terry had shared a meeting with Brother Richard Johnston from Yakima, Washington. We are happy to have them back.

We have had a few visitors this past month: Brother Matthew and Sister Kelly Shepherd from Vancouver, Washington; Brother Jerry and Sister Wynetta McCay from Lubbock, Texas; and Brother John and Sister Betty McKinney from Selah, Washington. Brother John gave us a fine lesson on "Making Decisions."

When Brother Jerry returned to Texas, Sister Shaya Orendorff went with them. She will be spending a few weeks with relatives in the Lorenzo area.

Brother Howard McCay's health has shown some improvement lately. He has been battling cancer, and we are hoping for continued progress in this battle.

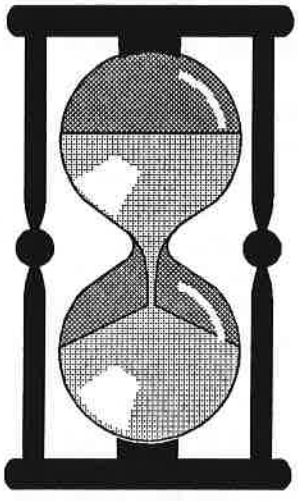
Baby Mileah Angel is still fighting viral pneumonia. Please remember her as well as others in your prayers.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation



Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, July, 1956.** No file copy exists.

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

***The Christian Courier*, July, 1976.** Brother Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, wrote that Sister Charlene Broadway had some problems with her back, but was improving; the Dayton Clouse's had just returned from a quick trip to Texas to discover that Sister Clouse's brother-in-law, Ed Cavin from the La Habra congregation had passed away; they had visits from Brother Gene McKinney and family and Sister Lula Way; and he also invited others to their meeting in the first part of July. The Yuma, AZ, congregation reported that Brother Nelson was home from the hospital; Brother Horace Orendorff would be away to hold a meeting in Port Orchard, WA; and that Brother Atchley had held them a wonderful meeting.

***The Christian Courier*, July, 1986.** Brother Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, reported that Brother Stepp had gone to Oregon for his brother's funeral; and that they had visits from Brother Terry Warford and Brother Gregg Algood. Brother Rex Mickey, Aztec, NM, reported that Cilia Kimball was baptized on May 25th. Brother John Usrey, Sacramento, CA, reported that Brother Kelly and Sister Kathy McCay had visited from Yakima, WA. Brother Roger Walkingstick, Oklahoma City, OK, wrote that they had a few visitors; and were also praying for Brother Ken Baldwin's recovery. The San Pablo, CA, congregation reported that they had to cancel their meeting because they could no longer rent the Rollingwood Recreation Hall because of insurance costs. Brother Ken Williams, Waterford, CA, reported on their meeting with Brother Bill McCay, Jr.; Sister Mary McKinzie had trouble after her knee surgery and needed to have another surgery; and Sister Velma Hillier had broken her foot.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

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
Aug. 2-4, 1996	Newcastle, TX	Jim Brown
Nov. 24-Dec. 1, 1996	Citrus City, AZ	Rex Mickey

Baptisms

Marty Guy	Cedaredge, CO	June 9, 1996

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Dixie Fauch	Cedaredge, CO	Major surgery recovery
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
Dorothy Williams	Yuma, AZ	Surgery
Horace Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Very ill
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In a rest home

Passings

Sally Holmes	Yuma, AZ

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.