The Christian Courier
6718 Santa Fe Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79407



The Christian Courier

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Why Did JESUS Fold the Napkin?

Do you know why?

Why did Jesus fold the linen burial cloth after His resurrection? Did you ever noticed this....

The Gospel of John (20:7) tells us that the napkin, which was placed over the face of Jesus, was not just thrown aside like the grave clothes.

The **KJ** Translation says in John 20:7

7 *And the napkin, --- that was about his head,*

not lying with the linen clothes,

but wrapped together in a place by itself.

The **NIV** Translation says in John 20:7 7 *as well as the burial cloth that had been around Jesus' head. The cloth was folded up by itself, -- separate from the linen.*

The Bible takes an entire verse to tell us that the napkin was neatly folded, and was placed at the head of that stony coffin. We read in - John 20:1-6 what Mary Magdalene and Peter found that Sunday morning.

Early Sunday morning, while it was still dark,

Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and found that the stone had been rolled away from the entrance. She ran and found Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved. She said, -- 'They have taken the Lord's body out of the tomb, and I don't know where they have put him!'Peter and the other disciple ran to the tomb to see. The other disciple out ran Peter and got there first. He stopped and looked in and saw the linen cloth lying there,

but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter arrived and went inside. He also noticed the linen wrappings

lying there, while the cloth that had covered Jesus' head was folded up and lying to the side.

Was that important?

- Absolutely!
- **Is it really** significant? **- Yes!**

In order to understand the significance of the folded napkin, you have to understand a little bit about Hebrew tradition of that day. The folded napkin had to do with the Master and his Servant, and every Jewish boy knew this tradition.

When the servant set the dinner table for his master, he made sure that it was exactly the way the master wanted it.

The table was set perfectly, and then the servant would wait just out of sight, until the master had finished eating, and the servant would not dare touch that table, until the master was finished.

Now if the master was done eating,

he would rise from the table, wipe his fingers, his mouth, and clean his beard, and would **wad** up that napkin and toss it onto the table.

The servant would then know to clear the table. For in those days, the wadded napkin meant,

"I'm finished.."

But if the master got up from the table, and folded his napkin,

and laid it beside his plate, the servant **would not dare** touch the table, --because.....

The folded napkin meant, -- That -

"I'm coming back!"

In Christian Love.

Stanley Goodwin



News from Abroad

African Update December 14th, 2011

Tuesday, November 12th, the shop in Bunda got the engine all put together. They checked it out on a short run, and it appeared to be okay. On Wednesday, they took it on a long run, and it appeared to be okay. On Thursday, Boaz and I took it on a long run to Musoma; the car was

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
Oren Johnston	Yakima, WA	Kidney dialysis
Brady Lamb	Yakima, WA	Deployed to Libya (Marines)
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's

And all those in nursing homes.

Deaths

Wilfred Farley	Gleed, WA	May 25, 1919—December 21, 2011

Meetings

March 18-25 2012	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
June 10-17th 2012	Broken Bow, OK	Guest Speakers
June 24-30th 2012	Lorenzo, TX	Soft tentative date, spkr. TBA
July 8th—?	Yakima WA	Mick Boen

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.

BULLETIN BOARD

Baptizisms

Nita Gardenhire	Stilwell OK	November

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Sue Bixler	Aztec, NM	Stoke(2), Heart Attack & Diabetes
Tina Mickey	Aztec, NM	Gall Bladder surgery/recovery
Jackie Brown	Baron, OK	Serious lung problems
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Lung infection
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Stroke, now in rehab
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Ericka Ferguson	Clinton, NJ	In prison
Lynn Iker	Duncan, OK	Heart surgery & financial need
Linda Wilson	Flora Vista NM	Anxiety & extreme weight gain
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, pain, & 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
Sam Thompson	Hillsboro, OR	Burst appendix
Robert Lane	Hillsboro, OR	Recovering from stroke
Eunice Jared	Hillsboro, OR	Upcoming heart surgery
Gary Calhoun	Hillsboro, OR	Brain tumor
Sharon Moore	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting breast cancer
Jayetta Loftis	Lorenzo, TX	Broken Leg
Ellis Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Dangerous & costly African travels
Barbara Carlin	Lake Havisu AZ	Fighting Cancer
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Reba Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Serious Lupus & kidney failure
Renee Seaton	Pleasant View, OK	Blindness—auto accident related
Christine Burkhart	Springdale, AR	Health issues & financial need

okay, but we ran into a heavy rainstorm. A number of the streets in Musoma were flooded with people walking in water up to their knees. In one section about three blocks long water was running strongly across the road. We noticed that buses and trucks were making it through, but small cars were not attempting it. There were a few men wading across carrying women on their backs. We decided with our vehicle we should be able to cross. The water was lapping over our running boards, but we made it through. I would not have attempted it with a smaller car either; the water was starting to erode the pavement, making the driving pretty rough.

As soon as we got back to Bunda we had planned to drive to Arusha going through the Serengeti, but we received a report that the route through the Serengeti from Bunda was closed because of heavy flooding. Those traveling in the car were Boaz, Rispa, Laban, and me. We checked on the southern route through the Serengeti which started near Ramadi, but it too was closed because of flooding. We had no choice but to go the longer route via Mwanza and Shinyanga, a 2-day drive. We spent the night in Shinyanga. We checked into a guest house (motel), unloaded our bags, and decided to go get something to eat. The woman manager asked me to leave my key with her because she still needed to put covers on my pillows. When we got back I noticed every zipper on my bags were not as I keep them (I have a secret way of placing the zippers so that I can know if anyone has disturbed them). All of the zippers outside and inside of all my bags had been moved. I checked, but could find nothing missing. I do not keep money in my bags. I mentioned this to Boaz, who checked with a business woman next door to the guest house on the trustworthiness of the manager of where we were staying. She said that woman was definitely not to be trusted. We made a mental note to never stay there again.

Sunday, November 13th, we had services at Masakta where Daniel Molel was a leader. I spoke twice at church and we had a private meeting with some Lutheran neighbors of his. They want us to stop by and talk with them some more on our return trip to Bunda. They mayor of Masakta was one of the visitors at the church services; he also wants to talk more with us.

On Monday, we visited a remote village (33 miles south of Masakta) at Simba (means lion) Hill where there is a small congregation. Daniel walked this distance to work with these people to get a congregation started there. There were a few visitors present at the meeting, including the mayor (age 27) of Simba Hill. He also wants us to return; he said he would prepare a few questions for us. He said he liked what he heard and the fact we used scripture to back up everything we said. Depending on how we answer his questions when we return, he believes he will want to be baptized and convert from Pentecostalism. He was the most vocal of all the visitors, which also included 7th Day Adventist and Lutheran.

On Tuesday, we visited the congregation at Nagwa, (26 miles north of Masakta). Daniel also walked this distance to get this congregation going. We got him a bicycle to help him in his evangelism work. While at Nagwa we had one baptism: Nikodemu Maloda (a young man in his 20's). Another young man (member from the congregation at Masakta) in his 20's rode his bicycle all the way from his home town on a mountain road to be at this

church service, attended the baptism, then returned back home to Masakta in the same day.

We went to Babati where we visited with some of the church members. We discovered one of the leaders of this congregation went back to Pentecostalism, but the rest remained strong, including his wife. That evening as we prepared to leave we discovered we had no brakes. The brake fluid tank was empty and there was brake fluid all over the front left tire. That tire was also jammed back against the wheel well, but the one on the right side had about 5" clearance. Bolts on the front wheel alignment were either broken or missing and the driver-side shock absorber was damaged. This, we believe, happened the previous night during a thunderstorm on the mountain. Boaz lost control of the car in the slick mud, run up a 3 foot bank, and jumped back down to the road again. The car was in the shop the next day being repaired.

After we left Babati, we traveled some miles down the road and pulled into a restaurant to eat. When we started the engine after we ate, it wasn't running right; it sounded like some of the pistons weren't firing, then the engine quit. We hand-pushed the car (with some volunteer help from others) down the road where we could park it safely at a secure guest house. We discovered there was a competent mechanic in this town. He took the engine apart and said there was plenty of oil and the engine did not overheat; the problem was the timing belt had jumped causing piston and valve damage. Boaz and the mechanic took a bus to Arusha (2 hours away) to look for another engine. They found one the mechanic said was a good engine. Rispa took a bus back to Bunda. They delivered the engine to the car via a truck and started putting it together. They got it running good enough to drive it to the shop in Arusha where they needed to do some additional work. We knew the transmission did not sound right, and when they checked into it they found a previous mechanic had failed to connect the engine cabling to the transmission correctly; it was never running in the high gear. They are getting that fixed now as I type this. They expect the car will be ready tomorrow (December 15th).

Sunday, December 11th, we had services in Arusha where Caleb is one of the leaders. Monday we had private meetings individually with the leaders of some of the congregations here, and then we drove to meet with a congregation at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. For 1 ¼ hours we drove on a narrow mountain road through thick trees and underbrush with room, for the most part, for only one car. For those of you that know of the road between my sister Ellen's place to Bill Taylor's place through the forest, you can have some idea of what our driving was like. It was cloudy, so I didn't get a good look at the mountain. From a distance I could see its snowy top.

On Tuesday I got a visit from someone from the school of preaching at Arusha. We visited for some time in my room at the guest house, and then we had lunch together with some of the others leaders from the congregations we had gained previously. Our discussion did not go the way he expected it would. He had some difficulty answering some of my questions.

On Wednesday, December 14th, while Boaz and Laban went to Kenya, I visited some people with Dominic in his neighborhood. We spent a little over a hour with Grace Jeffrey (17) you get the chance, and then you can see when he finds the power switch on it.

Brother Ellis Forsman has a plane ticket tentatively booked for a February 27th trip home! The plan is, Lord willing, that he will be at the Yuma meeting in March. If you want to go to a wonderful meeting and hear Ellis tell of his travels first hand, start making your plans to go to Yuma now.

Keeping you all in our prayers, and may God bless this new year for you,

The Lorenzo Congregation

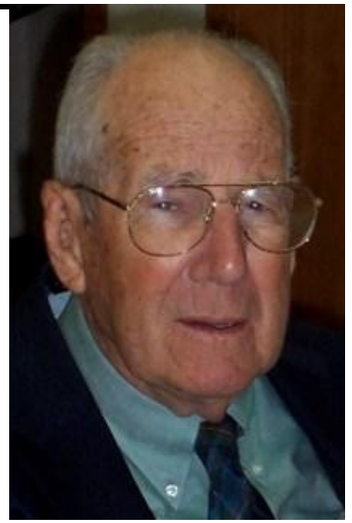
Hillsboro OR

Greetings to all the bretheren,

Happy NEW YEAR TO ALL. We have had several health issues here. Sam Thompson had to have emergency surgery when his appendix burst. He is recovering from that and has been able to be back to church. Robert Lane is in a care facility after suffering a stroke. He is making progress but recovery is slow. Eunice Jared is going to Seattle soon to have heart surgery. Gary Calhoun has had a brain tumor for several years. Sometimes he gets along fairly well, other times it is very difficult to get the meds adjusted just right.Still all of these folks are usually at church, for which we are thankful. These dear ones need our prayers for healing. We have had a few visitors lately. Lynell Forsman was here a couple of times while visiting with the Shepherd's. Leah and Rachel Shepherd were also able to be here during their college breaks. As we go into 2012 please keep all of us in your prayers as do we keep all of you.

Hillsboro OR congregation.

Gleed, WA



Bro. Wilfred Farley, born in 1919, was 90 years old when he passed away December 21, 2011. His family was one of the original Oregon Territory families. He and Mom were active in 4-H Club as well as being foster parents to several children over the years.

In March of last year he was able to make a 5,000 mile trip to Yuma, for their meeting, as well as Texas, California, Nevada, and Oregon to see relatives and attend various churches on the way. He was very impressed by the way the brethren whereever we went immediately became "family" to him. He was also able to attend the Gleed and Port Orchard meetings. He unfortunately was not able to make the Yakima meeting as he needed to rest between the other two. He was a well loved and faithful member of the Gleed congregation and will be missed by many who called him brother, grandpa, and Dad. Many of our younger people grew up knowing him as Grandpa Peaches due to a nickname our children gave him as toddlers.

Sis. Wilma Farley, for the Gleed WA congregation.

Yakima, WA

1/5/2012

Dear Brethren: Here it is, the start of the new year and I haven't written for a while. Most of us are in decent health and as well as can be expected. Veda still has breathing problems that she has learned to live with but her biggest complaint is that she can't sing as well as she used too. She will be 80 this month. Oren Johnston has settled into his routine of kidney dialysis three times a week and is doing quite well.

Our youngest grandson. Marine Sergeant Brady Lamb, was deployed today to Libya, from Cherry point, NC. Please keep him in your prayers.

The latest news is that Mick Boen has been contacted and has consented to hold our Gospel meeting starting July 8th. We don't know if it will be for a full week or possibly shorter depending on how the other NW congregations schedule their meetings.

We invite all who can, to come and be with us at that time or any time. You are always welcome to come and be with us. Please keep us in your prayers as we do you.

In Christian Love,

Bill McCay Sr.

Lorenzo, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's time again to give you all an update from the Lorenzo TX congregation. The most pressing news we have is that Sister Jayetta Loftis has broken her leg just above the knee. She is in good spirits but is in for a long recovery. Because she is not very mobile her daughter Becky Forsman has been staying with them to take care of her.

We have had lots of visitors during the Christmas holiday. Amy Orendorff had most of her kids here for Christmas, including David, Sarah and their baby Luke, who has the reddest hair I've seen in a while and a wondrous smile. Shaya, Lawrence Khiara, Sydney, Roman and Ryder Flugence also came down from Seattle WA. It was good to see that the Red Raider nation has taken seed and is growing in the Pacific Northwest. Earlene Jared was able to visit us twice recently, in November when her daughter Sheila McCay was recovering from surgery, and again in December for Christmas. Willie Howe was able to make it up for Christmas but Mary had to work. We missed her. Aspen and Brady Kuening were here from Alaska. I think they were trying to have a warm Christmas but it turned out to be a white one anyway. Lynell Forsman was off visiting her daughters on the west coast from Thanksgiving through Christmas. She was missed, but not enough to keep us from turning her place into a hotel for clan Orendorff.

We have had the usual bouts with stomach bugs and colds that always seem to go around when you get to visit with lots of out of town loved ones, but it's worth it getting to see everyone again.

Jerry McCay got a new laptop because his old one was so slow it was just sitting there gathering dust. Now that the new one has been collecting dust in the box for a few weeks he's finally getting around to un-boxing it. Feel free to send him an E-mail if

talking about the Bible. She said she was a Lutheran. When we were done she said she wanted to be baptized, but it would have to be the next day because she had to go to work. The baptism is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Thursday. Another woman had already said she wanted to be baptized; that is scheduled for Sunday. I did not meet her. Dominic and I also talked to two women (Catholic) for about 2 hours. They think God will accept their method of baptism (sprinkling) despite Biblical evidence to the contrary.

As I close this we still have a number of others to visit in the Arusha area before we head back to Masakta, Bunda, and then go on north again to Kenya and Uganda where we have over 40 congregations that have invited us to come of which we have not yet met.

Keep us in your prayers,

Ellis Forsman





CW from TL: Baptism of Josiah Mwinug at Mwanza; Part of the Congregation at Masakta; Daniel Moel and his mother Anna Chepa(98). Daniel walked 33 mi. to Simba Hill and 26 mi. to Nagwa to establish new congregations. ; Cong. at Simba Hill









CW from TL: Congregation at Nagwa; Baptism of Nikodemu Maloda of Nagwa; Girl or rt. Is Grace Jeffrey (17) who is to be baptized on Dec. 15th. She will be a member of one of the congregations in Arusha, which is led by Dominic Otieno; A Congregation in Arusha led by Caleb.





African Update – January 10th

Before we departed the Arusha area we visited three remote areas near the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. We got positive feedback from many of the people there, but got resistance from a couple of the leaders. We were invited to come back again after they studied the matter more for further studies.

Boaz received a call from Paul (the man who came to my room for a discussion; he was an instructor at the Andrew Connelly School of Preaching in Arusha – church of Christ – and was sent by the school administrator to talk with me). Paul told Boaz the things I told him shook him; he thought a lot about what I said and talked with his wife. He told Boaz they had to agree that I was right. He said he planned to quit the school and request his pension. The administrator of the



A CHRISTIAN RENDEZVOU

We plan to meet in Wichita Falls, Texas the 2nd Sunday of most months to fellowship with as many of our brothers and sisters as can be there. There are five Churches within an hour of Wichita Falls; we will choose one of these churches to attend and fellowship with the brothers and sisters there.

We understand that not everyone will be able to attend each time and that the weather might be a factor at different times. We are looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible; we hope that you can be with us. See schedule below we may make changes when we are all together. We do not have a set agenda; maybe some Bible study Saturday morning and maybe some train in the afternoon/evening. Please note some of the ladies had good shopping trip on Saturday.

We have looked at the hotel / motel's in Wichita Falls and found one that has a good rating with reasonable prices. This is the COMFORT INN WICHITA FALLS, 1317 Kenley Avenue Wichita Falls, see the attached.

Note; Each party is responsible for their own reservations.

In Christian love,

Stanley and Judy Goodwin

February 10th, 11th & 12th CHRISTIAN RENDEZVOUS (Wichita Falls)

March Yuma Church Camp

April 6th, 7th & 8th CHRISTIAN RENDEZVOUS (**Oklahoma City**)

May 11th, 12th & 13th CHRISTIAN RENDEZVOUS (Wichita Falls)

June Cypress Lake Church Camp

I have had an about face with my cancer. It has now turned into a fast moving cancer. I have had tumors coming up all over my body that were awful painful. They did surgery on my leg to remove some of one of the tumors and I was wheelchair bound for a while. They are trying a new drug on me and at this time the tumors are drying up and I am able to walk again. I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and financial assistance. Please keep the prayers going on my behalf. It will still be a long road.

As always, everyone is welcome to join us anytime. Our service starts at 10:00 on Sunday morning. A few of us have been getting together on Wednesday nights to fellowship at 6:00p.m. One week we sing and the next we will have a Bible study. It is great fellowship and we are grateful to have Brother Paul and Sister Crystal and kids from the Pine Mountain congregation joining us each week. Come visit anytime. We would love to have you.

Gerald Buckner

Church of Christ at Pleasant View

Roswell, NM

Dear Brothers,

May God bless you brothers from the Church of Christ. We are the Brothers from the Church of Christ in Roswell, New Mexico [meeting at 801 N. Washington]. we are a faithful congregation who is very frequently visited by the brothers from Harlingen, Texas, Pachuca, Mexico, and also from Rio Verde, Mexico. We are listed on your website and we just wanted to confirm our presence and show our gratitude. We are a Spanish speaking congregation and currently we have about thirteen brothers and sister and still growing. We hope to someday get to know all of you if God willing and once again we are extremely thankful for your acts.

Sincerely the Church of Christ

Email of Brother Eduardo Avalos recently baptized by Brother Alvarez from Harlingen.

Brothers and sister from Photo:

Sister Olivia Gomez-left in brown coat and skirt

Sister Maria Ceballos- center in black coat

Brother Everardo Avalos-center in long sleeve white shirt

Sister Karen Vasquez-center right in back behind Brother Everardo

Brother Eric Leonel Vasquez-center right in front of Sister Karen Vasquez

Sister Elizabeth Judith Vasquez- enter right under Brother and Sister Vasquez

Brother Ricardo Antonio Vasquez- center right under the Brother and Sisters Vasquez

Brother Eduardo Alfredo Avalos- right in the yellow shirt

Sister Hilda- right above Brother Eduardo

Brother Alfredo Gomez- far right in brown jacket

Brother Luciano Hernandez-far right in black jacket

school somehow heard of his plans and told him his services at the school were no longer needed. When he asked about his pension he was told he didn't qualify for one. Others with less teaching service at the school have received a pension. He is taking the matter to court. However, Boaz says we gained a valuable person on our side.

The visits to the Masakta region have been postponed to a later time. We have received urgent requests in Kenya and Uganda to come as soon as we can. As soon as the car was fixed (another engine put in; the timing belt jumped, destroying the pistons and valves), we headed across the Gorongoro and Serengeti Wild Animal Parks toward Bunda. The roads in this region are very bad; we got two flat tires crossing the Serengeti caused by sharp rocks puncturing the tires. We were also delayed by a swollen river caused by a severe thunderstorm. We had to wait for the water level to lower before we could cross. Most of these areas have no bridges to cross; one has to drive across the floor of the river.

We made a trip to Ramadi where we baptized one person. We had car trouble on this trip caused by an attendant putting petrol (gasoline) in the tank instead of diesel fuel. A mechanic stopped, seeing we had trouble on the road. He was a fuel systems specialist for a shop in Mwanza. The Lord sure helped us. The mechanic took all of the fuel system parts out of the car and we rode with him late at night to Mwanza. The next day he cleaned the parts and lines and he had to replace a couple of the parts that were bad. The day after that we went back to the car with a can of diesel fuel. He emptied the fuel tank and flushed it, then put the diesel fuel in. After a few attempts he got it running but we were experiencing some electrical problems. It was discovered that whoever worked on the wiring when the engine was worked on before did some incorrect wiring. The wiring problem has now been corrected.

We crossed the border into Kenya reaching Kakamega late after midnight, having crossed the mountains in the west. The brakes were starting to go out. We dropped Laban and Rispa off at Laban's home, then Boaz and I got a motel, getting to bed at 3:30 a.m. The next morning we picked them up and started our journey to Nakuru in Central Kenya. We didn't get very far before we lost the brakes entirely. There is no automotive shop in this part of the country; however, as we were parked alongside the road (not on the highway, but in a residential district next to a Catholic school), two people stopped to see what our problem was. They were mechanics from another town visiting in this area (Again, the Lord's help!). The brake on the left was completely shot (pads and drum) and they discovered that someone had plugged the brake line on the right side, so it had not been functioning. The last brake job we had, the mechanic only replaced the left side brakes; we paid for two brake replacements, but only got one. Both brakes needed to be replaced. The mechanics did some adjustments so that we had some brakes at least. They said there is a shop in the next town, but to be careful in driving, because the fix they did was only temporary. As we reached the town we lost the brakes entirely and coasted into the shop with the car stopping when the tire hit the curb. We had to push the car into one of the stalls. We were told the brake pads on the left side were made in China; they were fakes!!! So not only did we pay for two

good brakes and got only one side, that one side was fake. It's a good thing the brakes did not go out entirely when we were in the mountains. We now have two good brakes.

We got to Nakuru after midnight. Some of the brethren reserved motel rooms for us and were still waiting for us when we arrived. The next few days we had visitors from other congregations in towns nearby, and one man traveled over 400 miles by bus from Northern Kenya to be here. He said he was representing 19 congregations from the north. It was a good sized crowd, but not the largest we have had; however, it was perhaps one of the most educated. Boaz knew many of them from when he was teaching at the Andrew Connelly School of Preaching in Arusha. I spoke four times in three days and the message was well received. The man who traveled from Northern Kenya returned and met with other preachers in that region and gave them the tracts we sent with him. Boaz received a call from this man who said all 19 congregations in the north are with us.

One of the preachers who visited here at Nakuru was from Naivasha. We are scheduled to be at his congregation on January 11th before we travel on to Nairobi and Machakos. While at Nairobi we will purchase more Bibles.

Laban told me last night his wife had their 10th child, a girl, born on January 9th. He was anxious to tell me they named her **Lynell**. What an honor!

Keep us in your prayers. We have dangers often, but without fear.

In Christian love, Ellis Forsman





Ellis was asked to speak to a high school English class, and answered many language questions from the approximately 35 in attendance (not all pictured here).

Visiting speakers coming thru our state will have twice the audience – as always, we welcome visitors.

Please keep all of us in your prayers,

Ann Cutler (Rex Mickey's daughter)

Broken Bow, OK

Hello from Broken Bow!

We hope all are doing well and have enjoyed a wonderful Christmas with family and friends. It is hard to believe that 2011 has come and gone! Looking back, the year had been filled with many memories. We've experienced sadness by the loss of loved ones and sadness for those struggling with illnesses- however our lives have been blessed too. We have enjoyed church growth through mission work, wonderful baptisms, new babies, restored health, and more. For these blessings we are truly thankful!

We do not know what the future holds for us here on earth. In the coming days, many will make resolutions for 2012 that will be as varied as the individuals making them. We'd like to share a few suggestions for resolutions found in a Christian journal. We hope these leave you with a smile on your face and give everyone a little food for thought.

RESOLUTIONS 2012

1. This year give God what's right- not what's left.
2. Spend time on you knees- it will keep you in good standing with God.
3. Don't change God's message- let His message change you.
4. Don't procrastinate- it wasn't raining when Noah built the ark.
5. Go to church- before six strong men have to take you.
6. In service to God, don't request an advisory position- just report for duty.
7. Exercise your soul- walk with God.

Our love and best wishes for a Christ-centered 2012!

Costilow St. Church of Christ

Broken Bow, OK

Stilwell, OK

Greetings from the Pleasant View congregation. Our meeting with Brother Roger Walkingstick during the Labor Day weekend was enjoyable and successful. We had great attendance for each service and great sermons. Brother Walkingstick is a great speaker. Several congregations supported us and we would like to thank them. We had members from the Pine Mountain congregation as well as from the Lorenzo TX, Baron OK, and Broken Bow OK congregations.

In November Nita Gardenhire made that great confession and was baptized into Christ's church. It is so pleasing to witness the birth of a new Christian. Brother Robert Fuson did the baptizing. We would like to thank the Baron congregation for letting us use their baptistery.

Cards and Letters

Flora Vista—November 23, 2011

Dear Friends,

Greetings from the little church in Flora Vista, NM. We are all as well as can be expected, Sister Tina Mickey and Sister Ann Cutler went to a Church meeting after going to Lubbock and cut their trip short due to colds, and some of our congregation have been blessed with the 'flu', but we all know that God will take care of us in one way or another.

The continual news of Brother Forsman is awe inspiring. It is amazing to learn how hungry the people of Africa are to know the truth and to, hopefully, keep practicing the truth and sharing this truth with others who are hungry. He is a man who was blessed with a challenge and he rose to meet the challenge with fervor and God as the goal for all. We truly support him and his work and hope that his car will stay together long enough to complete his mission.

We have had numerous visitors to our little Church and have been blessed to have Brother Jerry McCay and his wife Wynetta visit us twice; we received wonderful lessons from him. Lynell Forsman was also among the wonderful visitors we were blessed with and she brought an album of Brother Ellis' amazing journey through Africa and the people he has touched and baptized. It was truly wonderful and we hope for some repeat performances.

Please know that every piece of correspondence we receive is shared among us. Thank you for all the work you put into *The Christian Courier*; We hope and pray that it will continue.

Sincerely,

Abram Lobato

Flora Vista/Aztec, NM– Dec.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have some exciting news to share with everyone. As most of you know our congregation has continued to shrink in membership. After lots of prayers and discussions we have decided to merge with the Aztec Church.

Members of both Churches have known and worshiped with, and loved each other for years anyway.

I was asked to write the *Courier* and let you share our "good news!" Everyone expressed their feelings that it is a blessing that we will now join together and work for the Lord.

Beginning Dec 11 2011 we will no longer have services in Flora Vista, we will all be worshiping the Lord in Aztec.





CW starting TL: 1 of 2 Baptisms at Arusha 12-16-2011; 2nd Baptism at Arusha 12-18-2011; Laban Ambogo and Daniel Moel, who have traveled with Ellis on various trips; Meeting with a few people near the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro.









L. Meeting at Nakuru (cong. meets in School Library, not all present for pic.); R. 2nd group meeting near Mt. Kilimanjaro

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.

Harlingen, TX — Dec. 2011

Dear Brethren,

We send you greetings hoping you may be enjoying good health in the Lord. Thank you for your fellowship with us in this work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I comment that during the month of November we worked in the area north of Mexico to help the brothers in the evangelization work and also to study of the scriptures with the Brothers that help in the predication in this area. Each day the Brothers in the different congregations are better prepared to continue the work.

In Brownsville TX we have studies in the houses of different peoples and some have interest in the truth and we have hope that some obey the gospel.

During the month of December we have plans of visiting Rio Grande Mexico because we have the invitation of a family that is studying the scriptures with the CD's that we sent out.

The evangelists in Guatemala and Central America to inform that the Churches continue firm in the faith. We continue plans with the help of the Lord, for the next year, to visit the Churches in southern Mexico, Guatemala and Central America for to support the work of evangelization and study with evangelists and brother in different congregations.

I continue writing and preparing books for printing next year. Again I express my gratefulness in the name of the Lord you participation in the work of predication of the gospel.

The Brothers in Guatemala send photo of new church in the Quetzal City.

As Paul says to the Philippians 1:3-6 I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Your Brothers in Christ Jesus, Evangelists in Spanish.



Harlingen, TX – January 7 2012

Dear Brethren,

We wish that this year 2012 will be of large benediction for you and that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, help us all to follow forward and faithful in the Christian life and collaboration with the Lord for the salvation of many souls.

We comment that December was a month of much activity in the work of the Lord taking advantage the free time of many persons to preach the gospel, to convert to some persons and to visit many Brothers in different places.

We again visited the Church in Pachuca Mexico to accomplish a series of predication during 5 days and finally a person obeyed the gospel. The church each day continue growing in the knowledge of the scriptures.

In the city of Brownsville, TX two persons that they are studying the scriptures obeyed the gospel and were baptized. We have plans for visiting San Francisco CA for encourage the brothers during 26-30 of January.

The Churches in Guatemala, Mexico, Central America continue forward in the truth. The Brothers in Guatemala and Salvador invited us to work with them during the months of April and May and we continue making the plans to visit these Churches.

Again thanks in the name of the Lord by the important participation in the work in these countries.

Your Brothers in Christ.

Evangelists for work in Spanish

I send photos:

1. Studies in Pachuca… Baptisms in Pachuca
2. Studies in Brownsville… Baptisms in Brownsville TX.









Donation information: Donations to aid Otto can be sent to: Church of Christ C/O Otto Alvarez P.O. Box 532514 Harlingen, TX 78553