The Christian Courier

October, 1996

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

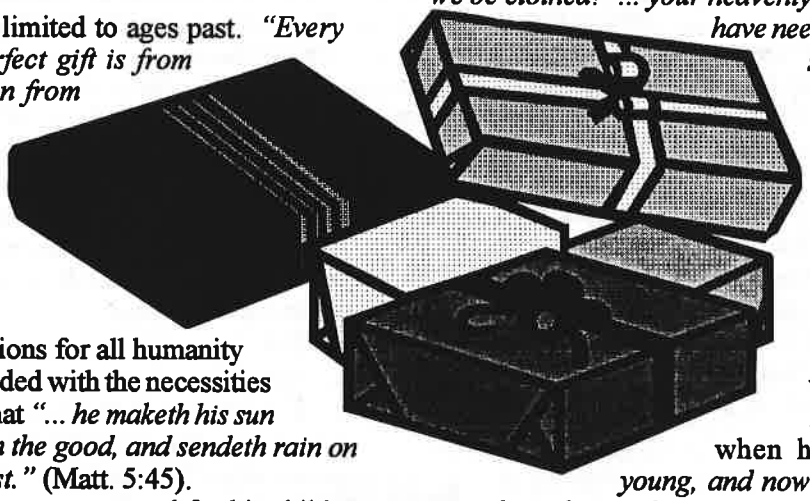
Gift of God

God, in ages past, set in order rules and principles which, if men will obey, will result in blessings for all God's people.

Solomon wrote, *"... that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God."* (Eccl. 3:13). Also, *"Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God."* (Eccl. 5:19)

Good and Plenteous

God's gifts were not limited to ages past. *"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."* (James 1:17).



Showers

God has made provisions for all humanity that they should be provided with the necessities of life. Jesus taught us that *"... he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust."* (Matt. 5:45).

God's special blessings are reserved for his children. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"* (Eph. 1:3).

Through Ezekiel we learn that God constantly sends blessings like a gentle rain. *"And I will set up one shepherd over them,* [God's people] *and he shall feed them, even my servant David; he shall feed them, and he shall be their shepherd."* (Ezek. 34:23). *"... and I will cause the shower to come down in his season; there shall be showers of blessing."* (Ezek. 34:26).

We are all familiar with the dry seasons and their effects on the natural vegetation and crops which man plants. Then, in the midst of all this adversity, there comes a refreshing shower and everything rejuvenates and puts on further growth. Showers of blessing! Just so with God's people. We are constantly being refreshed with his life-giving *"showers of blessing."*

We, as God's people, are to be constantly focused on his plan for us. *"... take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ... 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." (Matt. 6:31-33).*

God's plan: first seek after the spiritual blessings of God and the physical necessities will be provided.

David observed this when he said, *"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."* (Psalms 37:25).

God has made many promises to mankind, especially his people. A quick scan of the scriptures revealed ten times that He promised to never leave or forsake his people. One can search through God's word and never find one of these promises broken. Therefore, when He promised to the Christians that *"... 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"*

(Heb. 13:5-6), we should confidently claim His blessings in true faith realizing that He will keep this promise also.

We truly control our own destinies in all things through our power of choice. Let us choose the blessings of God which are bestowed upon us in *"showers"* and forsake all others as the source of "good luck."

Written in love of the brotherhood and the truth.

John Logan
3708 Mission Rd.
Stockton, CA 95204

Blessings Of Fearing The Lord

Psa. 31:19, *"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!"*

Last month we looked at maintaining our fear of the Lord. This month we wish to see some of the ways God promises to bless our lives if we fear Him.



First of all, God is going to care and provide for us if we fear Him. Psa. 34:9-10, *"O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him. The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing."* David said in Psa. 37:25, *"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."* And so Jesus tells us in Matt. 6:33, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Similar to caring for us, God promises to keep them that fear Him safe. Psa. 34:7, *"The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them."* What a wonderful promise! Prov. 3:23-24, *"Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."* Psa. 115:11, *"Ye that fear the LORD, trust in the LORD: he is their help and their shield."*

He also shows mercy to us IF we fear Him. Psa. 103:11-13, *"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him."* Go down to verse 17, *"But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;"* Why does he show this mercy? Because those that fear Him obey Him. Verse 18, *"To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."*

With His mercy comes His salvation to those who fear Him, and repent of their sins. Psa. 85:9, *"Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land."* Those that fear Him must repent. Psa. 34:18, *"The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."* And of course, the rest of the plan of salvation must be followed.

So we see many blessings from God. But notice that they were given to those who fear God. Psa. 119:120, *"My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments."* Phil. 2:12, *"Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always **OBEYED**, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation **WITH FEAR AND TREMBLING**."*

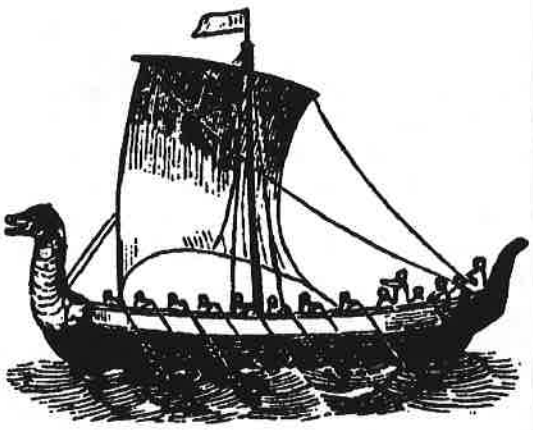
In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198

Except

"... Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 18:3)
"... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3)
"...Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." (John 3:3)
"...Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)
"...except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." (Matt. 5:20)
"...except ye abide in me. ... is cast forth as a branch, and is withered ..." (John 15:4,6)

The Travels of Paul: Fourth Journey

Defense Before the Sanhedrin





The period of Paul's imprisonment began with his arrest and rescue by Claudius Lysias as recorded in the 22nd chapter of Acts; and here we have the second of five pleas which Paul made during his imprisonment. This meeting with the Sanhedrin was arranged by Lysias in an attempt to find the reason for the recent disturbances or understand their hatred for Paul.

This was not an official meeting of the Sanhedrin, and was not held in their normal meeting place (Lishcath Haggazzith, the sacred Temple Court — The Zondervan Pictorial Encyclopedia of the Bible, volume 5, p.271), for there were Roman soldiers present. Whenever there was a meeting involving the Sanhedrin and Roman authority, a Roman official was always in charge — in this case Lysias. It is unlikely that Ananias, the high priest, was adorned in his official dress for this occasion.

Paul addressed the council saying, *"... Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."* (Acts 23:1). Ananias, may have forgotten that he was not in charge (thinking perhaps that Paul spoke out of turn), for he commanded his mouth to be smitten (vs. 2). This was illegal, for Paul was a Roman citizen in a hearing presided over by a Roman official.

Then Paul said to him, *"... God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law."* (Acts 23:3). This was a prophecy (perhaps put in Paul's mouth by the Lord) which came true, for Ananias was murdered by his own people at the beginning of the Jewish war with Rome in AD 66 (Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible, volume 1, p. 85).

Someone spoke up saying, *"... Revilest thou God's high priest?"* (vs. 4). It *was* illegal to revile an authority such as the high priest, but Paul may not have recognized him as such if he was not wearing his official garb. Paul replied that he knew that was the law, but he didn't know he spoke to the high priest (vs. 5).

As Paul stood before the council he perceived that they were divided between Sadducees and Pharisees. He cried out to them all, *"... Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee: of the hope and resurrection of the dead I am called in question."* (vs. 6). This had the effect of dividing the council, for the Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead, while the Sadducees did not. A dissension arose among them, with the Pharisees standing up saying, *"... We find no evil in this man: but if a spirit or an angel hath spoken to him, let us not fight against God."* (vs. 7-9).

The meeting then lost all manner of decorum. Lysias, fearing Paul would be torn to pieces, ordered the soldiers to take Paul from among them by force and return him to the castle (Roman fortress) (vs. 10).

This was the third riot in two days! And Lysias still was ignorant of any cause for such disturbances. He could make no sense out of their words and actions.

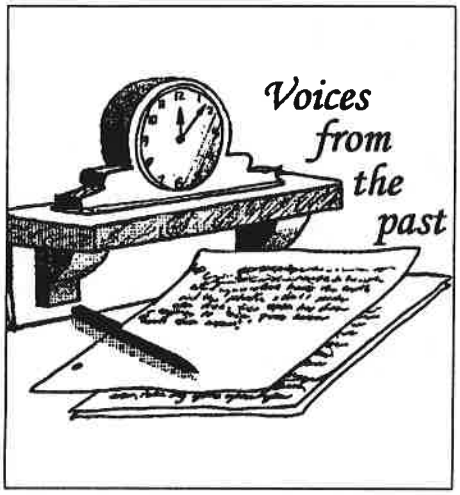
Paul may have been very discouraged by this point. Nothing he said could persuade them from their destructive course. He defended Jesus Christ before the Jews, and they wouldn't listen. What happened next gave Paul great strength and encouragement to continue. *"And the night following the Lord stood by him, and said, Be of good cheer, Paul: for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem, so must thou bear witness also at Rome."* (vs. 11). This gave Paul assurance he was doing what was right, and gave him confidence to continue the fight.

Next: Conspiracy.

Written in love of the truth.

Ellis Forsman
1034 So. 140th
Seattle, WA 98168

What Is The Church That Christ Built Like?



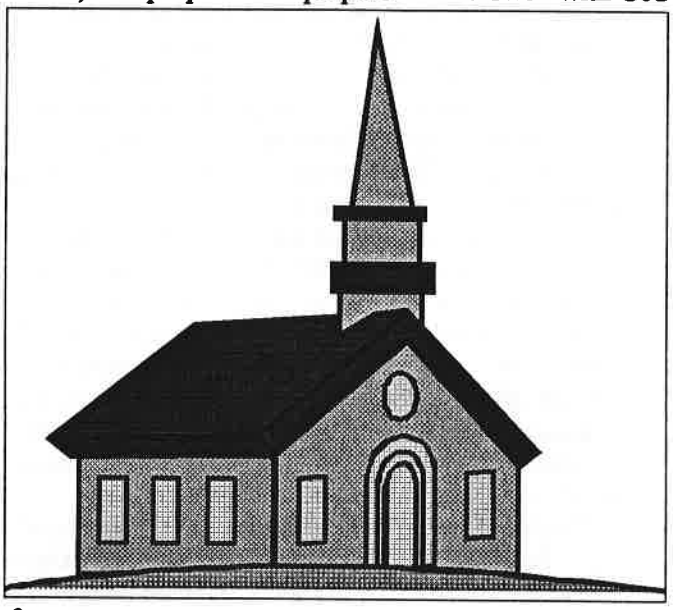
Jesus did not come into the world to establish an earthly government. There is no reference or indication to the church as if it were *"a new society"* — meaning a society or organization that operates as a world government, with all of the powers of both a worldly and church body. It has no worldly power pr earthly functions whatsoever. Jesus said, *"... My kingdom is not of this world..."* (John 18:36). His kingdom's boundaries are that of truth, righteousness, purity, and holiness.

Christ's church is described by human terms in order to convey some concept of its divine nature. Sometimes, it is described as God's building (Eph. 2:19-20; 1 Pet. 2:5). Sometimes it is looked upon as Christ's body. Paul said, *"Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."* (1 Cor. 12:27). The church also is pictured as a kingdom. Sometimes, it is spoken of as *"kingdom of God"* (Matt. 6:33); *"the kingdom of heaven"* (Matt. 3:2; 7:21); and *"the kingdom of his dear Son"* (Col. 1:13). This divine establishment is entered by a new birth of *"water and the Spirit"* (John 3:5). It is not possible to enter it an other way. However, before one is born again of water and of the Spirit, it is necessary to believe in Jesus Christ as the only begotten Son of God; to turn his back upon all past sins; to publicly accept or acknowledge the name of Christ. A person becomes a proper subject for a burial in water in order to receive remission of sins (Rom. 6:3-4; Acts 2:38). One is born again, or as the term is sometimes used, "born anew," or born from above. All of these terms mean conversion.

The blessings of the church are of a spiritual nature. You may never attend church services at all; yet if you are an honest and upright man in all of your dealings, you may enjoy the same material blessings that the most devout Christian enjoys. But you cannot know the *"... peace of God, which passeth all understanding..."* (Phil. 4:7). Paul declared that God has blessed us with *"... all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:"* (Eph. 1:3). To be in Christ is to be in His spiritual body, which is His church. In it, therefore, we enjoy every spiritual blessing. There are no spiritual blessings outside of the church.

Paul declared that *"... all the promises of God..."* are in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 1:20). In Christ we have salvation (2 Tim. 2:10). In him we have redemption through His blood and the forgiveness of sins (Eph. 1:7). The church is made up of men and women (Rom. 12:5; 1 Cor. 12:27), but not just any and every kind. All who are in the kingdom have been born again (John 3:3,5). They have been called out from the world. This is the meaning of the term *"church."* They have become *"new creatures"* in Christ Jesus (2 Cor. 5:17). All can say with Paul, *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: ..."* (Gal. 2:20).

Being a spiritual institution, the church of our Lord was not founded for the flesh, but rather for the spirit. Of man, it is that part that lives forever. The church will not pass away with the death of our bodies; it was built to stand forever. The gates of hell cannot destroy it (Matt. 16:18). Its purpose is to prepare man to dwell with God



forever.

All civic organizations, all of the lodges of men, and all human institutions of every kind were founded for the natural man — that part of man that will finally die and return to the earth from where it came. But the church of the Lord, being a heavenly institution, was set up for the spirit, the soul of man, that part that never dies. Human institutions may comfort us during our life on earth, but beyond the grave they cannot go. They were not built to stand forever. They must all pass away with time. But the church built by our Lord can and will take our souls into the everlasting kingdom of God to dwell with him forever and ever.

Farrell Wilson

(reprinted from *The Christian Courier*, October, 1976)

Cards and Letters



Bohanna Mt., AR

Dear Christian Brethren,

We have just heard that Sister Eunice Bruce of Carlsbad, N.M. has fallen breaking her hip and her arm, she was only one week into recovering from surgery to remove her thyroid and having a pace maker for her heart. She surely is in need of all prayers from her Brothers and Sisters, there is no congregation at Carlsbad and she really misses that. She lives with a son, her husband held services for them until his death 2 and a half years ago. Pray for her, she is Melvin's cousin.

Also Melvin is doing very well in recovering from his heart surgery the 18th of July. Then on the 1st of August he had another surgery to repair a artery and remove a blood clot. After those two he made good progress and has returned to work after Labor Day.

We thank each and everyone for prayers, visits, cards, phone calls and the support from four congregations. It was greatly appreciated. May God bless you.

Eunice Bruce
305 So. Olive
Carlsbad, N.M. 88220

With Christian love,
The Daniels, Melvin, Rachel and Mark
Bohanna Mt. Congregation., AR

Yuma, AZ

Dear friends,

Thank you very much for all the prayers for Horace Orendorff. You can take his name off of the critical list, now. He is much better and I'm sure it is because of all the prayers.

Love,
Jean Orendorff
Yuma, AZ

Cedaredge, Colo.

Hello everybody!! Our 1997 Delta, Cedaredge, Colo. camp meeting dates are June 28th through July 6th. The camp will be ready for people to arrive on Sat. June 28th. Mark your calendars now! Everyone is invited to come. We do need each and everyone of you, and look forward to seeing you each year. This will be our 33rd annual D.C.C. camp meeting.

We thank each of you for your wonderful support this year. We had a very good, uplifting meeting, lots of good singing, preaching, prayers, and fellowship. Thanks a million to all of you that came, also for the donations, that were sent from other congregations and those of you that gave while here at the camp meeting. We appreciate it all very much, without your support we could not have the camp meeting. The camp meeting is universal, all congregations are welcome.

We have had a lot of visitors this summer. Thank each one of you for coming. You are welcome anytime. Our homes are open to any of you anytime you are out our way be sure and look us up.

Again, thanks to all, for your donations and support.

God bless you all,
Happy Hollow church of Christ
P.O. Box 663
Cedaredge, CO 81413

Show Low, AZ

From the Church of Christ here at Show Low, we send our love to the Body that is spread abroad, and we let you know that we keep all of you in our prayers. We await the arrival each month of the letters so that we know who and what to pray for, plus as we hear by word of mouth.

We are all doing very good here. We are still enjoying very much the company and help of Buddy and Willie Davis.

We look forward to this coming Sunday when my dad, Harry Davis, and brother, Robert Davis, if by the will of God, will be joining us for services. I wait to see which one will give in to deliver us a lesson. Either way, it will be good.

I had the pleasure of getting to talk to Brother Gary Pruitt, who lives in Alamagoro, NM, with his family — that is I talked with him on the phone. This was the first time I have ever talked with him, and I enjoyed it very much. It is such a blessing any time I get to meet a brother or sister in the Lord.

God guide us while we are here on this earth temporarily.

Davis, Show Low, AZ

Musella, GA

The Christian Courier,
I would like to subscribe to The Christian Courier. Please send this paper to the address shown above. If there is a charge for this publication, please let me know.
Thanks,
Dwight Smith
2875 Montpelier Station Road
Musella, GA 31066-9602

Financial Statement

Happy Hollow Church of Christ

1996 Camp Meeting

Beginning Balance:		**.00**
Donations:	**1136.25**	
1st Sunday	**501.00**	
2nd Sunday	**118.95**	
Cash Back Pop/Ice Cr	**293.25**	
Total Income:		**2049.45**
Expenses:		
Ice Cream/Juice	**352.00**	
Groceries/Sodas	**1135.48**	
Camp Rent/Electric	**1628.80**	
Phone	**18.49**	
Trash Pickup	**20.00**	
Total Expense:		**3154.77**
Balance (Net Loss)		**-1105.32**

Take an interest in the future. That's where you'll spend the rest of your life.

Precious Memories

***It Is Written*, October 1956.** Bro Paul Ferguson reported the baptism of Bro. Donald Taylor's wife by Bro. Claude Perigen. He also relayed reports of two good gospel meetings by Bro. W. H. Francis — one in Loco, OK and one in Ogden, TX; and one by Bro. Elmer Hunt in Somerton, AZ. Bro. J.W. Bedingfield reported that the Lorenzo, TX congregation had purchased a building, and were nearly ready to move it onto their lot. The wedding of J.W. Bedingfield, Jr. and Carolyn Dabbs was announced, with many loved ones in attendance. Bro. J.S. Bedingfield announced the baptisms of Lee Sage, John Tibbs, and Dwane Baker. Bro. W.E. Daniels reported two baptisms, one at Terrel, OK and an elderly man back at Broken Bow. Growth was reported at Abilene, TX, with several families now meeting with Bro. and Sis. Wallace there.

The Christian Courier, **October, 1976.** Bro. Lloyd Treat wrote to report several meetings, including two baptisms during the meeting at Broken Bow with Bro. Earl Atchley. He also reported on meetings in Gardendale, TX; Hamilton, TX; Newcastle, TX; with Bro. Ed Tate, and Randalett, OK. The Glenwood, WA, congregation reported much spiritual growth at various meetings. "With this concept in mind, let us encourage one another to continue in this uplifting, that our Lord may be magnified within the Church as well as to the world." They also reported that one group of young people drove nearly 100 miles one way to assemble there. The Lorenzo congregation reported the return of Dan Johnson into the service of the Lord. The Cedaredge congregation announced the marriage of Bro. Skip Berry and Sis. Pamela Wilkerson July 17, 1976, during the camp meeting. The last page contained the obituary of Bro. W.A. (Allen) Nelson. "Bro. Nelson lived for Christ to his last breath and is sorely missed by his many friends. Bro. Tom Broadway conducted the graveside service in Yuma, Arizona."

The Christian Courier, **October, 1986.** The Loco congregation and the Broken Bow congregation both reported that the congregation at Randlett, OK, was in great need of a building to worship in. Bro. Al Way of Bellflower announced the marriage of Bro. Mark Perigen and Sis. Tammy Way, performed by Bro. Tom Broadway. Bro. Howard Taylor of the Loco congregation reported an excellent meeting with Bro. Mark Perigen.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Nov. 24-Dec. 1, 1996	Citrus City, AZ	Rex Mickey
June 28-July 6, 1997	Delta, CO	Camp meeting
July 6-13, 1997	Yakima, WA	Roger Walkingstick

Prayer of Faith for those in need

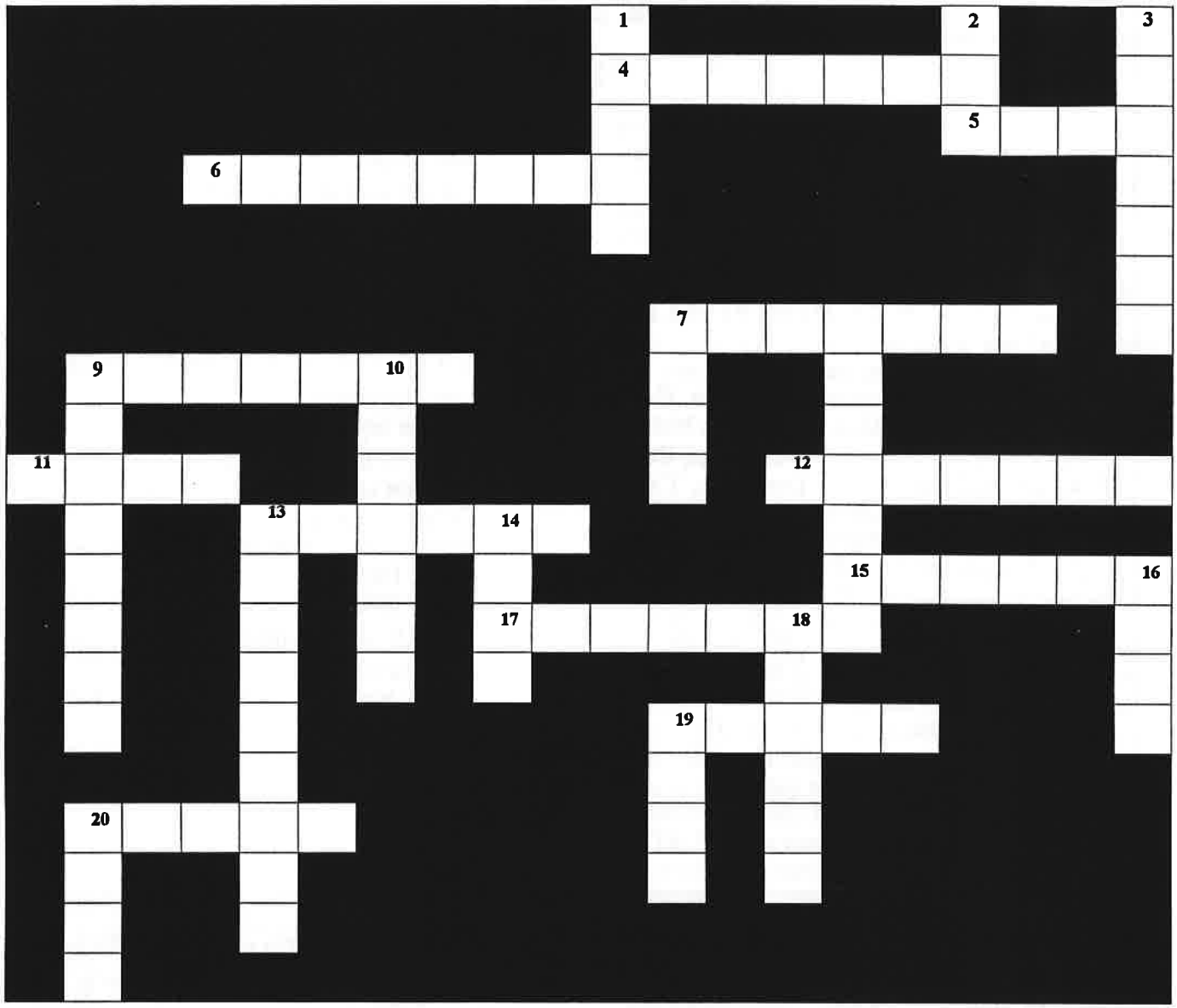
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Eunice Bruce	Carlsbad, NM	Broken hip & arm
Dixie Fauch	Cedaredge, CO	Major surgery recovery
Pearl Bedingfield	Deer Park, TX	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Earl Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Heart surgery recovery
Luke Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Jessica Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Kathren Ann	San Pablo, CA	Organ transplant recovery
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Biopsy analysis
Dorothy Williams	Yuma, AZ	Surgery
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In a rest home



Living the Christian life is like shaving — no matter how well you do it today, it needs to be done again tomorrow.

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.
(Matt. 5:13-14)

"A" Bible Characters



ACROSS

4. Taught by Aquila & Priscilla (Acts 18:24)
5. A New Testament prophetess (Luke 2:36-38)
6. Thrown into a furnace (Daniel 3:13-21)
7. A son of David (2 Sam. 13:37-39)
9. Called Abram until God changed his name (Gen. 17:5)
11. The seventh king of Israel (1 Kings 16:28-33)
12. King of Judah 52 years (2 Kings 15:1-2)
13. King of Judah who fought against Israel (2 Chron. 13:1-3)
15. Husband of Priscilla (1 Cor. 16:19)
17. A good king of Judah (2 Kings 14:1-4)
19. Had 40 sons (Judges 12:13-15)
20. The 8th son of Jacob (Gen. 30:12-13)

DOWN

1. Brother of Moses (Exo. 4:14)
2. A good king of Judah (1 Kings 15:9-24)
3. Prayed for Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:10-17)
7. King of Judah 16 years (2 Kings 16:1-2)
8. Son of Jehoram (2 Kings 8:25)
9. The only queen of Judah (2 Chron. 22:10-23:15)
10. Paul preached before this king (Acts 25:13-26:32)
13. A Philistine king (Gen. 21:22-23)
14. First man (Gen. 2:15-19)
16. A prophet from Tekoa (Amos 1:1)
18. Simon Peter's brother (Mark 1:16)
19. Murdered by Cain (Gen. 4:1-8)
20. The 15th king of Judah (2 Kings 21:18-25)