The Christian Courier

December, 1996

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

Times And Seasons

"But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage? Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain." (Gal. 4:9-11).



Paul was quite concerned for the spiritual condition of the congregation of the Galatians, so much so that he dwelt at length on the subject in his epistle to them. "*...I am afraid of you ...*" (for you). This implied that there was danger in the way they were living. And what was the danger? What were these *"days, months, times, and years"*?

Notice verse 3, "*... we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world:*" (*"We were slaves to Jewish laws and rituals for we thought they could save us ..."* — Living Bible). These "*days, months, times, and years*" were then observances of the Mosaic Law.

Christ Came to Redeem

Verses 4-5, *"But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law* (Moses'), *To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."*

The question is, then, what is to be the proper Christian position concerning these "*days, months, times, and years*"?

The key to the question is the word *"observe"*. ("paratereo — *3906* {to} note insidiously or scrupulously: — observe, watch." — Strong). One might say the Galatians kept a calendar of events to be observed faithfully. They were careful to observe these events throughout the year.

The only problem was **THEY WERE NOT PART OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST!** The Galatians kept the religiously, which was the cause of Paul's concern. He says that in observing these they were turning to the *"weak and beggarly elements,"* and were putting themselves in *"bondage"* (slavery) to them.

Not To Be Judged By These

In view of his fears for the spiritual welfare of the church, Paul's command was to *"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday* (holiday), *or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:"* (Col. 2:16).

Such things are held in high esteem by the world, and are *"observed"* (often very punctually) by many religious bodies as a matter of faith and worship. To those acquainted with the teaching of the scriptures on the subject, it is bewildering that anyone should do so. If we are to *"speak as the oracles of God,"* how can we contend for such things inasmuch as the scriptures do not speak of them? (1 Pet. 4:11).

Holidays (holy days, for that is the meaning) are numerous in our national calendar and there is nothing wrong with enjoying them as the seasons unwind, but we must be scrupulous not to teach these as part of the gospel, or *"observe"* them as part of our worship.

If the Colossians were not to be *"judged"* by an observation of these "holydays", (and we must note here that these were holydays and seasons prescribed by Moses' Law) how much more important that we not observe the more "modern" holidays, which are often rooted in ancient festivals of pagan worship, witchcraft, etc.), as part of the congregational worship of the church, or teach them as part of the gospel.

Such holidays as New Years Day, Easter, Christmas, Halloween, (not an "official" holiday, but dutifully *"observed"* by most people today — the meaning of the name is hallowed eve) and many more which are not "official", are regularly *"observed"* (some in church worship) as though they were Christian in origin.

One can search the New Testament throughout and fail to find a single example of holyday, festival, or seasonal observances by Christian congregations. In fact, they were warned against such by Paul as we have previously noted.

But, some respond, "What is wrong with '*observing*' these holy days?" (I find it strange that so many times, when a practice is called in question, this question is asked.) Instead of asking what is wrong with something, we would be better advised to ask, "What is **RIGHT** with these observance?"

The answer to this is obvious. There is nothing "right" with such observances. There is, first of all, no precedent for such. They are, therefore, not Biblical in origin, nor are they part of the Gospel.

Let us note some conspicuous examples:

New Years Day

This holiday was never observed by Christians until modern times; thus it is not Biblical in origin, but nevertheless observed by some churches.

Easter



Easter Sunday, and all the attendant "days" were never observed by Christians in the early church. There is ample evidence that its origin stems from an ancient Teutonic festival of Spring called "Eostur". The Teutonic goddess of Spring was named "Eostre". But, one says, the Bible speaks of Easter. Speaking of the imprisonment of Peter Luke says, *"... intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people."* (Acts 12:4). Unfortunately, this is probably the most glaring mistranslated passage in the "Authorized Text" (King James). The word translated *"Easter"* is from the Greek "pascha" (Strong, *3957*).

At this point we would be remiss if we did not note Vine, pages 14-15 on "pascha". Under the heading "Easter", he notes: "... mistranslated 'Easter' in Acts 12:4, (A.V.), denotes the Passover (N.V.). The phrase *'after the Passover'* signifies 'after the whole festival was at an end'. The term 'Easter' is not of Christian origin. It is another form of Astarte, one of the titles of the Chaldean goddess of heaven. The festival of Pasch held by Christians in post-apostolic times was a continuation of the Jewish feast, but **WAS NOT INSTITUTED BY CHRIST**, nor was it connected with Lent. From this Pasch the pagan festival of Easter was quite distinct and was introduced into the apostate western religion as part of the attempt to adapt pagan festivals to Christianity."

Some scholars claim "Eostre" to be the Teutonic (German) adaptation of the much more ancient Chaldean (Babylonian) Astarte. This is probably true. Whatever the case, we can easily see that the term "Easter" was an unfortunate mistranslation, and never appears truly in the New Testament. The proper translation should be "**PASSOVER**", and is so rendered by most translations. The origin of "Easter", therefore, is not Christian, but pagan.

National Holidays

Memorial Day, July Fourth (Independence Day), Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and several others are American national holidays. Some denominational bodies incorporate these in their worship. In other words, they "observe" them. There is certainly nothing wrong with individual Christians taking part in these as a private participation. They are not, however, Biblical in origin, and should not be "observed" in congregational worship.

Halloween

Halloween (hallowed-eve) is an ancient hold-over of early Celtic Druidic nature-worship with its overtones of witchcraft and Satan-worship. It is, at best, questionable that Christians should participate in this unhallowed relic of paganism. Certainly, it is inappropriate for Christian congregations to "observe" this in any manner.

Christmas



Christmas (Christ-mass) is not a "Christian" holyday. It was not until 400 years after Christ that his birth was ever "observed", and even then was rejected by most early Christians. Only when given "official" status by Pope and Ecclesiastical Council was it established as a "Christian" observance. It is not to be found in the New Testament, and therefore not to be "observed" by Christian congregations.

This so-called "holy day" is attended by so many myths, superstitions, and relics of paganism, that I am surprised so many religiously-oriented people are scrupulous to keep it faithfully.

Mistletoe. This is a holdover of ancient Celtic Druidic worship. The Druids considered mistletoe to have the powers of healing diseases, making poisons harmless (it is actually toxic), giving fertility to humans and animals, banning evil spirits (remember garlic to repel vampires?), bringing "good luck" and great blessings.

Yule Log. The Yule Log festival is a holdover from pagan Scandinavian sun worship.

Holly. The holly was venerated as a sign of perpetual life by the ancient Britons (Celts), and as a sign of resurrection by early so-called Christians, most of which could not be distinguished from out-and-out pagans.

Christmas Tree. The Christmas tree was of German origin, and is a derivative of the ancient veneration held

by the Germanic tribes for the fir tree. They held the evergreen fir as a symbol of eternal life (never-ending). As a Christian custom, the Christmas tree is of recent origin, probably not over 400 years old. There is no reference to Christmas trees in the Bible, as is believed by some. As a custom, probably harmless, but certainly not part of the Gospel, nor something to be "observed" by Christian congregations.

As Holidays, Not As Christian Worship

The word "holiday" means simply "holy day". However, as used today in our ever-changing language, it carries the idea of nothing more than a day off from our occupations — a day of our own. This is, of course, our custom, and bears no relationship to a religious "observation". Sometimes we are asked, "Should Christians have anything to do with these holidays?"

We already know that holidays can have no part in our Christian worship, nor are they part of the Gospel, but what of their purely social aspects?

In many ways these holidays have taken on a purely secular nature, separate from the religious, and, of course, some are, and always were, secular by nature. We stay up until midnight on New Year's Eve to greet the new year. I fail to see the harm in this (leaving aside the riotous, drinking, reveling as the habit of so many is). This is not "observing" as meant by Paul in our text.

I think the Easter dresses (not many Easter-bonnets are worn any more) are pretty, especially on the small girls. This is purely a custom, not an "observation".

To remember our dead servicemen on Memorial Day is altogether proper and right. We do this as individuals — each in his own way.

Halloween, of all our holidays, has a dark side to its meaning. I (my own personal feeling) do not favor participating in this. In many places people have instigated a "harvest festival" in its place. I see nothing harmful in participating in this. Of course, we shouldn't include it in our public "observations".

Thanksgiving is a national holiday with a high and noble purpose. Christians should give thanks every day to the Heavenly Father for all his blessings. We meet on the first day of the week to commemorate our Lord's death as we are instructed to do in the scriptures. We each participate in Thanksgiving in our own way.

Christmas is called the most revered "Christian" holiday of the "Christian calendar". Just where the idea of a "Christian calendar" came from, I cannot determine — certainly not from God's Word! It is true that we are to assemble on the first day of the week. This is the extent of Christianity's "calendar", if we should call it such. One can search throughout the New Testament in vain for the slightest vestige of anything remotely resembling a yearly calendar of holy days. It is therefore safe to state that any such schedule is not truly Christian, but human in origin.

Let us remember, brethren, that none of these holidays are Biblical in origin, nor are they part of the Gospel. We should not, therefore, "observe" them, but consider them to be purely social, secular, and sometimes mythical in origin, and certainly not part of Christianity.

In love of the truth,
John D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd.
Stockton, CA 95204

Good Attitudes Brought About by the Fear of God

People don't like to be afraid. Of anything. People don't even like to fear God. So much so, that people will (try to) dilute the word of God; saying that the passages of fearing God are simply saying to respect or honour Him. Even some translations will substitute these other words.

But the truth from the Bible is plain. Mt. 10:28. *"And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."* The word "fear" is the same in both places, even translated from the same word. And the meaning is fear. Don't fear man, but do fear God. And good reason is given for fearing 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."***

We don't tremble out of simple respect. We tremble for fear.

Now this is not to say that respect of God, and honouring God, is bad. These are wonderful and necessary. The point of our study today is that these (and many other good attitudes toward God) are brought about in our life by fearing God.

1.Awe - Psa. 33:8-9. *"Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him. For he spake, and it was done;* (the creation of the world-see verse 6) *he commanded, and it stood fast."*

2.Rejoicing - Psa. 2:11. *"Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling."* Why do we rejoice with trembling? We tremble because of His great power. We rejoice because the One with that power is on our side! Psa. 118:4-6. *"Let them now that fear the Lord say, that*

his mercy endureth for ever. I called upon the Lord in distress: the Lord answered me, and set me in a large place. The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do unto me?" The fear of the Lord delivers us from the fear of man. Why wouldn't we rejoice at that great blessing?



3.Trust - Psa. 115:11. *"Ye that fear the Lord, trust in the Lord: he is their help and their shield."* (Remember - He's on our side.)

4.Praise - Psa 22:23. *"Ye that fear the Lord, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel."* Psa. 34:3. *"O magnify the Lord with me, and let us exalt his name together."*

5.Reverence and service - Heb. 12:28-29. *"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may* ***serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear****: For our God is a consuming fire."*

We often sing songs about, and pray for, a closer walk with God. These attitudes are relationship-building attitudes. They are attitudes of respect and honour towards God. If we stand in awe of God, rejoice in Him, trust Him, praise Him, and serve him with reverence, we respect Him, and we will have a closer walk with Him. And where did that all start? It all started with fearing God.

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

Fornication

Let us begin the study of this subject by realizing that it takes frank and direct language to teach it, whether privately, in the pulpit, or in writing. I hope this offends no one, but this is a subject so important that we must teach it in spirit of the frank words it requires.

It (and all Bible subjects — see Matt. 28:20) is so important to teach because: *"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge ..."* (Hos. 4:6); *"He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."* (Prov. 5:23); *"A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength."* (Prov. 24:5). This is the desire for this study, that we may increase our knowledge, and thus our strength, on this subject.

While we realize, as noted in Brother Bedingfield's article, "Drunkards and Railers," that there is a spiritual fornication too. This study will deal with only the physical one. Perhaps an older, more knowledgeable brother will be persuaded to write an article on spiritual fornication. *"Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body."* (1 Cor. 6:18). Paul continues the thought in verses 19 & 20, *"What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* In Galatians 5:19 we learn that fornication is one of the works of the flesh which verse 21 tells us, can keep us from inheriting the kingdom of God. *"Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things' sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience:"* (Col. 3:5-6). Brothers and sisters, let's understand that fornication is sin, and has dire consequences if we don't repent (change — see Matt. 21:28-32) and get it forgiven (1 John 1:9). But, why? Have you ever wondered that? I have. Why does God forbid fornication? Does He forbid it because He thinks sex is dirty? No, of course not. God created sex — created it for all animals (Gen. 1:20-22), mankind included (Gen. 1:27-28). Verse 31 reads, *"And God saw every thing that he had made* (that would include sex), *and, behold, it was very good. ..."* According to the Bible, then, sex is not wrong for married people; premarital sex and extramarital sex is. This brings us back to the question, "Why? Why does God permit animals more than one mate, but not people?" We tend to think God is depriving us of something when he forbids fornication, but that is not true. He is making it more special for human beings. By forbidding fornication, He makes marriage more special, and makes sex more special by placing it in marriage where there is not just lust, but love. There is not just pleasure, there is joy. And there is commitment, life-long companionship, trust, and so forth. We know God's desire is to make marriage and sex more special because we read in Hebrews 13:4, *"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."*; Proverbs 18:22, *"Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD."*; and Genesis 4:1, *"And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD."*. Notice God's desire for us expressed through Solomon in Proverbs 5:18-19, *"Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."* This makes God's desire for the specialness of sex in marriage pretty plain, doesn't it? But, like many things, mankind destroys this specialness by going beyond the Word of God. In the world we

Christians are faced with the temptation, but the world lowers itself below the animals by its fornication. Animals are at least fulfilling God's purpose for them when they have more than one mate. And the animals fulfill their birth obligation. The world really lowers itself when it adds abortion to its fornication. At least one-third of the 1,500,000 abortions committed each year are the results of fornication.

There are many more problems caused by fornication. AIDS and other diseases and body problems, jealousy which can lead to murder, just to name a few. Plus, fornication can cause (or be caused by) the other works of the flesh (Gal. 5:19-21). It boils down to this. Do we want the temporary fulfillment of our lust? *"... the pleasures of sin for a season;"* ? (Heb. 11:25). Or do we want the permanent joy of heaven? (Rev. 22:14), and the life-long joy of marriage? Brother Howard McCay at the Loco, OK, meeting last year and Brother Al Way at the Baron meeting this year both made the point that God can find us a spouse; He can find us a Christian spouse. All we need to do is ask and diligently look for one (Matt. 7:7) because God blesses (James 1:25). Then there is no need for fornication. Let us make sure there is more than just this one desire behind that prayer though, or it may go unfulfilled. *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."* (James 4:3).

This study is not to belittle or condemn anyone who may have fallen victim to Satan's temptation in this area of fornication. It is to fervently urge you to repent. The main purpose, as stated before, is to give myself and other young Christians increased strength thereby. Then with God's help, we can hopefully avoid this sin.

Thus, our conclusion is very simply this: There is no place (1 Cor. 6:18) or need (Prov. 5:18-19) for fornication in a Christian's life. May God bless your efforts to resist the devil.

In Christian love,
Terry Warford

(***The Christian Courier*, January, 1987** — reprinted by request)

Precious Memories

***It Is Written*, December, 1956.** * Brother Amos Bever, San Pablo, CA, wrote on behalf of Brother Condor, who wanted it known that he was available to hold a meeting anywhere and anytime for only the cost of his traveling expenses. * Brother Stanley Neimczyk, of Bellflower, CA, sent money for the support of the paper. * Announcement from Ralls, TX, on the birth of Amy Marlene to Brother Earl and Sister Olene Howe.

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

***The Christian Courier*, December, 1976.** * Brother Robert Morris, Yuma, AZ, reported on the passing of Brother W. A. Nelson; and announced that they had four baptisms: his sister and brother-in-law, Ladron Gray, and Lois Hurtado. * Report from Glenwood, WA, indicated that they were having a difficult time since some of the membership there broke away; Sister Ellen McCay had been having trouble with her heart; Brother Randy Orendorff, 12, gave his first lesson; and Judy Campbell was baptized. * Brother Jack White, Seymour, TX, reported on their weekend meeting with Brother N. E. Berstrom, Brother Thomas Clements, and Brother Ed Tate. During the meeting three souls were restored back to the faith. Also reported: Brother Ben Dixon had passed away and Gary Edwards, 15, was seriously injured in a shooting incident. * Report from Peoria, AZ, that Brother Harry Dye would hold their meeting in December; Sister Brenda Kelly was home after being ill in the hospital; and Sister Marilyn (Laboto) Williams gave birth to a baby boy. * Brother Don Taylor, Lugart, OK, wrote of their travels to other congregations and of recent visitors to their congregation; also that his son Mark had brought a recent lesson. * Brother Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, wrote on the Delta Camp expenses. * Brother Howard Taylor, Comanche, OK, invited others to meet with them. * Brother Bill McCay, Sr., Yakima, WA, reported that Sister Veda McCay had been down with pneumonia, and that Sister Phebe McCay had been in the hospital. * Brother N. E. Bergstrom, Gardendale, reported on their meeting with Brother Lloyd Treat. * Brother Gerald Buckner, Stilwell, OK, reported on their meeting with Brother Ken Baldwin.

***The Christian Courier*, December, 1986.** Brother Leroy Mullins, Randlett, OK, wrote to thank those who sent help in getting their church building up. * Brother Al Way, Bellflower, CA, reported that Brother Mark and Sister Tammy Perigen had moved into their new home; Brother Marty and Sister Tayna Brockman had also moved into their new home; Sister Lori Perigen was attending school in Bakersfield; and Brother Jerry Perigen had just returned after several weeks in Indiana. * Sister Latrissa Smith, Loco, OK, thanked those who were so thoughtful while her leg was fractured. * Report from Grants Pass, OR, on the address of their meeting place. * Brother Terry Warford, Baron, OK, reported on their meeting with Brother Lloyd Treat. * Report from Oklahoma City, OK, also gave the address of their meeting place.

Cards and Letters



Baron, OK

We are happy to announce that Brother Homer Bryant from Concord, CA, has agreed to hold our meeting through June 8 - 15th of 1997.

We invite all who can to come and be with us for a week of fellowship and gospel preaching.

Hope many of you will make plans to come. We have hookups at the church for anyone who might have R.V.'s or campers, and we will provide a place for those who don't. Our meals will be served out in the lunchroom at the church house. We also have showers and restrooms in the lunchroom and in the church building. We are looking forward to this and visiting with many of you. I'm sure we will hear some wonderful preaching from Brother Homer. We spent a week with Brother Homer and Sister Bonnie, along with a lot of other brethren, and we learned to love them very much.

Not much news here at this writing.

With our love and prayers,

The Baron Church of Christ

Elkins, AR

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As of this writing, there is much need of prayers for not only my husband Melvin Daniels, but also for Brother and Sister Buchannon, Sister Letha Ferguson, and Brother Marion Serrano, all of Goshen, AR.

As many know, Brother and Sister Buchannon both are fighting cancer, as is Letha Ferguson. Brother Serrano fell off a ladder, as I understand; then the ladder fell on him, really bruising his leg and causing him to fracture his other heel bone in three places. He is in quite a lot of pain, and to get around is a puzzle for him as he can't use crutches because of his shoulder. A lawn chair was his helper to get into church service today, but he made it.

Melvin wasn't so fortunate. The 3rd of November he had to return to the hospital for the 4th time in 4 months because of his heart. Finally this trip they decided to do open heart surgery (2 by-passes). I really believe that's what should have been done the 15th of July, instead of 3 stints that caused a blood clot to the artery; then the 15th of September he went back in and they did angioplasty. Nothing did any good. I pray for him to be done with surgery, he has suffered so much. This time he developed a light case of pneumonia, but that seemed to be much better today. Pray for him and the others as we do for you. Financially, we are broke. The hospital insurance isn't the worry, it's the every day bills that I can no longer meet. Any help would be grateful, for Melvin can not return to work. The earliest the doctor said he could was after the 1st of February.

With our love,

Melvin, Rachel, and Mark Daniels

170 O'Neal Ln

Elkins, AR 72727

Goshen, AR

Hello all of our Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We pray this finds all of you well.

Since Sister Rachel Daniels wrote to the Courier in October, Brother Melvin Daniels has had to return to the hospital for the third time for a triple-bypass major surgery. He is doing as well as can be expected. All of us here at Goshen and Bohannan Mountain churches have been praying steadily for him, and with God's help he is doing pretty good.

We are sending out a plea to all the Churches of Christ out there for Brother Daniels' financial aid. It is very badly needed since this is his third time in the hospital, and the bills are mounting. Please find it in your hearts to send whatever is possible, and please know it will be deeply appreciated. Send it to: Melvin Daniels, 170 O'Neal Ln, Elkins, AR 72727.

Also, please remember him in your prayers, and all of our sick brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our thanks goes out to *The Courier*, because without it, it would be very difficult to send out our plea.

Also, here at Goshen, our Sister Letha Ferguson is doing better. Our Sister Etta June Auslum is doing better, also, after her bad fall about a month ago. She still has some soreness, but is much better. Also, our Sister Maysel Buchannon and Brother Ernest Buchannon are recovering from cancer operations. Please remember them all in your prayers. We send all of you our best, and our prayers go out to all of you. May all of you keep striving for that home up in heaven with our Blessed Father.

God bless and keep you all safe,

Sister and Brother Marion Serrano

Goshen Church of Christ

Randlett, OK

First, we want to commend the brothers and sisters for their efforts in putting out *The Christian Courier* each month. We always look forward to receiving it to read the articles and news from other congregations. A check is enclosed to assist in expenses incurred in printing and mailing of *The Courier*.

As for news from the congregation — Otto (Sam) Elliott has had problems with a form of arthritis the past few months. At one point he was having to use a walker to get around, but his doctor has put him on some medication, and God answered prayers, and he is doing some better now. He only requires braces on his legs now to walk around. He still hurts quite a bit when walking, so he does not move around as much as he used to. All others are doing quite well except for the minor illnesses that occur occasionally. We are holding on as far as numbers. We are few in number. We are not increasing in number, but thank God, we are not decreasing.

I apologize that we have not written in quite awhile. It seems that everyone here has been so busy with work the whole year of 1996 that hardly any have been able to visit other congregations; nor did we hold a gospel meeting this year. We have discussed this, and want to do better in 1997.

We plan to have a weekend meeting with guest speakers on May 2-4; so please mark these dates on the calendar, and plan to attend. Everyone knows that meetings are more uplifting the more people attend. Also, remember this will be guest speakers; so, brethren, bring a lesson with you. Call Leroy Mullens (817-569-1956) or Andy Barnes (405-439-5956) to set up a particular time you wish to speak. Services for Friday and Saturday will begin at 7:30 p.m. On Sunday, we will have service at 10:30 a.m., after services we plan to have lunch at the community building, and then afternoon services will be around 2:00 p.m. (or sooner, if possible), so that those traveling can have extra time to return home.

In love of the truth,
Andy Barnes
for the Randlett, OK, congregation

Show Low, AZ

Greetings from all of us at Show Low,

We send you word that we love you and we keep you all in our prayers, especially those who are mentioned in the letters. We have a special prayer get-together for them. We now miss the presence of our Brother and Sister Buddy and Willie Davis. They are such a great help to us over the summer months, but we are glad to know that they are happy and safely back home, and now a great help to the Yuma congregation.

We are enjoying the first of our snow this year in the end of October. Our lakes and forests can use a lot of water, plus it is beautiful.

We are not expecting any visitors until the end of December when my father and mother, Harry and Alice Davis will be planning on coming up. But our door is always open to whoever cares to come and join us.

We always look forward to your support in coming to visit with us, and your prayers.

My wife Diane took a bit of a bout in her lower abdomen area, and I had to get her to the hospital after a prayer, and everything worked out quite well. Otherwise, there is no problems with sickness.

Let us keep our eyes and thoughts focused on the Lord and our goal. God be merciful, and bless the Body.

In the love of Christ,
Joseph Davis
RR 2, Box 22034
Show Low, AZ 85901

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

All is pretty much well here in the Seattle area, with some virus-related illnesses.

Winter has definitely arrived to the Northwest. Just before the Thanksgiving Holiday, the rain we had been getting turned to snow, with accumulations up to 8 inches. Just in time for holiday traveling, the snow quickly melted; however, the rivers couldn't handle it.

With the heavy snowfall, many in this area were without power for a couple of days: The Orendorff's and Staley's were among those affected.

Our numbers were fewer over the Thanksgiving Holiday. Brother Terry and Sister Suzie Warford and family spent the holidays in Yakima with Sister Suzie's parents, Brother Richard and Sister Monica Johnston. Brother Ellis and Sister Lynell Forsman met up with Brother Matthew and Sister Kelly Shepherd and family and spent the holidays in Sacramento, CA, with Brother Eric and Sister Lori Harper and family. It's always good when loved ones can spend time together, especially when they live so far apart.

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

In Christian love,
The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 8-15, 1997	Baron, OK	Homer Bryant
June 28-July 6, 1997	Delta, CO	Camp meeting
July 6-13, 1997	Yakima, WA	Roger Walkingstick & J. W. Bedingfield

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
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Melvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Heart surgery & complications
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Marion Serrano	Goshen, AR	Broken bones
Earl Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Heart surgery recovery
Otto Elliott	Randlett, OK	Arthritis
Luke Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Jessica Carpenter	Sacramento, CA	Cystic Fibrosis
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
J. D. Logan	Stockton, CA	Surgeryto strip artery
Dean Guyer	Waterford, CA	Surgery to remove spleen
Dorothy Williams	Yuma, AZ	Surgery
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In a rest home

How to Face the New Year

Face it with an open Bible.
Face it with confidence in Jesus Christ, your Lord and Saviour.
Face it resolved to stand by Christ's church.
Face it with your heart right with God.
Face it with a resolution to spread the Gospel to others.
Face it with a prayer that God will direct your footsteps throughout the entire year.