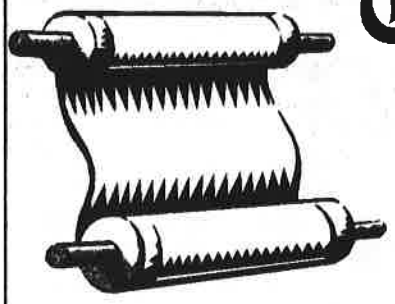


The Christian Courier



September, 1997

Send correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168

How Important Am I?



This is a question many of us ask ourselves from time to time. Do I play a role in God's overall plan?

Let me share with you a story that was on television a while back that might help explain how important each of us are.

There was a man that was very depressed and ready to take his own life, when an angel came to him and asked him why he was going to do this horrible deed.

"My life is worthless," he replied, "I have never accomplished anything. I might as well end it."

"What do you mean?" the angel asked, "Don't you remember all the lives you saved?"

"I never saved anyone's life," the man replied, "let alone a lot of people's lives."

In a vision the angel took him back to a time long ago. It was in a pharmacy where a young boy stopped a drunk pharmacist from putting poison in a pill bottle by mistake. The angel was careful to make sure that the name on the pill bottle was very visible. The man recognized it as one of the most prominent men in town, who had many children and grandchildren. With a laugh, the man looked at the angel, "I didn't know angels made mistakes," he said, "that was my brother that stopped the mistake that day."

Again the angel took him back in a dream to a time several years before the incident in the pharmacy. This time to a lake where two boys were playing. As they watched, one of the boys got tangled in the water weeds and was drowning until the second boy saved him.

"Ok," the man finally admitted, "I did save my brother's life years and years ago."

The angel looked at him in disgust, "How many were saved on that day?" she asked. As the man thought about it, he realized that if he had not saved his brother's life, his brother would not have been there to save the life of the man in the pharmacy; who, in turn, would not have been able to have children and grandchildren, time unending.

Each time we do something on this earth, our actions may be felt for countless generations. If we but guide one person to Jesus Christ, how many may be added to His body?

Written in Christian love,

Robert Farley
311 Selah Heights Rd.
Selah, WA 98942



"Thou Art My Portion, O Lord"

Psalms 119:57 says: *"Thou art my portion, O Lord: I have said that I would keep thy words."*

This brings a vivid picture to mind. I picture life's plate with many different opportunities available. There is wealth, fame, power, also disappointment, sorrow, or loneliness to choose from. But by far the biggest and best choice available is a life lived for God.

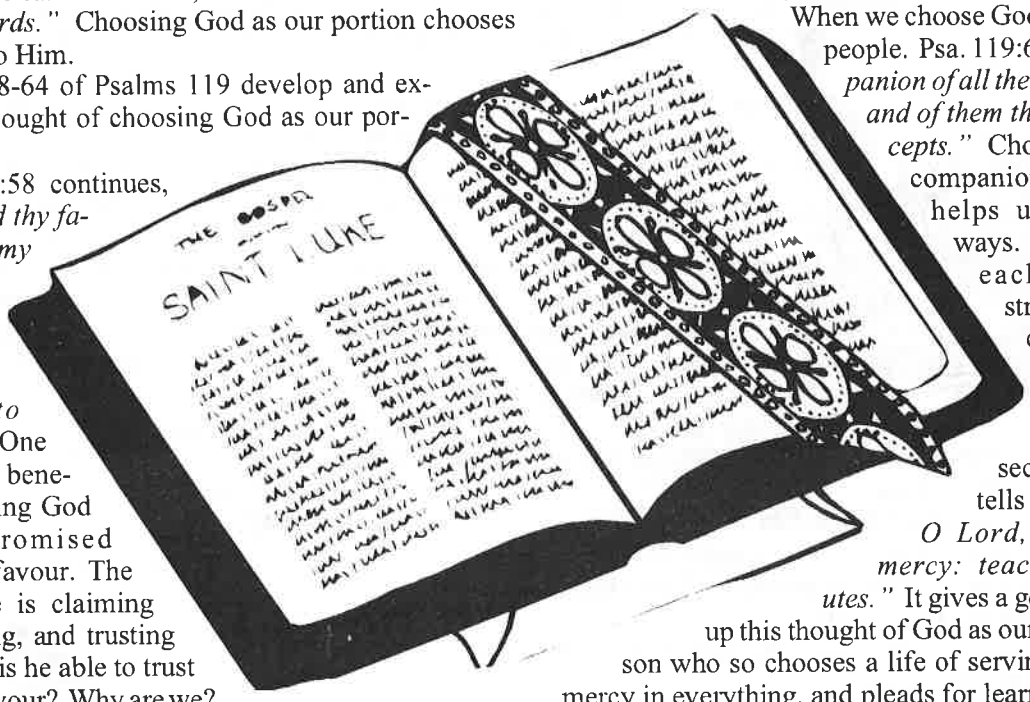
Choosing God as your portion in life brings great rewards, both now and in eternity.

Rom. 8:28, *"And we know that all things* (even unpleasant things) *work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."*

I Pet. 1:4, *"To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,".*

Notice though, that scripture gives not only rewards for choosing God, but responsibilities as well. The last part of the verse, Psa. 119:57 said, *"...I have said that I would keep thy words."* Choosing God as our portion chooses obedience to Him.

Verses 58-64 of Psalms 119 develop and explain this thought of choosing God as our portion.



Psa. 119:58 continues, *"I entreated thy favour with my whole heart: be merciful unto me according to thy word."* One of the great benefits of serving God is His promised mercy and favour. The writer here is claiming that blessing, and trusting in it. Why is he able to trust in God's favour? Why are we? Because it is promised in His word. Psa. 103:17-18, *"But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children; To such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them."*

Psa. 119:59, *"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies."* God's ways are much better than ours, so we too should turn to Him for direction.

Once we turn to God by turning to His testimonies, keep going that way. We cannot stop with simply turning that direction. We must move that direction; quickly, urgently. Psa. 119:60, *"I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments."*

The next verse speaks of persecution. It is the unpleasant part of choosing God, but even it works for us, not against us. Psa. 119:61, *"The bands of the wicked have robbed me: but I have not forgotten thy law."* Verse 67 shows one of the ways persecution helps us, *"Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word."* Verse 71 shows another, *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes."*

Psa 119:62, *"At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments."* When we choose God for our portion, and really dig into His word to seek out His righteous judgments, our lips and lives will fill with His praise. We may even loose a little sleep (and not miss it at all) marveling at the greatness of God.

When we choose God we choose His people. Psa. 119:63, *"I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts."* Choosing Christian companions and friends helps us in so many ways. We can supply each other with strength, support, comfort, knowledge and love. Verse 64, the last in this section of Psa. 119, tells us: *"The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy: teach me thy statutes."* It gives a good way to wrap up this thought of God as our portion. A person who so chooses a life of serving God sees His mercy in everything, and pleads for learning His word.

The common theme throughout the passage is God's Word. In each verse, a different aspect of God's word is emphasized. Taken as a whole, the passage presents the message that we choose God as our portion by choosing and following His word.

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

Things That Save



When we talk in terms of being saved, we would not want to be as those who are satisfied with the reading of one verse and resting the remainder of our life on this particular passage. I know of people who read John 3:16 as if they thought that was the only scripture in the entire Bible, and was the Gospel in its completion; however, I will admit that the scripture carries one of the greatest love stories ever told. But to read this one scripture, and then say there is nothing more for me to do, but just believe, would be a spiritual suicide. The things we want to establish in this short lesson is that there is more than one scripture which has to do with you and I being saved. It would not be reasonable to condemn a prisoner with one witness; neither would we want to condemn nor justify ourselves with the passage of love, as is recorded. Would you consider, for awhile, the scriptures which follow, which are also the writing of the hand of God; and weigh them for yourselves, whether or not they are the truth? We are reminded in John 8:32, "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" I would like to be fair, and would like for you to take your Bible, and let us read together as follows:

God saves us. 1 Tim. 4:10, "*For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.*" Here we will note that our Maker is also our Saviour, in that He has made it possible for us to be saved.

Christ saves us. Matt. 1:21, "*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.*"

We are saved by His life. Rom. 5:10, "*For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life.*"

We are saved by His blood. Rom. 5:9, "*Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.*"

We are saved by the Gospel. 1 Cor. 15:1-2, "*Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain.*"

We are saved by grace. Eph. 2:8, "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*"

We are saved by faith. Rom. 5:1, "*Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*"

We are saved by hope. Rom. 8:24, "*For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for?*"

We are saved by works. James 2:24. "*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.*"

We are saved by words. Here you will note from the reading that Cornelius had heard words from, and through, a vision. Acts 11:13-14, "*And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter; Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.*"

We are saved by calling on the name of the Lord. Rom. 10:13, "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*"

We are saved by baptism. 1 Pet. 3:21, "*The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:*"

To whom, and as have read this short lesson from God's word, we are also reminded in Acts 2:40, "... *Save yourselves from this untoward generation.*" Would you consider these and the many more scriptures to determine within your heart? We find certain people in Acts 17:11, "*These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.*" Would you search, too?

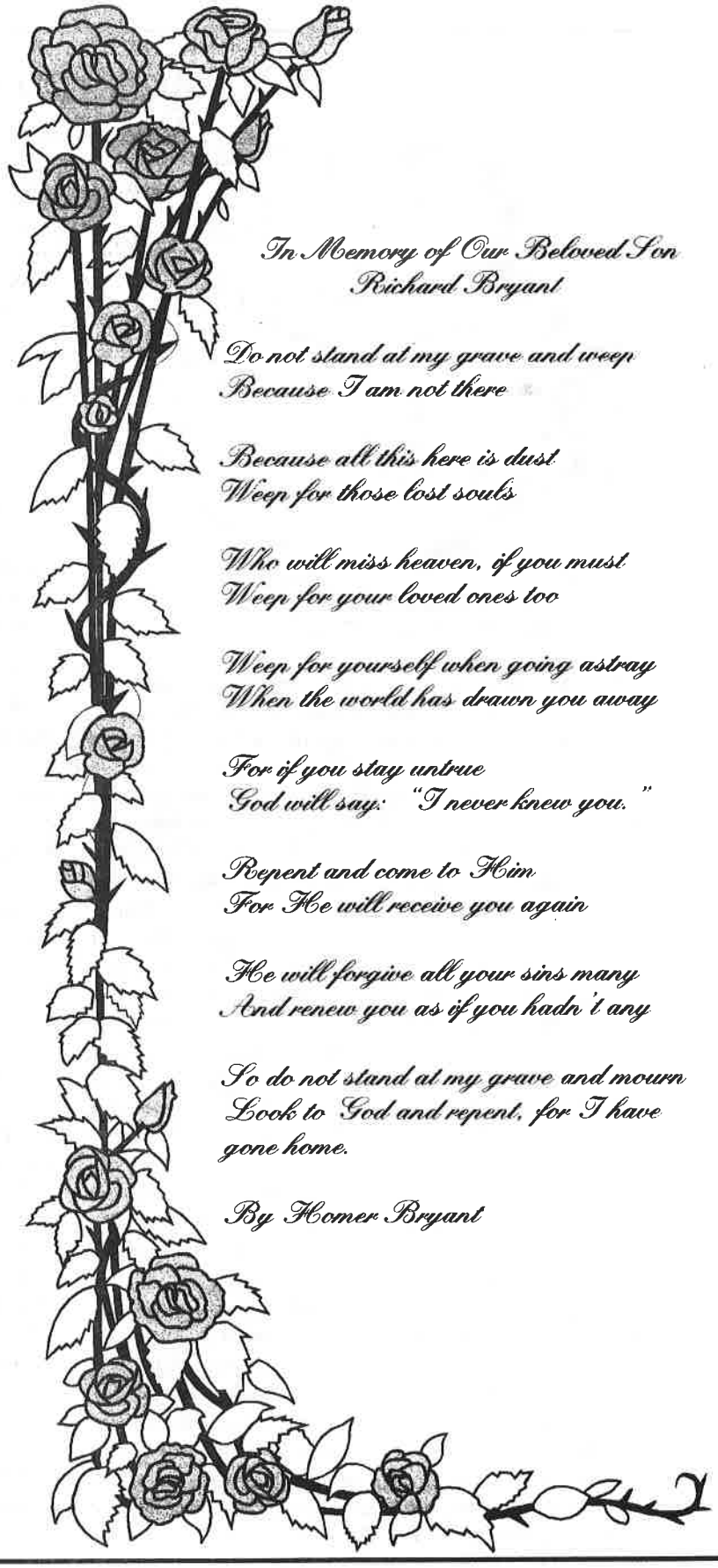
With Christian love,
Coy Garrison
(reprinted from ***It Is Written*, October, 1951.**)

Precious Memories

***It Is Written*, September 1957** Bro. and Sis. Davis of Somerton, AZ spent time at the Bellflower meeting, but their daughter, Dianna, had the misfortune of breaking her leg. The birth of Kenneth Charles Baldwin to Charles and Phyllis Baldwin was announced. Many meetings were reported by Bro. J.W. Bedingfield, with three baptized and one restored at Furnish Canyon. A new congregation was announced at Delta, CO, established by Bro. and Sis. Ken Baldwin and Bro. and Sis. Bud Wilkerson, with assistance from Bro. and Sis. Walter Spurlin. Many teenagers were beginning a pen pal letter exchange, listing their names in "It Is Written" that they wanted to begin corresponding with other young people. Bro. Amos Bever thanked all for their donations for the building at San Pablo, CA. The baptisms of two daughters of Bro. and Sis. S.J. Wallace were announced. The La Habra, CA congregation reported a very good meeting with Bro. W.H. Francis preaching. Three were baptized. Congratulations were offered to Jay and Carolyn Bedingfield on the birth of their son, Dennis, and to Harry and Lou Dye on the birth of their daughter, Carol Lynne.

***The Christian Courier*, September-October 1977** Bro. Charles Jared and Bro. Don Taylor, in separate letters, encouraged meetings and visiting other congregations. Bro. Gerald Buckner reported Bro. Kennie Ross's heart attack and Bro. John Brown's surgery. Bro. Wayne Orendorff announced the baptism of Larry Wood. Bro. Robert Eldridge reported that Sister Em Brown had been in the hospital but was doing better now. He also reported a wonderful vacation with his parents, Bro. Jim and Sis. Connie Bryant. Bro. Al Way thanked everyone for their prayers on behalf of their daughter, Tammy, following her open heart surgery. He also reported that their daughter Tayna was baptized, the wonderful meeting with Virginia Brown of Waterford being baptized, and that Tom, Charlene, and Lynne Broadway had moved back to Grants Pass, OR. Bro. Harry Dye reported on Brother Jack Morris's heart attack and emphysema.

***The Christian Courier*, September 1987** Bro. Jerry McCay reported the Lorenzo congregation beginning a series of weekend meetings.



In Memory of Our Beloved Son
Richard Bryant

Do not stand at my grave and weep
Because I am not there

Because all this here is dust
Weep for those lost souls

Who will miss heaven, if you must
Weep for your loved ones too

Weep for yourself when going astray
When the world has drawn you away

For if you stay untrue
God will say: "I never knew you."

Repent and come to Him
For He will receive you again

He will forgive all your sins many
And renew you as if you hadn't any

So do not stand at my grave and mourn
Look to God and repent, for I have gone home.

By Homer Bryant

Cards and Letters



Carlsbad, NM

Greetings,

It really seems like Fall here this morning. A cool breeze is blowing, but it is probably in the upper 90's this afternoon.

What I really wanted to say is, I'm so sorry about Brother and Sister Bryant's losing their son and his brother. My sympathy goes out to all the family; also the families of Brother Earl Roby and Brother Ray Johnston.

It is so good to read about all the baptisms.

Brother and Sister Melvin Daniels and their son Mark came by for a brief visit this summer. It was really nice to see them.

With Christian love,

Eunice Bruce

Randlett, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Just a note to let you know, Brother Leroy Mullens had a stroke July 8.

He stayed two weeks in the hospital. He is at home now. We wish to thank all the Brothers and Sisters for their prayers, cards, visits, phone calls, and flowers. They are appreciated.

He is slowly improving. He can walk now and say a few words.

He still doesn't have control of his right arm. We praise God for His wonderful care, comfort and strength. Without Him we could never make it.

We invite all to visit us in our home and at Church. We meet at The Randlett, OK Congregation.

We miss seeing everyone at the Goshen and Lorenzo meeting. Wish we could have been there.

With Christian Love.

Sister Darlene Mullens

Little Rock, AR

Dear Editor:

I am W. H. and Bessie Francis, formerly of 423 W. Tyler, Magnum, OK, and daughter Alma L. Williams of Little Rock, AR.

Please accept my apology for not notifying you sooner on behalf of my mother. My mother has not been able to read for a number of years. I am legally blind, and have other handicap problems.

My mother was 95 in May. For the first part of this year she lived with my son and his wife here in Little Rock; then she wanted to go back to Mangum. She is now in a nice nursing facility there. I am very sorry that we are so far apart, but I can't change the situation. I will be 78 in December.

I don't know if there is a congregation meeting at Lugert, OK, anymore.

The church news has been forwarded to me this year. I attempt to write, but a little reading with my best magnifier is difficult. I must depend upon listening. My mother's hearing is so bad that she can't even do that. I'm sorry, but I do think she will, or does have, good care where she is. My cousin in Texas checks on her as often as she can.

Thank you, but you won't need to send the church news anymore.

God bless you in your work.

Alma (Francis) Williams

Apt. 501

9300 Treasure Hill Rd.

Little Rock, AR 72227-6223

Delta, CO

Hello to all:

Sorry we have waited so long to report on the Delta, Cedaredge Camp meeting July 1st week. It was a great Gospel meeting, lots of fellowship and very up lifting lessons for all of us. There were several who came forth for the prayers and Sam Geho was baptized. There was much rejoicing by all.

Thanks to all of you who came from far and near to help with this great gospel meeting. It will be the first week of July next year, 1998. We will have dates for you later, as soon as we get them.

All here in Cedaredge are doing O.K. at the present time. More about the Camp Meeting soon.

In Christian love,

God bless you all.

Cedaredge, Co 81413

San Pablo, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings. We wish to thank God for each and every one of you that has offered up prayers, sent cards, and your phone calls to our family during this trying time. On July 7, 1997, our son Richard Bryant passed from this life after only 40 short years. He suffered a heart attack. Then on July 13, 1997, my dear brother passed away due to diabetes infection. He was ill for some time and had lost both limbs. He was 70 years old. Our loving Heavenly Father is seeing us through, with many, many prayers and communications from all the brotherhood. This love that has been shown to our family helps tremendously. We love you all for being there for us.

We thank you all for your love and for your gift; especially for your prayers. Our heavenly father has been so gracious toward us and it is, I'm sure, because of all the prayers that have been offered in our behalf.

We know that our beloved Richard and Marvin can't come to us, but we know that if we are faithful to the end, we will go to them in heaven.

May God bless you all in all that you say and do. We send our prayers to one and all, that God will preserve us so we will all reach that heavenly home.

On a more pleasant note, we were blessed when we held the meeting at Baron congregation in Oklahoma. Our trip was pleasant, but most of all the brethren there opened their homes and their hearts to us. We met Brother Jim and Sister Ruby Brown at the Seattle, WA, meeting. We were blessed in meeting them there and now that we have gotten to know them better, we love them all the more; just as we love all those who we met at Baron. We only had names, and now we have wonderful caring Christians to go with the names. We had the opportunity to be with some in their homes and were able to study the Word of God with them. We were saddened to hear about Brother Leroy Mullens' stroke. Our fervent prayer goes out to him and to Sister Mullens and to their family. We pray that God will heal him and allow Brother Leroy to again spread the wonderful joy that he brought into our lives and, we know, into the lives of all who know him.

We rejoiced in the baptism of a young lady the last Sunday that we were there. Also, we learned that two more were baptized the very next Sunday. May God be glorified in those who have decided to follow after righteousness for His sake. Our prayer is for their continuous struggle to be an easy one. May God be glorified in all we do and say, and that He will continue to bless the Baron congregation, for I know that they are looking for that blessed hope in Jesus and his return. We send our enduring love to the brethren there and are looking forward to the time we can be with them again.

We were confronted with some hot weather on the way home. We ran without the air conditioner from Needles, CA to Barstow, CA (I'm ashamed to admit it, but we are spoiled.) So, we got a motel room early and used their air conditioner. Otherwise, we arrived home safe, thanks to our Heavenly Father and the prayers of the brethren.

We love you all, with a pure heart fervently. Your love and concern has helped us very much. Keep us in your prayers, that we will never falter in the work of the Lord.

God bless you all.

In Christian Love.

Homer and Bonnie Bryant and family.

Selah, WA

Greetings from the Selah congregation,

We know that it has been a long time since you have heard from us, but we are still alive and doing well. It is with great news that we write this time. On July 31st, we baptized Brian Dean. Brian is the husband of Sister Jessica (Johnston), and she has been talking and studying with Brian now for some time, and we are happy to see the fruits of her labor.

It seems that someone from our congregation is always on the road, anymore. Sister Paula and Leon Edmondson were in California; Brother John and Sister Betty McKinney, my wife (Sister Wilma) and myself were in Canada for a week, and then to Seattle to worship two Lord's days; Brother Gene and Sister Pat McKinney are gone for a couple of months to hold the meeting in Lorenzo, TX, and also to see brethren both going and coming back home. Well, fall will be here soon and it will probably put an end to some of our traveling for awhile.

We are very happy to be helping with *The Courier*; it is a great excuse to get together in Christian fellowship (not that we really need one).

If anyone is ever in our area, we would love to welcome you into our homes and also to worship with us.

Robert Farley

For the Selah congregation

Show Low, AZ

Hello, everyone:

We are all doing fine here. The church just keeps on growing. Jackie Brister and her daughter moved here about a month ago, and they have been a great asset to us, as to the church, as family, and as a friend.

Also, we are expecting another member to our family to arrive in March. My wife and I are expecting a baby, which is due March 20, 1998. Please remember us in your prayers.

We are hoping to get to visit Yuma, AZ, some time real soon, or at least have some visitors from Yuma. We welcome visitors from anywhere to come and join us for church. We hope and pray that everyone is well.

We love you all, and God bless.

Joe Davis
RR 2, Box 22034
Show Low, AZ 85901
(520) 537-4256

Yuma, AZ

Greetings to all,

A bit of news and a big hello from the church here in Yuma. We are mostly doing well, but with some illness still lingering about us. Sister Betty Carlson has been troubled with back pain for some time now. Tests reveal she has a deteriorated vertebrate and disk, and she also wore a monitor for 24 hours to test her heart – no results yet. Brother Bud Davis had the blood vessel in the right side of his neck opened up, which was almost closed. He hasn't recuperated quite as well as maybe he should. Sister Zelma is physically doing fairly well. Brother Horace is also having back pain, and not getting around too well.

The middle of July, Sister Earlene Forsman spent a few days over a week at our home, visiting with us and others. We enjoyed her visit so much; we were sad for her to leave. She is a very good young Christian lady, and it's a pleasure to spend this time with her. We just hope her visit was as pleasurable as ours was.

Brother Gene and Sister Pat McKinney stopped by on their way home from the meeting at Lorenzo, TX, to visit his Aunt Betty. He gave the lesson at our Wednesday night service, and he gave a wonderful lesson. We had hoped they could spend a few days with us, but they had to journey on toward home.

This is about all the news from here. It is hot and humid, but the summer is soon to end, and we will quickly forget.

Our prayers and best wishes are with all. May God bless everyone.

In Christian love from the church in Yuma, AZ.

Harry Davis and family

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

Just a few lines from the congregation at Sea-Tac, WA.

Brother Ellis and Sister Lynell Forsman, along with Sister Amy Orendorff and her children: Shaya, David, Hannah, and Amarissa, attended the wedding of Chris Forsman and Dana Fouch on August 16th in Aztec, NM, after spending a brief period with loved ones in Lorenzo, TX.

Brother Ellis had been ill for about a month and had been placed in the hospital for a couple days for acute infection. After antibiotic treatment for several days, Brother Ellis is feeling much better. He is scheduled for further evaluation of his condition in September.

We received word from Lorenzo, TX, that Sister Frankie Jo Goodwin had passed away on August 20th. She was born on December 15, 1923 and married Toodler Goodwin November of 1938. Our hearts go out to Frankie's family.

Also received from Lorenzo: Katelyn Marie was born to Matt and Kim Matlock on August 19th. Katelyn weighed 6 lbs, 15 ounces, and was 20 inches long at birth. Congratulations, Matt and Kim!

We had a recent visit by Brother Matthew and Sister Kelly Shepherd and family from Vancouver, WA. Brother Matthew gave us a fine lesson while they were here.

May God be with you all.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac, WA congregation

Graham,TX

Just a note to let you kno that Frankie Joe Goodwin passed away August 20, 1997. Services were on Friday, the 22nd, in Seymour, Texas.

Ed Tate



BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Nov. 23-30, 1997	Citrus City, AZ	J. W. Bedingfield & Joe Davis

Baptisms

Sam Geho	Delta. CO	July, 1997
Brian Dean	Selah, WA	July 31, 1997

Births

Katelyn Marie to Matt & Kim Matlock	Lorenzo, TX	August 19, 1997

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Jo Goodwin	Newcastle, TX	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Leroy Mullen	Randlett, OK	Stroke
Ashley Larson (8 ½)	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Chris Adams	Show Low, AZ	Emergency surgery
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Back pain
Bud Davis	Yuma, AZ	Neck blood vessel opened up

Passings

Frankie Jo Goodwin	Seymour, TX	August 19, 1997