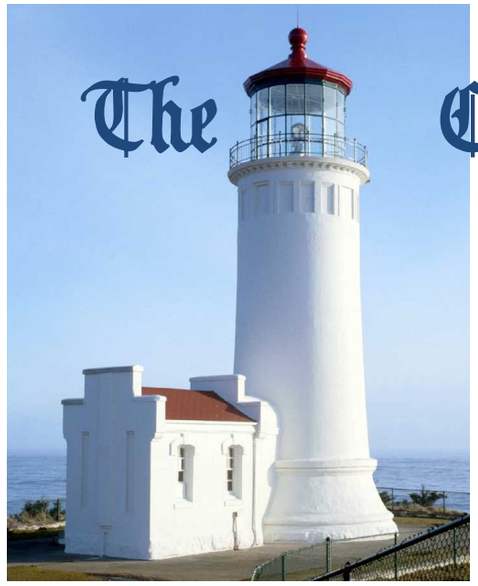
The Christian Courier
6718 Santa Fe Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79407



The Christian Courier

February 2012

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The High Cost Of A Free Gift

Perhaps you have heard it said: "The best things in life are free!" This is especially true when you consider that the "best" thing in life is a gift.

I am speaking of that which God offers to all who will accept it: "eternal life". It is truly a "gift from God"! Rom. 6:23, "*For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*"

And yet, though eternal life is a gift, a high cost was paid to offer the gift. And a high cost must be paid to receive it!

A high cost for a free gift? How can that be? This "paradox" can sometimes be difficult to comprehend; however, teachings of Jesus are often found in the form of a "paradox": Matt. 5:3-6, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*"

Upon closer examination, such "paradoxes" are not really contradictions, but expressions of very important spiritual truths!

In this article, we shall consider how it is that a gift which is free can be so costly, beginning with:

The free gift of salvation

Many have a wrong concept about how salvation is obtained. "Just accept Christ and be saved" is the appeal of many; and many people assume that it is a matter of "just accepting" Him, "with no strings attached".

However, consider the words of Jesus Himself: John 14:21-23, "*He that hath my commandments,*

and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

To "receive Jesus", then, requires a full surrender to the Lordship of Christ, a sincere acceptance of His commandments. John 15:10, "*If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*"

Salvation is God's gift to undeserving men; offered while we were still sinners, ungodly, and enemies. Rom. 5:6-8, "*For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die: yet peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*"

Not because we love God, but because He loved us! 1 John 4:9-10, "*In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*" And it is offered to all who will receive it! Rev. 21:6, "*And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*"

Rev. 22:17, "*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.*"

Salvation, then, is offered "freely"; but does that mean it costs nothing? Not at all! Indeed, we shall see that nothing in all the universe has cost so much.

The high cost of providing the gift

What it cost the Father.

John 3:16, "*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*" Rom. 8:32, "*He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?*"

It cost Him the sacrifice of His only begotten Son! He did not spare His Son in an effort to save us from our sins!

What it cost the Son.

Phil. 2:5-8, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.*"

It cost Him the glory and majesty of heaven, which He had with the Father before coming to this world. It cost Him the humiliation of servitude, even to the point of suffering and finally dying by crucifixion for our sins.

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.

Births

Izabella Lynn Lamb, born to Tabitha and Travis Lamb of Yakima, WA on Jan 31, 2012
Beau Houston Beardall, born to Katie and Max Beardall of Hillsboro, OR on Feb. 10, 2012

Deaths

Sis. Bonnie Irene Bryant Oakdale CA Sept. 22, 1932 - Feb. 1, 2012

Meetings

March 18-25 2012	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
June 10-17th 2012	Broken Bow, OK	Guest Speakers
June 24-July 1 2012	Lorenzo, TX	Skip Berry (either guest speakers or TBA)
July 8th –11	Yakima, WA	Mick Boen
July 12 –15th	Gleed, WA	TBA

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

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Sue Bixler	Aztec, NM	Stoke(2), Heart Attack & Diabetes
Tina Mickey	Aztec, NM	Gall Bladder surgery/blood clots in lungs
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
Doug Ferguson	Broken Bow, OK	Neck & heart surgeries for blockages.
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Ericka Ferguson	Clinton, NJ	In prison
Doris Ridlon	Canton, GA	Hip replacement & heart problems
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.
Troy Solomon	Gleed, WA	Severe back pain
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
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
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Cataract surgery
Ellis Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Dangerous & costly African travels
Barbara Carlin	Lake Havisu AZ	Fighting Cancer
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Renee Seaton	Pleasant View, OK	Blindness—auto accident related
Christine Burkhart	Springdale, AR	Health issues & financial need
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma
Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues

What it cost the Holy Spirit.

2 Thess. 2:13-14, "*But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth: Whereunto he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Eph. 4:30, "*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*"

It cost the Holy Spirit a ministry through the ages of patiently wooing the stubborn hearts of sinful men through the call of the gospel. He suffered long with men who treat Him ill, being grieved when they resist Him.

God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit have paid dearly to make the gift of salvation possible. So certainly from the viewpoint of its **"provision"**, we can see **"The High Cost Of A Free Gift",** but the **"acceptance"** of this free gift is also costly.

The high cost of accepting the gift

It costs the denial of self, and the rejection of much that men hold dear. Paul, who gladly paid the cost, expressed it vividly in several passages:

Gal 2:20, "*I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.*"

Phil. 3:7-8, "*But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,*"

One cannot accept Jesus Christ and His salvation on lesser terms than the complete surrender of self to Him! This is what makes the gospel of Christ "a hard gospel" for many to accept. They want to accept Jesus as Savior, but not as Lord of their lives. Some even suggest that accepting Jesus as Savior and as Lord are two entirely separate acts. But the two are inseparable.

Luke 2:11, "*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.*"

Acts 2:36, "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*"

Acts 10:36, "*The word which God sent unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:)*"

No man can accept Jesus as **"Savior of his soul"** without accepting Him as **"Lord of his life"**! Jesus Himself made this clear when He warned His hearers that the cost of discipleship is high.

Luke 14:25-33, "*And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that*

behold it begin to mock him, Saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish. Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."

The lordship of Jesus over self, life, and possessions must be acknowledged if we are to know Him as Savior! People must realize that Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach **"repentance and remission of sins in His name".** Luke 24:47, "*And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.*"

There is no remission apart from repentance; and repentance involves the whole life! 2 Cor. 7:10-11, "*For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.*"

Not only sorrow for the past that leads to repentance; but zeal and fervor for the future, that affects how we will live. Repentance is therefore the abandoning of our own selfish way, to go God's way in obedience and fellowship with Him.

That is why the **"gift"** of salvation, while offered freely, still comes with a high cost.

The Lordship of Jesus rightly demands a full surrender to His authority. Matt. 28:18-20, "*And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*"

Yes, the gift of salvation is costly; it cost God more than heaven can declare; it cost Jesus the agony and shame of the cross. Even today it costs the Holy Spirit who seeks to woo you through the gospel; and it costs everyone who truly receives it the total submission of self to Jesus and who would be His for time and eternity!

Jesus has paid the high cost to offer you the gift of salvation. Have you paid the high cost of accepting it? Acts 2:36-39, "*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*"

Written in Christian love,

Ellis P. Forsman

us. All are welcome. Please keep us in your prayers. You are in ours continually. Yours in Christ, Bill McCay Sr.

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

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

In Loving Memory

Sis. Bonnie Irene Bryant
Sept. 22, 1932 - Feb. 1, 2012
Resident of Oakdale, CA
Formerly of Concord, CA
Leaves behind son Mike Bryant, daughter Kathy Littlejohn, son Anthony Bryant; nine grandchildren, ten great grandchildren and many other loved ones.
Preceded in death by her husband of 48 years, Homer Bryant, son Rick Bryant and daughter, Andrea Bryant.

She will be remembered fondly by those she came in contact with, especially those who got to meet her at the many Church meetings that she and Homer traveled to.



prayers; let's pray for their regained health. We love and miss each and everyone of you and you are in our prayers constantly.

Denny and Susie Davis, for the Yuma Congregation

Lorenzo, TX

Greetings from the Lorenzo congregation. We have been doing as well as can be expected since our last update. Jayetta Loftis' broken leg has been healing but slowly. She is now able to walk on it for very short periods of time with the aid of a walker, and was even feeling well enough to stay after services today for our third Sunday basket dinner.

Olene Howe had cataract surgery early last week, and is recovering nicely. She was even able to drive Reba White to Church this Sunday.

As many of you heard, Tony Bryant's mom Bonnie Bryant passed away on the first of February. He was able to go to California to be with his family and attend the services, and has made it back to us safely. Please keep their family in your prayers during this difficult time.

We have finally received some much needed snow and rain in the past couple of weeks. It has been very dry here and so warm overall that many of the trees are already starting to bud. I'm afraid that they might get caught in a late freeze.

We are all anxiously awaiting Ellis' return at the end of the month. He has been gone for most of a year and we sorely miss him. We are also looking forward to hearing more about the work he has been doing and all about his adventures in the most worked on car in Africa.

May God bless you all as he has us.

The Lorenzo, TX Congregation.

Yakima, WA

Dear Brethren: Well, the weather here has been cold but nothing like it has been in the past. Our night time temperature has mostly been in the mid 20's and daytime in the low to mid 40's. We surely can't complain. We were hoping to get to attend the meeting in Yuma this March, but once again circumstances do not permit. We really miss the enjoyment of being with old friends and getting to know new ones. .Our granddaughter Kimberley Wintersteller and her family are here for a visit from New Albany, OH and we have enjoyed having them with us. We also have another announcement: our 7th great-grandchild arrived here on January 31st; Izabella Lynn Lamb, born to Travis and Tabitha. She missed her Great Grandmothers birthday by 3 days. Oren is still having kidney dialysis 3 times a week and seems to be doing well. Bill Jr. is counting the days till June, when he will be able to slow down after finishing his schooling to receive his Masters from the University of Alabama. He plans to attend the graduation ceremony back there in August. He also says that we are going with him. There is a good chance that we will split our meeting week with the Gleed congregation. If so, we will start on Sunday July 8th and run through Wednesday July 11th, then Gleed would start their meeting on Thursday and run through Sunday July 15th. I don't know who their speaker will be, but Mick Boen will be ours. We invite all who can to come and enjoy the time with

News from Abroad

Harlingen, TX

Dear Brethren,

Again I comment to you that during this month of January we had several activities to evangelize and also to confirm in the faith to brothers of some congregations.

Also we had a series of predications during 4 days in the Green River city Mexico to encourage to the brothers and inaugurate the small building that the brothers built for the meetings of the church. This congregation growing in number and all the members participate.

In the city of Matamoros Mexico, (border with Brownsville, TX) the church making continue work for evangelization and during the week we have studies with different persons.

In Brownsville, TX, we have some difficulties to gather us by cause of the local that use for meeting was necessary to vacate. The brothers (temporarily) travels each Sunday in the afternoon to gather us in my house in Harlingen.

We have information of the churches in different areas of Mexico, Guatemala, Colombia and the evangelists comment that continue forward in the faith and the truth.

We continue making plans to travel during all the month of April to visit some churches in the south of Mexico and several congregations in different parts of Guatemala. In Guatemala two religious groups are receiving information on the Church of Christ and I have invitation of these persons to visit and teach the truth; and this trip I have plans for this work.

Again I express my gratefulness in the name of the Lord Jesus for your fellowship with us in the work of the Lord.

(1) The brothers in Guatemala send picture of the new congregation in Escuintla

(2) The new building of the Church in Green River Mexico.

(3) Meeting during 4 days in Green River Mexico.

Your Brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez







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

African Update – Feb. 17th

After we left Nakuru, Kenya, in the last report, we went to central Kenya and gained 3 new congregations in Mogotio.

Then we headed toward Machakos, Kenya, where we had done a lot of work in the past. We gained a new congregation in Bondini in the mountain region east of Machakos Town. While in Machakos Town, Elias Kadema was baptized by Laban Ambogo on January 15th. While in the region of Machakos we visited Alice Mumbua on One Mountain who had lost a daughter and grandchild to Yellow Fever and Malaria.

After leaving Machakos, we went to Nairobi where we purchased another $300 worth of Swahili Bibles.

On January 19th, we gained a new congregation in Naivasha, Kenya; and on the 21st, we had a seminar at Sibembe with all the church leaders in the western part of Kenya.

On January 23rd, we gained a new congregation in Sioport, Kenya, where we baptized 13 people. Then we revisited Matundu, Kenya, where we baptized 8 people, including 4 of Laban's teenage children.

On January 31st, we went to Uganda where we gained a congregation in Shienda; then on February 1st, we gained a congregation at Namgodi.

After having experienced transmission problems on the car, we had to travel to Mwanza, Tanzania, to have the car worked on.

On February 12th, we revisited the congregations in the Utegi, Tanzania, area. One of the brothers in the town of Utegi donated 2 acres of his property with plans to erect a place of worship; currently, they are meeting in his home. We visited the wife of one of the church leaders who objected to worshiping in one's home, but we showed her the scriptures where that was done in Bible times; she is going to start attending services again.

erwise.. He still has such a gentlness to him. Gary Calhoun is in the process of doing his radiation treatments and is going very well so far. He will be all done with those by the end of this month. Sam Thompson seems to be all better from what I know. So thank God for all the prayers!! I hope everyone is doing well, and it is always so nice to see anyone who comes this way. We hear that Ellis will be home for awhile. Please give him our love. Love to you all.

Chuck and Dana Garner,for The Hillsboro,Ore congregation.

[Editor's note: Eunice's appt. as been moved to Mar. 5th due to a bad cold she has. Also Max and Katie had a baby boy, Beau Houston Beardall, born on 2-10-12]

Yuma, AZ

Brothers and Sisters,

It seems like it's been a while since I last wrote so here goes. We have now gone through Christmas, the beginning of a New Year and all seems to be well here in Yuma. I appreciate the opportunity to let everyone know how we are all doing, although not much has changed. It is always good when you can say that everyone is doing well. I know that that is always subject to change very quickly but we don't have any illnesses at this time. Brother Harry Davis had some lingering congestion of some sort but is now pretty much recovered. The rest of us are as usual, about the same, not that we don't all have our share of aches and pains. The congregation is going strong, small but strong. We have had some visitors that have been here for a couple of Sundays, I believe that they are from Oregon and are down here out of all of that weather that is going on up there. They had been here last year for a period of time as well and we're glad to see them any time they are in the area. We have a couple of others that come and we hope that they continue to attend services with us. We do have some winter guests down from Colorado, Terry and Debbie Wilkerson and they have been a pleasure to have with us. The only problem is that they will eventually go back North. I'm sure that they couldn't be talked into to staying here with us through the summer though we would try if we thought it would do any good.

I have talked to some of the congregations that typically attend our meetings in March, quite a few have made a decision to attempt to be here while others are most likely not going to come due to health reasons. Our meeting is to start on March 18 and end on March 25. We would love to have each and everyone of you to come down and be with us. We know that it is impossible to make a commitments to be in any one place but if you, as the time gets closer, God willing, and you can commit then please let us know as far in advance as you can. It will be guest speakers and we're hoping to be able to fill each and every night with someone new to speak for us. Meetings are a wonderful way to stay connected personally with other brothers and sisters. Meetings are hard for those that travel and for those that are holding the meetings but what wonderful times we all have. I've mentioned this before but if anyone has any ideas or needs please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate. Please on the back page of the Courier are listed many that are in need of our

Cards and Letters

Aztec, NM

Dear Christian Courier,

Greetings from the combined Church of Christ Aztec/Flora Vista, NM. The combining of the two churches has been both cost effective as well as comfortable for the church family.

Sis. Tina Mickey went into the hospital on 01/17/2012 for a gall bladder removal, it was successful. Sis. Tina was in recovery but was having difficulty breathing; the hospital decided that she needed to stay and have breathing treatments. On 01/19/2012 Sis. Tina stopped breathing for a few moments while her daughter, Ann was giving her a shower; Ann got doctors and nurses into the room who stabilized Sister Tina. The doctors did numerous tests and found that Sister Tina had blood clots in both lungs, upper and lower extremities; she was in ICU but is now in a regular room at San Juan Regional Med. Center..

Our wonderful fellow christians, Bro. Ellis Forsman and Bro. Otto Alvarez continue to amaze us and enlighten others. Their messages are NOT falling on deaf ears, they ARE making a difference. We are truly blessed to know these individuals and know that they put all of their being into the Words of our Lord and Savior so that many will be saved.

Our congregation is doing well now that we are a blended family; we have much to share and much to give thanks for. We greatly appreciate the the dedication and effort it takes to keep the Christian Courier going and please know that it is important to us, thank you.

The Church of Christ

Aztec, New Mexico

[Editor's note: Sis. Tina Is recovering at home now]

Waterford, CA

Greetings to the Brotherhood.

We hope all are having a good beginning for the new year. We here at Waterford, CA are doing very well for the most part. Bro. Winfred Lucas is not able to attend church regularly.

We have all had those winter colds but are still able to be at church. We are in need of rain for our crops and to clean the air.

The Waterford Church.

Hillsboro,OR

To All the Brethren, Chuck and I will be going with Eunice and Doris Jared up to Seattle to see the Dr there about the procedure she is going to be having. I believe she is doing the stint, so the visit to Seattle is where she is having it done. The first visit will be on Feb 18th. Robert Lane is making tiny steps forward but seems to be doing good oth-

After more transmission problems, we were back in Mwanza, Tanzania. While there, we met a woman (Nelda) selling items on the street corner next to the automotive shop. Boaz talked to her about the Bible and the way she worshipped; then we both talked to her after that. The result is that on the 16th, she, her sister (Neewa), her son (Jehosaphat), and her daughter (Grace) were baptized.

In all, the past month we gained 8 new congregations, (bringing the total to 58 confirmed and 19 unconfirmed) and baptized 26 people.

The latest mechanic working on the car said the previous mechanics made a lot of mistakes. He went with Boaz to one of the earlier mechanics and showed him what he had done wrong. His boss gave him grief, saying he was docking the employee's pay for our problems to cover our latest labor costs, but that he would not cover any parts that needed to be replaced. One mistake that was made was steering fluid was put in the transmission.

Because we were with the car in Mwanza, Laban and one other person is going to cover the meeting we had scheduled at Ndhiwa, Kenya, and Benard is going to cover the meeting at Suna, Kenya. They are both familiar with my lessons at this point. In fact, Laban did a good job of answering questions from one of the new congregations in Uganda.

I will be traveling by bus, Lord willing, to Dar es Salaam on January 20th, to appear at the U. S. Embassy on the 21st to speak on behalf of Peter Boaz to get his VISA to go with me to the United States. We plan to return by bus to Mwanza on the 22nd, where Boaz plans to pick us up by car and return to Bunda where we plan to pack for the trip to the USA. On the way to Nairobi, Kenya, for the flight back home, we will visit potential new congregations at Gwikonge and Naikuru. On the 26th, we plan to worship at Machakos Town, then fly out from Nairobi the evening of the 27th.

While on our last trip in Kenya, we purchased speaker equipment which Boaz plans to use when doing "open air preaching" in public market places when I am gone; he is quite good at it. Having our own equipment is better than renting the equipment at a cost of $150 a pop.

Next: return home. Lord willing, I plan to return to East Africa in September. Please continue your financial support, as the brethren there will continue the work while I am gone.

In Christian love, Ellis Forsman



3 new congregations represented at Mogotio, Kenya













Pg 8 clockwise from upper left: new congregation at Bondini, Kenya; Baptism of Elias Kadema at Machakos Town with Laban Ambogo; New congregation at Naivasha, Kenya; Leaders seminar at Sibembe, Kenya; representatives from congregations in Western Kenya; Baptisms of 13 people at new congregation at Sioport, Kenya; New congregation at Sioport, Kenya, (some members not present at the baptisms).

Pg 9 clockwise from upper left: Baptisms of 8 people at Matundu, Kenya; New congregation at Shienda, Uganda; New congregation at Namgodi, Uganda; Baptisms of 4 people at Mwanza, Tanzania.

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.