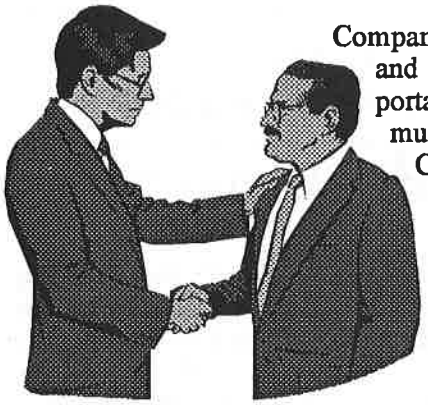
The Christian Courier

October, 1997

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Writers are responsible for their own articles.

Companionship



Companionship, friendship, and brotherhood are important to everyone; and much more so to us as Christians. We read in Psa. 119:63. *"I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts."* Today let's search the scriptures, and see some of the many ways God blesses us by Christian companionship.

First of all, we can study God's word together. We all grow by study, and by studying together we can share and help each other to grow. Prov. 13:20. *"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*

It is especially important for us younger Christians to study with the older. Note the scripture said "He that walketh with wise men..." The one chose companions who were already wise. I don't know where I would be without the guidance and love of the older brothers and sisters. Likewise it blesses the older to know that the younger want to share in their knowledge.

When studying together we should do so without anger and arguing. Where we don't agree should provide us an opportunity to grow in knowledge, to search deeper together. We can all sharpen our knowledge, IF we study together in friendship with an attitude of only wanting God's will. Prov. 27:17. *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend."*

Please remember to study together in addition to (not in place of) studying alone.

Companionship also provides the joy of being together. This can encompass everything from visits, bringing news or help, to receiving others with hospitality; from love to caring to simply enjoying being together. Paul told Philemon in verse 7 of the letter to him. *"For we have great joy and consolation in thy love, because the bowels of the saints are refreshed by thee, brother."*

Companionship of Christians also provides comfort in times of trouble. Prov. 17:17. *"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."* It is our duty and privilege to comfort others when they are in need. We have to be there for each other.

In providing comfort, we provide strength as well. Eccl. 4:9-12. *"Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."*

In all of these blessings of companionship and brotherhood, we are showing love one to another. This is what Christ desires from us. John 13:34-35. *"A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."*

Let's realize that one of the greatest blessings God gives us is the gift of each other. Let's constantly thank Him for that gift, appreciate one another, and always, **ALWAYS** be there for each other.

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

Mysteries Of The Human Race

First, we have only one divine inspired book, called the Bible, the Word of God; and yet man will question it.

The human race is doubting the truthfulness of what it says, and is fast becoming rank infidels. Others are accepting what they want, to please the minds of their followers, and rejecting other parts as not necessary for the salvation of the human race. Others are changing the teaching and claiming that it is mistranslated. Still others tell us, "Just so you think you are right, so shall it be." One will say the "church" has nothing to do with a man's salvation; that one church is as good as another; that the "church" won't save anyone; and that you are just as safe out of the church as you would be in it.

So we want to examine such doctrines as these, and see if God, Christ, Holy Spirit, or any of the Apostles taught any of these doctrines. The Word of God: Is it true, or is it false? If it is false, God is a false God, Christ is false, the Holy Spirit is false, and the Apostles are false. So we go to the Word of God for the "church."

We find in 1 Cor. 1:12 that the Apostle Paul is writing to the Church of God at Corinth.

In Acts 20:28, Paul tells us to feed the Church of God which he purchased with his own blood.

Matt. 16:17-18, "*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*"

Rom. 16:16, "*Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.*"

Heb. 12:23, "*To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect,*"

Friends, did these scriptures mention any of the man-made churches we have today? With all due respect, not one of them is mentioned in lines of God's Word. Now, let's turn to the "one body." **Must we be members of the one body, the church, to be saved?**

Eph. 5:23, "*For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.*" Whose body? His; none other.

Eph. 5:25, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;*" Did Christ give himself for the church you belong to? If not, you are in the wrong church, for he tells us that he is the Saviour of his body, and His body is the church. Col. 1:24, "*Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church:*" Acts 2:47, "*Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.*" What church were you added to? Was it the one that Christ added those people to on Pentecost? Or was it one of those man-made churches we have today?

Since the church is Christ's body, and Christ is the Saviour of the body, how can anyone be saved outside of the body of Christ, the church? Since He purchased the church with his own blood, how can anyone be saved and not be members of the blood purchased institution?

The church is spoken of as "God's family," "God's household." Eph. 3:14-15, "*For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,*" May the Lord help all of us to take heed and study the scriptures more for ourselves.

R. C. Clements

(reprinted from ***It Is Written*, May, 1954.**)

Precious Memories

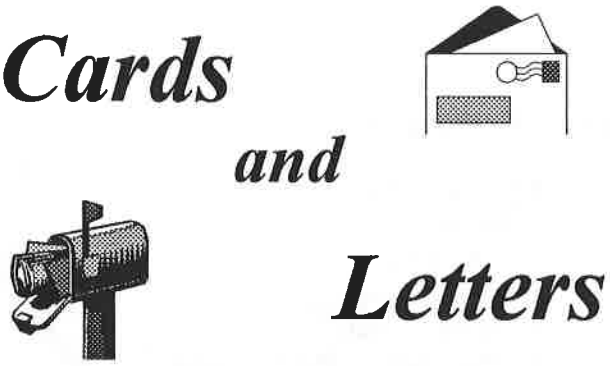
***It Is Written*, October, 1957.** The following wrote that they wanted to be added to the "Mail Call" list (pen pals; ages in parenthesis): Alma Jo Lowery (17); Judith Carol Lowery (13); Glen Ervin Henderson (14); Ervin Tibbs (18); Ronald Tibbs (16); John Tibbs (14); Norman Sage (17); Lee Sage (15); Laverne McCluskey; Norma Baker (17); Lucille Baker (11); Doyle Baker (15); Clarence Baker (12); Tony Flores (13); Jo Ann Pollan (13); and Janice Baldwin (14).

***The Christian Courier*, October, 1967.** No file copy exists.

***The Christian Courier*, October, 1977.** Combined with September, 1977, issue.

***The Christian Courier*, October, 1987.** Brother Terry Warford, Baron, OK, wrote of three baptisms: Penny Gardenhire, Debbie Wilson, and L. D. Wilson. He also mentioned that Brother Roger Walkingstick would hold their weekend meeting in October, and that Sister Bonnie Gardenhire had a baby boy. Brother Audley Barnes, Loco, OK, wrote that they went to Bellflower, CA, to attend their meeting. He also reported on their own meeting with Brother Tom Broadway, and that Danese Williams was baptized. Sister Lula Way, Salem, Oregon, thanked all those who sent her cards, letters, and flowers while she was in the hospital. Brother Randolph Kellems, Cucamonga, CA, mentioned that they loved getting *The Courier*. Brother Roy Farrar, Elk City, OK, reported that Brother Earl Atchley had passed away in July; that Sister Audrey Farrar had

fallen and broken her hip; and invited anyone to come and visit them. Sisters Monica Johnston and Jan Walkingstick asked for recipes from the brotherhood to add to their "Friendship Quilts" cookbook. Brother Marion Serrano, La Habra, CA, wrote that health is failing for Brother Hugh Nunnally and Sister Ina Nunnally. He also mentioned that Sister Clara Weber was restored to the faith after 26 years, as well as Brother J. B. Nunnally; and that Sister Christine Serrano was soon to be Mrs. Mike Burkhart.



Broken Bow, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Just a note to let you know that we at Broken Bow are doing fair. Sister Minnie Davis fell in her house and broke her right wrist. Sister Mary Jane Crowell had a virus in her blood and it has taken a toll on her attendance. These ladies could use your prayers.

There has been talk and confirmation on a weekend meeting. Brother Mick Boen will hold a weekend meeting here at Broken Bow on October 24-26, 1997. Services will be at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m. on Sunday, with dinner after Sunday services. All are welcome, and there is plenty of room for all who wish to come.

The Ferguson's were at the Delta Camp Meeting and had a very nice report; and Sister Verlie kept people out of the peanut butter and shoe (private joke from Sister Kathy Treat). We hope some of you far away can come and visit us. The Fall weather sends the ticks and chiggers away until the Spring.

If you need directions to the church building, call Doug Ferguson at 405-981-2243 or Dan Treat at 405-584-6897.

May God bless you all and keep you in His care.

The Broken Bow congregation

Goshen, AR

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We here are, on the most part, doing fine. We have had one baptism, Sister Amanda Lawson, and one brought back to the faith, Sister Erika Ferguson. We are very happy to have these two back into the fold. Sister Maysel Buchannan broke her hip and is slowly improving. Brother Ernest Buchannan is still fighting cancer and is not doing so well. Sister Mary Serrano is still having trouble breathing, but is almost always here for the worship service. We need to pray for all these brothers and sisters and for all who need prayers, for this is a Christian's greatest weapon. We also had two more come forward awhile back, Brother Mike and Sister Ruby Hull. We are glad also to have these with us.

Our meeting this year with Brother Audley Barnes was very uplifting. On some nights we had up to 60 people for the worship service. We had 10 very good lessons from Brother Audley.

Well, I have taken up enough space at this time. Christian's, awake and keep up the good work of the Lord; for in these things we will be judged.

Love to all in Christ's name.

In loving care,

Your Brother in Christ

Paul Auslam, Jr.

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

We have some happy news to report: Last Sunday, September 28th, Gabe Orendorff was baptized. He said he had been thinking about it for some time, but gave it some serious thought after he heard a lesson on "Halfway There." Welcome to the fold Gabe! He's already expressed a willingness to help out with worship services any way he can, which will be greatly appreciated.

Our Brother Garold Morris is going to be away from us 2-3 months. His health has improved enough that the doctor said this would be a good time to go visit his sons and their families. We're thankful for this and pray for his safe return.

Brother Matthew and Sister Kelly Shepherd and family were here the weekend Gabe was baptized. It's always good to have them with us.

Brother Ellis has undergone some tests after his acute infection. The laboratory results show he had acute prostetistus. No cancer!!!

For anyone who has Internet access, you can E-mail your articles and letters to **ForsmanEP@aol.com**. This would also save us some time that is performed in typing.

May God be with you all.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Oct. 18-19, 1997	Lorenzo, TX	Robert Davis
Oct. 24-26, 1997	Broken Bow, OK	Mick Boen
Nov. 23-30, 1997	Citrus City, AZ	J. W. Bedingfield & Joe Davis

Baptisms

Amanda Lawson	Goshen, AR	
Gabe Orendorff	Sea-Tac, WA	Sept 28, 1997

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Jane Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Virus in blood
Minnie Davis	Broken Bow, OK	Broken wrist
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer & broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Mary Serrano	Goshen, AR	Breathing difficulty
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Leroy Mullen	Randlett, OK	Stroke
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

