The Christian Courier

February, 1998

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Writers are responsible for their own articles.

"Seeing Ye Look For Such Things"

2 Pet. 3:11-14, "*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness. Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.*"



The Apostle is citing certain "things" that Christians "look for" and advises us as to "*what manner of persons* [we] *ought to be*" in view of this fact. What is the truth concerning these facts? and what should we look for in the future?

The life of a Christian was intended by the Creator to be viewed as a panoramic scene; the past into the future. Quite often we become so occupied with the duties, problems, etc. of the present that we lose sight of what has come before, and what is to come.

What is the nature of "these things" referred to by Peter? and what are the things for which we are to look?

Reference is made to "scoffers" who would make light of the faith which Christians have by ignorantly denying the truth about the past, present, and future. "... *Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of ...*" (2 Pet. 3:3-6).

Three things, then, for which Christians look, and which the scoffers of the world deny are:

- The physical creation (earth, heavens [firmament], water).
- The world (***2880*** *kosmos*, "The world [in a wide or narrow sense], including its inhabitants ...).
- The fate of the physical creation.

Let us look at these in order as it is revealed in the scriptures.

The Past

We are told by the psalmist that the "heavens" are the work of God's "*... fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained.*" (Psa. 8:3). This referred to the physical creation (*kosmos*) both terrestrially and of the heavens (firmament).

David speaks of the "*... heavens ... and all the host* (stars, planets) *of them ...*" Also referred to are "*... the waters of the sea together as an heap*" and "*the depth in storehouses.*" (Psa. 33:67).

We are told that "*Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands.*" (Psa. 102:25).

This Psalm was quoted almost verbatim by the writer of the Hebrews letter (Heb. 1:10), and referred to the physical creation.

In the last two references we find a clue as to the fate of the original creation. "*They shall perish...* ," and "*all of them shall wax old like a garment; ... they shall be changed:*" (as a garment, a vesture, a cloak). (Psa. 102:26).

The Future

We are taught that the "*heavens and the earth, which are now, ... are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the*

day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Pet. 3:7).

This will be a general dissolution of the physical creation. "*... the day of the Lord*" will usher in this final drama: "*... the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.*" (***2618*** *katakaio* – "to burn down [to the ground], i.e. consume wholly) "*... all these things shall be dissolved, ... the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, ... the elements shall melt with fervent heat.*" (2 Pet. 3:7-12). "*... The heavens shall vanish away like smoke ...*" (Isa. 51:6).

This brings to mind the words of our Lord, "*Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away.*" (Mark 13:31).

The writer of the Hebrews letter affords us a glimpse of the past of the creation and its fate. In a direct quotation of Psalms 102:25, we find that (the Lord) "*... in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.*" (Heb. 1:10-12). Following this we are told, "*They shall perish;*" (622 apollumi, to destroy fully) "*but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed:*"

The meaning is clear: the heavens and earth will grow old, will be used up with age and use, and (as a change of clothes) will be changed. This pictures a discarding of old clothes and a donning of the new; a folding up of a vesture (cloak) when one takes it off. When clothes grow old they are removed and discarded, making way for a new set of garments. Thus, we see the fate of the present heavens and earth.

Shaken and Removed

The prophets foretold of the events surrounding this final dissolution in terms that cannot be mistaken. These events are to occur in a coming day of "fierce anger."

"*... I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.*" (Isa. 13:13).

"*The earth shall quake ... the heavens shall tremble ...*" The day of the Lord cometh. (Joel 2:10).

"*... The heavens and the earth shall shake ...*" (Joel 3:16).

"*... Yet once, it is a little while, and I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land;*" (Hag. 2:6).

We read in a direct reference to Haggai 2:6, "See that ye refuse not him that speaketh (God). *For if they escaped not who refused him that spake on earth* (Moses), *much more shall not we escape, if we turn away from him that speaketh from heaven* (God): *Whose voice then shook the earth* (at Sinai): *but now he hath promised, saying,* (Hag. 2:6) *Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven. And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made* (earth and heavens), *that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.*" (Heb. 12:25-27).

One might ask, If the heavens and earth are to be removed, where will they go? The scriptures give us a clue. John, the revelator, said, "*...I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it* (God), *from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.*" (Rev. 20:11). Also, "*... the first heaven and the first earth were passed away ...*" (Rev. 21:1). See also, "*... earth shall remove out of her place ...*" (Isa. 13:13).

The "*earth and the heaven*" fled away from the face of God. God created all things: nothing is beyond His presence. Nothing can escape His attention. In view of this, where could the heaven and the earth exist apart from the "*face of God*"? To ask this question is to answer it – nowhere. "*... there was found no place for them.*" (Rev. 20:11).

Summary

We can summarize, briefly, the obvious destiny of the physical creation as follows:

- God will shake the earth. Isa. 13:13; Joel 2:10.
- The earth shall be "*moved out of her place.*" Isa. 13:13.
- Earth and heaven will flee from "*the face of God.*" Rev. 20:11.
- No place found for heaven and earth. Rev. 20:11.
- Heaven and earth shall "*perish.*" Heb. 1:11.
- Heaven and earth shall be shaken and removed. Heb. 12:26-27.
- Heavens shall pass away with a loud noise. 2 Pet. 3:10.
- The "*elements shall melt with fervent heat.*" 2 Pet. 3:10.
- Earth and works therein shall be "*burned up.*" 2 Pet. 3:10.

We, as Christians, "*... look for such things ...*" (2 Pet. 3:14): not only the destruction of the heavens and earth by fire, but the ushering in of a new age.

I wish to stress only one thing at this point concerning the present. In the words of Peter, the great Apostle, "*... what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.*" (2 Pet. 3:11).

In our next study I propose to examine the subject of the "*new heavens and earth*" as set forth in the holy scriptures.

In love of the truth,

J.D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd.
Stockton, CA 95204

The Gods of the Americans, In Whose Land Ye Dwell

In the 24th chapter of Joshua, God - through Joshua - reminded the people of all that He had done for them. Then in verse 15 Joshua shows them the choice they had to make. *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

In America today we are faced with similar choices. There are many alternatives to God presented to us. And it is vital for us to look at the damage these alternatives can cause us as families and Christians.

This is not a condemnation of our country or its foundations. I am very thankful and honoured to have been born here.

But even in this great land there are many ideas that contradict God's word. These ideas are held with as much zeal and reverence as we have for God. Thus they can be thought of as false gods, and we need to examine them as such.

"Ain'tNoGod"

Just as Zeus was the chief of the Greek mythos, there is a chief among the American mythos as well. The chief of the false gods of the Americans is "Ain'tNoGod". "Ain'tNoGod" spreads much havoc throughout our country, bringing confusion to children, hopelessness and despair to adults, and hell to those that die.

"Ain'tNoGod" is the idea that there is no God in control of the universe. This idea is held by so many in our country now. It is spread in the theory of evolution, the big bang theory, etc. It is held mainly for the purpose of having no accountability for our actions.

Psa. 14.1, *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."* Rom. 1:20-22, *"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,".* You can read the rest of the chapter and see what this led to: idolatry, homosexuality, fornication, murder, and more.

Does any of this seem familiar? Don't we have them all in our country today? Where did it all start? It all started with not appreciating God, and choosing not to believe in Him.

We have the choice of not believing in God. But look honestly at where it leads.

Think also of all the good you miss out on when you choose not to believe in God. God is our Father, our Savior, our hope, our helper and deliverer, our Friend. Do you really want to miss out on all He provides?

"... As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Entertainment

The second god, or prevalent idea, is Entertainment. I am not saying, of course, that all entertainment is sin. But we must understand that some entertainment is sinful.

How can we know what is sinful and what is not? Look at what the scriptures say. I John 2:15-16, *"Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* If our entertainment serves only to satisfy these, it is from the world, and we need to leave it alone.

A second point about Entertainment. Some of the fastest growing salaries are in the field of entertainment. I have no problem with someone making as much as the market will bear. But why does the market bear these huge, ever escalating salaries? Because people are obsessed with being constantly entertained. This obsession is the problem. This is the choice we must make. Is entertainment all that is important to us? Or are we concerned more with serving God? Eccl. 2:1, *"I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also is vanity."*

So, entertainment is not necessarily evil of itself. It is when the form of entertainment is bad, or when we are so obsessed with being entertained that we have no time for God, that we have, in fact, made entertainment a false god.

Greed

Many people say Americans are greedier than anyone. I am not saying this. Greed flourishes in tyranny, socialism, and communism as well as in our capitalistic system. But we do need to be aware that greed is a choice available to us.

Again, this choice brings much havoc to our lives. I Tim. 6:8-10. *"And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temp-*

tation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

The choice is ours: follow greed, or follow God.

Self

All of these false gods are related. They are all destructive. But the worst to worship and serve is to worship and serve ourselves.

God told Jeremiah in Jer. 16:10-12 that Self is the worst. *"And it shall come to pass, when thou shalt shew this people all these words, and they shall say unto thee, Wherefore hath the Lord pronounced all this great evil against us? or what is our iniquity? or what is our sin that we have committed against the Lord our God? Then shalt thou say unto them, Because your fathers have forsaken me, saith the Lord, and have walked after other gods, and have served them, and have worshipped them, and have forsaken me, and have not kept my law; And ye have done worse than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the imagination of his evil heart, that they may not hearken unto me:".*

Who are we going to serve? This is our choice, just as it has been the choice of God's people throughout history. It is vital that we take an honest, hard look at the destructive choices available. When we do that we will see that the best choice now, as then, is God.

Josh. 24:15, *"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."*

In Christian love,

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



Philip and the eunoch (Acts 8:26-40)

Cards and Letters



Cedaredge, CO

Hello to all,

A quick note to say thanks for the many cards, flowers, phone calls, and visits when I was in the hospital and home. I appreciate all of you so much for your prayers and thoughtfulness. It's wonderful to have brothers, sisters, and friends who care.

I was just in the hospital two times in December with Arterial Fibrillation of the heart. I am still taking tests, etc., to find the cause and to regulate my medication and high blood pressure. Please remember me and all of the sick in your prayers.

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at our Delta/Cedaredge Camp Meeting June 27th to July 5th, 1998.

This Family Christian Camp Meeting was started August 4th to 18th, 1963. I think Bro. Elmer Hunt was one of the first speakers; if I am wrong, please correct me.

It would be great to see letters in *The Courier* on things that you remember about previous Delta Family Christian Camp Meeting from 1963.

God bless you all.

In Christian love and prayers,

Sis. Verlie Baldwin
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Cedaredge, CO 81413
Ph. 970-856-7481

Comanche, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is with much joy and thanksgiving that we write this letter to the *Courier*. We just got over the holiday of Thanksgiving and are getting ready to end this year of 1997, and hopefully start 1998 with a sense of thanksgiving in our hearts.

This past year has brought us some heartaches and illnesses, but many more blessings than anything else. In September, Sis. Carol Roland lost her younger brother. He passed away without warning from an apparent massive heart attack. He was only 37 years old. In November, our daughter, Traci, lost a baby boy four weeks before he was due to be born. This holiday season is a little hard, but we know that we have much to be thankful for, and we are.

Our little congregation has had much to be thankful for this past year. We have had five baptisms since the beginning of 1997. On December 9th, Sis. Carol's husband, Waid, and daughter, Kara, made their confessions and were baptized. There is much rejoicing here as I'm sure there is in heaven. Pray that we will be the examples they need to aid them on their Christian journey.

We hope all of you have had a happy and prosperous past year, and that the next year will be just as happy and prosperous. Anyone traveling this way, stop by and visit or worship with us.

In Christian love,

Audley Barnes
Comanche, OK

Lorenzo, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Lorenzo congregation. We are doing well in general, but do have some illnesses among us. Sis. Reba White is still fighting cancer. She has gone through some chemotherapy, but is in good spirits and is able to make it to all of our church functions. Sis. Earlene Forsman has just had surgery to remove a cancerous lump. She is recovering well, but at this time we are not sure if there will be any need for continued treatment. Our weekend meeting that was held by Bro. Robert Davis a few months ago went real well and Shena Boling (Lisa and Cliff's little girl) was baptized after the Saturday night service. Our daughter Katelyn is about 4 months old now and doing fine. She is getting much taller, but she has not gotten chunky or anything yet. Erica and Scott's twins are looking much better now. They are still on oxygen, but are growing rapidly and are very alert.

We would like to encourage any who can to come and visit us here in the Lorenzo area. God bless you all!!

In Christian love,

Matt Matlock for the Lorenzo congregation

Thanks for your e-mail letter, Matt. We appreciate any and all letters. We received an e-mail letter from Sis. Earlene that said she had her first chemotherapy treatment January 15th, and that it went well. She said she doesn't have any side effects yet. – The editors.

Oklahoma City, OK

Dear Christian Friends,

I am Maxine Burgess, and Boyd, my husband, is the treasurer of the Church of Christ. We are sending you $50.00. Maybe it will help with the paper.

We are all well; but one of our Christian brethren passed away: Cleo Faught.

This is my first time to write, but maybe you can read it.

Love,

Maxine Burgess

Thank you for your letter and donation – The editors.

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

We were saddened to hear of the recent losses. Our prayers and love go with the families of these fine Christians. Sis. Lynell Forsman, Bro. Don and Sis. Heather Johnston were able to attend the services of Bro. Roy McCay in Springfield, OR.

Everyone here, for the most part, have been doing well, health-wise. Bro. Howard McCay has good days and not so good days. He has missed a couple of services because of illness, but continues to take his turn speaking whenever possible. Sister Jeannean McSwane has suffered and been unable to walk because of several broken bones in her left foot, and she has had other complications. Sister Jeanne Boroff is undergoing some tests to determine the cause of her extreme fatigue and complications of severe mono.

We have had recent visits from Bro. Matt & Sis. Kelly Shepherd & family of Vancouver, WA; Bro. Eric & Sis. Lori Harper & family of Grass Valley, CA; and Bro. Gary & Sis. Tricia Bergman of Glenwood, WA. We are happy any time they are able to visit. Bro. Gary has been in and out of the hospital to control his chronic back pain.

Sis. Tricia tells us that Bro. J. D. Logan had a melanoma removed from his face, Sis. Fern Logan is having trouble with her knees, and that Aaron Logan suffered an electrical shock that burned part of his hand when he was changing a florescent light bulb. We want to be sure and remember these and others in our prayers.

We are happy to announce that Bro. Mike & Sis. Felica Geho, and sons, Mike and Bro. Sam have moved back here from Utah, where Bro. Mike was stationed in the service. He will be stationed at McChord AFB in Tacoma, WA, for at least four years. It's great to have them back. They previously had left in 1991.

May God be with you all.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac congregation

Report on the 1997 Gospel Meeting at Cedaredge, Colorado

The 1997 Gospel Meeting at Cedaredge was a successful one; the studying of the scriptures, the lessons taught, the wonderful singing, and the joy of being with those who were baptized and those who returned to the Lord makes it a memorable event. In addition to the glorious work of worshipping God, we were also able to renew old acquaintances, make new friends, and make plans for the 1998 meeting.

Next year, we have the camp ground starting on June 27, 1998, for arrivals, with the first day of worship being on Sunday, the 28th. The last day of worship will be Sunday, July 5, 1998 (June 27 thru July 5, 1998). We hope that each of you will make your plans to attend early. In fact, as you meet or communicate with your loved ones this holiday season, please take time to discuss your plans to attend with them, so that they too can join us all in worshipping the Lord here next year. The plan for this next Gospel Meeting is for it to be a reunion with those who attended in time past, a reunion sharing the happy times of Christians gathered for the expressed purpose of worshipping God and studying His word, a reunion sharing and reliving the fun and humor that has taken place here, a reunion with the past with photos and stories of that time, but most importantly a reunion bringing the family of Christ together without malice or blame to anyone.

The Lord willing, I'll be working with the task leaders throughout the remaining days between now and the opening of the meeting. We'll plan the study periods and subjects, making sure that all age groups have an opportunity to participate and learn. We'll plan ways to train and help the younger male Christians to be active in the work of the worship service and ways to show the younger female Christians how very important their contribution is to the church. There is one item that has been brought up as needing to be discussed. That's the question of the correctness of having the Gospel Meeting and the proper way in which it is financed. This is, of course, a recurring question, but there are some who desire to have additional talks at this time.

We'll plan activities for each age group that will be fun and entertaining, but scheduled so that they don't interfere with study and worship.

I'll be requesting volunteers to be task leaders or assistants in my next letter. Please look over the list and see if

there's one or more areas in which you have an interest in helping. Only one task has been spoken for and I'll confirm with that person if he still desires with that job.

The tasks I'd like you to consider are:

1. Assistant to the task leader of housing and registration.
2. Assistants to aid the sports and game task leader.
3. Grounds cleanliness task leader and assistant.
4. Assistants to help on planned activities away from camp.
5. Someone (both male and female) to check the lavatories for cleanliness and supplies.
6. Team leaders for each work team.
7. Leader and assistant for morning study groups.
8. Others when identified.

I've attached the financial statement for 1997. It speaks for itself. Some of you may not have heard, but the cost of the camp grounds went up last year 60%. We had been charged $3.00 per day per person, and that rate has gone up to $5.00 per day per person; plus utilities and food. The break-even cost per person per day for last year is the last item of the statement.

I'll try to communicate with you often to keep you abreast of the latest developments. I'm including a list of the people/congregations to whom I'm sending this letter. If you know of a church I missed, please make a copy of this letter and forward it to them and advise me so that I can include them in my future correspondence.

Look up those old photos and remember the anecdotes of the past meetings. They'll be so good to see and hear. Let's make the 1998 Gospel Meeting a wonderful reunion, sharing many pleasant experiences and happy times while studying God's word and worshipping Him with all sincerity.

With Christian love,

George Cowger
For the Cedaredge Church of Christ
2160 P Road
Eckert, CO 81418
(970) 856-8811

Happy Hollow Church of Christ

1997 Gospel Meeting Financial Statement

Income

Contributions:	859.20	
Donations:	1400.00	
Sales (Ice cream, pop, etc.; starting cash: 7.50):	232.86	
Groceries:	91.31	
Total Income:		2583.37

Expenses

Housing, Campground fees (5.00 per day per person; total daily person count: 428):	2190.00	
Groceries:	1393.85	
Ice Cream & pop:	248.50	
Electricity:	147.40	
Gas:	50.00	
Telephone:	2.88	
Miscellaneous:	62.95	
Total Expenses:		4095.58
Profit or (Loss):		(1512.21)
Profit or (loss) per person per day:	(3.53)	
Break-even cost per person per day:	9.57	

In Memory of Brother Roy Ernest McCay

This new year of 1998 started with the passing of our dear Bro. Roy McCay early on January 1st. He was nearly 87 years, as he was born on January 6th, 1911, to Bro. Earl and Sis. Phebe McCay. He spent most of his life in the Eugene, OR, area where he was self-employed as a logger – mostly with teams of horses. Bro. Roy and his wife Sis. Mattie shared well over 60 years together before she passed away in 1996. They raised 2 sons, John and LeRoy, and 2 daughters, Sis. Barbara Paseman and Betty Kessling. Theirs was a wonderful example of a loving marriage, and a close family that eventually included 13 grand children and 31 great grandchildren.

He was a member of the Lord's Body for most of his life, and attended services faithfully as long as he was able. He was a gifted story-teller to his family and friends, as well as being a gifted speaker for the church at Springfield, OR.

Bro. Roy's passing also leaves 5 siblings: Brothers Howard and Bill, and Sisters Ada Johnston, Ruth Johnston, and Annalee Warner. He was laid to rest on Jan. 5th after a service beautifully spoken by Bro. Bill McCay, Jr.

In Memory of Brother Clifton Mantford Brockman

It is with great sorrow I write advising of the passing away of our Dad. Clifton Mantford Brockman passed away Sunday morning, December 14, 1997, at the age of 71. He had lived all his life in the Chico area where he attended church. He is survived by his wife Wanda of 49 years, a daughter Sharon Thompson, 4 sons Mike, Gerald, Larry, and Martin, and 10 grandchildren. He is also survived by 3 brothers, 2 sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

He was laid to rest December 18th. Funeral services were conducted by Al Way with Jerry Perigen officiating at the grave side.

Dad was raised in a Christian family, accepted the Lord, and was added to the church when he was 18 years old. He lived his life as a servant of the Lord up to the very end. He dedicated his life to serving his Maker in word and in deed. He diligently taught his family the meaning of hard work, family love, and most importantly, being a Christian. Besides his chapter studies in the Old and New Testaments, he taught us by example in the way he lived his life. He truly loved his family, the Chico congregation, and the Christian Brotherhood. He will truly be missed as we loved him dearly. Beyond all the sorrow is a strong belief that he has fought a good fight, finished the course, kept the faith, henceforth has a crown of righteousness awaiting for him. There is great comfort in knowing the Lord has called him to that home he so diligently sought to receive.

We want to thank the Brotherhood for the tremendous outpouring of support during our time of sorrow; the Chico congregation for hosting a dinner at the church after the funeral; for those who came from out of town and brought food; for those who traveled (some even great distances) to show support to Dad and out family; and for the many phone calls, cards, and flowers sent. We appreciate the Christian love poured out to us. The outpouring of Christian love and fellowship helped ease our burden. There truly is no better comfort than Christian love.

— The Brockman family

Great things come in small packages. This we have often heard. Likewise, small bodies house spiritual giants. Those who knew Clifton Brockman witnessed an example of such an occurrence. True – his physical stature was adequate for years of long days filled with the manual labor, decreed for mankind in the Garden of Eden. His life was spent tilling the soil and coaxing from it sustenance for his family and the livestock that delighted him. But, there also was a time for cultivating spiritual growth, his own and that of his children and the church family of which he was such a vital part. As a teenager, he had recognized his need for Christ and accepted His invitation (Matt. 11:28 ff.). In later years he often referred to some of his high school discussions.

On September 5, 1926, Clifton Mantford Brockman was born at Cohasset, CA, a mountain community near Chico, the town to which he was relocated at the age of 3 years and where he lived until his marriage to Wanda Blair on August 15, 1948. Soon they moved to Nelson, some 16 miles south of Chico, where they reared their family – one girl, Sharon, and four boys, Mike, Gerald, Larry, and Marty – and where they welcomed ten grandchildren, all of whom delighted to visit "Papa Moo". It was there, on the morning of December 14th, after he had gone out to check on his cattle, that he was called home. The heart that was so generous to any and all in need and unfailingly devoted to serving his Lord was going strong; but the one that pumped the life-containing blood to his physical body failed. Brothers Al Way and Jerry Perigen assisted the family in laying him to rest; but his influence is bound to live on in the lives of all those that his life touched.

(Submitted by Mrs. E. Bentz)

In Memory of Sister Lurana R. McCluskey

A retired nurse, Sis. Lurana McCluskey, passed away Monday, January 5, 1998 at Grass Valley , CA. She was born May 3, 1908, in Ima, Texas, the daughter of Bro. J. S. (John) and Sis. Ethyl Bedingfield, and became a Christian while in her teens. She met and married her late husband Bro. Curtis in Texas. Later, they moved to New Mexico and Oklahoma before settling in Arizona. When World War II began, Bro. Curtis served in the Navy in the Asian operations and Sis. Lurana proudly participated in rebuilding generators for the B-17's and B-29's at the old Yuma Army Airbase. In 1945, she and her family moved to the Sacramento area, where she worked odd jobs. She then completed a home correspondence course in nursing, which encouraged her to become a certified LVN. She retired from Sutter Memorial Hospital in 1970 after the death of her husband. She then moved to the Grass Valley area where she was very happy to spend the rest of her life. Lurana was 89 when she passed away. She is the loving mother of Howard, David, and Ray McCluskey, and Sis. Augustine LaVerne Harper. She is also survived by her sister, Sis. Dorothy Sage of Yakima, WA; 11 grandchildren; and 13 great grandchildren. Memorial Services were conducted January 8, 1998, by Bro. J. D. Logan.

The things we remember about Sis. Lurana was her dedicated life as a Christian. She attended as many meetings as she was able, wrote many letters and Bible articles, and studied God's Word continually. Through her efforts, many were uplifted and encouraged to be knowledgeable and faithful.

(submitted via e-mail by Bro. Kevin Harper. Thanks, Bro. Kevin)

Editor's Note

The recent passings cause our hearts to constrict with great pain. Our losses, so close together, are shared by so many because each of these faithful soldiers was well-known, even outside of their home areas. Each were lead ers in their home congregations for many years; Brothers Clif and Roy were the main leaders and speakers at Chico and Springfield. While Sister Lurana's influence in services was silent, she also was a leader by virtue of her vast Bible knowledge and fine Christian example. Many people knew her also from the many meetings she attended all over the Western U.S.

The work of the churches where these 3 lived and worshipped will go on because of their dedicated service and teaching, but the loss will be felt for a very long time. It can be said of each of these, as Paul said in 2 Tim. 4:7-8, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.*"

How blessed we are to have known all three.

— The editors

I'm Free

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free,
I'm following the path God laid for me.
I took His hand when I heard Him call.
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day
To laugh, to love, to work or play.
Tasks left undone must stay that way,
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void,
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah, yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow,
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow.
My life's been full, I savored much,
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief,
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me.
God wanted me now; He set me free.

— **Author unknown**

Precious Memories

***It Is Written*, February, 1948.** Bro. Lloyd Treat, Gilland, TX, invited all to come and meet with them. Bro. Paul Willhoite, Austin, TX, asked Bro. J. S. Bedingfield (editor of *It Is Written*) to read some scriptures. Bro. C. A. Waller, Mangum, OK, wrote that he thought Bro. W. H. Francis would make an excellent speaker for the Carlsbad meeting. Sis. Bruce, Carlsbad, NM, wrote that they looked forward to their coming meeting.

The Christian Courier, January, 1978. Bro. Don Taylor, Lugert, OK, announced the baptism of his daughter, Karen Taylor. Bro. Claud Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported that Bro. Dayton Clouse was in the hospital, Sis. Burdette Taylor had minor surgery, and announced that Bro. Howard McCay would hold their meeting in July. Bro. Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on the meeting they attended at Glenwood, WA, with Brothers Jerry McCay and Robert Farley as the speakers. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, wrote that Sis. Edge was in the hospital for eye surgery; and that Bro. and Sis. Roger Sauve had a baby boy. Also mentioned was the passing of Bro. Earl Arnett of the Waterford, CA, congregation on January 22nd.

***It Is Written*, February**, 1978. Bro. Ed Tate, Newcastle, TX, reported on their weekend meeting with visiting speakers. The Lorenzo, TX, congregation wrote about their visit to the Newcastle meeting; and also mentioned that Sis. Sheila Forsman was recovering from hepatitis; Stacy Burt had her tonsils removed; Bro. and Sis. Steve and Oletta Spurlin were expecting a baby the first of April; Bro. Robert Peel celebrated his 93rd birthday; and that Bro. Jimmy Loftus had lost his brother George. Bro. Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, asked for prayers for his mother, Marietta, who had just returned from the hospital with cancer. Bro. Paul Andrews, Hindsville, AR, announced their meeting in June with Bro. Stanley Goodwin. Bro. L. E. Arnett, Waterford, CA, announced their meeting in June with Bro. Ken Harper. Bro. N. E. Bergstrom, Stanton, TX, wrote that there was some illnesses in their numbers. Bro. Al Way, Bellflower, CA, mentioned that Bro. Dayton Clouse was in the hospital with a lot of pain and suffering; and invited others to come to their meeting in July with Bro. Howard McCay. Bro. Dan Treat reported that Bro. Wayne Treat, Bro. Jay Durham, and son Kenneth Durham had recent stays in the hospital, and that Bro. Clause Watson had been bed-ridden for several months; that they had three marriages: Bro. Rick Wilson and Sis. Ann Rounsoville, Dec. 2nd; Bro. Randy Spence and Sis. Penny Hinton, Jan. 8th; and Bro. Edwin Crowell and Sis. Deana Spinks, Jan. 26th (Penny was baptized before the wedding).

***The Christian Courier*, January, 1988.** Bro. Ken Harper, Penn Valley, CA, reported that while they were at the Lorenzo, TX, meeting Sis. McCluskey had to be put in the hospital in Lubbock with heart trouble; and he also stated what a wonderful time they all had at the Delta Camp Meeting. Bro. David McCay, Lorenzo, TX, announced they were to have a mini-meeting with Bro. Terry Warford. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, reported on their visit to the meeting at Baron. Bro. Errol Forsman, Lorenzo, TX, reported on their meeting with Bro. Terry Warford. Bro. Marvin Boling, Yuma, AZ, wrote that they had a good meeting with Brothers Donald Dabbs and Rex Mickey. Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, announced they had two baptisms: Stephanie Johnson, Oct. 18th, and Bonney Morris, Oct. 25th; and that Bro. Doyle Wilson had returned to the fold. Bro. J. D. Logan, Stockton, CA, wrote on the passings of Bro. Earl Atchley, Sis. Bumgardner, and Sis. Jewell Cadwell. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, reported on the Delta Camp Meeting and their visit to the Yuma meeting.

***The Christian Courier*, February, 1988.** Bro. Terry Warford, Baron OK, announced the baptisms of William and Violet Barrett, and their meeting in June with Bro. Bill McCay, Jr. Bro. David McCay, Lorenzo, TX, reported on their weekend meeting with Bro. Bret Harper. The Bellflower, CA, congregation wrote on the passing of Sis. Kate Lewis. Bro. Eddie Wilkerson, Cedaredge, CO, announced the date of the 1998 Camp Meeting.

E-Mail Addresses

Several of you have requested that we post e-mail addresses of the brethren. Here are those that are known to us:

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— The editors

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 21-28, 1998	Yakima, WA	Sammy Boen & Mick Boen
June 27-July 5, 1997	Delta Family Gospel Meeting	Guest speakers

Baptisms

Shena Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Oct. 18, 1997
Waid Roland	Comanche, OK	Dec. 9, 1997
Kara Roland	Comanche, OK	Dec. 9, 1997

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Heart blockage
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Ted Drysdale	Brawley, CA	Fighting cancer
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Verlie Baldwin	Cedaredge, CO	Heart arterial fibrillation
Gary Bergman	Glenwood, WA	Severe back pain
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer & broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Earlene Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Leroy Mullen	Randlett, OK	Stroke
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Extreme fatigue & mono.
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Broken bone in foot
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Anna Lee Warner	Springfield, OR	Broken vertebrate, surgery

Passings

Cleo Faught	Oklahoma City, OK	
Carol Roland's younger brother	Comanche, OK	Sept., 1997
Clifton Mantford Brockman	Chico, CA	Dec. 14, 1997
Roy Ernest McCay	Springfield, OR	Jan. 1, 1998
Lurana R. McCluskey	Grass Valley, CA	Jan. 5, 1998

FEBRUARY WORD SEARCH

M	F	S	Z	B	J	N	B	S	W	E	D	B	R	T	A	Q	F
T	L	Y	E	M	O	N	E	Y	T	N	E	M	A	M	R	I	F
D	O	X	Z	R	H	C	V	K	U	O	V	Y	I	E	P	A	G
W	O	R	L	D	V	I	C	O	A	R	L	T	M	M	K	V	R
I	D	I	L	I	G	E	N	T	U	H	O	I	E	E	W	O	J
O	E	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	G	T	S	U	N	L	D	L	F
Z	W	D	T	V	B	A	T	O	W	N	S	Q	T	T	A	E	H
S	A	V	I	N	Z	N	G	J	O	K	I	I	W	E	E	C	S
C	K	T	C	R	E	A	T	I	O	N	D	N	D	L	H	N	D
A	H	K	M	M	P	K	T	P	N	B	T	I	N	B	D	F	D
B	M	Q	G	A	S	A	A	N	E	A	Z	Q	D	I	O	T	K
F	E	D	D	H	D	M	S	S	E	R	T	E	B	S	G	N	V
Y	U	A	H	N	P	O	T	L	R	V	D	I	A	I	I	E	A
J	M	G	U	E	A	R	T	H	E	O	R	I	O	V	O	M	B
A	R	O	T	J	A	I	T	G	T	E	F	E	T	N	F	R	Z
L	F	E	Z	E	R	T	E	C	A	E	P	Q	F	I	S	A	A
N	R	R	H	T	N	E	T	N	O	C	A	R	R	Q	O	G	G
P	Y	M	Z	L	T	S	N	A	R	E	P	E	R	S	O	N	S

AMORITES
ASLEEP
BEGINNING
CONTENT
CREATION
DILIGENT
DISSOLVED
EARTH
FERVENT
FIRE
FIRMAMENT
FLOOD
FORSAKEN
FOUNDATION
GARMENT
GODHEAD
HEART
HEAT
IMAGINATIONS
INIQUITY
INVISIBLE
JUDGMENT
MELT
MONEY
PEACE
PERDITION
PERSONS
PETER
PRIDE
PROMISE
RAIMENT
SERVE
SHAKEN
SNARE
THRONE
WORLD