

The Christian Courier

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New Year Challenges Ahead

As everyone has probably already noticed, in this past year we have lost quite a few old-time soldiers in the service of Jesus Christ. These have been men and women dedicated to their Christian service, and their loss is without comprehension.

However, we cannot sit back and lament our loss; the rest of us have to step up and continue where they left off. Nothing has changed in the world; it is still full of lost souls looking for something this world cannot satisfy. There are numerous things a Christian can perform in his service to Christ; it is time that sleeves are rolled up, and the tasks be performed.

Let's not let congregations wither on the vine. If your numbers are small, your individual challenges are greater. Some time back, I read where a Church of Christ man had a job transfer to a city in another state. After he and his wife moved, they found there was no place there for them to worship. They did not shrink in their service, saying to themselves, "Oh, well, if there's no church here, there's nothing we can do." They got busy and decided they had better get one started. They started inviting others to their house to study the Bible; no easy task, since when they moved there they didn't know anyone. That first year they converted 50 souls, and had a congregation started. I am reminded of the early church, how rapidly it grew because the Word was being taught daily, a lot of it from house to house. Much can be performed when one puts his mind to the task.

This past year, a few months of printing *The Christian Courier* were skipped because of the lack of material. Many of those performing the task of writing articles and letters are no longer with us. It is time for all of us to continue where they left off. Because our congregations are few, all of us like to read of how other Christians are

doing; we are strengthened by knowing there are others out there. That won't happen unless we take the initiative to tell others how we are doing. Let's have some letters of encouragement and hope from the brotherhood. Let's have some articles that can give us instruction in righteousness, that we can be furnished in all good works.

This challenge is for you! Let's all resolve to do more for the Lord from now on. Let's dedicate ourselves to be better stewards of the time, resources, energy, and efforts according to the blessings God bestows on us. Let's take up His cross daily (requires effort) and follow Him (more effort).

In love of the Word,
The Christian Courier staff.

WHO DO YOU SAY JESUS IS?

Christmas is near — remember, Jesus is the reason for the season — today I am going to speak of faith and what do and who do you have faith in; is it faith in the gift under the tree for happiness and joy or is it in Jesus, who is the great I AM?

In Matt 22:32 Jesus says, "*I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.*"

John 6:35, "*Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'*"

Meat and potatoes will nourish your body, It is Christ that nourishes the soul.

John 8:12-30, "*Later, Jesus talked to the people again. He said, 'I am the light of the world. The person who follows me will never live in darkness. He will have the light that gives life.' But the Pharisees said to Jesus, 'When you talk about yourself, you are the only one to say these things are true. We cannot accept these things you say.' Jesus answered, 'Yes, I am saying these things about myself, but they are true. I know where I came from. And I know where I am going. You don't know where I came from or where I am going. You judge me the way you would judge any man. I don't judge anyone. But if I judge, my judging is true. When I judge, I am not alone. The Father who sent me is with me. Your own law says that when two witnesses say the same thing, then you must accept what they say. I am one of the witnesses who speaks about myself. And the Father who sent me is my other witness.' They asked, 'Where is your Father?' Jesus answered, 'You don't know me or my Father. But if you knew me, then you would know my Father, too.' Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the Temple. He was near the place where the money that the people give is kept. But no one arrested him. The right time for Jesus had not yet come. Once more Jesus said to them, 'I am going away,, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.' This made the Jews ask, 'Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, Where I go, you cannot come?' But he continued, 'You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world, I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins, if you do not believe that I am the one I claim to be, you will indeed die in your sins.' 'Who are you?' they asked. 'Just what I have been proclaiming all along,' Jesus replied. 'I have*

much to say in judgment of you. But he who sent me is reliable and what I have heard from him I tell the world.' They did not understand that he was telling them about his Father. So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me. The one who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, for I always do what pleases him.' Even as he spoke, many put their faith in him."

These are just a few of the claims of Jesus in his own words. He is the great I AM!!

Jesus has many names and titles in the Bible. These are a few of them (over 100 total) as listed in Nave's Topical Bible reference book: Counselor, King of the Jews, the Word, Prince of Peace, God, Lord of Lords, Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, Son of God, Son of Man, Carpenter, and MANY more.

Who do you say Jesus is, though? It is the most important question you will ever be asked.

Let us turn back to Matthew 16:13-14, "*When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' They replied, 'Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.'*"

How do you answer that question? Who is Jesus? Mankind has been answering that in many ways since Jesus walked on earth. Your response to that question not only determines your values and lifestyle; but it also determines your eternal destiny, whether it be heaven or hell. Jesus was still a mystery when this question was asked; the disciples couldn't figure him out. They didn't deny that he did miracles, or that he was a great teacher, or maybe even a prophet. In fact, his miracles were so numerous that the apostle John ended his gospel telling us that the miracles and teachings of Jesus were so numerous that there would not be enough books in the world to hold them all.

The disciples then (and the majority of world today) just did not believe that He was, is, and always will be the Word of God who took on a human body and dwelt amongst us. He was, is, and will be God manifest in the flesh — God amongst us. That is where many false teachings come into being today. If we believe that Jesus was anything less than God the Son, who took on the form of flesh and lived on earth, we are in error. Only God can wipe away your sins — no mere man can cleanse you of your sins.

Any teaching that lowers the level of Jesus to the level of man, or that elevates the level of man to the same as Jesus, is a false teaching. His body is man, and his spirit is God.

John 1:1, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" He (Jesus) was with God in the beginning.

John 10:30, "*I and the Father are One*" Jesus claimed that he was, is, and will be forever, God!

Let's turn back to Matthew 16:15-16, "*But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.*"

"Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word "Messiah," which is the official title of our Lord and Savior Jesus. This official title occurs over 500 times in the New Testament. It means that he was anointed to his wonderful redemptive work as Prophet, Priest and King of his people. He is Jesus the Christ, the Anointed One.

Isaiah 11:1-5 is only one of the many prophetic declarations in the Old Testament telling us of the coming of the anointed one:

"*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The*

Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord — and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth; He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked; Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist."

To believe that Jesus is the Christ is to believe that he is the Anointed One of God, the Messiah, as foretold by the Old Testament prophets, the Savior sent of God, that he was what he claimed to be. This is to believe the gospel, by faith in Jesus Christ, the only way man can be brought back to God. To say that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah, is the testimony of God. This testimony, this faith, this belief, this trust, is what makes a Christian a Christian. To be saved we must know who He is and know that He is our salvation.

Going back to Matt 16, in response to Peter saying , "*You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.'*"

Mankind, by itself, in the flesh, has no idea who Jesus is. True believers are the only ones who understand who Jesus really is. And unless God reveals this to us in our spirit can we ever truly know Him. That is why it is so important to seek and study and teach and read the Bible; to get to know him, as revealed by God through his Word and the Holy Spirit.

In John 6:65, Jesus again tells us that it is God who reveals to us who the real Jesus is. Jesus speaking, "... I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him."

Hebrews 11:6 tells us that we must believe that He exists, by faith, and He will reveal to us the knowledge that Jesus is the Messiah, our salvation.

God has to reveal it to us because by our very nature we are rebellious toward God. We might perform acts of human kindness, but all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. In Ephesians 2:1-10, it tells us we are rebellious and it also tells us how we are saved — by His grace.

Ephesians 2:1-10, "*As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath. But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace. For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*"

We are incapable of pleasing God on our own. We need Christ, he must be the object of our faith. because we are utterly incapable of understanding, loving or pleasing God on our own. Romans 3:9-18 tells us how horrible we are in our own quest — that no one is righteous.

Romans 3:9-18, "*What shall we conclude then? Are we any better? Not at all! We have already made the charge that Jews and Gentiles alike are all under sin. As it is written: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one. Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit. The poison of vipers is on their lips. Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood; ruin and misery mark their ways, and the way of peace they do not know. Their is no fear of God before their eyes.*"

Ezekiel 18:4 says, "*The soul who sins will die.*"

We (you and I) have a hard time with that because we try to grade sins on a scale the same way a teacher grades a test on the curve. God doesn't work that way; he requires perfection or punishment. That is why he came in the flesh; that is why Christ came to earth, to be a substitute for you, to bear the punishment of your sins, to be your salvation, to be the one who will cloak you in His righteousness. Jesus is the only one who can forgive and transform us, thereby delivering us from the power and the penalty of sin.

Acts 4:12, "*There is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among us, by which we must be saved.*" There is no other name than the name of Jesus, the Christ, the Messiah.

Even though God's justice demands death for sin, His love has provided us Christ, our Savior, who paid the penalty for yours and my sins — for all sinners. 1 Peter 3:18, "*Christ ... died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God.*" Christ satisfied the demands of God's Justice. John 3:16, "*God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ only is "*our great God and Savior.*" as declared in Titus 2:13.

Some people think it doesn't matter what you believe as long as you are sincere; as long as you believe in something; but Jesus is the ONLY acceptable object of a saving faith. Without a valid object your faith is useless.

Where are you placing your faith? If you have a headache, you can believe what the doctor told you, that an aspirin will take the headache away. You can even read all the claims on the bottle, believe in and trust all the advertising that they do; but unless you take the aspirin, believe in the object itself by demonstrating your faith, by taking the aspirin, will your headache go away. And if you take cyanide instead, thinking that it is aspirin, all the faith in the world will not restore your life. Similarly, if Jesus is the only source of salvation, and you are trusting in anyone or anything else, your faith is useless.

So where are you putting your faith? your trust? Who or what is the object of your faith? Do You have faith in what you can do, the good that you can do, or do you have faith in Jesus Christ? Do you put your faith in the partaking of communion, the bread and the wine, the cracker and the grape juice, or is your faith in the Son of God? Do you place your faith in being baptized or in Jesus, the King of the Jews? Do you place your faith in the length of your hair or do you trust in the perfect Lamb of God? Are you believing in the words of a preacher or do you trust in the Word of God?

When you go to work, are you hoping in yourself to do the best you can or are you trusting in God to work through you to do his best? Are you doing what you are doing so you can earn a

reward or some other type of acknowledgment? Or are you doing what you are doing because you love Christ? And that is only possible because He loved you first!!!!

The only things that will be remembered about you, about your life here on earth, is what you do for Christ, not what you do for yourself!! Obeying His commands is obeying Christ!

Many people assume that there are many paths to God, and that each religion represents a small aspect of the truth. But Jesus Said in John 14:6, "*I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through me.*" Jesus didn't claim to be one of many ways, or only for those who were alive when he spoke these words, but He claimed to be the only way to God — then and forever more.

The New Testament never says that a man is saved on account of the man's faith, but that he is saved through his faith, or by the means of his faith. In other words, DON'T have faith in your faith! Faith is merely the means through which the Holy Spirit applies to the individual the benefits of Christ's death.

Ephesians 4:5, "*One Lord, one faith, one baptism*" is that where your faith is. Everyone has faith in something — faith in some religion, faith in one's self, faith in fate, faith in evolution, faith in mankind. Even the atheist has faith in his own reasoning. But there is only one real faith that works for time and eternity. True faith is faith in the one true God — the God who made us, who will judge us, and who has paid the price to save us. This faith is an understanding faith for it is "*through faith ye are saved*" for it is by grace you are saved through faith (Galatians 3:11). It is a living, growing faith; a working faith, because "*faith without works is dead.*" (James 2:20).

There is more. True faith is a justifying faith as it makes us righteous in the sight of God. Romans 5:1, "*Being justified by faith we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

It is a protecting faith (Ephesians 6:16), because with the shield of faith we shall be able to quench the fiery darts of the wicked.

It is a purifying faith and a strong faith. Acts 15:9, "*Not at the promise of God through unbelief; but strong in faith, giving glory to God.*"

It is a triumphant faith. I John 5:4, "*Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*"

This faith is an understanding, saving, living, growing, justifying, purifying, working, protecting, stable, strong, triumphant faith!!!!

Hebrews Chapter 11 is all about faith. The first three verses tell us about the nature and power of faith.

Hebrews 11:1-3, "*Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made of what was visible.*"

Faith has always been the mark of God's servants. Where faith is planted by the Holy Spirit, it causes the truth to be received, the truth of our justification, all done by the sufferings of and the merits of Christ. This is the object of our hope, the object of our faith. We are persuaded in this faith that God will perform all he has promised to us in Christ. Being persuaded gives the soul the enjoyment of those things now; it gives us a reality in our souls. Faith proves to the mind the reality of things that cannot be seen. Faith is fully all that God has revealed, it is holy, just, and good. This view of faith is explained by many examples of persons in the Old Testament

who obtained an honorable character via God. Faith was their holy obedience. The Bible gives the most true and exact account of the origin of all things, and we are to believe it, and not to wrestle with the Scriptural account of the creation, because otherwise it is the idea of man. All that we see in His creation was brought into being by the command of God.

Hebrews 11:4-38 has illustrious examples of the heroes of faith from the Old Testament. I am going to leave that reading to you; take the time to read it, it is wonderful.

Let us now focus on the last two verses in the chapter:

Heb. 11: 39-40, "*These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect.*"

God's plan always included the birth, life, death, burial and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. The author of Hebrews tells us that God has provided some better things for us, therefore we can be sure that He expects good things from us. Thankfully, the better things God has provided for us are so much beyond the heroes, so that we can show our obedience in faith, our patience in hope, and the labor of our love. Unless we get the true faith of these believers as described in the center of the chapter, on the last day they will rise up to condemn us.

Let us then pray continually for the increase of our faith, that we may follow these bright examples, and be with them forever, made perfect in holiness and happiness, and shine like the sun in the kingdom of our Father for evermore.

Put your faith and trust in God and his only begotten Son, our Savior, Jesus the Christ, the Messiah, the Anointed One.

Before I extend the invitation, I want to end with a poem of faith, about faith, written with faith, by V. Raymond Edman:

Faith is dead to doubts —
dumb to discouragements,
blind to impossibilities,
knows nothing but success.
Faith lifts its hand up through
the threatening clouds,
lays hold of Him who has
all power in heaven and on earth.
Faith makes the uplook good,
the outlook bright,
the inlook favorable,
and the future glorious.

Invitation: Is your faith like the 4 year old girl that was taken to the doctor for her yearly check up? The doctor looked in her throat and said, "Is the Cookie Monster in there?" The little girl said not a word. The doctor then looked in her ear and said, "Will I find Bugs Bunny in here?" Again, the little girl said nothing. The doctor then picked up his stethoscope, held it to her chest, and asked, "Is that Barney I hear in there?" The little girl said, "No, Barney is on my stockings; Jesus is in my heart!"

Is Jesus in your heart?

I extend the invitation to you — YOU reading this! I gave this lesson in church with an invitation, and the same is always offered to you from HIM above. Pray to him, asking for his forgiveness, asking him to enter your heart, and be your guide, Lord and Savior. It will be the most blessed event of all eternity!

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In Loving Memory of Bro. Garold Walter Morris



Bro. Garold Morris, 74, of Bellevue, WA, passed from this life on Nov. 16, 1998, after an extended fight against cancer.

He is survived by his wife of many years, Sis. Sara Lyall Morris; 2 sons: Eric and Garold II; as well as 2 brothers, Donald and Charles; and several grandchildren.

Bro. Garold was born, grew up, and went to school in West Virginia, but eventually his job as an engineer brought him to the Seattle area for which we are ever thankful.

Bro. Garold was a devoted, faithful member of the Church of Christ for many years. His most important legacy is that he loved the Lord with all his heart, and he loved everyone who knew him. He had a special gift for expressing that love. His prayers and communion meditations reflected his rich spiritual insight, deep devotion to God, and his appreciation for Christ's sacrifice. His words also always expressed caring love for mankind far and near. His family said they will forever miss his Thanksgiving Day prayer.

As long as he was able to worship with us, he set aside his own pain to give hearty greetings, huge smiles, and great bear hugs to everyone. Those hugs, that smile, the love that flowed from Bro. Garold over everyone around him and his devoted, fervent spirit of God is what will be missed by all who knew him. His is the reward Paul said would be granted to the faithful: "*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.*" (2 Tim. 4:7-8).

In Loving Memory of Bro. Homer Craig Bryant

Bro. Homer Bryant, 66, of Concord, CA, passed from this life on Nov. 10, 1998, after a sudden heart attack.

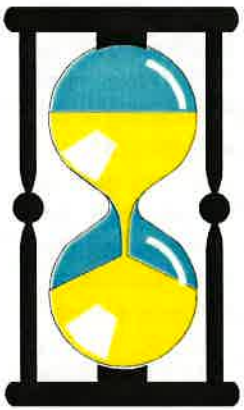
He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sis. Bonnie Bryant; 1 daughter, Kathy Littlejohn; 2 sons, Michael and Anthony; and 8 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Richard.



Bro. Homer was a gentle giant, large enough to contain the huge loving heart he had for the brethren, usually wearing a tender grin on his face. The last time we saw him, Bro. Homer visited us in August, paying a special visit to Brother Howard McCay before his passing. That visit was special, and appreciated very much by Bro. Howard, and all of us, as well. Bro. Homer loved to go to gospel meetings, and he was always a welcome addition wherever he went. Whenever there was a gospel meeting at Sea-Tac, WA, he and Bonnie traveled to Seattle and parked their trailer in the Forsman's front yard with all the others, like a circle of wagons. Visiting and discussing the scriptures while sitting in lawn chairs around a portable camp light late at night will never be the same without Bro. Homer. He was always a willing hand to pitch in to help or advise wherever it was needed. An early riser at the Delta Camp Meetings, he could usually be found in the kitchen helping to prepare the huge breakfast. For a period of time, Bro. Homer was one of the editors of *The Christian Courier* while it was at the San Pablo congregation; not an easy task with the equipment that was used then. He was one of the more steady, consistent contributors to *The Courier* with letters, articles, and money since it came to Sea-Tac, because he understood that need, having experienced the same problems that exist today.

Along with many of the other brethren that have passed on recently, Bro. Homer will be sorely missed. His reward will undoubtedly be with that of the rest of the faithful, for he, too, has "*fought a good fight*," and finished his course.

Precious Memories



***It Is Written*, December, 1948.** Sis. Eunice Bruce, Carlsbad, NM, reported that there were nine members meeting there, and they did not plan to have a meeting that year. Bro. Coy Garrison, Tulsa, OK, reported the passing of Bro. J. N. Musgrave. Bro. W. E. Daniels, Ozone, AR, announced that Bro. Lloyd Treat was now meeting with them. Bro. Cavin, Whittier, CA, reported they had five baptisms. Bro. R. C. Clements, Broken Bow, AR, discussed his battle with the digressive brethren.

***It Is Written*, December, 1958.** Bro. Lowery, Roseville, CA, sent word that he baptized his niece and that Bro. Ervin Tibbs had been coming over to help them with services. Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, wrote that Bro. Paul Ferguson conducted singing

lessons there for seven days. Letter from Modesto, CA, stated that Bro. & Sis. Condor were in poor health. Bro. L. C. England, La Habra, CA, reported that Sis. Cavin was in the hospital.

***It Is Written*, January, 1959.** Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, reported on their meeting with Bro. Perigen and Bro. Broadway. Bro. Foye Garrison, Nocona, TX, wrote that Bro. Coy Baker of Portales, NM, visited them and delivered a good lesson. Bro. J. V. Wood, Midwest City, OK, indicated that Bro. W. E. Daniels of Broken Bow, OK, gave them a good sermon on "Watch." Bro. R. C. Clements, Broken Bow, OK, reported that brother in the flesh was very ill in a rest home in Austin, TX. Bro. F. H. Logan, Modesto, CA, wrote that Bro. & Sis. Condor were still in poor health. Bro. W. E. Daniels, Broken Bow, OK, reported that his wife was out of the hospital after a gall bladder operation.

***The Christian Courier*, December, 1968.** Bro. Tom Broadway, Grants Pass, OR, wrote that Bro. Estel Buckner was in intensive care at the hospital after lung operation. Bro. W. E. Daniels, Stilwell, OK, indicated Thursday night service was being conducted by the younger brethren. Bro. L. E. Atchley, Baron, OK, reported that Bro. Hayse Morris and family moved back to their area, and that they planned to have a mid-week meeting, alternating between Stilwell and Baron. Bro. George Vanderpool, Huntsville, AR, wrote that they had a number of recent visitors. Sis. Myra Dabbs, Aztec, NM, reported they had many visitors; Bro. Roy Dabbs was having throat surgery for cancer; Bro. Tom Nelson had passed away with a stroke; and that Ron Berry (14) was baptized. Sis. Jean Orendorff, Yuma, AZ, indicated that Bro. & Sis. Prinke were back after their vacation. Bro. J. D. Logan, Stockton, CA, expressed thanks to everyone for their prayers on behalf of their daughter, Patricia, who was injured in an automobile accident; and that Bro. F. H. Logan was improving after a mild heart attack. Bro. Ron Berry, Aztec, NM, wrote that they were moving to Florida. Sis. Doris Berry (Dabbs) indicated that Bro. Roy Dabbs was now home and improving. Bro. Harold Don Taylor announced the baptism of his niece, Karla Taylor. Other news submitted: Baptism of Jim Cheshire; Bro. & Sis. Oren Johnston celebrated their 25th anniversary; Bro. Floyd Morse, Modesto, CA, came home from the hospital, but was still critically ill; Bro. Ben Rollins, Modesto, CA, was in a convalescent home; and Bro. Estel Buckner, Grants Pass, OR, was improving and able to sit up.

***The Christian Courier*, January, 1969.** Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, indicated it was good to have the paper going again. Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, wrote that Sis. Carrie Long was confined to her bed; several members were sick; and they were overjoyed with the visit of Bro. And Sis. Curt McCluskey. Bro. George Vanderpool, Huntsville, AR, reported that Bro. and Sis. McCoy lost their house and possessions to a fire. Bro. L. E. Arnett, Waterford, CA, wrote that they had a lot of illness. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, announced the baptisms of Roger Sauve and Lynette Meek. Bro. James Wilkerson, Cedaredge, CO, after hearing of Bro. Ron Berry going to Florida, was hoping he could meet up with their son, Terry, who was stationed at nearby Ft. Gordon, GA. Other news: Bro. Roy Dabbs, Aztec, NM, was progressing three months after surgery; Sis. Fisher, Stanton, TX, was ill in the hospital; Sis. Bergstrom's nephew was killed in an accident; Bro. R. H. Peel, Lorenzo, TX, was not well; Sis. Olene Howe

was doing well after her operation; and Bro. Larry Spurlin was now living in Idaho Falls.

***The Christian Courier*, January, 1979.** Bro. Al Way, Bellflower, CA, announced Bro. Clif Brockman and Bro. Gerald Brockman would hold their meeting in July; Bro. Mark Perigen had an operation on one of his toes; and others were suffering with the flu. Bro. Robert McCay, Glenwood, WA, wrote that they planned an extended trip in the south and west; they had visits from Bro. Errol Forsman & family and Sis. Olene Howe from Lorenzo, TX, and the Orendorffs from California; and that Bro. Wayne & Sis. Amy Orendorff had a baby boy, Gabriel. Bro. L. E. Arnett said he was moved after reading Bro. Howard McCay's article in the Nov.-Dec. issue of *The Courier*, and that everyone should read and re-read it. Bro. J. D. Logan, Stockton, CA, announced their plans for a camp meeting in July at Fort Bragg, CA. Bro. Don Taylor reported that Bro. Mark Taylor was out of the hospital after surgery; and Sis. Waller slipped on ice and broke her knee cap.

***The Christian Courier*, January, 1989.** Bro. Terry Warford, Stilwell, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. David McCay. Bro. George Morris, Stilwell, OK, announced news from the Pleasant View congregation with the baptism of Jennifer Chastain.



Cards and Letters

Comanche, OK

Brothers and Sisters,

It has been quite a long time since we have written to The Courier. It seems life is passing at such a fast pace and we are negligent in our efforts to the paper.

It is with sadness that we learned of the passing of Brother Howard McCay, his sister, and Brother Homer Bryant. Our prayers and thoughts are with the families at this time.

We have all been basically well and continue to meet and worship God in spirit and truth. We continue to be blessed and wish to share our good news with the brethren. Two new members have been added to the fold. They are Edith and Edward Barnes and happen to be my aunt and uncle. They have been meeting with us for a while and made their acknowledgments a couple of weeks ago. We are very proud to have them with us. There seems to still be a few in this world that want to know the right way.

Pray that we can be good examples to these new ones and continue in our efforts to please our Father.

Audley Barnes
Comanche, OK

Goshen, AR

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ,
It has been quite som time since we have written to you all. We have a lot of bothers and sisters in poor health and need prayers for all. We have sad news to report that Bro. Isaac Ferguson, 80, passed from this life on Dec. 4, 1998; his service was held on Dec.7,1998. He will be missed very much; he was survived by his wife Letha Ferguson who is fighting cancer and needs all your prayers. Added to that are Sis. Mary Serrano who is fighting emphysema; Bro. Marion Serrano, headed for back surgery; and Bro. James Vanderpool from the Bohannan Mountain congregation, fighting hepatitis. We were sorry to hear of the passing of Bro. Howard McCay & his sister, and send our deepest condolences to all. Our prayers are with you.

In Christian love,
The Goshen, Arkansas congregation

Randlett, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Sorry about being late in sending in a letter on our meeting.

We want to say a big "Thank You!" to Bro. Bob Eldridge and Bro. Larry Pollan for bringing us four good lessons. We enjoyed all of them.

We are so thankful for all of the brothers and sisters who attended. Some came for all of the meeting; some once, some twice. We enjoyed being with all of you. You made our meeting one we can remember. On Saturday night we had visitors from seven congregations: Lorenzo, Newcastle, Comanche, Ringold, Duncan, Goshen, and Baron. Thank you so much. We invite you back anytime to be with us. You are welcome. We love having you at church and in our homes. We are a small congregation.

Everyone is doing okay at this writing.
Please keep us in your prayers.
Our love to all,
The Randlett, OK, congregation

Sacramento, CA (Dec. 2nd)

Just a quick message to let you know that our little girl was born on 12-1-98 at 9:19am by C-section. She weighed 4lb. 15 oz. and was 18 1/4 inches long. she is doing will and is currently in an incubator in the baby care unit. She is still receiving oxygen however it has gradually been reduced from 100% to 60%.

We currently have not decided on her name yet. Janine wants to see her first. She only got a glimpse of her when she was being moved from recovery to her room.

Kevin Harper

Sacramento, CA (Dec. 3rd)

Just a little update. I'm home for a short while to take care of things at the house. We've decided on a name: Jenna Marie. She is still in the intensive care unit, but they have weaned her off of the oxygen, and they think she is able to control her body temperature so that she can be removed from the incubator into an open crib in the unit. Her current weight is 4 lb., 14 oz. They say Jenna may be able to go home on Friday.

Kevin Harper

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear ones in Christ,

Another soldier of Christ was lost to this congregation. On the 16th of November, Bro. Garold Morris passed from this life after an extended fight against cancer. He will be dearly missed by all.

A few times in the past months, Bro. Ellis and Sis. Lynell Forsman have attended the small congregation at Springfield, OR, to help them out. On other occasions, Bro. Terry and Sis. Suzie Warford have visited them, as well. This congregation has only about six people in regular attendance, so any visitors are greatly appreciated.

It was a joy to have relatives and loved ones home for the holidays. Some of those coming from afar were: Bro. Eric & Sis. Lori Harper, & family, from Sacramento, CA; Bro. Matthew & Sis. Kelly Shepherd, & family, from Vancouver, WA; Bro. John & Sis. Betty McKinney, from Yakima, WA; and Bro. Troy & Sis. Shawna Solomon, of Yakima, WA. Moving here recently are Sis. Threasa McKinney and Bro. Jimmy Lamb, II, although Bro. Jimmy moved back to Yakima after a few weeks.

Sis. Sarah Sauve is back in the hospital with an infection. The doctors had removed the Titanium bone from her hip to help fight the infection. The surgery went well, but she was still fighting the infection after the surgery. She recently had a blood transfusion and it helped perk her up. She's hoping to be out of the hospital in 5 to 6 weeks. Please send love, cards, and prayer her way to: Sarah Sauve, Patient, University of Washington Medical Center, 1959 N.E. Pacific St., Seattle, WA 98195.

Ashley Larson (10 years old) passed away on Jan. 28th. She was at the cancer center in Seattle where she spent several weeks recovering from a stem cell transplant to fight the cancer. Ashley was a spunky little fighter, and was optimistic that she would beat the cancer, but it was just too much for her. She rests now!

Recently, we received word that Bro. Don German of Tulsa, KS, has passed from this life after a long battle with cancer. While we have not met him person, Bro. Mike Geho has kept us apprised of his condition. Our prayers and our hearts have always gone out to Bro. Don, his family and friends during this ordeal. We have consolation in knowing that his sufferings have ended.

We were saddened to hear of other losses, as well: Bro. Homer Bryant, 66, San Pablo, CA, Nov. 10th, heart attack; Bro. Isaac Ferguson, 80, Goshen, AR, Dec. 4th; Bro. Buddy Davis, Yuma, AZ, Dec. 7th, cancer; and Bro. Dewaine Mullins, 39, Muleshoe, TX, Nov., heart attack. Our thoughts, prayers, and love go to the families of these loved ones, and to any others if they also suffered loss of which we are unaware.

Word recently received from Bro. J. D. Logan: He will be holding a gospel meeting at Yuma, AZ, March 28th - April 4th.

We are getting some errors in accessing some of the e-mail addresses. If you have changed or discontinued your address, please let us know.

In Christian love,

The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Yuma, AZ (Nov. 9, 1998)

Dear Brethren:

We have good news this month: Lorreta Wright was baptized on November 1st. She has been attending services for quite some time now. We are all happy, and we know the joy in heaven for one who turned their life to God's service.

We are so sad in our hearts to hear of the passing of Sis. Anna Lee Warner. In just over a month, Howard, and now Anna Lee. It is hard to believe that this can be. May God bless all the family at such a great loss of loved ones. Our comfort is in knowing they are in God's hands.

Bro. Joe, Sis. Diana, and children spent a weekend with us the latter part of October. Joe gave the lesson for Sunday worship service. We enjoyed their visit and miss them much..

On November 1st, Brothers Sonny Boling, Robert Davis, Lewis Boling, and Harry Davis had Sunday worship with the Shepherd family of Star Valley. It was good to see them all again. Bro. Sonny gave the lesson, and we had a short visit after services.

We still have quite a lot of illness in our group. Bro. Bud Davis has his ups & downs; Sis. Billy Heck has not been able to attend services for while; and a number of others are not doing good.

Let us all be prayerful for each other and work hard in the faith.

Love, The Yuma, AZ, congregation

Yuma, AZ (Dec. 10, 1998)

Greetings to all with a newsletter from the Yuma congregation:

We do have quite a lot to report at this writing – some sad & some very happy.

Some of our good news is that on Nov. 26th, Ronda Trump, granddaughter of Bro. Horace & Sis. Jean Orendorff, was baptized. Then on Nov. 29th, Suzan Reah Boling, 13 years of age, the daughter of Bro. Lewis & Sis. Susan Boling, was baptized. On Dec. 6th, Sis. Susan Boling returned to the Lord's service. There has been much gladness in our midst, and we know in heaven, as well.

Some of us from Yuma had the opportunity to attend the Citrus City gospel meeting. Bro. Gene Boling had some very inspiring lessons that we all enjoyed. It was so good to see both Bro. Gene and his wife, Sis. Joan, again. It had been some time since we had seen them last.

We have had visitors this month. Bro. Rex & Sis. Tina Mickey were here visiting with Bro. Bud & Sis. Willie Davis on Bro. Bud's birthday Nov. 12th. Bro. Rex gave a lesson mid-week and Sunday morning, which we enjoyed very much. Over the Thanksgiving weekend, our son, daughter-in-law, & grandchildren were here. Bro. Joe Davis gave the Sunday morning lesson, which was very good.

We have a gospel meeting scheduled for the Easter weekend with Bro. J. D. Logan doing the speaking. We are already excited about that event, and look forward to seeing Bro. J. D. & Sis. Fern. We will have more on our plans and events soon, and know that many will want to hear Bro. J. D.'s lessons.

On an unhappy note, our beloved Brother in Christ, husband, father, grandfather, friend, and brother in the flesh to the Davis family, Buddy Davis passed from this life in the late evening of Dec. 7th. We know in our hearts that Bro. Buddy is in the Lord's care, and we are glad he is free from his suffering, but we miss him so. He will always be with us for he left us good works and fond memories.

On Wednesday, Dec. 9th, our oldest sister, Sis. Ruth Duncan, had a heart attack. She was transported by air to Good Samaritan Hospital in Phoenix. As of this writing, she has blockages, and tomorrow at 10:30 they plan to insert stints to open the blood flow. We are all so thankful for your prayers and your thoughts.

We send love,

The Yuma congregation

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Mar. 28-Apr. 4, 1999	Yuma, AZ	J. D. Logan
July 3-11, 1999	Delta Family Gospel Meeting	Guest speakers

Baptisms

Edward Barnes	Comanche, OK	Nov., 1998
Edith Barnes	Comanche, OK	Nov., 1998
Loretta Wright	Yuma, AZ	Nov. 1, 1998
Dustin Altmiller	Olney, TX	Nov. 8, 1998
Ronda Trump	Yuma, AZ	Nov. 26, 1998
Suzan Boling	Yuma, AZ	Nov. 29, 1998

Births

Jenna Marie	Sacramento, CA	Dec. 1, 1998
To Kevin & Janine Harper		4 lbs., 15 oz.

Prayer of Faith for those in need

James Vanderpool	Bohannan Mt., AR	Hepatitis
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Jo Williams	Duncan, OK	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer, broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Mary Serrano	Goshen, AR	Emphysema
Marion Serrano	Goshen, AR	Back surgery
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer

Sarah Sauve	Yakima, WA	Fighting cancer in hip
(University of Washington Medical Center, 1959 N.E. Pacific St., Seattle, WA 98195)		
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Heart attack
Ruth Duncan's husband	Yuma, AZ	Lung cancer

Passings

Homer Bryant	San Pablo, CA	Nov. 10, 1998
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Nov. 16, 1998
Don German	Tulsa, KS	Dec., 1998
Dewaine Mullins	Muleshoe, TX	Dec., 1998
Isaac Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Dec. 4, 1998
Buddy Davis	Yuma, AZ	Dec. 7, 1998
Ashley Larson	Sea-Tac, WA	Jan. 28, 1999



Have you told someone about Jesus today?