

The Christian Courier

March, 2000

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Keep Trying

We took the training wheels off our girls' bikes today. The girls are ages 7 and 5. As I was working with each of them, the one thing I had to tell them over and over was "keep trying". They experienced both excitement and frustration, (and one skinned knee-so far). I explained that no one ever rides their bike the first time they try. Everyone has to keep trying.



This is a good thing for each of us to remember in our Christian lives as well. Prov. 24:16. *"For a just man falleth seven times, and **riseth up again**: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."*

Are you struggling to learn new skills, such as teaching or singing or leading singing? Keep trying. You won't be an expert the first time. No one is. But you will keep getting better and better if you keep trying. If you are a young man whose voice is changing, this is an especially difficult time in singing. But trust me, it will settle down. If you keep trying and keep learning, you will find a comfortable range and you can develop considerable skill. It just takes time, and continual effort.

Are there passages of scripture you don't understand completely? Keep trying. Keep working at it. Prov. 2:3-5. *"Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God."*

Ask for help. Your brothers and sisters in Christ are willing and eager to help you learn.

Prov. 19:20. *"Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."*

Have you tried to reach others with the gospel of Christ only to be persecuted for it? Keep trying. Persecution does come from teaching God's word, so you know you are on the right track. Matt. 13:20-21. *"But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended."* Don't be offended like this person. Keep trying.

Talk to someone else. God doesn't promise we will convert everyone. But He does promise that if we keep trying, His Word will produce fruit. Isa. 55:11. *"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

Are you struggling to overcome temptation and sin? Don't give up. Keep trying. Heb. 12:1. *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"*. This is not to condone sin. It is to encourage repentance, turning from sin, and not giving up.

Keep working at righteousness to help overcome sin. I Tim. 4:7-8. *"But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness. For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."*

One of the ways exercising ourselves to godliness helps in this life is in overcoming temptation and sin. Gal. 5:16. *"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."*

Godly exercise (working at righteousness) also helps to win that home in Heaven. Gal. 6:9. *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

So don't give up on yourself. Keep trying.

This is all a process of growth. Keep growing. II Pet. 3:18. *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen."*

"In your patience possess ye your souls." (LUKE 21:19)

Keep praying. God wants to help you. Phil. 4:6. *"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."* I John 5:14-15. *"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him."*

Last, remember that others are still growing also. We didn't take our girls' bicycles away the first time they fell. It's the same with others growing as Christians. Be patient. Be willing to forgive. Be willing to help them. Love them. I Thes. 5:14-15. *"Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feebleminded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men."* Col. 3:12-14. *"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;*

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness."

Praying for your growth. Please pray for mine.

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

Precious Memories

***The Christian Courier,* March, 1970.** Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, reminded us that it takes continuous effort to keep sending material to the Courier. Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported they had several guest speakers the past month, Isaac Ferguson, Roy Snodderly and Halo Serrano. Also that Bro. Dick Taylor and family had visited. He also invited all to their meeting in April with Bro. Ken Baldwin preaching. Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, reported that Bro. V. E. Staggs and sisters visited and gave them a good sermon. He also reported that several from Somerton visited at Grass Valley, CA. The Yuma, AZ congregation reported several visitors, that Bro. Harry Dye had brought two excellent lessons recently, and the baptism of Anna Blake.

***The Christian Courier,* March-April, 1980.** Bro. and Sis. Melvin Daniels, Bohannon Mountain, AR, reported the birth of their son Mark Dec. 19, 1979. He called him their little miracle, as they had been married 26 years before he was sent to them. The San Pablo, CA congregation was looking forward to their Labor Day weekend meeting with Bro. Al Way. The Bellflower, CA congregation reported that several had attended the funeral of Sis. Juanita Nelson of Somerton and Yuma, AZ congregations. She had been a member for fifty years. Bro. Bill McCay, Sr. reported visiting the Springfield, OR congregation, the birth of David James Manning there Feb. 28th, four new members there from the Bay area of California, and that Bro. Dale and Sis Anna Lee Roberts had moved to their new home in south of Florence, OR. He also reported news from Yakima, Sis. Phebe McCay's 92nd birthday celebration coming March 22nd, showers for the new baby crop, and plans for their spring camp meeting. He expressed hope that gas didn't get too out of hand (which we pray for this summer as well). The Happy Hollow church outlined its plans and rules for the Delta camp meeting. Bro. Richard Johnston, Yakima, WA, also invited all to the Yakima camp meeting.

***The Christian Courier,* March, 1990.** Bro. Lloyd & Sis. Debbie Usrey reported that the Sacramento, CA congregation had had to meet in four different locations the past two months, but were currently meeting at an elementary school. Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported that Sis. Lula Way suffered a stroke, and that Bro. Al Way and family had gone to be with her. They also enjoyed the visit of J. L. and Eunice Jared of Salem, OR, Chuck Jared of Valpariso, IN and Jerry Jared of Cincinnati, OH with lessons from Bro's. Chuck and Jerry on Sunday.

Cards and Letters

Harlingen, TX

Dear brethren in Christ Jesus,

I hope that on receiving this letter you are enjoying all the rich blessings of GOD. Thank you for your fellowship with me in this work of the LORD.

I inform you that during the month of February and until 5th of March I was in Guatemala. During this time I visited and preached between 13 faithful churches in two areas of the country, and also I taught the scriptures between 7 liberal churches.



The faithful churches in Guatemala City, Port Barrios, Progreso, Chilmaltenango, San Jose, Santo Domingo, Democracia, Quetzal, Esperanza, Coatepeque, Villahermosa, Catarina, and Horizonte continue firm in the truth. Some brothers continue making the work of evangelization in different places in each area, and several persons have obeyed the gospel during 1999.

Also the brothers in these faithful churches continue studying with liberal brothers, and they teach the need to obey only what is written. Ejem: not preacher of plant in each local church, not division of classes, the supper of the Lord with one cup, the silence of the women in the assembly, not different institutions from the local church. Also it is necessary to live in holiness.

The work in these countries is very difficult because the people are very catholic and the churches of Christ are totally liberal. For that reason the faithful brothers are pursued. I studied with brothers of seven liberal congregations that invited me to explain all these doctrinal points.

In several studies being present some preachers and several of them were against the truth of the scriptures, and forbade me that continued teaching of the scriptures.

But thanks to the LORD a good number of the brothers decided to obey the truth, and began new faithful congregations in the cities of Reu, Calahuache and Cuyo.



At this time there are doors opened to continue preaching the truth, and we need to pray to the Lord to continue forward in this work of the LORD.

Also I inform you that during three days I was working in the work of the LORD in the area of Tapachula, Mexico (on the frontier of Mexico and Guatemala).

In this area I study with several liberal preachers (on the marriage, the correct division of the scriptures, the supper of the Lord with one cup), and some brothers have interest in the truth. But it is necessary to continue teaching to these persons, and also to many brothers that have liberal practices.

Also I comment to you that the church in Harlingen, TX continues firm. Also brothers in the churches of Matamoros, Jaritas (frontier Mexico and USA) continue in the truth.

I request to pray to the Lord so that I have possibilities during these next months to visit different faithful churches in Mexico.



I send pictures from the new churches in Guatemala.

Receive each one of you a strong embrace and the love in Christ.

Otto Alvarez and family
PO Box 532514
Harlingen, TX 78553

Sea-Tac, WA

Greetings to all Christ's Church,

Here in Sea-Tac, we are fully enjoying the constant mercy and care of our Almighty Father! A great blessing we have received is that Michael Geho, Jr. was baptized and reborn on February 19. Also, Bro. Bill, Jr. and Sis. Cindy McCay recently came by to visit from Yakima. Sis. Amy Orendorff was able to spend a week with family in Texas after the passing of Bro. Brandon Howe, her nephew. We were all grieved and concerned by his death, but we accept God's perfect and holy will. Bro. J. D. and Sis. Fern Logan have gone down to California to await the birth of another great-grandchild.

A short while ago, a more permanent trip brought Bro. Rick and Sis. Barbara Carter, along with their three children, to their new home in the Port Orchard area. A short travel was made by Sis. Nell McCay who moved, within her apartment complex, from number 303 to number 308.

Bro. Lloyd Usrey is still in search of a full-time, dependable job position, as he has been working in circumstances less than these. Please pray for him, along with Sis. Jeannean McSwane and Sis. Sandy Nunnally. Sis. Jeannean is still very ill but is trying very much to stay positive and thankful. Sis. Sandy is continuing to battle cancer. She is growing quite weak but also keeps a smile on her face.

We, at Sea-Tac, are constantly joyous to have you brothers and sisters fitly joined together with us, in Christ's glorious Body. Thank you for your thoughts and prayers.

In His immeasurable love,
The Sea-Tac congregation

Yuma, AZ (Feb 9)

Hello to all,

Not much news from Yuma way this month, but thinking of all our brothers and sisters throughout the brotherhood. Just want to say we wish all to be well. We know from the news there are quite a few ill and our prayers are always with you. Likewise here we have some not feeling well. Brother Heck suffers from a previous stroke, and has had surgery to his back twice in the recent past. His wife, Sister Billie, also has back problems and has not felt well of late.

We can't complain of the weather here at this time. It is great, about 50° lows and 75° to 80° highs. Everything is getting ready to bud out and bloom.

The two churches, Yuma and Citrus City, have always randomly visited back and forth with one of the brothers guest speaking. But now we have a schedule to exchange speakers on a regular monthly basis. This should be good for both congregations.

This is most of the news for now. So all take good care and let us all be about our Father's business. Have us in your prayers as you all are in our prayers. Remember our meeting April 23-30. All come that can.

In Christian love,

Yuma congregation.

Yuma, AZ (Mar 7)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This new year is getting under way in a hurry. Many planned events will be here before we hardly expect. We wish to say "hello" and let all know we are yet here and doing fairly well.

Some are yet ill but most have improved. Brother Orendorff had a skin cancer removed from the bridge of his nose. He feels it is going to be okay.

This past Sunday, March 5, Bro. Bill Marten, his wife Sister Karen, and sons Brother William and Jeff were with us. Bro. Bill had a good lesson prepared. After services the ladies had a good dinner prepared and then we visited for a spell.

For several Saturdays we have been putting up a chain link fence one the north, west, and south half of the church property lines. Maybe one or two more work sessions and it will be completed. It has been enjoyable working with the crew and just spending time with fellow Christians.

We are hearing from some that plan to be here at Easter time for our meeting. This is very encouraging. The memories of our last meeting are still in our hearts and minds. We hope this meeting can be equally as rewarding. The dates are April 23rd through the 30th. Hope to see "you".

This is about all I can think of to write. Hope you are all doing okay. Our prayers are with all that are ill. To those who have lost dear loved ones we likewise pray that you may be comforted by our knowledge of God's word for us is spoken in II Cor. 1:3-4. He is the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort.

For now take good care, and let us all be mindful to be forgiving one of another.

We send our Christian love,

The Church in Yuma

In Memory of

Bro. William Brandon Howe

It has become my sad duty to report to all of the brotherhood of the passing from this life of Bro. William Brandon Howe. He died on Thursday night, Feb. 10, 2000, in a motorcycle accident on his way home. He was 24 years & 8 days old.

Words cannot begin to describe the total shock and feeling of utter despair and loss brought to all of us at church and at work. Though we cannot understand why this had to be, we can only cling to that One who is so much wiser than us. He said that all things work together for good for those who love the Lord.

Brandon attended church faithfully, and was always ready to help in the services in any way he could - and he always did it cheerfully. He helped a great deal in the song service, as he had a very good singing voice.

Brandon was a good listener, a loyal friend, and a loving son. He will be greatly missed by so many family and friends.

His funeral was on Tuesday, Feb. 15th, in DeSoto, TX, with Bro. Audley Barnes officiating.. Internment was in Terral, OK, Tuesday afternoon.

Please pray for his parents - Willie & Mary Howe - his brother Shayne, his grandparents, and other family and friends. He was also a special person to Dan & Mary Teague. We loved him so much.

With Christian love,
Dan O. Teague
Metroplex Church of Christ
Duncanville, Texas

In Memory of

Sister Margaret H. Scott

Sis. Margaret H. Scott passed from this life on Feb. 11, 2000, in Kaufman, Texas. She has been a faithful member of the Metroplex Church of Christ in Duncanville for many years. She was a hard-working woman that took care of her family, worked in the garden, canned fruit & vegetables from the garden, and prepared some for freezing. Sometimes, she fixed the leaking roof. She was a very busy and industrious person, as long as she was able.

However, a few years ago she had a stroke that paralyzed her left side and rendered her helpless for the rest of her life. She had been taken care of in a nursing home in Kaufman. We have often thought and talked of the great burden that she must have felt - being such a self-reliant person - to suddenly be completely helpless. We are saddened at her passing because she will no longer be with us; but I am glad that her trial of suffering and helplessness is over. We will look forward to meeting her on the other side.

Bro. Stanley Goodwin officiated at graveside services at Mt. Olive Cemetery in Scurry, Texas, on Feb. 15, 2000.

With Christian love,
Dan O. Teague
Metroplex Church of Christ
Duncanville, Texas

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Apr. 23-30, 2000	Yuma, AZ	Guest speakers
June 30-July 9, 2000	Delta, CO	Delta Camp Meeting
July 16-23, 2000	Yakima, WA	Roger Walkingstick & Kenny Williams

Births

Aleisha Faith Matlock	Feb. 28, 2000	To Matt and Kim Matlock, Lorenzo, TX

Baptisms

Michael Geho II	Feb. 19, 2000	Sea-Tac, WA

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Gary Pruiett	Alamogordo, NM	M. S.
Renee Cowherd	Aztec, NM	Seriously ill
Ken Bishop	Aztec, NM	Medical problems
Vincent Johnson	Bellflower, CA	Confined to wheel chair
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition & diabetes
Sandy Nunnally	Glenwood, WA	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer, broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Mary Serrano	Goshen, AR	Emphysema, bronchitis, & asthma
Jean Sloan	Goshen, AR	Back problems
Aspen Spurlin	Lorenzo, TX	Chronic mono
Ola McKinney	Selah, WA	Recovering from heart surgery
Sarah Sauve	Yakima, WA	Bone marrow transplant
Sonny Boling	Yuma, AZ	Knee surgery
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Carl Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Heart attack
Ruth's husband	Yuma, AZ	Lung cancer
Dean Heck	Yuma, AZ	Stroke, Back surgery
Billie Heck	Yuma, AZ	Back problems

Passings

Margaret H. Scott	Duncanville, TX	Feb. 11, 2000
Brandon Howe	Duncanville, TX	Feb. 10, 2000
Jan Walkingstick's mother		March, 2000