

The Christian Courier

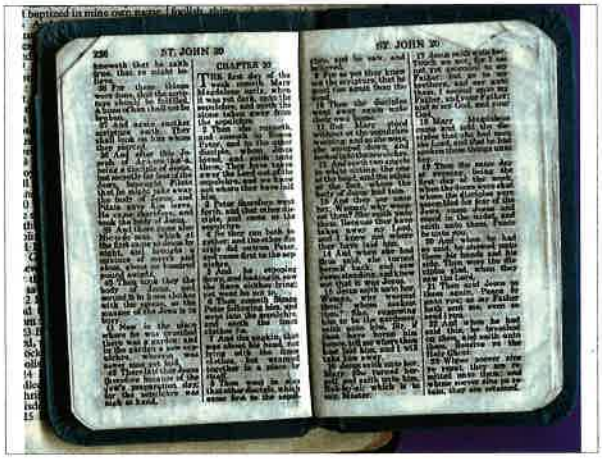
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Let The Buyer Beware

Perhaps the above appears a little strange to some. After all, this is a Christ-oriented paper, is it not? Then, what are you writing about, J D?

Well, a few years ago I wrote an article concerning the various translations of God's Word in which I pointed out the difficulties which we incur when insisting on the exclusive use of the "Authorized Translation", commonly referred to as the "King James Version".



I pointed out that the old "Elizabethan" English in which the King James Version is written is, in some passages, difficult of understanding and, in a few instances, misleading. However, I believe further clarification is in order.

It is not necessarily true that these difficulties are the result of mis-translation. Most commonly, they are the result of the evolution of the English language. Our language is an accumulation of several languages and is constantly in a state of flux. An expression used one way today is next week, month, year, used in a different way. Not only is it USED differently, but in a short space of time BECOMES accepted as the "norm".

Not a wonder, then, after 400+ years we encounter difficulties. This is all true, but let us put this on the back burner for the time being, and get to the "rest of the story".

Beware

In my years of gainful employment, I was a retailer, manager, salesman etc. One thing we were taught, and which I learned early on, was the meaning of the Latin expression, "Caveat emptor", which, of course, means "Let the buyer beware".

Now I was dealing in tangible goods and services. It was imperative that I, as a buyer of merchandise, should be critical in my appraisal.

I soon learned that I must ignore the sellers' "pitches" and make an honest, objective evaluation of the goods at hand, and act accordingly. Was it truly good, or did it merely look good? In short, (in the language of the carpenter: "measure twice, cut once") be careful what you buy!

One final observation: If one does not see the importance of this, a visit to the local used-car lot and a conversation with the salesman will clearly illustrate my point. "Let the buyer beware!!"

Sometimes in our zeal to learn more of God's Word, we insist on the use of a more "modern" text of the Bible (there are literally hundreds). We read a "revised" text that sounds good, so we push the King James off the desk and let it accumulate dust and use the "better" text. But first, "let the buyer beware!!" If we are to abandon an "old friend", we first seek out a better friend.

The African people have a saying, "My son, if you sell your birthright, make sure you receive something of value in return." AMEN!!

It seems everyone has his or her favorite translation. Which is the "right one"? The Revised Standard (American or English), The Living Bible, Today's English Version, New International, New English Bible, Jerusalem Bible (Catholic)?

The above are examples of scholarly works by panels of renowned scholars, thoroughly capable of doing a credible job. The point is, DO THEY?

Notable among others are Goodspeed's, William's, Moffat's, Wilson's Diaglott, Phillip's and Beck. These "one-man" translations have some virtues to recommend them. Are they worthy of use? Safe? "Let the buyer beware!!"

One thing I have learned over the years is that there is no PERFECT translation. By definition, they are the works of men who, in spite of good intentions, are fallible, who can, and do, make mistakes.

More importantly (especially in the case of "one-man" translations), there is a tendency to write one's own bias into his text. "Let the buyer beware!!"

Some Irregularities

Genesis 6:2

[K.J.V.] "...the sons of God saw the daughters of men..."

[New Eng.] "...the sons of the gods saw ... the daughters of men..."

Which would you choose as correct? A brief examination of the original would reveal the Hebrew "Elohiym" to mean "the Supreme God". It is singular in number and cannot refer to anything (or anyone) other than the God of the Bible.

Why, then, would these translators render such a glaring error? It totally escapes me; especially, when the same "Elohiym" is rendered "God" only seven verses later! (Gen. 6:9). What made the difference?

If one were to be consistent with such a translation of Gen. 6:2, he would be forced to read verse 9 as, "...he walked with the gods..." I for one will not accept this; it is "prima facie", false! Again, "Let the buyer beware!!"

In this case the K.J.V. is more reliable than the "New English Bible".

Acts 20:7

To illustrate my point, note the above scripture. Herein is set forth in clear detail the will of the Holy Spirit in the work and worship of the primitive church of Christ which is our example.

[K.J.V.] "...upon the first day of the week..."

[Phillips] "...on the Saturday..."

[Today's Eng. Vers.] "...on Saturday evening..."

[New Eng. Bible] "...on the Saturday night..."

Of the eleven translations I have before me, three render the day upon which the disciples met as "Saturday". Eight (and many more) render it as the "first day"

Further, Thayer (pg. 187) says the "first day of the week". Vine says (pg. 240) concerning Mark 13:9 (a parallel passage), "the first (day) of [i.e. after] the Sabbath, in which phrase the 'of' is objective, not including the Sabbath, but following it."

Note further, Vine on Mark 16:9, "Early...at dawn, by impl. The day-break watch; early (in the morning)." This was the first day, Sunday, not Saturday! I use this to determine that the day was the first day and that that day began early, at dawn.

Why, then, do these three translations read as they do? It is beyond me, but it is obvious that one could be misled if guided by either of these alone. Again, "Let the buyer beware!!"

Remainder

The second half of Acts 20:7 reads as follows:

[K.J.V.] "...when the disciples came together to break bread..."

[Beck] "...on Sunday, when we met for a meal..."

Many, today, diminish the importance of communion on the first day of the week. Some contend that this occasion was merely a meal such as dinner, etc. with no special significance. However, Luke, the writer of Acts, indicates this was the reason they came together.

Paul preached to the congregation on this occasion (a very lengthy sermon). In I Cor. 11:22, he instructs the church at Corinth that we have houses to eat and drink in. The disciples did not need to "assemble" to eat breakfast!

We are told (Acts 2:42) "...they continued stedfastly in the Apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and in prayers." These were acts of worship, not everyday mundane affairs. "Praising God and having favor with all the people" (Acts 2:47) indicates these things were public occurrences seen by "all the people"; in short, public worship.

Just so, in Acts 20:7. This was no ordinary meal, it was why they came together. It was communion!!

Why did Beck so translate this verse? I have no insight in this matter. I know it leads one to a wrong conclusion. The K.J.V. is correct! Beck is wrong! "Let the buyer beware!!"

I have cited these (mis)translations to illustrate a point. We should be careful when we attempt to compel others to use a specific translation, or to abandon a specific one. There is some good to be found in most translations, whether modern or archaic. There are also some errors to be avoided. What, then, can we do in view of these problems?

Compare, Compare, Compare

Comparing many translations on any verse is a good help always. A good help in my studies is the Eight Translation New Testament by Tyndale House Publishers. This can be purchased in many Bible Bookstores.

Also, many good reference lexicons are available which are very readable. Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words is a very easily understood reference work, arranged in dictionary form.

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance is very useful. It includes many features, including a Hebrew and Greek dictionary written in English, and referenced with a numerical system that is easily learned.

Omissions

Several of the "modern" translations show the scholar's disrespect for the revealed Word of God.

A comparison of several translations will reveal complete omissions of various verses. Sometimes, the editor will footnote these omissions, explaining that this or that verse does not belong in the text or that it was the addition of some scribe or editor.

I wish someone would explain to me how someone sitting alone some 2000 years afterward can determine that one verse is correct and another is false and must be omitted. It seems to me to be the height of arrogance to become a judge of God's Word. I pray to be delivered from such arrogance! "Let the buyer beware!!"

Computers

Many helful Bible computer programs are available. Comparitive translations are available and are good.

One thing to remember, however, is that the "commentaries" so much in evidence on computer software are no more than the opinions of the authors. They may contain helpful comments, or they may reflect the bias of the commentator. Again, I say, "Let the buyer beware!!"



Summary

We might summarize by saying that we would be well advised to utilize every tool available in our studies of the Scriptures. But, use them with caution!! Before we cast off any work of scholarship for whatever reason, we should be doubly certain that which we accept in its stead is a better one. "Let the buyer beware!!"

For a better understanding of the truth,

J D Logan
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The Presence of the Lord God

The Historical Presence of God

After Adam and Eve sinned by eating of the forbidden fruit, they hid from God. Gen. 3:8-9. "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?"

God had created man to be with him. He created and blessed man, Gen. 1:28, placed him in the garden of Eden, Gen. 2:8, brought animals to Adam for Adam to name them, Gen. 2:19-20, and made woman for him, Gen. 2:21-24. We can see from these verses that what God wanted was a close and special relationship with man. He wanted to walk with them, talk with them, and be Present in their lives day by day.

But they lost that beautiful garden because of their sin. Gen.3:23. "Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken." The sentence of death was passed on mankind at that time. I Cor. 15:21-22. "For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive."

When Cain killed Abel, his punishment was to leave the presence of God. Gen. 4:14. "Behold, thou hast driven me out this day from the face of the earth; and from thy face shall I be hid; and I shall be a fugitive and a vagabond in the earth; and it shall come to pass, that every one that findeth me shall slay me." Verse 16. "And Cain went out from the presence of the Lord, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden." Sin separates man from God. Isa. 59:1-2. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear." Rom. 6:23. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Yet, throughout history, God maintained contact with His people in various ways. Heb. 1:1. "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,". He spoke directly to Noah, Gen 6:13-21; He answered Job out of a whirlwind, Job 38:1; He called unto Moses out of the burning bush, Ex. 3:4; He was a still, small voice to Elijah, I Kings 19:9-13. And in other ways He spoke to other prophets, as well.

The Forgiving Presence of God

Matt. 1:21-23. "And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us."

John 3:16-17. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." This was to be done through His death. Verse 14. "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up:".

He died to forgive us our sins. I Pet. 2:24, speaking of Jesus, says. "Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we,

being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

He forgave our sins so that we could once again have that close relationship with God. The next verse, I Pet. 2:25, says. "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." I Pet. 3:18. "For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:".

We receive the gift of His sacrifice by grace through faith, Eph. 2:8-9, in baptism, Eph. 2:5, Col. 2:12. In baptism is where we as individuals partake of His death, burial and resurrection, Rom. 6:3-6, Col. 2:12. So our sins are then washed away, Acts 22:16, and we are again the children of God through Christ, Gal. 3:26-27.

The Worshipped Presence of God

Jesus said in Matt. 18:20. "For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Psa. 22:3, speaking of God, says. "But thou art holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Rev. 5:8. "And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints." Christ is with us when we worship God. God dwells in our praises. Our prayers are presented as a beautiful fragrance to God. The presence of the Lord God is with us when we worship Him.

The Abiding Presence of God

Having been forgiven of our sins we can now have the presence of the Lord God abiding in our lives day by day.

God dwells within our hearts. Eph. 2:22. "In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." I John 3:24. "And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us."

Jesus Christ dwells within us. Eph. 3:17. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,". Jesus said in John 15:9-10. "As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love."

The Holy Spirit dwells within us. I Cor. 3:16. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" Rom. 8:16. "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:". Rom. 5:5. "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

So we have the presence of God in our hearts every day, every hour. We can talk to Him in prayer any time we want. Do so often. Col. 4:2. "Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving." And we can listen to what God has to say by reading His word often. II Tim. 3:16-17. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."

A favorite verse about the abiding presence of God is found in II Cor. 13:14. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen."

The Eternal Presence of the Lord God

Notice the pictures of abiding with God (and Jesus) forever in Matt. 25. First, verse 23. "His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." And verse 34. "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:".

It's important, of course to read the whole stories, to see what we are to be faithully doing. But what we are showing here is that if we are faithful we will live with God forever in Heaven. Jesus told the church in Smyrna (and the same promise applies to us today), Rev. 2:10. "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

In Rev. 3:21, Jesus says. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

In Rev. 21:7, God says. "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

Rev. 22:3-5. "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever."

In Jesus Name,
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Precious Memories

It Is Written, November, 1951. Bro. Coy Garrison, Grand Prairie, TX, wrote that it had been a year that he worked in this town to establish a congregation. He announced they had 10 adults plus children now attending services. Bro. Willie Farrar, Carter, OK, mentioned that Bro. Lloyd Treat visited recently and preached for them.

It Is Written, December, 1951. Bro. Spurlin, Reydon, OK, wrote that they had four recent baptisms. Bro. Curtis Forbis, San Pablo, CA, indicated that they moved their meeting place from Point Richmond to North 17th Street. And invited all to meet with them.

Gospel News Courier, November, 1961. The La Habra, CA, congregation announced a

meeting in November with bro. Tom Broadway. The Elk City, OK, congregation presented an obituary notice for Sis. Mary Lou Musgrave, who passed away on September 26th. Bro. W. A. Nelson, Somerton, AZ, announced Bro. & Sis. Harold Smith had a new son, Timothy Allen, on October 2nd. Bro. F. H. Logan, Modesto, CA, reported they had a new family meeting with them – Bro. & Sis. F. L. Taylor. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, Delta, CO, announced the baptisms of Ted & Alice Drysdale who also had a new son, Kevin Scott, born on September 2nd. Bro. Paul Auslam, Hindsville, AR, was happy to announce that Bro. James Vanderpool & family moved there from Kansas. Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, wrote that one was baptized recently. Bro. Tom Broadway, Lakewood, CA, announced a meeting with Bro. Harry Dye.

The Christian Courier, December, 1971. Bro. Curtis McCluskey, Grass Valley, CA, announced the passing of Bro. Lawrence Starnes who fell asleep on October 26th. Bro. John Shepherd wrote of their meeting with Bro. Lloyd Treat. Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, thanked those who were in attendance at their meeting with Bro. Tom Broadway. The Springfield, OR, congregation listed several recent visitors. Bro. Lloyd Treat announced that he would be holding a meeting at Phoenix, AZ, and also one in the State of Washington. He also announced Bro. Harry Dye would hold their meeting in June of 1972. Bro. Hayse Morris wrote of his recent travels to several congregations in several states. The San Pablo, CA, congregation listed several recent visitors.

The Christian Courier, November, 1981. Bro. Donald Dabbs, Humble, TX, reported on their meeting with Bro. Bob Eldridge. Bro. Robert Morris, Yuma, AZ, listed several who were sick or ailing. Bro. Tom Broadway, Grants Pass, OR, listed some recent visitors. Bro. Jerry Perigen, Bellflower, CA, listed recent visitors and those who had health problems.

The Christian Courier, November, 1991. Bro. Howard McCay, Sea-Tac, WA, wrote of his recent travels to other congregations. Bro. Harry Davis, Yuma, AZ, announced they would have guest speakers for their Easter week meeting. Bro. Mike Geho, Ipswich, England, wrote that they were following a rumor there were some others in that area with which they could worship. Bro. Don Lewis, Duncan, OK, wrote about their meeting with Bro. Jim Brown. Bro. Mark Perigen, Bellflower, CA, announced that Sis. Tayna Brockman was due to have her baby within the month and that Sis. Natalie Brockman was due to have hers in February.

The Christian Courier, December, 1991. Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen AR, reported on their meeting with Bro. Brian Ross. Bro. Harry Davis, Yuma, AZ, wrote about Sis. Mary Long, who recently passed away. Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, wrote of his recent travels to several congregations. The San Pablo, CA, congregation wrote of some recent visitors and of J D Logan's recent back surgery. Bro. Mark Perigen, Bellflower, CA, listed several recent visitors. Sis. Verda Nelson submitted a memory of Bro. John Shepherd of Payson, AZ, who passed away on November 12th.



Cards and Letters

Cedaredge, CO

My beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We at the Cedaredge Church of Christ have been richly blessed by visitors from different congregations, and health wise.

Also, my grand-daughter, Samantha Schell, was baptized 9-16-2001. It was a very happy day for me, Corinne, and Tony & Jamie Schell. To see a young girl make a decision to serve Jesus Christ instead of the pleasures of this life.

The Church at Cedaredge lost about 900.00 this year at the camp meeting. This is because of low donations, and rising costs. If any brethren want a copy of our donations and expenses please call or write me.

We have planned our next year's meeting June 30th to July 7th, 2002. I hope each and everyone of you will make plans to attend.

Love to all,
Jim Bryant
PO Box 464
Cedaredge, CO 81413
1-970-856-4916

Harlingen, TX

Dear brethren,

Received greetings in the name of the Lord.

Thank you in the name of the Lord for the valuable help that you send to sustain the expenses in the work of preaching in Mexico and Central America. Your help is very important and the Lord will bless you for this effort of helping to carry the gospel to people in different countries.

I inform you of the work done during June and July in the south part of Mexico, Guatemala and



El Salvador. During June I traveled to the south of Mexico to the states or Yucatan, Campeche, Tabasco. I worked with the faithful churches of Merida and Dzununcan (Yucatan) to confirm them in the truth, and to teach them more of the scriptures. These two churches every day keep





getting stronger and stronger in the truth and the doctrine sound. I also studied with religious groups of people that called themselves Presbyterians, and there were a lot of new doors opened so that the brothers in this area continue doing the work of teaching to these people.



In the cities of Campeche and Villahermosa, Tabasco I worked several days with two faithful churches to teach the scriptures. (These churches are very new). The brothers are very happy making the work of evangelization, and several new people visit the church services regularly.

During the month of July I traveled to Guatemala and El Salvador. I worked between the faithful churches of the area of Guatemala state. I also worked the area of Quetzaltenango State and San Marcos State area. In total I worked between 12 faithful churches in these areas. I also worked with faithful brothers in the zone of Quiche, (these brothers are Mayan Indians and speak their own dialect), in the high



mountains of Guatemala. These brothers are very poor, and they are building a place where they can gather for church services. They need to do the floor, put windows and doors in before the winter (October) and request the help of 1,000.00. If there are any brethren that could



help out this church in their need, please let me know.



In all the areas of Guatemala, I studied with different groups of religious people, and taught them the doctrinal truths of the apostolic teachings. A lot of people were convinced of the truth and I have the hope that very soon these people will obey the truth so they could be established in new faithful congregations. I continue sending studies of the scriptures so they continue learning, and also the evangelists in those areas continue doing this work. I also studied with some brothers and liberal leaders (in different cities) and there is hope that some of them will obey the truth of the scriptures.



Later, I traveled to the Salvador (Sonsonate and San Miguel). These two churches continue truth and are stronger every day in the truth of the doctrine sound. In these places there are still several brothers that have work problems. They are in need of food and a place to live after the past January earthquake. I hope we can help these faithful churches in their need. (If you need information about these brothers and their



families, please let me know.)

During this trip the Lord helped me to encourage and teach to many faithful churches, to carry the truth to other people, to baptize several people, and to establish two new churches. (Mexico and Guatemala). Also to

teach more to the evangelists of these areas so they can continue this work.



I also had some health problems, and I was sometimes mistreated by some liberal brothers that do not want to know the truth. I also had car problems. But none of this matters when the Lord allows me to teach the truth.

When I arrived to Harlingen I found a lot of letters from the churches of Central and Northern part of Mexico inviting me to visit them. I am already making plans for the following months to visit these churches in different parts of Mexico.

Again, thank you for your valuable help and your participation with me in the work of the Lord. All this work would not be possible to make it without your help.

I am sending some photos from Guatemala and Mexico.

Your brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez and family

Harlingen, TX

Dear Brethren,

I hope that on receiving this letter you are enjoying all the rich blessings of God. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with you.

Many thanks for your participation with us in this work of the Lord.

I inform that in August and September we have had much work between the churches in Mexico because in some congregations there are many problems by cause of some carnal Brothers that still want to continue with practices (cups in the supper of the Lord, woman teaching) and by cause of these, the faithful brothers have discussions and some problems in the churches.

Also in some churches some brothers that before were pentecosts still want to practice mores and some doctrines as impositions: such as hands duty, feet lavatory, veil, etc., and by that cause it is necessary to continue working between them continually to teach each doctrinal point. Those which cause problems are few brothers, but constantly cause preoccupation and problems to the faithful. (Also in the primitive church always there was this class of unfaithful or untruthful brothers that were opposing the truth, and it was necessary to fight to defend and teach the truth.)

In all the churches in Mexico and Central America the brothers are faithful to the truth, but they need encouragement when they are presented with these problems. During this August and September time that I have worked with them again the churches are in peace and firm in the Faith.

During this time I worked between the churches in Victoria City, (this church has 4 months of establishment). Also I worked between two Green River churches and two churches in the Huasteca. Between these churches we had five baptisms and the work of the Lord each day grows more. Also I comment that the churches in Matamoros and Jaritas continue firm in the truth. In the city of Matamoros already we have the area to build the meeting premises, and we are praying to the Lord that maybe next year we could construct a small local building for the meetings of the church. After my trip to Guatemala, I have had some problems in my health. At this time I have some problems in my eyes. The medical specialist thinks that possibly it will be a problem with a virus and also cataracts. For that reason on Saturday September 29, I need to travel to the city of Monterey to consult with other specialists (Ophthalmology – Immunology). I request to you to pray for this problem.

During these days I have received several letters of the churches in Mexico City, Oaxaca, Campeche, Yucatan inviting me to go visit to study more scriptures with them, and also they say that there are new persons that they are teaching scriptures to.

Of Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador also the brothers write requesting more written studies and booklets (tracts – pamphlets) to make the work of evangelization.

I am requesting to the Lord to permit me to go to work during these following months to these places in Mexico for to help in the growth of the churches. Also, from now on I am making plans to work during January in the area south of Mexico, and during February in Guatemala and Honduras. I request to pray for the churches in all these places.

Your brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez and family

(I urge you to write to me. I want to know about the congregations.)

Randlett Oklahoma

Greetings from Oklahoma. I am writing on behalf of the Randlett Oklahoma congregation.

We are all saddened to report the death of Brother Sam Elliott on December 3 of 2001 at the age of 79 years. He was a member of the church for several years. As many of you may know, Sam has had many health problems the last couple of years. He had became very weak the last few months, and was not able to attend services as often as he would have liked. He did come to services when he felt strong enough and also visited in our homes on a few special occasions. He will be greatly missed by many people. Please keep his family and the Randlett congregation in your prayers to assist us all through this time of sorrow.

We do have some very joyous news. On Sunday October 7th Brother Ron Elliott was baptized and on the following Sunday October 14th Sister Linda Northrip was baptized. We rejoice with these wonderful additions to God's family.

Brother Leroy Mullens experienced some infection caused by an ulcer and is doing better, but is still on medication. Sister Darlene Mullens

had a problem with an abscessed tooth that caused a lot of swelling in her jaw, but had the tooth pulled and is fine now. The health of everyone else has been good.

I recently took a trip to Arizona and while there, was able to attend worship services at the Citrus City congregation on November 18. It was wonderful to meet these fine Christians for my first time. I want to thank them for their warm welcome.

Remember us in your prayers. If anyone plans to travel to north Texas or southwestern Oklahoma, we would be pleased to have visitors in our homes and worship services.

In Christian Love,
Andy Barnes
Phone: 580-439-5956

Yuma, AZ

Hello brothers and sisters in Christ. We have made plans for our 2002 Gospel meeting in Yuma, Arizona. The dates of the meeting are set to begin Sunday March 24th and end on Sunday March 31. We had a wonderful turn out last year and were blessed by so many wonderful nights gathered together in the name of God. The lessons that we received were so uplifting and divine, God was truly with us through out the meeting. The many hours that we spent fellowshipping, singing and of course eating the food prepared by our Christian ladies was all so very wonderful. We always find the true meaning of love for our brothers and sisters during these times.

Our meeting this year is open to everyone, as God's doors are always open to all. We will have guest speakers again this year. We feel that the Word of God is the same from everyone but it is good to hear from the different perspectives of the many different teachers. There are 6 to 8 trailer spaces that are available for those that have trailers and are planning to bring them. We can accomodate a few more hookups as well. Other types of arrangements can be made. So come if you can come and bring along a friend, someone that may be looking to reach for God and I'm sure with the caliber of teaching that they can hear that the results can only be good. The weather is usually beautiful during that time of year.

We do have a few people that are ill or suffering that we would appreciate prayers for. Sister Betty and Brother Carl Carlson, Sister Ruth Duncan, Sister Alice Davis, Sister Bonnie Schmidt, I hope that I haven't missed any.

With the Christian love of God and His blessings.

Dennis W. Davis
The Yuma Congregation

Yuma, AZ

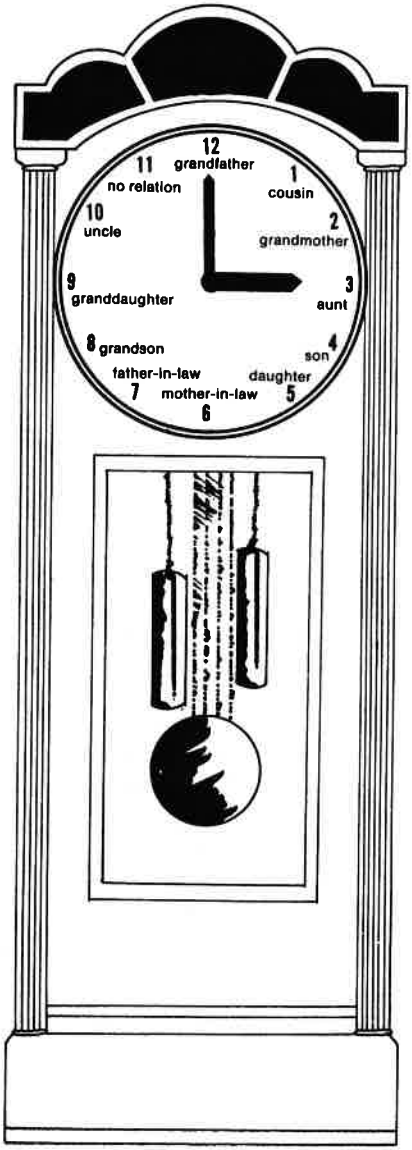
Thanks so very much for all your work and efforts in publishing and sending out the newsletter. We all look forward to it each month, especially to hear from the congregations. It is a strength for us all. Thanks again, and may God bless.

Bro. Harry Davis

THE GRANDFATHER CLOCK

In the blanks below, put the number from the clock that is next to the right answer for that question.

1. Mary was Elisabeth's _____? (Luke 1:34-36)
2. Laban was Jacob's _____? (Genesis 29:10)
3. Samson was Manoah's _____? (Judges 13:22-24)
4. Naomi was Orpah's _____? (Ruth 1:3-4, 14)
5. Levi was Alphaeus' _____? (Mark 2:14)
6. Timothy (Timotheus) was Paul's _____? (Acts 16:1)
7. Jethro was Moses' _____? (Exodus 3:1)
8. Abraham was Esau's _____? (Genesis 21:3, 25:21-26)
9. Michal was Saul's _____? (I Samuel 25:44)
10. Ner was Saul's _____? (I Samuel 14:50)
11. Hannah was Joel's _____? (I Samuel 1:20, 8:1-2)
12. Gedaliah was Zephaniah's _____? (Zephaniah 1:1)
13. Dinah was Rebekah's _____? (Genesis 27:6, Genesis 34:1)
14. Miriam was Gershom's _____? (Numbers 26:59, Exodus 2:21-22)



Bulletin Board

Meetings

March 24 - 3, 2002	Yuma, AZ	Guest speakers
June 30 -July 7, 2002	Delta Camp Meeting	Guest speakers
July 13-21, 2002	Broken Bow, OK	Guest speakers

Baptisms

Samantha Schell	Cedaredge, CO	September 16, 2001
Rachel Altmiller	Newcastle, TX	September 23, 2001
Ron Elliott	Randlett, OK	October 7, 2001
Linda Northrip	Randlett, OK	October 14, 2001

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition & diabetes
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Leroy Mullens	Randlett, OK	Infection
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	R.S.D. Syndome
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Ill
Carl Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Ill
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Ill
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Ill
Bonnie Schmidt	Yuma, AZ	Ill

Passings

Sam Elliott	Randlett, OK	December 3, 2001