

The Christian Courier

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The Apostles' Doctrine and Fellowship
Article 4 of 4: If We Don't Follow It

This is our fourth and final article on the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.

In the first, we considered why it was important to follow their doctrine and fellowship. We found that they were chosen by God to be witnesses of Jesus Christ, to establish His church, and to deliver God's Word to mankind. We thus need to follow their doctrine in order to follow God's Word, and partake in Christ's church.

In the second we asked how to continue in their doctrine and fellowship. We found that we continue in their doctrine by following the word they gave, by not being ashamed of it, and by not neglecting it. We need to continue in it stedfastly. We found we continue in their fellowship by continuing in their doctrine.

In the third we looked at some of what their doctrine consists of. We saw that they taught that there is only one God, the creator and ruler of the world. They preached the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus as a foundational cornerstone. God saves us from our sins by Christ's death, burial and resurrection' which is applied to individuals through baptism when combined with hearing the word, faith, repentance, and confession. God blesses us abundantly with both physical and spiritual blessings. The apostles showed us how to live our daily lives; in such things as praise, good works, prayer, keeping unspotted from the world, and love. They taught that worship of God in spirit and in truth consists of singing, prayer, preaching, communion and giving on the first day of the week. They told us that we would have an eternal reward in Heaven when Christ returns.

In this final article we wish to consider the important question of what happens if don't follow the apostles' doctrine and fellowship.

What if we go our own way, or follow some other man? Aren't we all headed for the same place, just on different roads?

The answer to these questions is tragic. Remember that the apostles received their words from Jesus, Acts 1:1-3, and the Holy Spirit, John 14:26. Jesus received the word from God, Heb. 1:1-2. The apostles were thus given authority that neither you nor I nor anyone since was given. The truth is that if we don't follow the apostles we are judged by the Word of God to be false teachers and grievous wolves.

Let's look to Acts 20:28-32. Here, Paul has called the elders of the Ephesian congregation to him. He has told them this would be the last time he would see them. And in verses 28-32 he tells them to feed their flock, warns them against false teachers, and shows them how to overcome false teachers.

"*Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood. For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*"

Why did they need to feed the flock? Because Paul knew grievous wolves would enter and destroy the flock. Who were the grievous wolves? False teachers who would speak perverse things to draw away disciples. What did they need to do to overcome? Watch, remember the words of the Apostle Paul, trust in God, and cling to the word of God's grace, which is what the apostles delivered.

If we stray from the apostles' doctrine and fellowship we are false teachers.

Jesus also compared false teachers to wolves. Matt. 7:15-20. "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.*"

How do we know whether our works are good or bad? If we are true teachers or false? Let's read on, Matt. 7:21-23. "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*" Those that do God's will are true teachers. Those who work iniquity are false teachers.

But notice how those who worked iniquity thought they were doing wonderful works. How dangerous it is to follow our own thoughts! How can we tell if the things we do are the will of God or iniquity? Jesus answers this, continuing on, Matt. 7:24-25. "*Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth **them**, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.*" If we follow Christ's words we are doing God's will. It is as simple as that.

If we don't we are false teachers, finishing the thought in Matt. 7:26-27. "*And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.*"

John 8:32 is a very familiar verse. "*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" Note that word "*And*" at the beginning of the verse. That indicates that there is something important preceding that thought. What proceeds that thought is how we can know the truth. Let's read verses 31 and 32 together. "*Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*"

And Christ's words are what the apostles delivered unto us, I Cor. 14:37. "*If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.*"

The apostle John instructs us to test what we are taught, to make sure it is truth. In I John 4:1-6 he gives us two tests to use. First, do those teaching us confess Jesus Christ, and second, do they follow the apostles' teachings? "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We* (the apostles - see the first few verses of I John 1) *are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*"

In I Cor. 11:18-19 the apostle Paul warns that divisions come from false teachers. "*For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it. For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.*"

How are we supposed to respond to false teachers? II John 7-11. "*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.*"

We in the churches of Christ did not invent denominationalism. We did not cause the divisions that separate us from other churches. Embracing false doctrine or false teachers is not the solution to the problem. In standing firm on the apostles' doctrine we are simply trying to protect our flock and promote God's Word as delivered unto the world.

I Tim. 4:16. "*Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.*"

What doctrine do we continue in? Acts 2:42. "*And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*"

We offer you this series of articles in the name of Jesus Christ.

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
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"The Queen Of The South"

"The queen of the south shall rise up in judgment with the men of this generation, and condemn them: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here." (Luke 11:31).

This is, indeed an enigmatic passage. Our Lord calls an entire generation in question and pronounces condemnation on them by calling to mind an incident that happened long before. Jesus did not identify who this queen was, other than "the queen of the south". He left clues as to her identity. She traveled a long distance to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

The Lord had blessed Solomon with a magnificent kingdom at this time. His fame went throughout the habitations of men. His power was such that the kings of other lands paid homage to him. (1 Kings 4: 29-34).

It was during the glorious time of this magnificent kingdom that we read of this "queen of the south". "...*when the Queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to prove him with hard questions.*" (1 Kings 10:1). We are not told in the scriptures exactly who this woman was, or the location of her country, merely that she was known as the "queen of the south". Just who was she, and why was she important enough to receive mention in the book of the Israelite Kings?

There are various theories. There is a great guessing game as to her true identity, and the claims suggested depend on the racial/national identities of the guessers. Is there no positive authority on which we can depend? Let us look.

Arab Claims

It is claimed by Arabian sources that she was queen of an ancient district in southern Arabia called "Saba", the home of "...*Sabeans from the wilderness* (desert), *which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.*" (Ezek 23: 42). The modern-day Yemenites of southern Arabia claim their queen was the "queen of the south". This claim is buttressed by the Moslem Koran (Sura 27).

This claim is based solely on the similarity of the names "Sheba" and "Saba". However, there is no connection between the two words according to etymologists. This claim is very weak and based wholly on traditional lore and must be discounted.

Ethiopian Claims

Ethiopia also claims the "queen of the south" for their own. This claim is almost wholly based on traditional lore. The kings of Ethiopia claim descent from Menelik, who, they claim, was a son born of a liaison between Solomon and Sheba. There is absolutely nothing in scripture to substantiate this claim. However, the

Ethiopians do come much closer to the geographical location than the Arabians.

The Best Evidence Available

Although the scriptures to not reveal who this "queen of the south" was, we do have a good source that can help us. Born of a priestly Jewish family, and highly educated, Joseph Ben Matthias was privy to all the accumulated extra-biblical history of the Jewish nation. He was born A D 37 and died A D 100, and is essentially the only accurate historian of the first Christian century. Of course, we know him by his Roman name of Flavius Josephus. His works include "Antiquities of the Jews" (Jewish History), and the "Jewish Wars". This was, of course, the account of the Jewish rebellion against Rome that resulted in the destruction of the Jewish Nation and the exile of so many Jews throughout many nations.

Josephus gives us a good account of the journey of the "queen of the south" to Jerusalem and of subsequent happenings. "Now the woman who at that time ruled as queen of Egypt and Ethiopia was thoroughly trained in wisdom and remarkable in other ways, and, when she heard of Solomon's virtue and understanding, was led to him by a strong desire to see him which arose from the things told daily about his country." (Jewish Antiquities, 8:165).

This is quite plain, although the queen is not named. The many references to this famous visit by the historian make it clear that he is referring to the same expedition as that of 1 Kings 9-10.

I will not enter into a discussion of the many proofs, archaeologically and historically that substantially prove this historical fact. They are too many to recount. I will refer to two references that will help us all. We need to know that there was only one queen that openly ruled Egypt throughout her history. Egyptian rulers were men and were depicted as men. However, the record is clear, Egypt was ruled by a queen by herself on the throne of the Pharaohs. Her name was Hatshepsut (She was depicted pictorially as having a beard, but was clearly a woman).

Upon her return from her visit, Queen Hatshepsut built a magnificent temple at Deir el Bahari near Thebes. It was called the "Most splendid of Splendors". It was covered with stone carvings depicting her journey. It tells of her journey to the land of "Punt, the Holy Land". (Divine, God's Land). It spoke of the wondrous things she saw: terraces of magnificent trees of many kinds, animals (apes, large cats), trees that were indigenous to the southern Arabian coast, etc. Besides these trees, which she brought back to Egypt with her, she brought back ivory, ebony, gold, silver, and precious stones — an exceedingly heavy load.

In addition to these gifts brought back from "Punt, God's Land", she built the magnificent temple on which all these things were recorded. This temple was built in such a manner that suggests she built it on the pattern of Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem, complete with terraces that we read of in 2 Chron 9:10-11.

There is a multitude of other proofs, historical and archeological, to substantiate this identity of the "Queen of the south", but too numerous to mention here. One question is asked more often than most others, "Why was she called, queen of the south?" Egypt lies west of Palestine. The answer is found in the history of Egypt itself. Egypt proper lies north of the point now occupied by Aswan. South of this is Sudan, and then Ethiopia. Historically, there were extensive periods when there were "two Egypt's", North and South. There were even periods when the pharaohs of Egypt were not of pure Egyptian lineage, but were known as "Nubians". This was a large area south of the falls of the Nile which

included roughly the present Sudan and the Abyssinian highlands. This was the "South". The titles of the pharaohs were "of the north and of the south". This was the source of the title, "queen of the south". (For those who wish to find many other proofs that this is so, I refer you to the book, "Ages in Chaos", by Emanuel Velikoski, Chapter 3, "Queen of Sheba").

This remarkable woman, ruler over an ancient and powerful kingdom (Egypt), visited another great kingdom (Israel), and all evidence points to the fact she considered this kingdom the equal of her own, and the ruler (Solomon) equal to (and in some cases superior to) herself. (1 Kings 10:4-9).

The Lord's reference to this account in the annals of the First Book of the Kings of Israel should inspire all who read it to look with increased reverence on the written word of God as the true account of these things, and never permit the skeptics of this world and the great "professors" of worldly wisdom to cast doubt in our minds that these things were and are true.

Our Lord placed importance on this incident to illustrate the consequences of unbelief in His Word. We would all do well to do the same.

Your brother in Christ,

J D Logan.

Precious Memories

***It Is Written*, February, 1956.** Bro. J. D. Johnson, Chula Vista, CA, wrote that they were meeting in a community center building and invited others to worship with them.

***It Is Written*, March, 1956.** Sis. McCluskey, Sacramento, CA, announced that they had outgrown their meeting in Bro. Herman Brown's residence, that they had found another place which would accommodate them with some work. Bro. Steve Laney, Bohannan Mt., AR, announced the baptism of their son Ulysses. Bro. J. W. Bedingfield, Magdalena, NM, reported on his meeting at Yuma, AZ. Bro. W. H. Francis, Mangum, OK, wrote of the passing of Bro. L. A. DeGarmo. Bro. Link, Carlsbad, NM, reported on his meeting at Modesto, CA. Subsequent to this meeting, Marshall Spence was baptized on Feb. 28th.

***The Christian Courier*, February, 1976.** Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, announced a meeting in June with Bro. Atchley. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on his meeting at Glendale, AZ; wrote about the passing of Bro. Heino Stolnake; and announced the baptisms of Diane and Richard Burgess and Larry Fulkerson on January 16, 1976. Note from Chico, CA: Bro. Larry Brockman and Bro. Vernon Bentz were involved in a serious car accident while visiting in Canada. Bro. Larry was critically injured, but improving. Additional news: Donna Taylor of Fort Cobb, OK, was baptized on November 23, 1975.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1976.** Bro. Charlie Burt, Knox City, TX, reported on a new congregation at Randlett, OK. Bro. Mike McCay, Yakima, WA, invited all that can make it to their meeting in April with Bro. Sammy Boen. Bro. Ken Baldwin, Cedaredge, CO, provided a list of rules for their summer Delta Camp Meeting.

***The Christian Courier*, February, 1986.** Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, wrote of the passing of Brother Hayes Morris. Bro. Paul Andrews, Hindsville, AR, announced two summer meetings: One in June with Bro. J. W.

Bedingfield and one in July with Bro. Al Way. The Humble, TX, congregation announced the baptism of Herman Taylor. Bro. Bill McCay, Yakima, WA, announced a meeting in August with Bro. Roger Walkingstick. Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, invited others to attend their meeting in June with Bro. Al Way. Additional news: Dan Kirk of San Pablo, CA, was baptized on January 12th.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1986.** Bro. Gerald Brockman, Chico, CA, thanked all for their prayers for his mother Wanda who underwent recent surgery. Bro. Robert McCay, Glenwood, WA, announced their meeting in July with Bro. Rex Mickey. Bro. Harry Wegley, Medford, OR, wanted all to know that they have moved their church services from Grants Pass, OR, to Medford. Sis. Verle Baldwin encouraged all to attend the Delta Camp Meeting. Bro. John McKinney, Selah, WA, reported on the loss of Bro. Clarence Sage who passed away on January 27th; announced the baptism of Michael Geho; and announced the engagement of his daughter, Sis. Felicia, to Bro. Michael Geho. Wedding plans were set for June 21st. Bro. James Brown, Baron, OK, invited all to attend their meeting in June with Bro. Al Way. Bro. Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, reported on the passing of Bro. Claud Perigen, on February 22nd. Additional news: Bro. Bill Nelson, Yuma, AZ, passed away on February 1st.

***The Christian Courier*, March, 1996.** Sis. Doris Jared, Aloha, OR, wrote of all the problems the members there had with the recent rain and flooding. The Baron, OK, congregation requested prayers for Sis. Sue Wilson, who was admitted to the hospital to find out why she was sick so much. Bro. Isaac Ferguson, Goshen, AR, announced their meeting in June with Bro. Jim Brown. Bro. Gerald Buckner, Stilwell, OK, announced their meeting in June with brothers Terry Warford and Richard Johnston. The Yuma, AZ, congregation wrote that Bro. Horace Orendorff had recent surgery; Bro. Sonny Boling had treatment for kidney stones; Bro. Bud Davis had corrective surgery; and the passing of Bro. Clifford Schrader and Sis. Arzella Renick. Bro. Ed Tate, Newcastle, TX, announced a meeting in May with Bro. Bob Eldridge.



Cards and Letters

Broken Bow, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I just wanted to let everyone know that we are okay; just busy. Sis. Lynell has probably been waiting on this letter. I told her that if none of the guys wrote I would and I am running behind as usual. We had a great weekend meeting in November. We had two surprise guests. We had Sis. Lynell Forsman and Bro. Terry Warford. Terry had originally planned to come to listen to his Dad speak but when other circumstances prevented Bro. Jack from doing so, Bro. Jerry McCay spoke for us. He gave us 3 very good and helpful lessons. One on giving more to God and God would take care of us. It was very insightful. We always attend the Folk Festival at Beavers Bend on Saturday and everyone said they enjoyed it a lot. On Saturday night, we had the hayride at Bro. Mike and Sis.

Melissa Harcrow's house. We usually have a hot dog roast but because of the fire ban, we settled for Pizza.

Everyone here is doing okay. We haven't had any major illness to report; just trying to stay healthy. The weather is making that kind of hard. We haven't had very much rain here and it is very dry. The only thing that makes it worse is the wind has been horrible and stirring up dust which just aggravates allergies and sinus problems.

We have been trying to do kids activities once a month to keep our youngsters interested. For Christmas, we participated in the adopt-an-angel program. It gave the kids a sense of what some kids do without and what it is like to give rather than to receive.

We are trying to make plans for the upcoming Camp Meeting in July. Only 6 months away. Mark your calendars. We hope to see lots of you there. We had such fun last year and the largest number of people we have ever had. We are requesting though that if you know for sure that your plans include the Camp Meeting that you please call or email us so that we can estimate the number of people better. This will help with the food purchases so that we don't over or under buy.

We hope to make it to Yuma this year but are not sure if we will be able to. We enjoyed it so much last year. We got the chance to meet and fellowship with people we had heard about but never met. But we encourage all who can to go. You will enjoy it.

I do believe this is all for now. I will try and write sooner next time.

Beavers Bend Church of Christ Camp Meeting - July 15-24

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With Christian Love to All
% Church of Christ at Broken Bow, Ok
Crystal Warford & Family

Citrus City, AZ

My name is Rose Ann Wingfield, I'm the granddaughter of Melvin and Iris Stewart, and I attend the Citrus City congregation. I'm seventeen and a junior in high school. I saw the list of e-mail addresses in the October, 2005 edition of the Christian Courier.

I would like to have my e-mail address, rosebud88co@msn.com published in the young folk's e-mail addresses. Thank you.

Rose Ann

Glenwood, WA

Greetings from Glenwood, Washington:

This comes to you from the rainy Pacific Northwest. The last 46 days we have had 25 inches. Anyone care for a little; we'll be generous.

Our small congregation has experienced some health-related issues the past month or so. Bro. Bill Taylor is recovering from his recent surgery. He is back to work and says he's regaining strength. God be thanked! Bro. J D Logan is also recovering from surgery, and continues to mend. Sis. Patricia Bergman is awaiting an opening for surgery to correct her painful shoulder condition. We pray it will come soon and that she will be relieved of her pain.

Sadly, we must report the loss of our dear sister, Charlene Dicks. She was 80 years of age. Charlene came to us from Ft. Smith, Arkansas

following the death of her husband. She has a son in our area. Sadly, she began to decline in health and, following a one month stay in the hospital, she passed on. We will miss her. I will personally remember the soft Southern tones as we talked of our common birthplace, Arkansas. We all loved her very much. Sadly, this is another vacancy here. Rest in peace, Charlene!!

This is all for now. Remember the meeting in Yuma in March. Everyone continue working for the Lord.

Our love to all.

J D Logan for the congregation in Glenwood, Washington.

Lexington, OK

Dear brothers and sisters

I hope this letter finds you all in good health. Let me introduce myself. My name is Russell M Morris, Jr. Most know me by my nickname Boonie. So I am writing today with great news. We here in Lexington, OK, through the grace of God are striving to build a new congregation here in Lexington. Right now we are 5 strong and we are holding Sunday morning service in our homes. Service starts at 10:30 am. We are in the process of trying to find a building, and if it is God's will, we will. We would like to invite anyone traveling to Norman, OK, or up and down I-35 from Oklahoma City to Dallas, TX, to join us for service; our home is always open.

To contact me, my phone number is 1-405-527-6014. All are welcome, even if just passing through in the week. Although getting things established is starting slow, I think through the grace of God one day this congregation can be a light unto our community.

We ask each and every one to keep us in your prayer in our upcoming adventure. We all here look forward to it with great enthusiasm. I would also like to ask that you please add us to the mailing list to receive the newsletter. Send in care of Russell M Morris, Jr., 17151 Hunter Hill Rd, Lexington, OK 73051.

We also at this time would like to thank all those who have came to Lexington to support us in our efforts may God bless all of you and take care for know . I will try to keep you posted on our progress.

With brotherly love

Russell M. Morris, Jr.

Pleasant View, OK

It has been some time since I have written to the paper. When it comes to writing I am the world's worst. Quite a lot has happened since I last wrote. Oklahoma is experiencing the worst drought since the 1930's, having had a lot of fires, homes and buildings lost due to the fire.

October 12th, Sister Cindy Smith passed away after a short battle with cancer. She passed away on her husband's birthday.

Brother Terry Remington had foot surgery just before Christmas, was able to attend church last Sunday again.

Brother Greg Allgood had emergency appendix surgery but hopes to get to go back to work on January 23rd.

January 16th, Stilwell schools had a bus accident. The driver left the road and hit a tree. There were four children hurt in the accident. My granddaughter, Kellie Buckner, was on the bus. She was pretty well banged up. She had several cuts and bruises but no broken bones - only broken glasses. Thank the Lord no one was seriously hurt.

We are starting a mid week Bible discussion every other Wednesday evening in the church kitchen. Hopefully we can generate enough interest to make it a success.

My grandson, Robert Fuson Jr., has been trying to learn to walk with one arm crutch

instead of two. He was born with Spinal Bifida and will turn 15 years old next Sunday. He is doing it slowly but surely.

I have a new email address. The old one no longer works. My new one is glbuckner2006@yahoo.com.

In Christian Love,
Pleasant View Church of Christ
Gerald Buckner

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Pacific Northwest.

Sis. Nell McCay is still settling into her new home.

The following continue to need your prayers: Bro. Mike Boroff is battling cancer. The doctors have temporally stopped his chemo treatments to give him a rest, but plan to start up again in a few weeks. Sis. Jeanne Boroff is too weak to walk from her medical problems. Sis. Jeannean McSwane is still suffering from severe hip pain and is wheelchair-bound. She comes to services most Sundays. Also, Sis. Odessa Honorable is still suffering from arthritic pain.

We are happy to announce the baptism of Victoria Lewis on January 15th. Sis. Victoria, a school friend of Sis. Teri Sue Warford, is 14 years old and has been attending services the past several weeks. We are certainly happy for her and glad to have her with us.

We are also happy to report the birth of Jose' to Jose & Lynn Rivera on January 27th.

In January we failed to mention that Bro. Jim Smith of Wapato, WA, had major heart surgery here in Seattle. He underwent a triple by-pass with a valve replacement. He has since returned to the Yakima area and is continuing to recover. He needs our prayers. We did enjoy our Sis. Alyce Smith while she was here with Jim. We also received word of the passing of Sis. Caroline Kellems of El Cajon, CA, on August 11, 2005. She went peacefully and her last words were "I want to go home". She is now with her Lord and beloved husband Chester.

In January, the Orendorff' family suffered the unexpected loss of Joseph (Kep) Orendorff.

With love,
The Sea-Tac congregation

Yuma, AZ

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just a short message to say "Hi" to all and hope that all are well or progressing with their illness. We are all doing at this time with just a few colds and winter complications.

Our weather is favorable compared to most parts of the country, of which we are thankful.

We are all saddened with the passing of young Steve Perigen. Our thoughts & prayers are now with his family. My thoughts at times are like those which David said concerning the passing of his son when questioned by his servants about his behaviour. He said, "...*Who can tell whether GOD will be gracious to me, that the child may live? But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.*" (2 Sam. 12:22-23). Times such as these should cause all of us to live as close to God as is possible, so that one day we can go where our loved ones are.

Our meeting the last week of March is approaching fast. Quite a number have plans to be here. This would give the opportunity for all to visit with old friends, hear some good messages, sing, and eat lots of good food the ladies prepare. If you can, be with us and all those that come.

This is about it for this time. Let us all stand fast and keep the faith.

The church in Yuma, AZ

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If you are interested in having your e-mail address published, please let us know. Send your e-mail addition or correction to *The Christian Courier* e-mail address (noted on the Front page).

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

March 19-26, 2006	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
July 15-24, 2006	Beaver's Bend, OK	Guest Speakers
August 6-13, 2006	Yakima, WA	Jerry McCay

Baptisms

Sandra Mendoza	Yakima, WA	
Victoria Lewis	Sea-Tac WA	January 15, 2006

Births

Jose'	Sea-Tac WA	January 27, 2006
to Joe' & Lynn Rivera		

Passings

Caroline Kellems	El Cajon, CA	August 11, 2005
Cindy Smith	Pleasant View, OK	October 12, 2005
Charlene Dicks	Glenwood, WA	January, 2006
Joseph Kep Orendorff	Tacoma, WA	January, 2006

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Synda Swaim	Bellflower, CA	Arthritis pain
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Fighting cancer
Floyd Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Heart attack
Ray Queen	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe Pain
Patricia Bergman	Glenwood, WA	Needs shoulder surgery
Robert Fuson, Jr.	Pleasant View, OK	Spinal Bifida
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Severe weakness
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Wheel chair bound
Mike Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Odessa Honorable	Sea-Tac, WA	Arthritis pain
Jim Smith	Selah, WA	Major heart surgery
Barbara Paseman	Springfield, OR	Fighting cancer
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Kaye Guyer	Waterford, CA	Not doing good
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Ill health
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Ill for some time
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Heart surgery