FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

Published by brethren of the Church of Christ, 4309 Ahtanum, Yakima, WA, 98903
E-mail correspondence to: mccaysr@charter.net

VOL. 18 February / March 2004 NO. 1

WHO IS RIGHT?

I have before me a book with this title on the front cover: "Churches of Christ in the United States," includes all 50 states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgen Islands, 1997 Edition.

When I look inside, I find over 13,000 listed. Each congregation is listed showing it's established date, its character or practices, number of members, and address. I will give you the seven main divisions, (some of them have divisions) showing the approximate number of congregations in each main division.

Mainstream-9,968. Non-institutional-2,053. Non class (two types)-565. One cup (three types)560. Mutual edification-141. Premillennial-81. Other-11, for a total of 13,379.

In Matthew 4, we find that Christ began, after being baptized, to preach the gospel: so what he preached and taught was the gospel. In I Corinthians 1:10, Paul condemns divisions and says that we should all speak the same thing and be joined together in the same mind and judgement. I am reminded of the 7 churches of Asia in Revelation chapters 1, 2, and 3. There were only two that God didn't rebuke. The other five He did rebuke. Do you suppose that today, there would be two out of seven churches found, that God would not rebuke?

The Bible is a book of instructions, telling us how to become Christians, (church members) how to live our lives, and how to carry out the worship services, including the Lord's Supper, etc. It is regrettable that people will not follow these instructions, as written in the New Testament. When we buy an article that has to be assembled, there are instructions included, telling us how it should be assembled. We read these instructions and all come to the same conclusion. Why do people, when they read the Bible, come to so many different conclusions? I am reminded of Proverbs 14:12, and 16:25, "There is a way that seemeth

right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Brethren, we know that there is one right way. Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me." What will happen to all those who will not travel that right way as taught by Jesus and His apostles.

It is time that we all read the instructions and come to the one true conclusion. When we read the instructions, we must concentrate on what they are saying. We are warned not to add to, or subtract from, God's word. Deuteronomy 12:32, and Revelation 22:19. In II Timothy 2:15, we are told to rightly divide the word of truth. Everyone should search the scriptures to see if what they hear is right.

Most divisions in the church have happened in the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Some innovation will come along, and someone will say "I like that, let's do that." They don't search the scriptures closely enough to see if that was what the early church did. Christ is our example. We need to do what he said. God told Moses to make the things after their pattern. Exodus 25:40 and Hebrews 8:5.

It is time we rid ourselves of all INNOVATIONS. We must follow the Bible.

Thank you for your time.
J.W. Lampp Jr.
1717 U.S. Highway 80 East
East Dublin, GA 31027

HOME OF THE SOUL / Eternal life, or Eternal torment?

I Thessalonians 5:23, "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

When death overtakes us, will our soul be headed for eternal or eternal life? If our soul is grounded in our Lord Jesus Christ, it will be headed towards eternal life. If not, it will be headed for eternal torment. Matthew 16:26, "For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul"

What does it profit a person if he should have all the world, but by the time that death overtakes him, he has not found or put his trust in the Lord? It profits man nothing, because when we die, we can't take anything with us but our soul. Man can't buy his way into heaven. Jesus

paid the price for us, so if man accepts that fact, and follows our Lord, his soul will find eternal life. John 12:27, "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour."

Jesus came to this earth to save our souls from eternal torment after our earthly life is over. He was born for this purpose. Even His heart and soul was troubled. He had His fears, but he knew that He would end up doing the Fathers will so that no one would have to be lost on the day of judgment. The only reason we would be lost, would be if we made the wrong choice.

What if that judgment day, was today? We know that He is coming back to take His chosen people to the place that He has prepared for them. However, not even He knows when that day will come, so we had better prepare for that day, having our lives grounded in Him that our souls will have eternal life instead of eternal torment.

So, what if it was today, would our souls be ready? We should all be prepared for the coming of our Lord. We have no hope of eternal life unless we have submitted unto His will, and have taken the steps necessary to be a child of God.

We have no assurance of tomorrow, death can take us at any time, so we had better live for Him today. If He should come today, would He find us faithful and true, watching in gladness and not in fear?

Signs of His coming multiply. Morning light breaks in the eastern sky. Watch, for the time is drawing nigh. What if it were today.

If our lives have not been given over to Him while we are here, we will fear His coming. Why? Because our souls will be lost forever in eternal torment. What a terrible thought.

We have only a short time here on this earth, but after that, the judgment. If our lives have been lived for our Lord Jesus, we will have eternal life. If not, we will be in that other home, a place of lost souls.

In Christ's Love.
Don Johnston.

OAKDALE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brethren;

As most of you know, our son, Stephen, age 15 was diagnosed with a rare form of bone cancer on September 19th of last year. He had been complaining of knee pain for a while and was treated for a sports

injury. The pain persisted, and after an X-ray was ordered, we were sent to specialists in San Francisco for final diagnosis and treatment. Our worst fears were confirmed when the diagnosis came back as a malignant tumor on his femur, a form of cancer known as Osteosarcoma. Steve has undergone nearly four months of chemotherapy treatment, being in the hospital more than out of it. Making matters worse was the need to perform a bone biopsy, effectively fracturing the bone and rendering his leg immobile until well after surgery. It has been rough on him as anyone who has had chemotherapy can attest to (nausea and weakness and all the typical side effects). He has had to drop out of his freshman year in high school but between the home tutor and myself, we are determined to start him off next year with his sophomore class. It was really important to him that he is with his friends at the beginning of next year. We had a few weeks without treatments right before the holidays and were able to enjoy our family and friends. Steve underwent major surgery on December 29th. The team of doctors replaced a portion of his leg and knee with a spring-loaded titanium rod that is state of the art and is expected to last his lifetime. They removed 7 inches of his thighbone and totally replaced his knee. (We call him the Terminator) The lab results after surgery show that they removed the entire tumor that was attached to his thighbone. We expect many months of physical therapy but already he is showing signs of regaining a limited range of motion. In addition to healing from the surgery, Steve will begin the next rounds of chemo next Monday, Jan. 19th in order to keep the "free-roaming" cancer cells at bay. The way it looks now, the cancer was localized on his leg and has not appeared anywhere else. Having said all of this, we are mindful at every turn that God is in control of every aspect of Steve's healing. We give him glory for our good news and trust in him when things look bleak. We have had a crash course in biology and chemistry through these short months and find ourselves in awe of God's creation. The human body is truly an amazing, perfectly tuned creation. It amazes me that people like physicians and nurses who can plainly see the beauty and intricacies of the human body can be so blind to its creator. We are careful never to trust in doctors or procedures, but in God who blesses them for their purpose.

Needless to say, all of this is quite overwhelming for a young mind. It would be hard enough as an adult but to watch a boy in his prime go through this is almost unbearable. Yet, Steve is a remarkable person. Through it all, his faith has only increased. He prays more, worries

about missing church due to treatment, never wants to pray with his head covered (hats are the norm these days). How true it is that the trying of our faith only produces more faith. His mother says Steve has become her hero for the way he has handled everything. In many ways, better than his parents. The coming months will be extremely trying for him. We ask for your continued prayers. We have heard from many of our Christian family who say Steve is in their daily prayers. Thank you and please continue to pray for him and our family. It is very important to us knowing we have so many people in our church concerned and of a prayerful mind on our behalf. We will never be able to repay the thoughtfulness and true concern that so many of you have shown for us. You have taught us valuable lessons about friendship and how to show it. Thank you.

If anyone wishes to write letters or send an email, please do. Steve has computer access at the hospital and it certainly breaks up the long days.

1486 Tumbleweed Court
Oakdale, CA 95361
fishtothemax@hotmail.com (he loves to fish)

Mark and Tammy Perigen.
tperigen@hotmail.com

PLEASANT VIEW, OKLAHOMA

Greetings from the Pleasant View congregation;

We are slow when it comes to writing letters. Please forgive us. There is not much going on as far as activities. Sister Barbara Boen has had some tests taken and our worst fears have been that the cancer has returned with a vengeance. Please put her on your prayer list. She is holding up quite well so far.

We were in Oklahoma City for New Years and it was a thrill to be able to speak for them in their new building. The building is very nice and they have worked so hard and long, and have been through so much to get it completed, that they truly deserve to be in it and out of their old building where they met for so long.

Brother Gerald Buckner and I are taking a computer class, so maybe pretty soon we will be able to E-mail you instead of writing

letters.

We are sending a donation to you for the paper. We really enjoy hearing from the other congregations so keep up the good work.

God Bless you All,
George Morris
Pleasant View Church of Christ.

SPRINGFIELD, OREGON

My Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

It has been some time since I have written to let you know our affairs here at the congregation in Springfield. We meet at 395 West Centennial Blvd. in Springfield.

Three of our Sisters are very sick and can hardly walk. Please remember them in your prayers, and also the church at Springfield when you pray, and ask for God's favor and blessing on us.

We have had some visitors who stop and worship with us and give very good lessons. We are truly thankful for those who stop and worship with us. We are few in number, but not in love.

Love to the Brotherhood,
Jim Bryant
46450 Highway 58
Westfir, OR 97492

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren;

Well, the holidays are over and we have started a new year. It is time to start making plans for the upcoming gospel meetings that will be taking place shortly.

Since we took that long trip with Al and Charlotte last year, I don't think any long trips will be in our itinerary this year. However, we are making plans to attend the Yuma meeting in March. We always have such a great time there with all the good preaching, singing, and wonderful fellowship among Christian friends, not to mention the good food.

We are saddened to hear of so much illness throughout the brotherhood. So many who have been mentioned and I know there must be several more that we don't know about. I'll list the ones that we have

heard about, and hope that I don't miss any. Abigail McCay, Stephen Perigen, Barbara Paseman, Shirley, Connie Bryant, Eva Roby, Barbara Boen, James Vanderpool, Harry and Betty Wegley, and Melvin Daniels. Also our dear Cinde who has suffered with Parkinson's for several years now.

We would also ask you to keep Sister Mary Teague, and Sister Pansy Atwood in your prayers, also Brother Harry Booth, and all others who are grieving the passing of loved ones.

I just talked to Brother Rex Mickey and he said that they are also planning to attend the Yuma meeting. It will be great to see so many old friends and hopefully make new friends.

Mike, Kay, Darin, Veda and I were blessed by being able to meet with the Brethren in Springfield, Oregon over the weekend of February 15th. Brother Jim Bryant is truly doing a good work there. He said that sometimes there are only two women and him in attendance there. We were happy that all three of the women who are in poor health, were able to out to services while we were there. There were 11 of us in attendance that day.

It seems as though every time that we think that Spring is finally here, we get another little snow shower, or snow and rain mixed. Anyway, we keep our spirits up by saying "each day is one day closer to Spring."

Please keep the letters coming. We print as soon as we get enough material to make the effort worthwhile. I know there are many who enjoy hearing about other congregations, but don't seem to think that others are just as happy to hear about theirs.

With love to all the brethren,
Bill McCay Sr.

MEETINGS

March 21-28	Yuma, AZ	TBA
July 10-19	Beavers Bend	Camp meeting

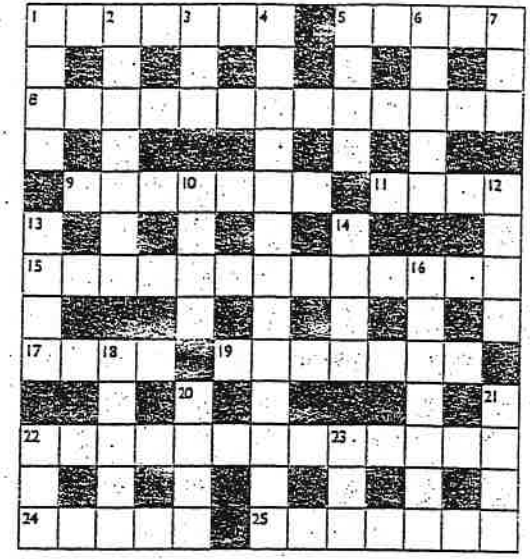
PUZZLE

ACROSS

1 People of country bordering Egypt (2 Ch. 16:8)
3 "The whole land is full of images, and the people are ____ in love with their idols"; wildly (Jer. 50:38)
8 "Jehoiada the priest bored a hole in the lid of a large chest ... and the doorkeepers put all of the people's ____ into it" (2 Ki. 12:9)
9 "I want those already wise to become the wiser and become leaders by exploring the depths of meaning in these ____ of truth"; lumps of gold (Pro. 1:5)
11 God "____ swiftly to my aid with wings of wind" (Psa. 18:10)
15 Involuntarily (Num. 30:5)
17 "The priceless gift of eternal life ... is ____ in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay"; preserved (1 Pe. 1:4)
19 Urban thoroughfares (Est. 6:11)
22 "Not using your liberty for a cloke of ____, but as the servants of God"; ill will (1 Pe. 2:16; KJV)
24 Disciple who walked on water (Mat. 14:29)
25 "We—every one of us—have ____ away like sheep"; wandered (Isa. 53:6)

DOWN

1 Stroke the tongue over (Eze. 23:34)
2 "Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him; for the time has come for the wedding ____ of the Lamb"; ceremonial dinner (Rev. 19:7)
3 What Absalom dangled in by his hair (2 Sa. 18:9)
4 Replacements (Lev. 27:33)
5 Partner (Isa. 34:16)
6 "My health fails; my spirits ____, yet God remains! He is the strength of my heart"; sag (Psa. 73:26)
7 Expression of consent (Gen. 3:12)
10 "A lazy man won't even dress the ____ he gets while hunting" (Pro. 12:27)
12 "Our ____ here on earth are as transient as shadows"; 24-hour periods (Job 8:9)
13 "Let not the wise man ____ in his wisdom"; revel (Jer. 9:23)
14 "Our hearts ____, but at the same time we have the joy of the Lord" (2 Co. 6:10)
16 Drawing for prizes (Jos. 19:51)
18 "A tiny rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the ____ wants it to go"; helmsman (Jam. 3:4)
20 Lingering sign of damage (Gal. 6:17)
21 Employed (Exo. 3:15)
22 Travel guide (Eze. 4:1)
23 Respectful address to a man (Gen. 24:18)



1		2		3		4	■	5		6		7
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
8												
	■		■	■			■		■		■	■
■	9			10				■	11			12
13	■		■				■	14	■	■	■	
15										16		
	■		■	■			■		■		■	
17		18			19							■
■	■		■	20			■	■	■	■	21	
22								23				
	■		■		■		■		■		■	
24					25							

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