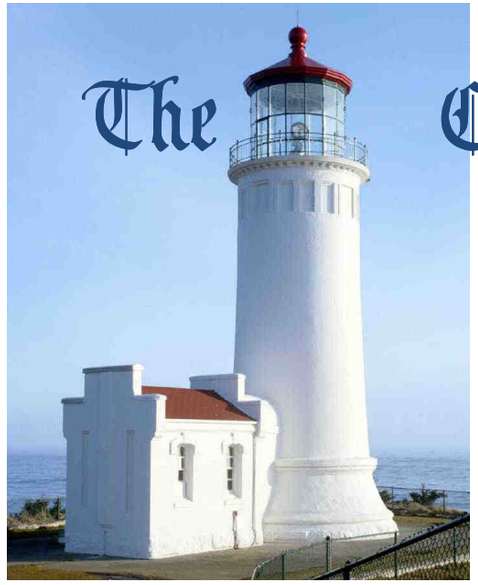
The Christian Courier
6718 Santa Fe Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79407



The Christian Courier

August 2013

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THREE IMPORTANT BIRTHS

"**THE NATURAL BIRTH**" This is how I came into this world: I was born physically. I had two parents, my father Charles Nandwa, and mother Jeskah Nandwa. God decreed that the law of birth be the means of entrance into this world and so I came into this physical world by the natural birth.

Before I grew up to recognize my actions in relation to God's law (the age of accountability) I was as pure as the Kingdom of God. Jesus said "unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the Kingdom of Heaven."

When I become of age, my father took me to school. I met other children there and some become my friends. I started experiencing this world that I did not understand that it was destined for destruction. I went through school life, it was good and enjoyable, from primary to secondary (Form IV) from here I went to Teachers college where I trained as a primary school teacher.

I completed the college and started working. I got money; this money got me somewhere very dangerous, because I started drinking and committing all sorts of sins that my money could direct me to, i.e. women, dancing etc.

One day I got into trouble, I was attacked by robbers on my way back home at night. I almost lost my life, but I lost all my money.

Paul the Apostle gives the description of the life I lived in the book of Ephesians Chapter 2 (1) "while they were in sin, they were dead' (vv 1, 2). I was dead while I lived. (2) They were "without God" (v 12). I had no God. (3) They were "without father in heaven". (4) They were "without Christ" (v 12) when you don't have Christ you are "without peace" (v 14) When you

don't have Christ, you have no hope (v 12) here I was; no peace, no hope. I asked my self several times; what must I do?

In 1993 I met a preacher from the new apostolic church. He told me about Jesus Christ. I believed and joined this denomination. I was "baptized" by being sprinkled with water.

"THE NEW BIRTH "Jesus decreed that the means of entrance into His Kingdom should also be a birth. His conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus stressed the essentiality of the new birth (John 3:1-5).

The same year 1993 I met Bro. Boaz Auma, Bro. Laban Ambogo and other missionaries from USA at a place near Butere in Western Kenya. I heard, for the fist time about the church of Christ. I believed what was preached to me. I was baptized on the same day in much water. (Act 2:41; John 3:23). In acts 2:42, the Bible says "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship" I was so happy because my question "what must I do "was answered. Now there was another question, "what must I do, to live a Christian life? It was my desire to preach and teach the word of God to other people. My question was also answered by the Bible. I read in 2 Tim. 2:15, the Bible says" Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, righty dividing the word of truth" I needed someone to teach me. I met with the W.B.S teachers at Nakuru when I came here after one year. They handed to me some lessons of which I completed all fourteen courses. I then applied to International school of Biblical studies in South Africa. I became a student at this school where I studied through correspondence till I completed.

I have since that time served my Lord in various congregations here in Nakuru.

My first congregation to serve was Nakuru Town Church of Christ. Through my efforts and Brother Benjamin Ronoh, we started Barut Church of Christ. Brother Humphrey Egesa who later joined us is helping in the work of evangelism. Brother Alphonce Kipngetich is a youth leader as well as an evangelist.

For all those years, we did believe that whatever we were doing was according to scriptures. But then one day in the year 2011 four visitors arrived from Tanzania. They were Bro. Boaz Auma, Bro. Laban Ambogo, Bro Ellis Forsman (From U.S.A) and Rispa, the wife to Boaz. Their arrival was a turning point to us, especially to me. I heard about the Lord's churches who used one cup in the Lord's Table. But no one had come and taught the way Ellis did. We changed to the use of one cup according to what is taught in the Bible. Thanks to the Lord who has granted the opportunity to Bro. Ellis to come to East Africa. God bless Ellis.

Christian life is a struggle. We all must struggle to become better not worse. The Apostle Paul admonished, "But showed first unto them at Jerusalem and throughout all costs of Judea, and then to gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance (Act 26: 20).

"THE SUPERNATURAL BIRTH". The third and the last birth is the super natural Birth. Jesus is "the first born from the dead" (Colossians 1:18) the resurrection from the grave is spoken of as a birth. There are three questions I have always asked my self:

Bill McCay, Sr.	Yakima, WA	Recovering from Mini Strokes
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lower back pain
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	Broken hip

And all those in nursing homes.

Baptisms

Sarah Shepherd	Vancouver, WA	April 15, 2013

Births

Jace David Howard	Lubbock, TX	Born Aug. 13 to Britni and Austin Howard

Meetings

Aug 30ith-Sept. 1st 2013	Stilwell, OK	Stanley Goodwin

If you have any updates or corrections to this list, please email me at editor.christiancourier@gmail.com so I can keep this list current.

BULLETIN BOARD

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Sue Bixler	Aztec, NM	Stroke(2), Heart Attack & Diabetes
Tina Mickey	Aztec, NM	Extreme Dizziness
Nina Bixler	Aztec, NM	Esaphagus repair, serious complications from surgery
Jackie Brown	Baron, OK	Serious lung problems
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Lung infection
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Stroke, now in rehab
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Margie Queen	Broken Bow, OK	Parkinson and Alzheimer's
Wayne Queen	Broken Bow, OK	Health issues
Pam Berry	Canton, GA	Severe headaches
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Lynn Iker	Duncan, OK	Heart surgery & financial need
Linda Wilson	Flora Vista NM	Anxiety & extreme weight gain
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer (in remission)
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Ola McKenney	Gleed WA	Tumor removal & age.
Jim Lamb	Gleed, WA	Knee surgery
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Severe aching joints - age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, pain, & blood clots, fall
Fern Logan	Glenwood, WA	Recovering from Stroke
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & financial hardship
Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & spinal problems
Robert Lane	Hillsboro, OR	Recovering from stroke
Eunice Jared	Hillsboro, OR	Bad fall
Gary Calhoun	Hillsboro, OR	Brain tumor
Wynetta McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Severe neck and back pain (undergoing treatment)
Jerry McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Eye treatments for Macular Degeneration
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Bo Forsman	Pine Mountain, AR	Heart Attack — still recovering
Renee Seaton	Stilwell, OK	Blindness—auto accident related
Vickie Ferguson	Springdale, AR	Needs prayers of Strength
Nene Harper	Sacramento, CA	Broken knee cap (getting around with walker now)
Ken Harper	Sacramento, CA	Recovering from stroke and paralysis
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma
Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's & stomach surgery

1. Where did I come from?

2. What am I doing here?

3. Where am I going?

I have already answered two questions. The Bible gives answer to the third question. The Apostle John wrote" Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming in which all that are in the graves shall hear the voice; and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil; unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28, 29).

Therefore the Bible which is the word of God gives me assurance that there is life beyond this world. The life beyond, the life after death gives meaning to life before death. If there is no life after death, then life on earth has no meaning. We should simply eat, drink and get the most out of what brief existence we have (1cor.15:12-19).

I therefore welcome you to come in the Church of Christ, so that we travel together toward heavenly life. Do the following:

1. Hear the gospel (Rom 10:17)

2. Believe the gospel (John 3:16; Acts 8:37)

3. Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30,31)

4. Confess the name of Jesus Christ. (Rom 10:10)

5. Be baptized for the remission of your Sins (Act 2: 38; 8:38; 22:16)

You are now born again Christian, a child of God. Do the following in order to live in Christ:

1. "Abide in Christ". It's not enough to make a start. Jesus said, "if any one does not abide in me, he is thrown away……..." (John 15:16) in order to be fruitful and pleasing to God , we must remain faithful to the end of our lives or to the end of time (Rev. 2:10).

2. "Die in the Lord"; "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Rev 14:13) God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (1 Thess. 4:14). Who would not want to be a Christian and enjoy the blessings that are to be found only in Christ? Be a Christian. Be a member of his church.

JOHN KOMBO NANDWA

BARUT CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O BOX 10250- 20100

NAKURU, KENYA

News from Abroad

African Update – June 17, 2013

Greetings from Africa.

On May 19th Sadat & I went to Ramadi, Tanzania, for church services. They got the poles in the ground for the temporary shelter for church services and also fastened the tarp we purchased for them over the top to be able to worship out of the sun & rain.

On May 22nd there was an evangelist's meeting in Bunda to discuss several issues before I went back to the United States.

On May 25th Sadat & I went to Mugeta, Tanzania. We were invited there to help place the cornerstone plaque in the wall of their new church building they were constructing.

On May 26th – 28th Sadat & I went to Ramadi for church services. Afterward we took a bus to Mwanza where we spent the night before taking another bus to Arusha. We were to attend a meeting in King'ori before I left for America. While there we purchased another case of Bibles to be delivered to the churches.

On May 29th we took the bus back to Mwanza and then to Bunda.

On May 30th I packed all my belongings and Sadat & I took a bus back to Mwanza where we spent the night at a guest house.

On May 31st we took the 17 hour bus ride to Dar es Salaam. Not a good trip. I got another malaria attack while on the bus, but not as bad as the one I had back in March. Peter met us at the bus depot late at night. They put me in a guest house while they slept with some friends of theirs.

On June 2nd Peter, Sadat, & I had church services where they were staying. I was still sick.

On June 3rd Peter & Sadat took me to the hospital where they took blood samples and confirmed that I was having a malaria attack. The doctor gave me some medication and wanted me to come back the next day for another test.

On June 4th we went back to the hospital, but had to see a different doctor as the one I saw the day before was not in. The second doctor cancelled the tests that the first doctor wanted done and changed my medication without any explanation. Still don't know why. Peter went back to his job in Southern Tanzania.

On June 5th – 6th I was still sick with malaria.

On June 7th - 9th I was still sick, but had a flight to catch. Peter tried to get back in time to see me off, but didn't make it. I was very sad about that. The flight took me to Nairobi, Kenya, where more people boarded the plane; then we flew to Switzerland, arriving in the morning. After a few hours layover, I flew to Chicago where my schedule for the next flight to Denver was very tight. The plane sat on the tarmac for 15 minutes until another plane pulled out of the gate we were supposed to pull into. By the time I got through customs and security my Denver flight had already left. United Airlines had difficulty finding a way for me getting to Lubbock. They put me on a

NEW TESTAMENT MATCH THE MESSAGE

Fill in the squares above and transfer the letters to the matching squares below. You will read an important message.

The book before Ephesians	10		24					
The book which is three before Romans								4
The fourth book after 1 John			22			18		11
The book before Revelation							16	13	9
The seventh book of the New Testament		2				15			
The book which is four before Acts					5		19		
The seventh book after Acts			3		12				
The eleventh book of the New Testament		8		1				17	
The fifth book after Acts			20			23			
The thirteenth New Testament book	7		21			6			14

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13

14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24

surgery to cure crushed vertebrae in his neck. Veda and I are pretty well settled into our new home, she still has breathing problems and I'm still a little weak, but the Lord is good. Please keep us, and all the brethren in your prayers. Yours in Christ, Bill McCay Sr.

Lorenzo, TX

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We here in Lorenzo are all doing as well as can be expected. Sister Nell McCay has been too weak to make it too services for several months now and has been sorely missed each week. Sister Reba White has been able to come most of the time except right after a fall that hurt her knee. Sister Jaetta Loftis also fell mid week but was able to come to services with the aid of a walker. Brother Jerry McCay is still receiving monthly shots in his eye for macular degeneration but his eyesight is greatly improved. Sister Wynetta McCay is receiving treatments for back pain and is gaining much relief. Brother Ellis Forsman seems to be Malaria free after several weeks of treatment and recovery.

Right after Ellis returned from Africa we celebrated his and Lynell's 50th wedding anniversary. Matt and Kelly Shepherd and family came down to help celebrate and also to attend the meeting.

We had a fine turnout for our meeting with Brother John McKinney. He gave us great lessons the entire week covering: The Way To Eternal Life (Sun. am), The Way To Eternal Life Part II (Sun. pm), The Book of Life (Mon. pm), The Church Vs. A Church (Tue. Pm), The Communion (Wed. pm), Modesty (Thur. pm), See No Evil; Speak No Evil; Hear No Evil (Fri. pm), To Cut Or Not To Cut (Sat. pm), To Be Yoked With Christ (Sun. am), and Yoked In Marriage (Sun. pm). People came from as far away as Alaska for the meeting and we appreciate everyone who came and made the meeting that much better. Sister Sarah Shepherd of Vancouver WA was baptized after services Monday night.

We have had Several visitors since the meeting also. Denny and Suzie Davis were unable to come to the meeting but made it in August. Earlene Jared came down from Valparaiso IN for the birth of her Great Grandson (Olene Howe's Great Great Grandson) Jace David Howard, born to Britni and Austin Howard in Lubbock on August 13th. Willie and Mary Howe, and Oletta Spurlin also came to visit their mom Olene.

So far it has been a good summer, and we hope God is blessing you all as much as he has blessed us.

The Lorenzo congregation of the Church of Christ

Penn Valley, CA

We would like to announce that the Indian Springs Church of Christ (Penn Valley, CA) is closed. We have moved to Sacramento and now attend the Sacramento Church of Christ. Our new home address is 1184 Rose Tree Way, Sacramento, CA 95831 and our home phone is (916) 422-2903.

Ken and LaVerne Harper

plane to Dallas where I would catch a flight to Lubbock from there early Sunday morning. A terrific thunderstorm arrived in the morning causing many flights to be delayed or cancelled. My flight was delayed 6 times before they finally cancelled it. They said those of us wanting to go to Lubbock would probably have to wait until Wednesday before another flight would be available. Six of us decided to rent a car (at a cost of $35 each; motel rate was $56/day each) and drove to the Lubbock airport where we got our luggage which had no trouble getting through. Lynell, Jerry, & Wynetta met me at the airport at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

It was good to be home, but I was still having trouble with the malaria. Lynell had scheduled an appointment for a doctor to see me on Tuesday. He said he could get rid of the malaria but needed to take blood samples to see what strains of malaria I had. Bottom line: After two prescriptions and 300 blood tests later they could find no trace of malaria, but it took me a while to get my strength back.

Thank you for all your prayers and support.

In Christian love, Ellis Forsman

African Update – August 24th

Good news from John Kombo of the Barut Church of Christ in Kenya: "After a long period of discussion following the Bible, the whole congregation in Nakuru has agreed to join us. I have had several meetings with the preachers who for the last two Sundays have decided to do according to what is taught is the Bible. The name of the congregation is RHONDA CHURCH OF CHRIST. The preacher is MATHEWS OTIENO. "

The Barut congregation is also holding a nationwide meeting at Nakuru, Kenya, with representatives of all the congregations Kenya on August 23-25, 2013. Discussions will be on church faithfulness, community outreach, and church leadership.

Sad news from Tanzania: Bro. Daniel Molel of the Masakta congregation was injured seriously in a motorcycle accident. He sustained broken bones in his feet and also internal injuries. Please pray for him. Also, Sadat's wife's sister's husband was killed in a car accident. They were just married in July of this year.

Although I am back in the United States, the work in East Africa is continuing and they need your financial support. This past year we have expended a lot of time and effort in training evangelists from those regions to continue the work that has been started. These men are not being paid wages, but they do incur travel expenses. Meetings such as the one in Nakuru, Kenya, expenses would include travel, food, lodging, and meeting hall rental. Most of the meetings are more localized.

In Christian love,

Ellis Forsman

Donation information:

Remember, a bank account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank for your support (Account number 8891458054). Checks can be made out to "African Mission" (the bank's name designation for this project of working with groups of people in Africa for account purposes) and sent to % Ellis Forsman, 6718 Santa Fe Dr., Lubbock, TX, 79407, or deposited directly at your nearest Wells Fargo Bank.

Harlingen, TX June 19, 2013

Dear brethren in Christ

I greet you in the name of the Lord. We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ praying always for you and hoping that you are enjoying good health with your family and brothers in the faith.

I comment that according to the plans that had traveled for Central America to work with the congregations faithful and also to study with an evangelical religious group that they were receiving written information and that invited me to visit and to study with them the scriptures. Similar to Cornelius (Acts 10) these persons religious were ready to receive the truth. After studying during a week 16 persons were baptized and was established a new congregation. During two weeks more I studied every day with these new brothers to prepare so that they are maintained firm in the truth. Also I studied with new contacts and many persons continue interest in gospel.

During (May-June) I visited Chiapas State Mexico to visit family of my wife and to speak again of the gospel with them. (before had rejected totally) but in this occasions was different because received well the message from the gospel. After some study were baptized my mother-in-law, to sister and to brother of my wife and grandson and his wife.

Also we study with some person (friends of my family) and four persons obeyed the gospel and was established a new congregation in (Ranch Ireland)

Thanks for your participation in this work of saving souls by means of the gospel and thanks to the Lord that gives us this opportunity.

Your Brother in Christ,

Otto, Mariela Alvarez

P.S. I send some photos: New Church, Center America; New Church, Mexico





Harlingen, TX August 22, 2013

INFORM OF THE CHURCHES IN SPANISH.

Dear brethren in Christ,

I hope that receiving all the rich blessings of God.

Them inform that during this of August (11-18) we work again to the area of City Fernandez in Mexico to continue studying the scriptures with some families that during the month of July we had contact and invited to continue studying.

Each day we gathered the houses (home bible classes) and the evening we had meetings with the Church to continue teaching to the brothers and preparing for the work of evangelization.

In this city, during month of July two persons obeyed and were baptized. During the month August three persons obeyed and were baptized.

The Church continues growing in this area and the brothers continue speaking of the gospel.

The Churches in other areas of Mexico continue firm in the faith. Also I have information that the brothers in the Churches in Guatemala, and Colombia continue firm in the Christian life and the evangelists continue the work of predication.

Again we express our gratefulness in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for your participation in the predication of the gospel.

Evangelists in Spanish.



Cards and Letters

Yakima, WA

Dear Brethren: The 3 Northwest meetings are now over after a successful run. I'm sorry that I was unable to attend any of the meeting at Glenwood, as no one was available to take me over and back home. Most of the visitors from out of state were able to come to Yakima from Glenwood and we really appreciated them. We were happy to have a full house for every service. The food, singing, and fellowship was great, and Jerry's sermons were very apropos as usual. We had good support from the Gleed brethren, as well as many from out of state from far and near. I won't name names for fear of leaving someone out, but we had brethren from Oregon, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. Our meeting ended on Thursday and the G. Earl McCay branch of our family got together for a reunion in Eugene, OR. for the weekend. There were about 24 0f us who were able to worship in the new church building in Creswell, OR. Dan and Karen Greenway have the building set up on the back of their property, and have done a great job of building a deck around it, and a ramp for wheel chair access. After returning home (the long way, since Satus Pass was closed for a forest fire) we were able to attend the Gleed meeting and got to hear Brother J.D. Logan from the Glenwood congregation, and Brother Denny Davis from the Yuma congregation. I will say that we were happy that Terry and Debbie Wilkerson were able to travel with Dennis and Suzie Davis again this year. It was great to see so many loved ones at our meetings that we are unable to go and visit anymore. We have so many wonderful memories
from years past.

This summer is flying by so fast, it's hard to believe that school is about to start.

Don Johnston is recovering nicely from his