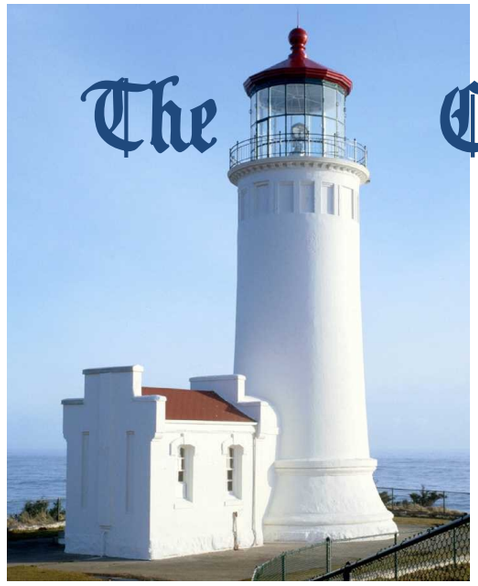
The Christian Courier
6718 Santa Fe Dr.
Lubbock, TX 79407



The Christian Courier

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Self Esteem

Luke 16:15, "*And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.*"

Isaiah 14:12-15, "*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*"

Sounds like Satan has a real problem with Self-esteem. Now we must ask ourselves if we have this problem also.

2 Timothy 3:2, "*For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*"

Wow!! God puts Self Esteem right with unholy people.

2 Corinthians 10:12, "*For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.*"

Why is it that we are always comparing ourselves with the "Smiths and Jones" Is it Pride, Self Esteem. Seems like we always have to have the newest gadget for everyone to see. The Bible says this is not wise.

James 4:1-3, "*From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your*

lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."

We WANT WANT WANT so that we can be the biggest and best. We will even go so far as to war and kill so we can obtain things that will boost our self esteem.

Proverbs 13:7, "*There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.*"

Contrary to what the world thinks money is not the path to riches and happiness.

God's Idea of Esteem

Galatians 6:3, "*For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.*"

How many powerful men in this world think that they are really something? How do we get to be something?

John 15:5, *"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*"

Sounds like it should be Christ Esteem, Instead of Self Esteem.

Proverbs 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.*"

It DOES NOT say to trust in our ways!!!! Or direct our own paths!!!!

Philippians 1:21, "*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*"

Our lives should revolve around GOD not ourselves.

2 Corinthians 3:5, "*Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;*"

We cannot take care of ourselves. Physically we cannot make it rain and spiritually we cannot save ourselves. We depend on God, and should.

Acts 17:24-28, "*God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being.*"

God is our everything.

Esteem Others

Matthew 19:16-17, "*And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life? And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*"

Christ didn't even take glory but rather gave it to God.

1 Corinthians 4:9-13, "*For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the*

Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues
Peter Boaz	Tanzania, Africa	Malaria
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's & head injury from fall
Oren Johnston	Yakima, WA	Kidney dialysis, pneumonia and heart attack
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

Colton McKinney	Dec. 15th	Gleed, WA
Tanner McKinney	Dec. 15th	Gleed, WA
Troy Solomon II	Dec. 15th	Gleed, WA
Kody Lamb	Dec. 15th	Gleed, WA
Cody Ralph	Dec. 15th	Gleed, WA
Jared Fresh	Jan. 13th	Glenwood, WA

Deaths

Gerald Warner	Dec 17, 2012	Waterford, CA

Meetings

Mar. 17th-24th 2013	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
May 3rd-5th 2013	Ringold, TX	Guest Speakers
July 21st– 25th 2013	Yakima, WA	Jerry McCay
July 28th—31th 2013	Gleed, WA	TBA

Births

Nathan Alcausin Smith To Bro. Garrett & Sis. Marcella Smith of Sacramento, CA Jan. 16th , 2013

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	Stoke(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
Ericka Ferguson	Brooklyn , NY	Out of prison!!! Doing well
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Stroke, now in rehab
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Doris Ridlon	Canton, GA	Hip replacement & heart problems
Sandy Greenway	Creswell, OR	Breast cancer surgery
Lynn Iker	Duncan, OK	Heart surgery & financial need
Linda Wilson	Flora Vista NM	Anxiety & extreme weight gain
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer, moved to care facility
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Back Surgeries, Feb. 7th and 14th.
Don Hammett	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Ola McKenney	Gleed WA	Tumor removal & age.
Troy Solomon	Gleed, WA	Severe back pain
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Severe aching joints - age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, pain, & blood clots, fall, in care fac.
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
Otto Alvarez Jr.	Houston, TX	Cancer
Sharon Moore	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting breast cancer
Ellis Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Dangerous & costly African travels, has Malaria
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Bo Forsman	Pine Mountain, AR	Heart Attack
Renee Seaton	Stilwell, OK	Blindness—auto accident related
Christine Burkhart	Springdale, AR	Health issues & financial need
Vickie Ferguson	Springdale, AR	Needs prayers of Strength
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma

world, and to angels, and to men. We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it: Being defamed, we intreat: we are made as the filth of the world, and are the offscouring of all things unto this day."

The Apostle Paul wouldn't put himself in a place of honor but put everyone one else above him.

Philippians 2:3, "*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.*"

1 Thessalonians 5:12-13, "*And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*"

I don't think that it could have been said any better than these two scriptures. I believe that peace & love comes from being the servant.

Esteem God

Philippians 3:3-11, New Living Translation (NLT)
"*For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*"

We shouldn't be getting everything to Esteem ourselves but contrariwise we should be giving up everything to Esteem Christ.

James 4:5-10, "*Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.*"

Let's let God Esteem us! The truth of the matter is; I am such a horrible sinner that God had to become a man, suffer and die so that I could be worthy to live with him forever.

Written in Love,
Your Servant in Christ,
Paul Warford

News from Abroad

African Mission Update December 4, 2012

Greetings from East Africa! I am back here again for a second tour of duty. I left Lubbock, TX, on November 7th and arrived in Nairobi, Kenya, on the 8th with a brief stop in London.

While in Nairobi we had planned on getting a drum and toner for the Brother printer we had purchased a year ago. A store where we had purchased toner before said they didn't carry supplies for that printer, that printer was no longer being supported by the manufacturer. After checking all over Nairobi the consensus was no supplies existed for that printer any more. We finally gave up our quest and took a bus to the Tanzanian border, went through immigration, then took another bus to Bunda, Tanzania, where Sadat Alex met us. Boaz was away in Arusha doing some church work.

After church services on November 11th we went to the farm where Boaz' family lived; the farm is owned by his mother. I had heard there was damage there from a recent storm. There was a large tarp covering the end of the house that his family lived in with brick rubble scattered on the ground. The house was very old and the mud bricks were not properly made through a baking process; so the wall had collapsed during a heavy rainstorm. I asked if we could rebuild the wall and was told, "No, because all of the walls were in bad condition and about to fall." It needed to be torn down and rebuilt from the ground up. While at the farm a huge grey snake crossed the path in front of us. It was about 8' long and 1 ½" around the middle. Even the folks at the farm didn't know what kind of snake it was; that they had never seen another one like it. They said it definitely was not a python or cobra. We were wary for they said snakes often traveled in pairs.

On the 12th Peter, Sadat, and I took a bus to Mwanza (2 ½ hours each way) and purchased a new printer. I purchased a Vodacom internet connection dongle which now works just fine. I get a good signal from the tower which is a block from my house, but sometimes the service is a little flakey. I found it works best early in the morning. Minutes for the phone and internet connection have to be paid in advance, so I may be in the middle of a sentence when all is lost until I purchase more minutes.

For the past several days Sadat and I have been working on translating tracts into Swahili. As we complete each one I place it on our church website churchofchristonecup.org in a folder intended for East African audiences. Few people here have their own computer, but every town (not every village) has a room where computer time can be purchased in a room full of computers. When they are done they are presented a bill calculated from computer use minutes and paper used. I know of about 25 church members in East Africa that do this.

amount of trailers that are available to put people in and may lose one that we have counted on for years. If there are any special requests that any of you would like to make whether it be food stuffs, ideas for discussions, or games to play please send them to us. You can reach me at ddavis1065@aol.com or by phone at 928 503 3709 or Harry Davis at 9298 783 0474. We love you all and are looking forward to seeing everyone that can make it. We pray for you all that your physical health but more importantly your spiritual health remains stout and strong.

Denny and Susie Davis,

For the Yuma Congregation

Douglassville, PA

Dear Brother,

Just a few lines to let you know we are still around though we don't do much writing. Must be a couple of month since you called on the phone. Anyway, My wife fell in Sept. and broke her hip, was in the hospital for and rehab all of October. She is coming along slow. Also was diabetic before she fell which makes healing slower. This affected her heart which resulted in congestive heart failure, even though she takes lots of medicine. We ask you Brother remember her in your prayers. Our family of seven sons are all helping her as much as they can, but we can do nothing without Gods Blessings. She turned 77 on Dec. 2nd. We all miss her helping hands. We are sending a donation to the African fund. Brother Ellis Forsman is to be commended for his efforts and labors in the Lords vineyard. Maybe some time next year we can get him or some Brother to help spread the Gospel in this area.

Hoping this note finds you all well in your area, and also a Happy New Year.

Your Brother in Christ,

Daniel I. Shirey

Baron, OK

Dear Ellis,

I am writing you on behalf of mission work in Africa. I am sending you this check to help in your work to spread the gospel.

We are all doing pretty good here at Baron. Brother Jim and Sister Ruby have both been ill but seem to be better at the present. We have others also with health issues. Hope the church and all there are doing well. We will try to help with the mission work in Africa as we can.

Your Brother in Christ,

Doyle Wilson

In Loving Memory of

Brother Gerald Warner

Gerald Warner 4-13-1924 to 12-17-2012

He was a loving brother who was known for his sense of humor and his teasing nature. He also loved to go to as many Church meetings as he could.

My email is woodstockldw@aol.com.

We again would like to extend an open invitation to anyone coming our direction to come and worship with us. A place to stay can always be arranged.

In Christian Love
The Church of Christ
Lorenzo, Texas

Yuma, AZ December 1, 2012

Since I last wrote to the "Courier" we have voted in an important election, some people are devastated over the winner and some are ecstatic because of it. No matter who has won we have to keep plugging along doing the things that we know we need to do as good Christians. Worrying ourselves over politics won't open any doors to Heaven but may be that obstacle that slows us down. We went through the ghosts and goblins and zombies on Halloween, survived the turkey, mashed potatoes and all of the desserts on Thanksgiving Day. We are now looking towards Christmas and putting ourselves in debt. We have managed to survive without losing our sanity or gaining too much weight. It's been a while since I have sent in to the "Courier". Our brother Billy Martin and his wife Karen visited with us on the first Sunday of the month. He brought us a great lesson as he always does. Brother Harry Dye visited us the next month, they are both a refreshing change for our Sunday mornings. My wife Susie and I are back from our summer travels not too long ago. Many of you we visited with at the summer meetings and each place that we visited was hard to leave brothers and sisters behind. Our Sister Ruth Duncan is still recovering from her fall and has been re-admitted into a rehab center for a time so that she will be able to take better care for herself; she has had some difficulties getting back to where she was before the fall. Susie has come down with "shingles" and is having considerable pain just sitting in her chair. She has been given some medication from the doctor that is supposed to help but anyone that's had the shingles knows that not much can be done to alleviate that pain. Our brother Robert and his wife, Sister Debra have had an opportunity to go to Israel to visit the same places that Jesus Himself looked upon with His own eyes. What a trip that should be for them. We hope and ask for prayers for them that none of the evil that's in the area turns into anything that could ruin the time that they spend over there. Sister Florence, "Susie's Mother" is about the same as before still struggling with Alzheimer's. The rest of us here in Yuma seem to be doing about the same as always.

Our meeting this year has been scheduled again for the month of March. It will start on the 17th and end on the 24th. We would like to get an idea of how many people would like to attend this year for our planning, so if possible and you are certain then if possible let us know. We know that there are always things that come up and change our plans at the last minute but we would like to get a rough estimate of attendees. We are limited to the

Boaz came back from Arusha yesterday and we had 6 other evangelists from all over Tanzania plus Boaz in this house for planning sessions December 3rd and 4th. We plan to have one more meeting tomorrow, the 5th. Here is the schedule:

- Dec. 7-8 Bunda congregation #2
- Dec. 9-10 Bunda congregation #3
- Dec. 13-16 Ramadi
- Dec. 23 Mwanza
- Dec. 28-29 Utegi #1-3 combined
- Dec. 31-Jan 1 Utegi #4 (new)
- Jan 10-12 Arusha (5 congregations combined)
- Jan. 13-16 Kingori (base of Mt. Kilimanjaro (new)
- Jan. 17-19 Masakta
- Jan. 20-22 Simba Hill
- Jan. 25-26 Evangelist Seminar in Bunda
- Jan. 27 Church in Bunda #1 with seminar evangelists
- Feb. 3-6 Mugeta
- Feb. 8-12 Bunda #1
- Feb. 18-21 Bukoba (new)

After that we plan to work in Kenya. We will conduct a planning session for that country after we arrive. After we are done with Kenya (which will be the largest number of congregations) then we will work in Uganda and possibly one congregation in the Congo.

On the 24th I received word that Bro. Dickson in Uganda was in the hospital in a town just across the border. He had been admitted on the 20th. We were told that he had chest pains and lung trouble and that he wasn't doing well. His white blood cell count was very low. The doctors refused to work on him until he paid his bill up front, and they would not release him unless he at least paid his room charges. When I received the call from Bro. Julius Wandera his bill for them to work on him would be about $350. I sent a quick message to Lynell to put out an urgent plea for his financial help on his hospital bill. Bro. Julius told the doctor that money **IS** coming, to please start work on Bro. Dickson. I notified Boaz about Bro. Dickson and he arrived in time to join Sadat and me on a quick trip to Uganda. We left Bunda by bus 8 a.m. on the 28th and arrived at the Uganda border at 10:30 that night. The border closes at 10 p.m. so we had to get rooms on the Kenyan side of the border. We met Bro. Julius Wandera after crossing the border and walked about a mile to the hospital. The doctor heard we had arrived so he met us in Bro. Dickson's room and told us about his condition. His lungs were very bad with congestion, but he was doing much better at that time, although very weak. His white blood cell count is nearly back to normal. The doctor gave him medication to take for the next month, but he was well enough to go home and take it easy for the next month. Sadat and Boaz went with the doctor to settle the bill, but they were unable to pay it all. The bill had grown to almost $500. The doctor agreed to release Bro. Dickson but we were to send the rest of the money once we got back. Although very weak, Bro. Dick-

son was more worried about the congregation he works with than he was of himself. He asked if we could give him enough money so that he could get transportation to church and back for the next month. He normally rides a bicycle, but cannot in his present condition. We left him with money for that purpose.

During our discussion with Bro. Dickson and Bro. Wandera they told us when we were there last we had 5 congregations; they have added 5 more on their own and they have a list of several more that want to meet with us in Western Uganda and one in the Congo. I have received messages from all over Kenya and Tanzania from people who heard I was back here in East Africa. We have received many requests for gospel meetings. Boaz has gone back to Arusha, but when he and Peter return to Bunda we will work out a schedule. Meanwhile, Sadat and I are working on Swahili tracts. On December 3rd Sadat and I are going to the bank in Mwanza to get the rest of the money needed for Bro. Dickson's bill.

By the way, the place Sadat, Agrippina (his wife who is due to have a child in a month) and I live about 16 blocks from where the church meets in Bunda. We normally take a motorcycle taxi ride to church then walk back home. A ride for each person one way costs 500 Tanzania shillings (TSH); that's 32 cents per person. A 2 ½ hour bus ride from Bunda to Mwanza costs 6000 TSH per person each way; that's $3.80 per person. The cost per person each way for the 14 ½ hour bus ride (4 buses) was 35,000 TSH, or $22.15. Traveling by bus is hectic and crowded (and one might be sitting next to a person holding a chicken), but a lot cheaper than taking the car. We do have to keep an eye on any packages or luggage we have with us. Whenever there is a police inspection check on the roadway (safety of the vehicles, checking for illegal substances, etc.) and they ask for the bus cargo doors to be opened, many people on the bus get off and watch to make sure they don't lose what they have stored. From my window I watched the police open my suitcase and go through the contents. My aspirin bottle cap had been removed but not replaced securely. I had pills running loose all over when I opened my bag later. The total cost of food for the 3 of us for the trip was 60,000 TSH, or $37.97; and the total cost of the lodging for 2 nights was 50,000 TSH, or $31.65.

This season is their springtime and we have had some heavy rainfall amid severe thunderstorms. The whole region of Lake Victoria south of the Equator has been experiencing flooding, especially just north of Mwanza where houses have been flooded. North of the Equator has received rain, but not the severe ones that are occurring here. Soon it will be summertime here; although the average temperature of every month of the year is mid-80's. It's just a wet season (humid) or a very wet season (rain).

Thank you everyone who have supported the work that is going on here. We are making a lot of progress, and will do even more so when we get this year's schedule planned out.

Keep us in your prayers, Ellis Forsman

African Update Addendum – December 12th

Sunday, December 9th, was a long one in the hot sun. Church started at the Bitaraguru congregation in Bunda at 10:30 a.m. Several people were present, including evangelists visiting from as far away as Arusha, Masakta, and Mt. Kilimanjaro. The place we met for church used to have a canvas

worse. Mike and Kelly enclosed the area between our back door and the garage so we can go out without getting in snow or ice.

Once again we invite all who can to come for our meeting with brother Jerry McCay, July 21-25, all are welcome. Of course, you will always be welcome to visit at any time. Please pray for all who are ill.

Yours in Christ.

Bill McCay Sr.

Lorenzo, TX

Hello Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
We here at the Lorenzo Church of Christ Salute you in Christian love.

Health wise we have had a few illnesses and pains. Sister Nell McCay is still under the weather. This winter has been extra cold here this year, which is keeping her down. We hope for her to be back soon. Brother Gene Boling had knee surgery a couple of weeks ago and is still on the mend. He was back for services this week and we were glad to see his always smiling face. Olene Howe has had some issues with her back, but it seems she is doing better.

Brother Jerry McCay was just diagnosed with wet macular degeneration (bleeding) in his right eye, requiring a shot in that eye. He must have a 2nd and 3rd shot also, at one month intervals. The doctor feels confident the bleeding can be stopped, we are praying for it to be so.

Brother Bo Forsman was back for a few days visit. As some of you may know, Bo moved to the Pine Mountain, AR. Congregation. Shortly after being there he developed some pretty serious heart problems and gave us all a scare. Lord willing he will get better as time goes on. But it was good to see he was able to travel.

We have had a few other visitors over the holidays. Brother Bill and Sister Earlene Jared were down from Indiana and it was really nice to see them again. Sister Amy Orendorff had some of her kids and Grandkids also in town, so there was a lot of visiting going on.

Brother Russell and Sister Reba Morris were here for a few days. We got to enjoy their company for a Wed. night singing and Sunday Services.

Brother Ellis Forsman is back in Africa. The Lord's gain in service is defiantly a loss in our home congregation. His lessons, leadership, compassion and bass are all missed here, but he is doing a wonderful work for the Lord.

We here at Lorenzo do encourage ***ALL*** the congregations to help with Prayers and funds to aid in this Great Work Ellis is doing. The cost of this mission is high and funds are always lacking. So we ask for you to consider aiding in this endeavor.

We also, would remind everyone for the same kind of support for Brother Otto Alvarez. He continues to be strong in the Lords work south of the border.

We are making our plans for a meeting this summer. We are starting a list of speakers for our congregation to consider. If there are any Brothers out there that would like to be considered as one of our guest speakers please get in contact with us.



Cards and Letters

Yakima, WA

11/17 /2012

Dear Brethren: I don't have a whole lot to report, but we have decided on a date for our 2013 Meeting with Brother Jerry McCay from the Lorenzo, TX congregation. It will be July 21-25, running Sunday through Thursday.

We have had the usual colds and flu here. Oren Johnston has had a bout with pneumonia and lost his voice. He is recuperating at home now but still can't talk. I started out having 2 days a week of outpatient therapy but that has been reduced to 1 day a week. The goal is to have me walking with no assistance, and I'm getting pretty close to that. Veda is finding out that I did do a few things around here. She says that when I finally get my balance back, I'm going to owe her big time. I want to thank you all for your cards, phone calls and prayers on my behalf. We are truly one family. Our days are getting considerably cooler. with high's in the low to mid 40's and the low's from mid 20's to mid 30's. Well, I wanted to get our meeting published so that you could be getting your plans in order. Please come and visit us at any time. All are welcome.

Yours in Christ,

Bill McCay Sr.

12/ 31/ 2012

I'll just send an up-date of our news. We were happy to have Al and Charlotte Burtis come up from Modesto, CA to spend Thanksgiving with us, and then Kimberly and Jason Wintersteller and children arrived to spend the Christmas Holidays with us. Our days and nights are much colder now. The days have been anywhere from the 40's t0 the 20's and the nights have been from the teens to the mid 20's. The older I get, the less I like the winters. However we shouldn't complain because the Northeast has had weather that is much worse. We were happy to have Ryan and Mark Bentz with us over this past weekend. They came up from the Chico area and brought Emily Saint Evans with them.

We didn't get to visit much but it was nice having them here. I know Mike and Kay really enjoyed having them.

Terry Warford and family have visited several times, in fact Terry brought us a lesson Sunday the 23rd and as always, he brought a good message. He is a very capable speaker and we always enjoy listening to him.

Brother Matt McCay is now out of the Army and is going back to college at Pepperdine University. He came back home a couple of weeks ago, and was married to Sarah Stotler. They are making their home in Malibu, CA.

Oren still hasn't gotten his voice back and it's very frustrating. For the last few days, I've been walking around inside the house without a cane and am slowly getting my balance (what there ever was of it) back. We thank God that the stroke wasn't any cover, but that was destroyed a long time ago in the wind. The walls were made of poles and dried corn stalk. I talked on the "Blueprint of Christ's Church" (now divided into two parts), then the invitation was given. We had 5 requests for prayers and one baptism. They decided to break temporarily by just singing while Boaz and Daniel Molel took the one person who wanted to be baptized down to the ponds. When they got back they had me speak on the second part of the Blueprint lesson. After that we had the communion, more singing and prayers. Church service ended at 2:45 in the afternoon

Since we had no roof cover at the church, the hot sun was getting to everyone and I felt the top of my head burning. Others moved their pews around close to the walls to get as much shade as possible. When we broke for the baptism the pews, podium, communion table were all carried to one of the homes nearby where we continued under the partial shade of trees. Boaz said the top of my head is pink.

I am impressed with the brother from the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro. He resisted me when we spoke with him at his house a year ago. But after we left and he did some studying on his own, he changed the congregation to one cup (after talking with the congregation, of course). He told everyone at the evangelist seminar about his experience and change. Today he waited on the table at the Lord's Supper and did a super job.

Monday's service started at 11:00 a.m. and ended at 3:45 p.m. with a 45 minute break in between the two services. I spoke on "The Passover And The Lord's Supper". Members from all three Bunda congregations were present plus some of the evangelists from other parts of Tanzania that were still around. It has been very hot! The sunburn on my left arm has been peeling and there are a few spots that were very red after much of the peeling. My head is very sore still from Sunday's heat. Monday, Sadat held an umbrella over my head. He told me Tanzania doesn't have 4 normal seasons; it has 2 springs and 2 summers. Next Saturday and Sunday we will be at Ramadi where the preacher left to find work elsewhere and left the church without a leader. Boaz has someone else there now to work at the congregation. Sadat has not been feeling well the past few days. He believes he may have Yellow Fever. I hope not! I see children drinking water out of the gutter after a rainstorm. He plans to see a doctor soon.

Please keep me in your prayers, Ellis Forsman

African Update – January 1st

Greetings from East Africa:

The weekend of December 15-16 Sadat and I worked at the Ramadi congregation to build them up. They have no church building and meet outdoors under the sun, or in the rain this time of year. There has been a lot of rain between Mwanza and Bunda and Ramadi has been flooded a few times.

The next weekend we met with the congregation at Mwanza.

On Thursday, the 27th, Sadat, Laban, & I took a bus to Tarime (near Kenya border) then another bus to Shirati; which took most of the day; Boaz & Mabaya were to come the next day. From Shirati we had to take a taxi to Kirongwe, which I believe was another 10 miles farther to the west. We were

2 miles from the shore of Lake Victoria. I was given one room in a brother's house, and Sadat & Laban were given another. I brought my sleeping bag with me, as we were expecting this. Later, when others arrived, they had wall to wall mattresses and blankets for six people. Originally, I was told the meeting was to be in Utegi (we did drive through it), then I thought we were at Shirati, but actually went further.

On Friday, the meeting at Kirongwe started, but first we divided into teams and went house to house talking to people and inviting them to come to the meeting; sometimes we got into more involved discussions. In the afternoon (about 3 p.m.) we gathered at the church building (about a mile walk from our guest's house). The church building was a good-sized rectangular, baked mud walls, and grass thatched roof (which had sections missing, thus some areas inside were wet and muddy. It rained every day we were there with occasional clearing. I spoke on: "The Blueprint of Christ's Church, Part 1" (I split the lesson into two parts). We had a brief break, then I spoke on part 2 of that lesson. Boaz & Mabaya arrived at end of this meeting, which was after dark. On the way to the meeting, someone stole Boaz' phone and 60,000 TSH (about $40) which he set on the edge of the sink next to him in the rest room; while he was washing someone stole it all.

On Saturday, we divided into teams and went house to house, doing the same work as the day before. At times we had to seek shelter because of the rain. At the afternoon service I spoke on "The Passover and the Lord's Supper, Part 1". Five people wanted to be baptized, but it was dark; so the baptisms were scheduled for in the morning before church services.

On Sunday morning we walked about a mile to the shore of Lake Victoria for the baptisms. One more person wanted to be baptized. One man who wanted to be baptized came without a change of clothes, so a woman loaned him a dress (Often, women here wear a dress with a wrap that covers the dress; I think she loaned him her dress while she was covered with her wrap). He was very embarrassed about it, but went through with it. He shot a nasty glace at one of the men who snickered when seeing him; that man quickly realized he should not have done that. So we baptized six people before church.

At church that morning service started late because of the baptisms. I spoke on "The "Passover and the Lord's Supper, Part 2" Three more wanted to be baptized, so that was performed as soon as services were completed. We had Bible discussions afterward covering many topics. At the afternoon session I spoke on "Lovest Thou Me?"

On Monday morning, Boaz and Mabaya traveled to a village about 10 miles away to talk to them. Because of some misunderstanding between two brethren about their scheduled meeting, it was cancelled. A younger man had scheduled the meeting without the knowledge of the older, so he cancelled it. Boaz is going to try to get the meeting rescheduled. Sadat, Laban, and I traveled back to Bunda.

Our funds are getting low, so please help us financially so we can continue our work. My plans are to return to the U.S. at the end of May, Lord willing. If we run out of funds we will have to re-



I am so very sorry for not getting the *Courier* out to you these last couple of months. My EXCUSE (read, no reason) is that life crept up on me during the Holidays and I was too busy (read, poor time management ;)) to get the paper out. That being said, Look at all the wonderful news that Ellis Forsman, Otto Alvarez, Bill McCay Sr., and Denny Davis supplied to make this a jam packed issue! I can't wait to hear some news from the other congregations in this new year. (read, please make a new years resolution to send letters to the *Courier,* so you don't have to listen to me ramble, or stare at a half blank page, like this one.)

God Bless you all in this, the *Year of Our Lord 2013*

Matt Matlock

REDEMPTION

Luke 1:68

The word redemption here means a price to purchase by another of ones freedom from bondage. The Bible tells us of how God redeemed the children of Israel from their bondage in Egypt Ex 6:6. We are told that there was a Law to be followed for one in order to meet the condition of redemption (Lev. 25:23-34). In the Old Testament, the Law required that the Israelite should offer sacrifices as per the old Law for one to meet the conditions of redemption, Ex. 12 Isaiah tells us that. God was not pleased with the sacrifices offered by the Israelite during that time (Isa. 1:11). God told them that (I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and of the Fat of fed cattle, I do not delight in the blood of bulls or lambs or goats). In the other place, Jeremiah says, "Behold the days are coming says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel" (Jer. 31:31).

There was to be a change in the Law of redemption as well with the other Laws that God had given to the children of Israel known as the ten commandments (Exo. 12). As God had promised to bring a change and a redeemer, God Himself was to be the redeemer, Isa. 63:16. In the New Testament we read that Simeon bearing witness to Jesus as being the redeemer (Luke 2:28). This was to be a spiritual redemption.

Today people have invented their own ways of redeeming their friends from the bondage of sin; some pray by lighting red, blue, white, yellow, and green candles; some even cover those sinners with red, green, and blue cloths, and some still sacrifice lambs, goats, and bulls; all this and other acts of redemption they do it in the name of Jesus, yet all this are false acts of redemption.

The word redemption here means that Jesus as a Lamb was slain to purchase sinners unto God with the blood not of animals but His own blood to redeem men of every tribe and tongue, and people, and nation (Rev. 5:9). John tells us that the next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29; Rev. 5:6). Today it is good for everyone that would want to come into a relationship with Christ to know that it is Christ who is the guarantee of our in inheritance (Eph. 1:14). That means it is only in Christ that there is redemption by the sacrifice of His blood (Eph. 1:7). Luke in Acts 4:12 tells us that there is no other name under heaven given among men by which must be saved. That means, one must come into relationship with Christ in order to have redemption and forgiveness of sin (Rom. 6:3; Col. 2:12).

In these two chapters, baptism is only a way of response action on the part of a sinner who accepts the free gift of grace without condition, which is the price to purchase from sin.

Redemption is in Christ; it is free by His grace (Rom. 3:24). In this verse grace means a loving favor of God that was extended toward the sinful man regardless of the spiritual condition of all humanity. Paul tells as that while we were still sinners Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8). God has a plan to redeem all people from sin or deceit and violence of sin (Psa. 72:14). In Eph. 1:7 Paul uses the word redemption to refer to our purchase out of a situation from which we could not deliver ourselves by works of the Law or meritorious deeds (Col. 1:14). Brethren we need to know that Jesus has redeemed us from sin, that which we could not deliver ourselves. Today all people need to know that there is deliverance from condemnation by Jesus Christ (Rom. 6:23; Rom. 8:1) Therefore let's go out and preach the gospel of Christ to all people in all nations as per the command of Christ (Matt. 28:18-19.

God bless you as you read this article.

by Jeremiah Haudo Zablon, Nakuru, Kenya

schedule the meetings until we get enough. That would delay my return back to the U.S.

Sadat's oldest sister's 1 year old baby died (I think it was Friday). It had some kind of sickness, but I don't know what. Sadat went to the funeral on January 1st.

I am having a lot of trouble with the internet, so please be patient with me on getting status and pictures posted on Facebook.

As always, keep me in your prayers. 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 (Nov.)

Dear Brethren in Christ,

I greet you in the name of the Lord hoping that you may be enjoying good health along with your family and brothers in the congregation.

This month has been month of encouragement between the churches in the area north of Mexico. Several congregations had a series of predications with assistance of the brothers and other persons. The churches are strong and grounded confirmed in the sound doctrine. Also the brothers and evangelists in Guatemala and Coloumbia inform that the churches continue working with the evangelists.

I inform that during that last week in Guatemala two earthquakes destroyed many areas of the country and many brothers poor live in those areas. We are sending small helps to these brothers. We request please pray for brothers in 'Guatemala.

1 Cor 15:58 Therefore my dear brothers. Stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the lord is not in vain.

God bless,

Evangelists between people speak Spanish.

Harlingen, TX (Dec.)

Harlingen, December 17th 2012

Churches in Mexico, Central America.

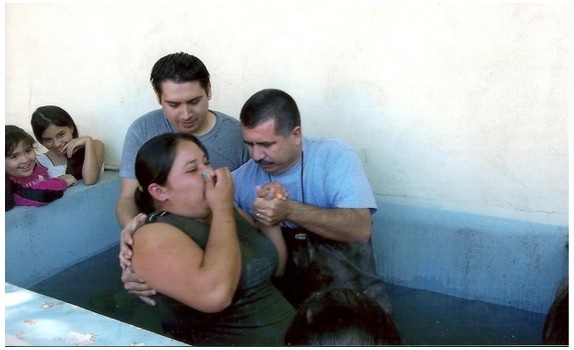
We inform that the brothers in the churches in Guatemala continue firm in the truth with the work and help of the evangelists. Also, some brothers that in November were affected by the earthquake already they are solving their problems.

The brothers of the churches in Mexico continue faithful and preaching in different places and during this month of December some congregations have plans for series of predications.

In the church in Matamoros we had baptisms and the church continues very encourage working in this area with other persons. Also from the day 21 to the 23 December in the church in Green River we will have meetings of studies to prepare more brothers for the predication of the gospel.

Your Brothers in Christ,

Evangelists [Otto]





Baptism in Matamoros Mex. (left), and congregation in Oaxaca Mex. (right)

Donation information: Donations to aid Otto can be sent to: Church of Christ C/O Otto Alvarez P.O. Box 532514 Harlingen, TX 78553



Pictures from Africa







Bro. Sadat Alex, Bro. Boaz, Bro. Dickson Auma, and Bro. Julius Wandera (above), Evangelist Seminar in Bunda (above right), Here is a picture of the house at the farm that is collapsing (right).





This one was Sunday morning before church services at Kirongwe, Tanzania (top left)

This baptismal picture was taken at the same location after church services Sunday (top right),

This picture taken a year ago shows brother Dickson (2nd from right) and Bro. Julius Wandera (far right) (picture to the right).





Congregation, and baptism at Nakuru, Kenya; where Jeremiah Haudo Zablon meets (see his article on page 12).

