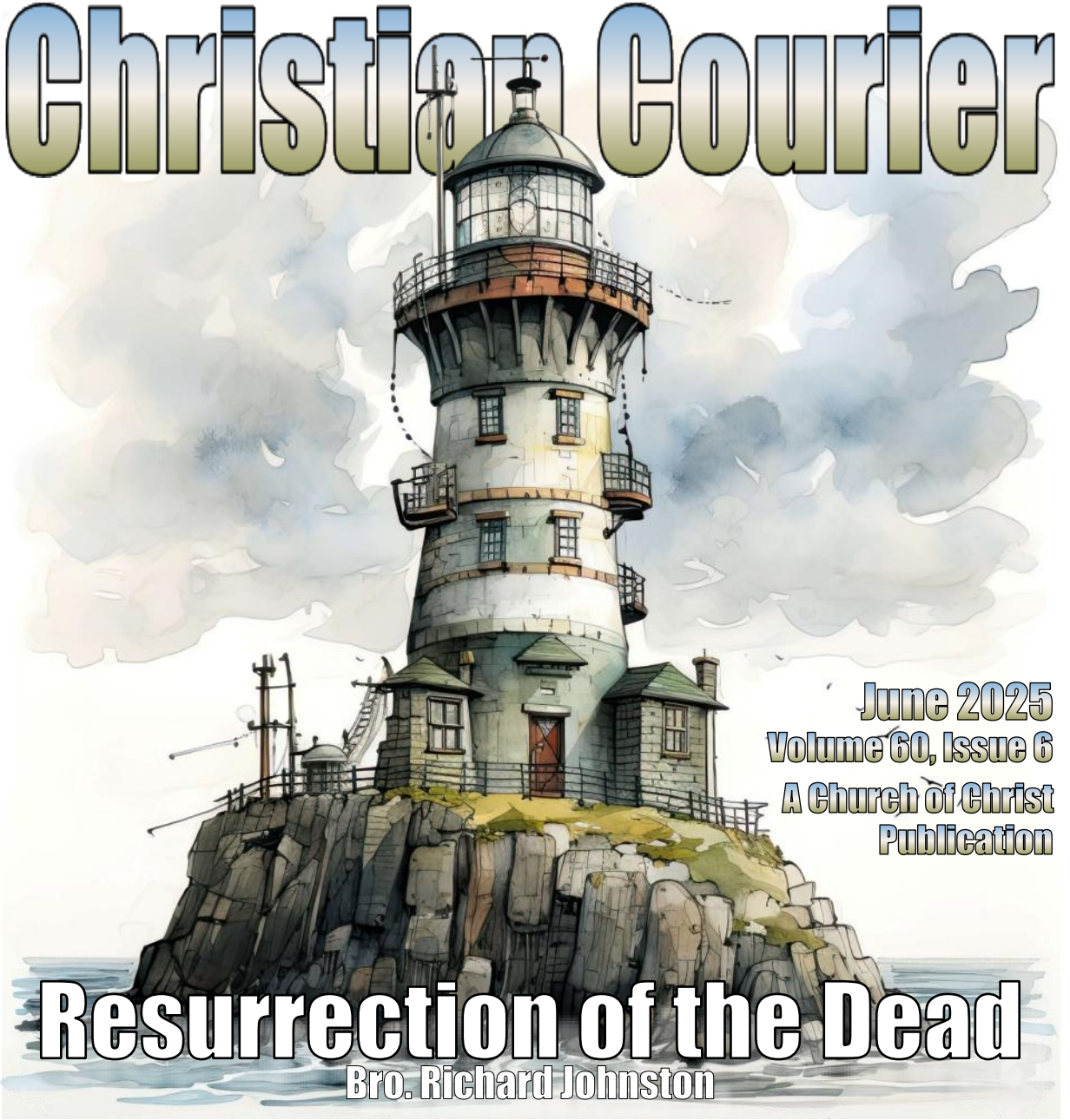
Christian Courier



June 2025
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Resurrection of the Dead

Bro. Richard Johnston

Whenever the question of resurrection comes up, I automatically go to 1 Corinthians the 15th chapter. In this study, I wish to look at Paul's explanation as to how important Christ's resurrection is to us today.

1 Corinthians 15:1-4, *"Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand;*

[2] By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. [3] For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; [4] And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:"

There is much historical evidence that Jesus lived. An example of this is Tacitus, Roman Senator and historian, "**Nero fastened the guilt . . . on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace. Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of . . . Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome. . . .**"

Tacitus did not accept Christianity; but he recognized it's founder as being a real person.

While many scholars accept the fact that Jesus lived and was crucified; they refuse to accept his resurrection.

Paul says the gospel saves us. Paul states that the gospel is the death, burial and resurrection.

If there is no resurrection, then we cannot be saved.

1 Corinthians 15:5-8, "*And that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: [6] After that, he was seen of above five hundred brethren at once; of whom the greater part remain unto this present, but some are fallen asleep. [7] After that, he was seen of James; then of all the apostles. [8] And last of all he was seen of me also, as of one born out of due time.*"

These verses paint a very powerful picture for me. Over 500 people saw the risen Savior. We know that in the early days of the church, the Jews persecuted the church, and then later, the Roman government. Christians were put to death. Why would they die believing a lie?

Did they become powerful? No! Did they become rich? No!

An example of what those

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early day Christians went through is found in a letter from Pliny governor of Bithynia (111-113) to Emperor Trajan, "**Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have followed the following procedure: I interrogated them as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed. For I had no doubt that, whatever the nature of their creed, stubbornness and inflexible obstinacy surely deserve to be punished. There were others possessed of the same folly; but because they were Roman citizens, I signed an order for them to be transferred to Rome.**"

Why did these people die for their beliefs? Because they believed in the whole gospel. Christ died for their sins, was buried, and then was resurrected. We do not know for sure when the apostle Paul died But, we do know he was in Rome while Nero was emperor . Why would Paul die to preserve a lie?

1 Corinthians 15:12-19, "*Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? **13** But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: **14** And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. **15** Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. **16** For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: **17** And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. **18** Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. **19** If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.*"

In these verses Paul presents the argument that if Christ did not rise from the dead, then our faith is worthless. The 15th verse is very powerful. If Christ is not risen from the dead; Paul is preaching a false teaching. What could be worse than being a false witness of God? Dropping down to the 29th verse Paul continues to show that if there is no resurrection; our faith is false and thus worthless.

Verses 29-32 "*29 Else what shall they do which are baptized for the dead, if the dead rise not at all? why are they then baptized for the dead? 30 And why stand we in jeopardy every hour? 31 I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead*

rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die."

There is very little doubt; Paul was put to death because he believed in the resurrection of Jesus. He said he saw him. Why would anyone go through all the trials he endured if he knew he was teaching a lie.

Verses 20-23, "*20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.*"

Simply put, Christ was the first to rise from the dead never to die again. And we who believe in him will go through the same process; we will rise never to die again.

Our hope for eternal life is based on God's promise of resurrection.

I would like to close with Peter's assurance:

1 Peter 1:3-5, "*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*"

Written in the hope of eternal life.



Richard Johnston

Lower Ahtanum Church of Christ

Yakima, WA



Join us for family fun and fellowship! There will be church services, bible studies, singings, field trips, a fundraising auction and more!



For More Information

Please Contact:

Mike and Melissa Harcrow
1-580-584-7597
Robert and Christina Fuson
1-918-696-3944
Kevin and Hayley Lamb
1-509-969-6881
Visit us on Facebook:
Church of Christ Family Camp

Notes & Letters

Just a quick note of thanks to you all for continuing to do the work of getting the message out; and sharing the good news of the congregations. We are happy to be able to provide some financial help to keep the Christian Courier coming.

God bless you all!

Michael McCay for the
Ahtanum Church of Christ

6/7/2025

Hope everyone is doing well and having good health. We are all doing fairly well here.

We are grateful for the church paper that everyone enjoys very much.

With love to all,

Tiner Church of Christ

We have acquired **Bro. Ellis Foresman's** Study of Revelation and have reproduced it in book form. Please let us know if you'd like one. We will be happy to mail you one! It is also on **1CupHistory.Church** as a PDF!

ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com



Milk of the Word

Number Studies: "2"

In the study of biblical numerology, the number **two** carries rich meaning and symbolism throughout Scripture. While often overlooked, this number frequently appears in contexts that emphasize **witness, confirmation, division, and relationship**. As members of the Church of Christ, we understand that "whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning" (Romans 15:4), and so we look into the significance of such numbers with reverence and diligence.

Two as a Number of Witness and Testimony

The Bible often uses **two** to establish the truth of a matter. In both the Old and New Testaments, two witnesses are required for

confirmation. **Deuteronomy 19:15.** Jesus Himself acknowledged this principle in confirming His identity. **John 8:17–18.** In evangelism and ministry, Jesus sent out His disciples **two by two**, underscoring the importance of mutual support and joint testimony. **Mark 6:7.**

Two as a Symbol of Division and Choice

The number two also represents **division**, particularly the contrast between good and evil, life and death, obedience and rebellion. **Deuteronomy 30:19.** Jesus spoke of two paths: **Matthew 7:13–14.** And two builders: **Matthew 7:24–27.** These contrasts underscore man's accountability and free will, crucial teachings we try to express time and time again. There is a duality of our nature as human beings.

Two in the Marriage Relationship

In God's design for the family, the number two is foundational. From the beginning, God created **man and woman**—not a multitude, but a pair—for companionship and unity. **Genesis 2:24.** This divine union prefigures the relationship between Christ and the Church. **Ephesians 5:31–32.**

Two in the Nature of Christ and Covenant

The number two is also seen in the **dual nature** of Jesus Christ—fully God and fully man. Though not always represented in numeric form, this duality is vital to our understanding of the Savior. Moreover, the Bible is divided into two covenants: the Old and the New Testaments. The Church of Christ affirms the necessity of rightly dividing the word (**2 Timothy 2:15**) and understanding the superiority of the New Covenant through Christ. **Hebrews 10:9.**

Conclusion

Though a seemingly simple number, **two** holds profound biblical significance. Whether in testifying truth, highlighting moral choices, defining relationships, or revealing God's covenantal structure, it points us to spiritual truths that must not be ignored. May we always seek to be faithful witnesses, walking together in unity and truth, as the Lord has called us. **Amos 3:3.** Let us walk in agreement with God, His word, and one another as members of His one body—the Church of Christ.



Bro. Jacob Fuson

Pleasant View Church of Christ

Stilwell, OK

*** We have a favor to ask ***

Please, PLEASE send us any pictures you may have of any brethren in the church for our website.

Especially J.C. Spurlin, Paul Ferguson, J.L. Morse, J.D. Logan, W.E. Daniels, C.C. McCluskey, Lurana McCluskey (C.C.'s wife), J.S. Bedingfield, J.W. Bedingfield, Lloyd Treat, & J.H. Lackey.

ChristianCourier1Cup@gmail.com

Christian Courier, 83985 S. 4737 Rd., Stilwell, OK 74960

It's soooo nice to see smiling faces when browsing through lists of priceless old lessons an documents. Thanks!!

A very special shout-out to the Harper brothers in California for their incredible gift of a huge box of letters and lessons, written by those named above!! These documents will be scanned & up on our website soon!! https://1CupHistory.church



Thought for the Month

While I've never given any thought to an official theme song for the Courier, our congregation sang "***Let The Lower Lights Be Burning***" last Sunday and the lyrics gave me a lot of inspiration.

We, as lights in the storm, can provide both direction and reassurance to the lost, weary, wayward and struggling. While God is the ultimate light which shines through His Word and the promises of The Gospel, we as lesser lights can help as well.

When we are vigilant to keep our lights lit, and keep our brightness turned all the way up in every thing we do and say, others can see God through our actions and works, magnifying His presence in us. And the first part of Matthew, chapter 25 clearly tells us what happens when we don't do what is necessary to keep our lights lit. Stay bright my friends!



Love & Blessings
Bro. Jesse Warford

News from Abroad

Central/South America Update

06-05-2025
Appreciated brothers in the Lord,

I have faith that the Lord blesses you all that read this news-letter with information of the church of the Lord in different places, and that it encourages them to continue participating in the preaching of the Gospel that is the responsibility of all Christians.

I inform you of our activities in Mexico during May.

We visited the church in Padilla and study the scriptures for the edification of the brothers, and we also made work of evangelization in that area.

We also studied and preached in the area of the new church in San Benito. This congregation is new but is growing and the brothers are very lively and continue making the evangelism.

Pictures of baptisms [are included.]

I have plans during June and July to visit other congregations and possibly have meetings for preaching and evangelization and also preparing studies for the preachers.

Thank you for your prayers,
Your brother in Christ...
Otto Alvarez









TANZANIA UPDATE

Dear beloved Brothers and Sisters,

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we serve. We thank the Almighty for reaching us this far. A number of people have not been able to reach the middle of the year.

Brother John in Tabora and brother James in Runzewe both informed us about baptism in both congregations last Thursday. Please pray for these souls that they may grow in the Lord. The work of evangelism is one of those works that is hard. Persuading people to know the Way is not easy. However, we need your prayers and as you pray keep the congregations in the hands of God.



Ever since May and the beginning of June, there is a denominational preacher who was preaching politics in his church (The Glory Christ Tanzania Church). It was so because he was questioning about the abductions that has been going on in the country. He mentioned about 83 people missing and the government is quiet. So for this reasons his church (I say his because it is a man made) was deregistered and the minister for home affairs informed the parliament that there will be new registration and they will see and select those churches that teach and preach the truth. Along with that they will select those congregations that support the community; like helping the vulnerable people in the community. However, we are waiting to see when this will take place, we shall let you know.

Brothers Lazarous, Deusi, and I departed here to Dar for the paperwork for the children. They want each of the congregations that work with the community to give the report on the funds they get to run the institution. They claim that there are those churches in the country that work with the Orphans and get money from different sources but the children don't benefit from it. Therefore, we went and reported on what we are doing with the Orphans and how we help them. All of those approved right will be giving their reports each January and the beginning of June.

May God bless you all and the work you are doing for the sake of building the body of Christ.

On behalf of Katoro Congregation,

Your brother in Christ,
Sadat

Donations and requests for information may be sent to:

Church of Christ
Africa Mission
3814 64th Drive
Lubbock, TX 79413

Guess Who???

The answer is below the Bulletin Board



This is a hard one!! Do you know **who** & **where** they are?

Studying Revelation

A look at Revelation 2:14-16

Bro. Paul Warford

Rev 2:14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

But I have a few things against thee

Even though the church here had a great many strengths there were some within the church, probably not the whole church, that had some weakness that Christ did not like.

because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam,

The story of Balaam is recorded in Numbers chapter 22 through 24.

who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel

The Bible often talks as stumbling blocks as something that is put in the way of God's people to cause them to commit sin.

to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Now Christ explains the specifics of the teaching of Balaam and Balac. They were teaching the Israelites to eat things sacrificed unto idols and commit fornication.

In today's society we probably don't really understand what this means but according to a little research that I did it was a very common practice for the heathens at that time to eat meat sacrificed to their heathen gods and to commit fornication as an appropriate act of worship to them.

One of the things we must realize is that most of the Christians jobs at this time we're dependent on people from the heathen nations and so there was a lot of pressure on the Christians to do their vile acts of worship because it could harm the Christians financially, socially and possibly in many other ways that would make life very hard on Christians.

Rev 2:15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

As we learned earlier in this chapter the church at Ephesus also had a problem with the teaching of the Nicolaitans. It goes hand in hand along with eating things sacrificed to idols and committing fornication. God doesn't like anybody doing it, much less his church.

Rev 2:16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

The way that this verse phrases things is actually very specific and very neat in its own style.

Of course it starts off with the word repent, or have the self-conviction to stop the sin that you're doing and live again for Christ.

And then it talks about two different groups of people. He says I will come unto "thee" quickly and we'll fight against "them". So who is "thee" and "them".

"Thee" is the congregation there in Pergamos. This is where Christ was gonna go, was this congregation. Most likely the thought here was Christ coming to remove their Candlestick. It could also me that this is the place he had to go to fight against those doing the evil works.

"Them" are the people that were committing these evil acts. Scriptures say that he's coming to fight against them with the sword of his mouth. He's coming to fight them with the truth, the simple pure word of God.

In Christian Love
Bro. Paul Warford
Pleasant View
Stilwell, OK



DO YOU OR YOUR CONGREGATION HAVE SERMONS ON PAPER OR VIDEO YOU'D LIKE LISTED ON OUR CHURCH OF CHRIST HISTORY WEBSITE? JUST LET US KNOW BY EMAILING US AT CHRISTIANCOURIERICUP@GMAIL.COM. YOUTUBE VIDEOS ARE BEST, AND PERMANENT FACEBOOK VIDEOS WILL WORK AS WELL. IN FACT, VIDEOS FROM ANY SOURCE ARE ACCEPTABLE IF THEY'RE NOT AUTO-DELETED AFTER A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF TIME.

Voices from the Past

This is the first issue of Little Love Letters, one of Elmer Hunt's many publications. This series may be found on our church history website in the [Publications] menu option. https://1CupHistory.com

LITTLE love LETTER

Jan. 1, 1978
From Elmer H. Hunt
565 W. Greenwood Ave. #20
La Habra, Calif. 90631
****** ****** * ****** ******

HAPPY NEW YEAR.

It has been a long long time since I have written to every one of you, in the "L.L.L.". To give it accurately(I boked it up) Dec.1,'75.

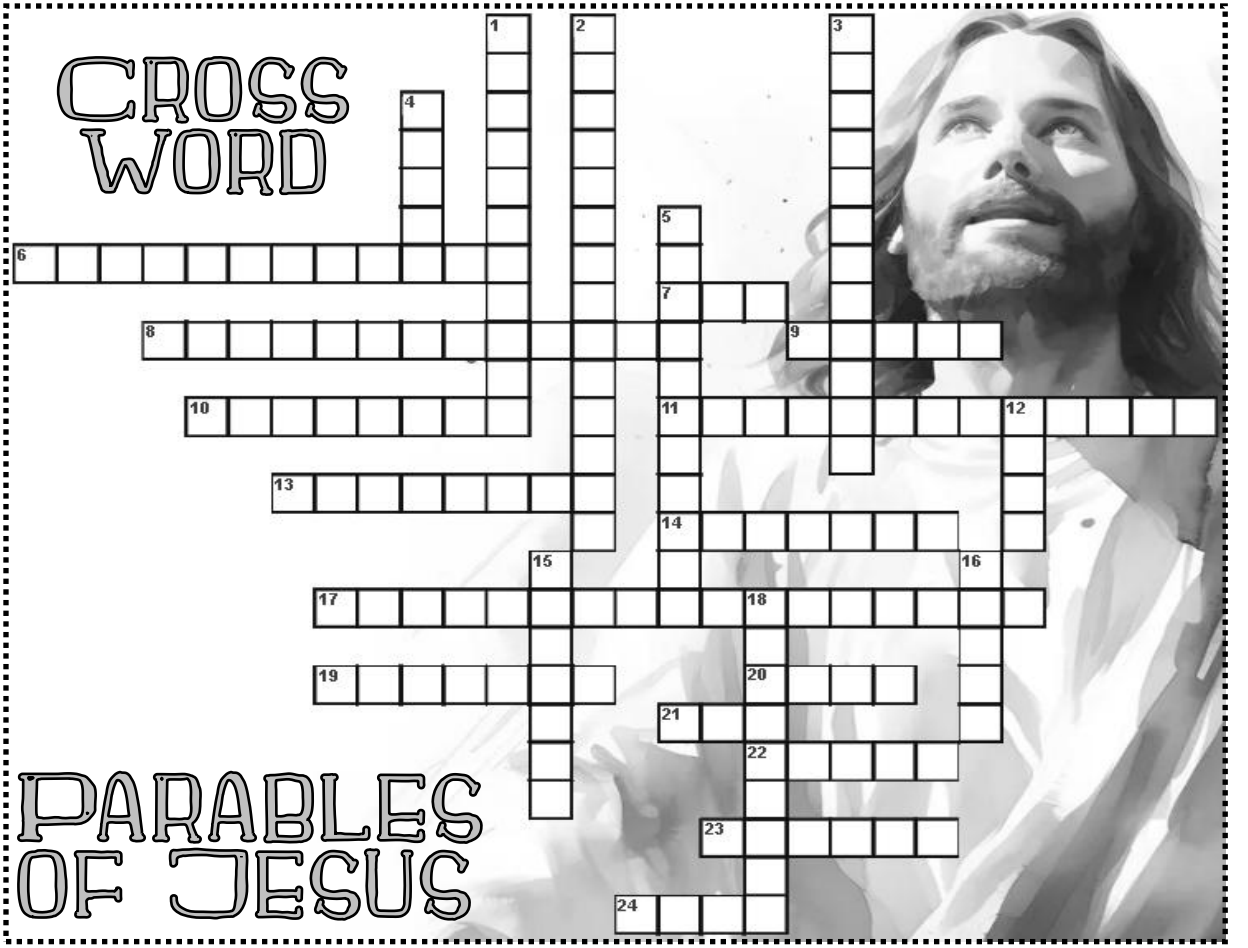
I have wanted to write for quite some time so here I start on December 7 to try to be done and get it to you on or about the First of Jan. I wish each of you a HAPPY NEW YEAR all of 1978. "Unto Him(God) be glory in the Church by CHRIST JESUS throughout all ages-", Eph. 3:14-21.

IN MARCH, 1974, page 3 of Little Love Letter, I broached the "GREAT" necessity of preserving all of the good writers' writings, of our deceased Brothers, that will soon be lost unless some concerted effort---. Thus it did begin. Then on June 1, 1974 I quoted again the same. But many of you may still have those copies.

Many began to react wholeheartedly to the incentive. So in the first part of July that year, when my dear Louise and I got back from our last trip to Oregon,-I began the tedious piece of work. It grew and grew tremendously. Here,to express my heart's deepest love to God; I am very thankful in deed that our merciful, Heavenly Father did grant His Grace to us and permitted that we could do all that we did.

First and Last, and Evermore: "Unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus-".

CROSS WORD



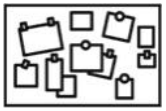
PARABLES OF JESUS

Down:

1. Grew into a large tree (Matthew 13:31-32)
2. Attended event w/o this (Matthew 22:11-14)
3. King invites to this event (Matthew 22:1-14)
4. Man sold everything for it (Matthew 13:44)
5. Lost _____ was found (Luke 15:11-32)
12. Houses constructed on it (Matthew 7:24-27)
15. Master entrusted this (Matthew 25:14-30)
16. Wields justice (Luke 18:1-8)
18. Left ninety-nine alone to find the one (Luke 15:3-7)

Across:

6. This cannot stand (Mark 3:24-25)
7. Only five had enough (Matthew 25:1-13)
8. Made bad $$$ decisions (Luke 16:1-13)
9. Heaven is like this (Matthew 13:45-46)
10. Workers hired to tend (Matthew 20:1-16)
11. Aided a wounded man (Luke 10:25-37)
13. Swept to find this (Luke 25:8-10)
14. Obeys his master (Matthew 24:45-51)
17. Wealthy ignores beggar (Luke 16:19-31)
19. This bore no fruit (Luke 13:6-9)
20. Farmer scatters this (Matthew 13:1-23)
21. Fishermen cast this (Matthew 13:47-50)
22. Follows Good Shepherd (John 10:1-18)
23. Works through dough (Matthew 13:33)
24. Keeps ones faith bright (Matthew 25:1-13)



Bulletin Board

Prayer List

John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, heart issues
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Sandra Hughes	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer treatments / Surgery
Rylan Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Carney Complex - nerve tumors
Morgan McIntosh	Broken Bow, OK	Beginning cancer treatments
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Mike Schell	Montrose, CO	Cancer in both lungs
Louise Brister	Citrus City, AZ	Melanoma Cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, 2 angioplasties
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travels, thyroid issues
Larry Pollan	Ringgold, TX	Heart attack & surgeries
Jessica Chastain	Stilwell, OK	Health issues
Retha Morris	Stilwell, OK	Battling Parkinson's
Darletta Spencer	Stilwell, OK	Cancer
Bruce Cuming	Yuma, AZ	Heart Issues, back & leg pain
Dennis Davis	Yuma, AZ	Back & leg issues
Susie Davis	Yuma, AZ	Kidney trouble
Suzie Warford	Port Orchard, WA	Cancer
Kathy Lamb	Gleed, WA	Cancer surgery
Lavonne Walk	Gleed, WA	Health Problems
Betty McKinney	Gleed, WA	Back surgery
K.T. Widel	Gleed, WA	Broken leg (slipped on ice)
Troy Solomon	Gleed, WA	Health Issues

Gospel Meetings

Gleed Gospel Meeting	Yakima, WA	Jun 28 - Jul 2, 2025	Kurt & Nate Harper
Family Camp Meeting	Cedaredge, CO	July 12-20, 2025	Guest Speakers
Weekend Meeting	Lorenzo, TX	Jul 23-27, 2025	Guest Speakers
Labor Day Meeting	Stilwell, OK	Aug 29 - Sep 1, 2025	Robert Davis

Baptisms

Madison Fouch	April 27, 2025	Georgetown, TX

Guess Who??? Answer: Earlene, Willie, Kathy Vandra & Amy Howe (at the Furnish Canyon church house in Kenton, OK)



In Loving Memory

Augustine Harper

Augustine Laverne "Neen" Harper was born to Curtis C. McCluskey and the former Lurana Bedingfield on Sept. 23, 1931 in House, New Mexico. She passed from this life on June 6, 2024. She is survived by her husband Ken Harper, her children Kevin (Janine), Eric (Lori), Bret, Kurt (Jeanine), Peggy Bogardus (Richard). Also, 9 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Neen grew up in Oswald, Oklahoma, Yuma, Arizona, and the Sacramento, California area with her brothers Howard, David and Ray.

When she was a young woman she was baptized into the Church of Christ in the icy waters of Cave Junction, Oregon by her evangelist grandfather, J.S. Bedingfield.

An adventurous spirit occupied Neen. When in her twenties, she could be found riding a mule in the Grand Canyon, travelling to the Territory of Hawaii, or manning a small telephone switchboard at Lake Tahoe.

In 1959, she married the love of her life, a retired fighter pilot, Ken Harper. They made their home on 2 acres in Penn Valley, California where Neen devoted her life to being a wife and mother. Providing hearty meals and a pleasant home while singing an old folk song her dad taught her or a sacred selection – of which she knew a countless number.

Above all else she devoted herself to Jesus Christ and was a fierce defender of the faith, with a stated goal of seeing all her children go to heaven some day. Sundays were set aside for church and she attended faithfully, unaided by walker or wheelchair, clear up until she was admitted into the hospital and departed this earthly life to be in the presence of the Lord forevermore.