

The Christian Courier

June - Sept., 2021

Published by the Church of Christ in Lorenzo, TX
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Burned Biscuits

"*If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, And his love is perfected in us*" 1 John 4:12 (KJV)

When I was a little boy, my mom liked to make breakfast food for dinner every now and then. And I remember one night in particular when she had made breakfast after a long, hard day at work.

On that evening so long ago, my mom placed a plate of eggs, sausage and extremely burned biscuits in front of my dad. I remember waiting to see if anyone noticed! Yet all my dad did was reach for his biscuit, smile at my mom and ask me how my day was at school. I don't remember what I told him that night, but I do remember watching him smear butter and jelly on that biscuit and eat every bite!

When I got up from the table that evening, I remember hearing my mom apologize to my dad for burning the biscuits. And I'll never forget what he said: "Baby, I love burned biscuits.

Later that night, I went to kiss Daddy good night — and I asked him if he really liked his biscuits burned ... He wrapped me in his arms and said,

"Your Momma put in a hard day at work today and she's real tired. And besides, a little burnt biscuit never hurt anyone!"

You know, life is full of imperfect things and imperfect people. We're not all the best housekeepers or cooks.

What I've learned over the years is that learning to accept each other's faults (and choosing to celebrate each other's differences) is one of the most important keys to creating a healthy, growing, and *everlasting* relationship.

My prayer for you today is — that you will learn to take "the good", "the bad", and "the ugly" parts of your life and — <u>lay them at the feet of God</u>.

Because in the end — He's the only One who will be able to give you a relationship where a burnt biscuit "*isn't a deal-breaker"*! *… I have loved, do love, and will love, you with an everlasting love.*

PS: I rewrote this from something I read and added my thoughts to it. Those of you that

knew my mom and dad, know that this, probably, would not have been his response! Mom was such a great cook, dad would have had to, make some kind of remark, that's just who he was, (and many of the rest of us). Depending on his health at the time, and/or his mood, no telling what that remark might have been. It might have been negative, but most of the time it would have been continuously kidding (on and on). *(But, we loved him "for who he was",* ***with everlasting love!****)*.

Submitted in Christian Love, for your consideration!

Stanley Goodwin

Graham, Texas
Newcastle Church of Christ

Note From the Editor

Brethren, the past several months have been difficult for the staff of *The Christian Courier*, what with the closing of our website by Yahoo and much sickness with Covid-19 and other illnesses. Hopefully, we are past our illnesses.

Concerning our website, we are looking into other avenues of development.

We desire to stop using Ventura Publisher in publishing our *The Christian Courier* and switch to Microsoft Publisher. Ventura Publisher software was created by Xerox, then sold to Corel to support this software. Corel then stopped supporting Ventura Publisher and told its users to use Corel's Publishing software. This action angered a lot of Ventura Publisher users (including us) as Corel's software lack a lot of popular features. Microsoft's publishing software, however, does have many features the others do not have. At some time in the near future we hope to be able to stop using Ventura and move over to using Microsoft Publisher.

This edition of The Christian Courier spans June through September.

As soon as possible and Lord willing, we will catch up with the months of October through December.

— Editor of *The Christian Courier*



Cards and Letters

Aztec, NM

Dear ones,

Attached is a check for the Courier.

Mom (Tiny) suggested we have a question & answer section. She has questions and maybe others would have the same questions. Maybe the brothers could send answers to these questions.

We are all fine. We had three baptisms on June 26, 2021; I can't give names because I don't know. They came to church on Sunday and the following Saturday they were baptized.

Love to all Sis. Anna & Sis. Tiny from Aztec, NM

[Thank you all for your continued support of the Courier as well as the African Missionary effort — Editor]

Lorenzo, TX

Greetings to all our brothers and sisters,

The Lorenzo Meeting was during July 11-18, 2021, with Bro. Jim Lamb and Bro. Kevin Lamb of Gleed, WA, and guest speakers were Bro. Paul Warford, Bro. Mike Harcrow, and Bro. Robert Fuson. We were happy to have a lot of visitors for this occasion: Bro. Paul and Sis Crystal Warford and family; Bro. Mike and Sis. Melissa Harcrow and family; Bro. Jeremy and Sis. Hanna Christianson; Bro. Larry and Sis. Maxine Pollan; Bro. Russell and Sis. Reba Morris; and Bro. Robert Fuson. We also had visitors during other times: Bro. Willie and Sis. Mary Howe; Sis. Oletta Spurlin; Bro. Mike and Sis. Sharon Hoffman with their sons Ben and Alex; and Bro. Ellis and Sis. Lynell Forsman's son, Paul Forsman.

Sis. Jaetta Loftis & Bro. Gene Boling are still dealing with age-related difficulties. Bro. Larry Wood had a serious case of the Corona 19 virus. He spent a lot of time in the hospital ICU then in recovery because of this disease. We are so very thankful he got the medical assistance that was needful for full recovery. The congregation thanks everyone for their prayers on his behalf.

Since the passing away of Sis. Diane Hoffman's husband Gordon in April, she has moved into the duplex next to the one shared by Sis. Becky Forsman and Sis, Jaetta Loftis.

Some visitors include Larry & Maxine Pollan; Kelly Shepherd, her daughter Leah Mollohan, grandchildren, M J Mollohan, and Lulu Mollohan also Lori Harper, and her daughter Ashley Burnett; Stanley and Judy Goodwin; Garry and Faye Burkhart for a month after the Yuma meeting; Mike & Sharon Hoffman, and their two sons Ben & Alex. Next week (May 18-25) Bill & Jackie Meltingtallow, and their son William will be visiting from the State of Washington.

Some of our brothers and sisters in Christ have been challenged by the Corona 19 Virus. We are reminded of the scripture 2 Cor. 4:8-9, "*We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;*" We have not missed holding Sunday services and have now resumed having fellowship & singing on Wednesdays at Gene & Angela Boling's home.

Yours in Christ from the Lorenzo, TX congregation.

Montrose, CO

This is Tony Schell with the congregation in Montrose, CO. Jamie and I have moved, and our new address is,

18330 6300 road
Montrose, CO 81403
970-596-6935

We are all doing good here, lots of new babies being born, been a few sick but all have healed up nicely, thank the Lord. You can take me off the prayer list. Thanks to all that have been praying for me the lord has helped me, my heart has been doing great! Hoping and

praying for all the brothers and sisters out there who are struggling.

In brotherly love, Tony Schell and all the brothers and sisters here in Montrose.

Respectfully,

Tony Schell
Coal Creek Construction
Po. box 455
Lake City, Co. 81235
970-596-6935

Newcastle, TX

Dear brethren,

Please accept these funds to be used to spread the gospel on behalf of the Newcastle congregation.

May God bless you all!

Newcastle Church of Christ

[Thank you so very much for your continued support – Editor]

Randlett, OK

Enclosed is a check to pay for the paper copies of *The Christian Courier* for our members and the postage associated with them. Please use any coverage toward the other expenses of *The Christian Courier*.

May God bless, Andy Barnes on behalf of the Randlett, OK congregation.

[Thank you so very much for the support – Editor]



News From Abroad

Harlingen, TX (June 30, 2021)

Dear brethren,

I inform you that during the several days I work with the brothers of some churches about the marriage and responsibilities of the parents in the home. Also, in a congregation there was a problem in understanding the bible and on the predestination and final judgment. The problem is because there are brothers with evangelical families who insist on introducing and practicing mistaken doctrines on these points.

We took advantage of this situation to study about the responsibility of continuing to make the evangelization work and that the preachers continue the edification work.

The brothers in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia continue firm in this faith and we have permanent communication with them to help them walk correctly in the Christian life.

I comment that during July I will be visiting some congregations.

Yours in Christ,
Otto & Mariela Alvarez

Harlingen, TX (August 21, 2021)

Dear brothers,

I comment that during July I had the opportunity to visit some churches in Mexico to encourage the brothers and to study different doctrinal points.

I planned to work with the brothers of Green River, Mexico, and to study with new people in the city of Tampico, Mexico. These people are members of the evangelist church but have the purpose of listening to the truth of the scriptures.

Some people have problem with the Covid-19 and for that cause it cancels this visit, but if the Lord permits, during August or September I will be working in these places.

Also, I plan to take advantage of the time to finish writing some books with studies for preachers and all the members that have interest in preparing for the preaching. Some books are already printed.

I am also studying on Saturdays on the internet with some brothers in Mexico and Guatemala. I have the hope that these brothers can grow in the Christian life. I have informed on the churches in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia and continue firm in the Christian life.

I sent pictures of the congregations in Matamoros, Mexico.

Bro. Otto Alvarez and evangelists in Spanish.

Harlingen, TX (August 31, 2021)

Appreciated brothers,

I inform you that during this month, I had the opportunity to visit the church in the city of Marida (Southern Mexico) and shared the scriptures and encouraged them so that they continue firm in the faith. The brothers continue evangelizing and they have established two congregations that are faithful in this area of Yucatan State.

Also, I comment that I had the opportunity to visit some brothers that live in Memphis, Tenn. They invited me to preach to a group of Hispanic people that they have contacts with. I hope that these brothers continue evangelizing these people. Maybe promptly initiate a faithful church in this place.

The information that I have of the churches in Mexico, Guatemala, and Colombia continue firmly in faith and the truth. In some places in Mexico and Guatemala there are groups of families that have been affected by the Covid virus, but some are already healed of this.

Thank you in the name of the Lord for your important participation of preaching the gospel. We have security that the Lord sent many blessings to participate in this work of saving souls.

I sent a picture of the church in Marida, Mexico.

Evangelists in Spanish

Report from Kenya (July 19, 2021)

We are doing fine in the Lord. I wrote to update you on what is taking place here in Barut Church of Christ - Nakuru, especially what our congregation has done since the formation of Cell Groups. Much has been achieved. The first week of the month the turn-out was low as compared to the second week. Since this was first time to most of our congregants, it took time for them to adjust to what is expected of taking fellowship to their homes and how cell groups should be conducted. I thank our Almighty God that most of our church members are now into fellowshipping at their homes and have appreciated the much support you have given us and the good idea which you shared with us.

We have also been blessed with 7 new members to our church. This was because of the formation of cell groups since most of them are neighbors to our church members. They joined us during fellowship at different homes and they have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Their baptism will be taking place mid of next month a week after the evangelism meeting at Londian in Total Junction. The church blesses each of them with a Bible.

The preparation for the Evangelism Meeting is on-going and since it will be outside the Nakuru town; the Covid-19 restrictions and protocols shall be observed in detail to avoid conflict with the authorities.

Thank you for your financial support. May the Almighty God bless you and the brethren in the U.S.

Bro. Simon Omwansa,
Bro. John Kombo

Report From Liberia

June, 2021

Dear Brethren,

I am greeting all of you in the Holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ and hope all of you are doing fine.

I write to have you informed that the Central Buchanan Congregation has gone through many bereavements. As you may know, we lost one Bro. Sampson Buwhere on June 24; we lost now Bro. Harry Johnson who was buried on June 26. I was not on the Funeral Service of Bro. Harry Johnson because I was seriously sick with malaria and was taken to Monrovia and went under treatments for a week.

However, I am now well and am back home to my family in Buchanan. The next person that is very sick now is Bro. Emmett Logan.

Please put us into your prayers because the government of Liberia told us that Corona Virus is in Liberia and many people are dying from it. We need your prayers so we can overcome through the deliverance power of the Almighty God.

I would like to also take this time to sincerely remind you concerning this ELWA Road Church of Christ Minister's support as I have already recommended him to you brethren for his readiness to work with us from congregation to congregation in the Republic of Liberia. This minister is brother Jonah Y. Dors. We will appreciate your good concern

and cooperation for the growth of the works of the churches of Christ in Liberia.

May God richly bless you all in the United States of America.

Very Truly Yours in Christ,

Bro. James Abednego Suahgba

September, 2021

Dear Brethren,

I am greeting you in the precious name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and hope you are doing fine.

I would like to have you informed that the Central Buchanan Church of Christ is bereaved by losing one of our brothers who has been very strong in the vineyard of the Lord. That was brother Emmett Logan. He died on September 22, 2021, and has been buried. Please pray for us so that the Lord may destroy the death rate among us and strengthen us in the works of His Ministry in Liberia.

I received your email and got the information that Bro. J. D. Logan's wife is dead. I am very sorry to hear such a news about the death of our sister in Christ in America and may her soul rest in peace with the Lord, God Almighty.

I have already talked with Bro. J. D. Logan on the phone, and he told me the same that his wife died and his family gather together with him.

May God continually be with all of you in the United States of America.

In Christian Love,

Bro. James A. Suahgba

Report From Tanzania

July 16, 2021

Dear Brethren,

I send my greetings to all of you as I hope that God is in control of us each day, as we always pray.

We have been struggling with the Pandemic and we hope that God is going to help us pass through safely. Many people in the country have passed on and others are still in the hospital beds waiting for their days. It is very horrible here. This is the third time that it comes and goes. We need much prayers for our safety and health as well.

I would like to share with you some things as far as the work of the Lord is concerned. We have been traveling but with many precautions. We traveled to Tabora to finish up with those people and we thank God that their hearts and mind have been enlightened. We met a denominational "pastor" and his church. We studied Acts 8 and because of our study, two adults requested baptism. Later the "pastor" texted and said his church is dropping its denominational name. I told him that changing the name of a congregation does not change its practice. Arrangements have been made to study further with the "Pastor" and six other men. They will be coming to us for two days; but this will happen if the government has not given new rules as far as the Pandemic is concerned. Most African countries have a traveling ban and restrictions.

I have been working on the church papers and there are many of them that have been converted to Swahili and I will send them to Ellis to be placed in the Website [Our website is still not functioning because of the shutdown by Yahoo - Editor].

We have a person from Congo his name is Embamba; this brother wants us to meet and

talk. I believe he is in Eastern Congo. According to him there are many congregations that are under his supervision, and I believe he is from the many cups group, and he was left alone. As I reported before, we will be traveling to Kigoma. This is in Burundi border and he will be crossing the border to meet us there because according to him, is easy for him to cross the border and go back home the same day instead of traveling all the way to here which is expensive to him. The Lord can work something better and all those five congregations he mentioned can change to a true worship as we do.

Your brother in Christ,
Sadat

Aug. 5, 2021

Brethren

We kindly need your prayers; two kids went missing. I just came home from Kigoma Tuesday and found that David and Joseph are not home. We have reported the matter to police, but we know that prayers avail so much.

We departed here last week and traveled to Kigoma. I have never visited this city before. It is a place where there are different kinds of people especially those from Congo, Burundi, and Rwanda. It is a place where there are camps for Refugees especially in Kasulu.

We got there at sundown. The following day Bro. Ebamba and other brethren crossed the border via Lake Tanganyika and came to meet us in the village just outside of Kasulu Town. Ebamba is a preacher from Baraka Church of Christ. We stayed with them for two days, then we all returned to our destinations.

Apart from the churches in Uganda border, which is Bwera and Kitoma, we now have Baraka, Kikwena, Lweba, Uvira, Bukavu, Goma where there are two congregations, and Lubashi.

The past two weeks you had asked of the list of the churches and their leaders in Tanzania. This is the loyal list that we have:

1. Katoro- Sadat.
2. Singida - James.
3. Tabora - Moses.
4. Shirati - Adebe.
5. Bwiri - Jombo.
6. Kirongwe - Kachege.
7. Siko - Orao.
8. Katesh -Joseph.
9. Boma Ng'ombe -Mbise.
10. Pasiansi (Mwanza) - Yakobo.
11. Babati (Mrara) - Melchizedek.
12. Ndago - Kilomoni.
13. Dar (still young) - Sospeter.
14. Mpwapwa (Dodoma) Christopher.
15. Nakwa - Leo.
16. Runzewe - James.
17. Basutu - Matandula.
18. Ryagati - Kichere.
19. Tonyo - Zacharia.

These are the congregations that we have, and we can't visit them mostly because of financial situations.

Your brother in Christ,
Sadat

[We regret to say that we were unable to print all of the pictures that were sent our way — Editor]

In Loving Memory of Bro. Larry Elton Brockman



The family of Bro. Larry Brockman, with great sadness, laid him to rest on May 27, 2021, in Chico, CA. His untimely death proves how fragile this life is and how important being prepared for the next life is. Larry lived his life for the Lord and dedicated himself to being a Christian in everything he did. We want to thank everyone for their outpouring of sympathy and support during this difficult time. Even in times like this the Lord showers us with his comfort and love. The many words of kindness from the brotherhood have helped ease the pain of his loss and helped us to focus on God's promise of Life Everlasting.

Larry passed away May 15, 2021, at the age of 64. He was born February 6, 1957, to Clifton and Wanda Brockman. He grew up and went to schools in the Chico area. After graduating from college, he went to work for USDA as a marketing specialist where he worked for 41 years. He was set to retire in 2 ½ months.

Larry had several passions in life. He loved raising Saler cows on his ranch in Corning, CA, he loved spending time with his family, he loved traveling, but most of all he loved the Lord. He believed in letting his light shine and helping those in need. He had cases of blankets, personal items, and clothing stock-piled so he could hand them out to those in need during fires, floods or just someone needing a helping hand. He lived his life as a Christian applying the words of the Bible…. "*whatsoever you do in word or deed do all in the name of the Lord Jesus giving thanks to God and the Father by him.*"

We will truly miss him, but our prayer is to be reunited with him in the home our Lord went to prepare for the faithful.

The Brockman Family

Church Meeting at Londian Total Junction, Kenya





Church in Marida, Mexico



Church in Matamoros, Mexico

Bulletin Board

Meetings

Mar. 13-20, 2022	Yuma, AZ	Guest speakers

Passings

Janet Wentzel	Hillsboro, OR	Feb. 24, 2021
Larry Elton Brockman	Chico, CA	May 27, 2021
Sampson Buwhere	Central Buchanan, Liberia	June 24, 2021
Harry Johnson	Central Buchanan, Liberia	June 26, 2021
Steven Bumgardner	Yakima, WA	July 2, 2021
Emmett Logan	Central Buchanan	Sept. 22, 2021

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Jon Rawlins	Ottawa, Canada	Needs heart transplant
John Kombo	Nakuru, Kenya	Diabetes, Enlarged heart, heart attacks
Wilkister Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Malaria
Agrippina Silvester	Gaita, Tanzania	Severe back problems
Julius Kachege	Shirati, Tanzania	Malaria
Linda Camp	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Vicki Camp Perrin	Broken Bow, OK	Cancer
Carolyn Queen	Broken Bow, OK	Back pain
Brent Berry	Canton, GA	Heart problems
Debbie Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	Fighting cancer
Billy Martin	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Mike Wilcher	Citrus City, AZ	Fighting cancer
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Cancer treatment
Pauline Holloway	Gleed, WA	Uterine & cervical cancer
Ilene Thrush	Gleed, WA	Several strokes & heart issues
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel, two angioplasties
Mariela Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel, Thyroid problems
Stanley Goodwin	Newcastle, TX	Fighting cancer
Jessica Chastain	Pleasant View, OK	Health issues
Reba Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Lupus
Russell Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Effects of stroke
Retha Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Fighting Parkinson's disease
Darletta Spencer	Pleasant View, OK	Heart attack
Tony Brister	Yuma, AZ	Chemo & fighting cancer
Fred Cummings	Yuma, AZ	Congestive heart failure

All of those in Africa that fight malaria, all those fighting Corona virus -19, all those who are aging or in nursing homes.

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