

The Christian Courier

January, 2008

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The Christian Courier Has Moved

The editors of *The Christian Courier* wish to announce the publishing of this paper has moved and will be handled by the Lorenzo, TX, congregation. We wish to thank the folks at Sea-Tac, WA, for their dedicated effort in publishing the paper for 13 years.

Bro. Ellis & Sis. Lynell Forsman and Sis. Nell McCay have moved to Lubbock, TX, and will continue to work on the paper with the Lorenzo congregation. The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation has been disbanded; the remaining members of the Sea-Tac congregation now meet with the brethren at Glenwood.

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation currently has a basket dinner scheduled every third Sunday of the month. If all plans go well, the assembly of *The Christian Courier* will take place at the completion of this dinner. If we have enough materials (news, letters, articles), we will try to publish more often than in the past.

We ask for your assistance in helping to make the publishing of *The Christian Courier* a success. Please send your letters, articles, and financial support to:

The Christian Courier
6718 Santa Fe Dr
Lubbock, TX 79407

Or e-mail to:

forsmanep@yahoo.com

We plan to have an e-mail established for *The Christian Courier* in time for the next publication. Meanwhile, the e-mail address for Bro. Ellis Forsman will temporarily be used.

Get your gospel meeting notices in early so that others can make their vacation plans.

Thank you in advance for your continued support, patience, and on-going prayers during this move.

The editors

The Divine Pattern

"*Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.*" (Heb. 8:5). A pattern is an exclusive way of doing a thing, as in the Bible there are commands given in a general sense (which includes) and also some things specifically stated (which excludes). For example, God told Moses just exactly how to build the tabernacle, and that excludes all other ways of building it. For another example, notice Gen. 6:14-16 where God told Noah to build an ark. He told him just how long to build it (450 feet), how wide (75 feet), and how high (45 feet), a window in the top, and to pitch it with pitch inside and out.



The kind of wood God specified was Gopher wood, and that excludes all other kinds of wood. God did not have to say, "Don't you put Walnut, Oak, Hickory, etc.", for when He specified Gopher wood, that excludes all other kinds of wood. All these things has to do with literal things in God's dealing with people of old.

Now to spiritual patterns of work and worship of the Church of Christ.

The Time of Worship (Break Bread)

The disciples came together to break bread on the first day of the week (Acts 20:7). Here we have a certain day specified – first day of the week (Sunday), which excludes all other days of the week in which to break bread.

Kind of Music Specified

We notice that "singing" was specified (Col. 3:16; Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 14:15). Since singing was specified, it excludes all other kinds of music, such as instruments of music as the piano, horn, etc.; just as the wood in the ark was specified as Gopher wood excludes all other kinds of wood. So, singing is specified and excludes all other kinds of music.

Example of Teaching

We have examples of teaching the scriptures "public" and "private", as Paul said, "*And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house,*" (Acts 20:20).

Concerning public teaching, Paul had this to say about the teachers teaching in an assembly of the church, "*For ye may all prophesy one by one, that all may learn, and all may be comforted.*" (1 Cor. 14:31). This public teaching is limited to men, and that one at a time that all may learn. This teaching was done in one assembly; they did not divide into classes to teach those to be taught. Sunday school was unknown to the apostles in the early church. Sunday school had its origin in England about 1780 by a newspaper editor by the name of Robert Raikes.

Women were forbidden to speak in the assembly. "*Let your women keep silence in the churches* (assemblies)*: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but they are commanded to be under obedience as also saith the law.*" (1 Cor. 14:34). Also, Paul to Timothy, "*Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence.*" (1 Tim.2:11-12). Where is woman not to teach? Answer: in the assembly. Where can a woman usurp authority over man? Answer: Nowhere, public or private. This is the pattern for teachers teaching in public.

Pattern for the Communion

The pattern for the communion, or Lord's Supper, consists on one loaf (bread) and one cup of the fruit of the vine (grape juice). This is the number and kind of literal elements to be used (Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:17-20; 1 Cor. 10:16; 1 Cor. 11:23-26). We notice that these elements were prepared before they were feasted upon. Jesus gave us a perfect example and pattern in the institution of the Lord's Supper the night He was betrayed, as recorded by Matthew, Mark, and Luke. In the preparation of the elements, Jesus first took the bread (a loaf of bread), and blessed it (gave thanks), brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "*Take, eat; this is my body.*" Jesus was the one that served at the table. He prepared the loaf to be His body; then after Jesus took the loaf, He gave thanks, and broke the loaf, and He said it was His body. The breaking of the loaf is a qualifying act performed only by the one that serves at the table. When Jesus broke the loaf it was not for the purpose to get a part to eat, nor was it for the purpose for the disciples to get their part to eat. The loaf that Jesus took and gave thanks, and broke, he gave all of it to the disciples. Notice Goodspeed's Translation of Matt. 26:26, "*As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf and blessed it, and he broke it in pieces and gave it to the disciples.*" So, this shows that Jesus gave all the loaf to His disciples. Yes, but one will ask, "If Jesus broke the loaf into two or more pieces, how can it be said He gave **IT** to them, or how can pieces be referred to as **IT**? Answer: If a calf



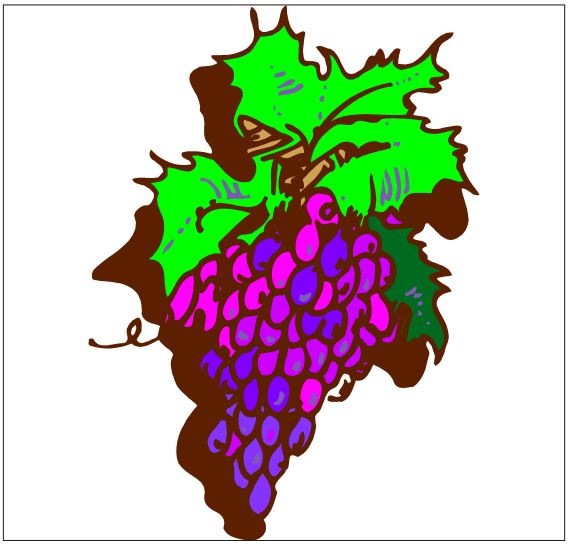
gets run over by a railroad train and got cut in two, it would still be **IT**; the calf, even though in pieces. So also the loaf when broken into pieces is still **IT**, the loaf. I think this takes care of that.

So then comes the next question; under what command do we get our part to eat? Answer: After Jesus had broken the bread, He told the disciples to take, eat. Then the command, "Take", which is generic, simply not stating just how each was to get their part; but whatever was necessary for the disciples to get a part of the broken loaf was included in the command "Take."

Next, we notice Jesus took the cup. "*And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it;*" (Matt.26:27). Jesus simply took one cup, not two, nor a hundred. This cup contained the fruit of the vine, or the juice of the grape. The disciples were commanded to all drink of it, or out of it. Emphatic Diaglott Greek-English New Testament renders Matt. 26:27 as follows, "*Then taking a cup, and giving thanks, he gave it to them, saying, 'Drink all of you out of it.'*" Can language be plainer than this? Yes, says one. Luke says to divide it among yourselves, and didn't say how to divide it. Answer: In Matthew it says, "*Drink all of you out of it*"; and Mark gives it in the past tense, saying, "*And <u>they all drank out of it</u>.*" Then we can clearly see that the cup was divided by each disciple drinking of, or from **IT**. To divide the cup is to divide what the cup contains, or its contents. For an assembly to use more than one cup to contain the drink element is a departure from the example and pattern that Jesus left for us to follow.

Drink Element

Some contend that the drink element must be strong grape wine. But let us notice Isa. 65:8, "*Thus saith the LORD, As the new wine is found in the cluster, and one saith, Destroy it not; <u>for a blessing is in it...</u>*" Notice Paul to the Corinthians, "*The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ?...*" (1 Cor. 10:16). Also Matt. 26:29, "*But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine...*" Then what do we have for the drink element?



Isaiah says the blessing is in the cluster of grapes.

Paul says "cup of blessing".

Matthew says "*of this fruit of the vine*"; simply the juice of the grape.

Did you ever see any kind of vine that produced an alcoholic drink?

Church Finances

As each congregation must have its own treasury to finance itself and other needs; the question is, "How are funds to be raised?" Notice 1 Cor. 16:2, "*Upon the first day of the*

week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him…" This is the only place mentioned in the New Testament. When? First day of the week. How? By each giving as prospered. Therefore this is the pattern for raising finances for the work of the church; therefore excludes all other ways, such as pie suppers, ice cream suppers, etc.

The Autonomy of the Local Church

"Autonomy" means self-government. God gave to the congregation the right of self-government. Each local church government depends in its actual application two other scriptural principles characteristic of each church of Christ; the principle of the independence of each church and the equality of all of the churches of Christ.

Christ Gave His Church a Congregational Form of Government

"*…elders in every church…*" (Acts 14:23). These elders were within the local church and ruled over its affairs in harmony with the will of Christ (Phil. 1:1; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4).

These elders (bishops, or pastors) over each local church had jurisdiction only over the flock "among them", or over which they had been made "bishops". They could extend it no further by divine authority (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2).

This divine arrangement specified by the authority of Christ through His apostles excluded all other organizational forms of government for directing or overseeing the affairs of the churches of Christ. They had nothing larger than the local church and nothing smaller than the local church.

Some may argue that we cannot have elder today, saying that was done away when spiritual gifts ceased. Bur will you notice that all the congregations have some that are leaders or overseers, and each church is still independent, equal, and autonomous. When any church or group of men exercise more authority or power than the local church possesses, this is certainly wrong.

Church Cooperation

There seems to be much confusion and division about church cooperation, as well as many other subjects, which only a careful study of the scriptures we can be sure what the truth is. First of all, the question may arise, "Is there such a thing as church cooperation taught in the New Testament?" My answer to this is, "Yes; certainly so." The early churches cooperated in supporting the preaching of the gospel and in helping the needy saints. But did the churches pool their funds together in a brotherhood pool or treasury to be kept there until the need arose to send a preacher or help some needy church? Absolutely not! Bur there is a pattern for New Testament church cooperation. The New Testament picture of church cooperation is plain and simple. Each church, under its own elders or leaders, by the activity and sacrifice of its own resources, extends itself to its full limit in preaching the gospel and caring for the needy. If one congregation is in distress or need, other congregations knowing of the need, and having ability to help, send relief to the needy church. When the needs of that church is supplied, contributions from other churches cease, or is stopped.

And for benevolent work, may I refer you to Acts 11:29-30. During a famine in Judea the disciples at Antioch sent relief to the brethren which dwelt there. I want you to notice, they

sent it directly to the elders of the churches by the hands of their messengers, Barnabas and Saul. Notice 2 Cor. 8:19-23 and 1 Cor. 16:3. These churches chose and approved their messengers. The messengers are comparable with our modern mail service today; letters were sent then by messengers. See also 2 Cor. 8:13-14 and 2 Cor. 9:5 for a promised bounty. Weymouth Translation renders 2 Cor. 9:5, "*I have thought it necessary therefore to request these to brethren to visit you first, and to make sure beforehand that your promised benefaction may be ready as a benefaction, and not as something extorted from you.*" Paul says, "*But now I go unto Jerusalem to minister unto the saints.*" (Rom. 15:25). Yes, but says one, "It didn't say how he did the ministering." No, it did not say in Rom. 15:25 how he did it, but it does say how it was done in Acts 11:29-30. With this kind of reasoning and logic I could prove that we could have the Lord's Supper any day in the week. How? In 1 Cor. 11:26 Paul says, "*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*" Yes, but he did not say how often, so any day will do. Is this true? Certainly not! Let's go to Acts 20:7 for the pattern which named the first day of the week, and that excludes all other days.

Now, how did Paul minister to the saints? Let's go to the pattern in Acts 11:29-30 where a messenger gave it to the elders. This excludes all other ways. Some brethren say that Luke says to divide the cup, but didn't say how. No, but Mark did; by each drinking out of it, or from it.

Church Cooperation in Evangelism

Can churches cooperate in supporting preachers preaching the gospel? Yes, the Bible teaches they did. Example: "*I robbed other churches, taking wages of them, to do you service. And when I was present with you, and wanted, I was chargeable to no man: for that which was lacking to me the brethren which came from Macedonia supplied: and in all things I have kept myself from being burdensome unto you, and so will I keep myself.*" (2 Cor. 11:8-9). Here we have more than one church



supporting Paul in his preaching to the Corinthians, which certainly shows church cooperation. Another example from Paul, "*Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.*" (Phil. 4:15-16). Their messenger was Epaphroditus. Notice Phil. 2:25, "*Yet I supposed*

it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants." So here is the divine pattern for the churches supporting preachers in preaching the gospel. The funds were always sent directly from the giver to the receiver, or the preacher. And concerning those who believe that the funds may be placed in a brotherhood pool to be kept there until a need to spend it; they will tell you that to send direct is scriptural, but they say their way is also right. Now since all agree that to send direct, that is, each congregation collects its own funds and disburses to the preacher, is scriptural; isn't this the way upon which we can be united? Safe? Beyond question as being scriptural; and is the only divine pattern, which excludes all other ways? This way is specified. Remember Gopher wood in the ark? For churches to pool their resources to support preachers is not found in the New Testament. Scripture, please! May I state again 2 Cor. 11:8-9 and Phil. 4:15-16 where we have congregations acting independent, equal, and autonomous (self-governing), making up their own collection and sending it directly to Paul by messenger of their own choice, or who they approve (1 Cor. 16:3; Phil. 2:25).

Do we need brethren in the field preaching? Yes, there is a grave need for willing and capable preachers out in the field – those who are not afraid to preach the whole truth. Is lack of money the reason why preachers are not sent? I am persuaded that the trouble is the lack of cooperation and divisions why many churches are not getting behind many of the preachers, because they can't go along with everything they teach and practice. Brethren, is not this the truth?

I am persuaded the trouble on church cooperation, as brethren "pooling resources", etc. is one of the mistakes of the Roman Catholic Church and other religious bodies. They are trying to function in a universal sense. I believe the word "church" is used in at least four different senses: universal; local; geographical; and the most restricted sense, assembly. We would like to notice the universal sense. It is a relationship in Christ (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 5:22-33). It has no organization; no geographical boundaries. It has no meeting place on earth. It has no mission, no function; it is not a functional body. The church universal is a kingdom of citizens (Eph. 2:19); a family of children (Rom. 8:14-17); a building of stones (1 Pet. 2:5); a body of members (1 Cor. 12:12); a vine with branches (John 15:1-6). This church is made up of individuals who are in Christ. It has no universal overseers; it has no universal treasury; it has no collective action.

The church universal exists in heaven and on earth (Eph. 3:15); the church local is limited to the earth (Phil. 1:1). The Lord adds to the universal church (Acts 2:47); but faithful Christians may join the local church (Acts 9:26). We enter the universal church by baptism (1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27); but we are accepted into the local church by consent and agreement (2 John 10). The universal church has but one Shepherd (Matt. 23:8); but the local church has lesser shepherds (1 Pet. 5:1-2). Against the universal church Satan cannot prevail (Matt. 16:18); either against its building or its eternal existence; but against the local congregation he may prevail (Rev. 2:5).

The universal church has to do with the relationship of saints with God; the local church has to do with the relationship of saints with saints.

I hope each one will give these things some study, and may we all come to a better understanding of what the Lord would have us do, as we all must give an account of how we treat His word, for we will all be judged by it.

May the Lord bless us all, is my prayer.

Paul Ferguson

(The above article was written several years ago and was submitted for publication by Bro. Larry Pollan, Ringgold, TX.)



Cards and Letters

Baron, OK

Greetings:

The Baron Church of Christ will be hosting a gospel meeting with Brother Roger Walkingstick the weekend after Christmas, which will be December 28, 29, and 30th.

We would love to see you there.

Happy Holidays!

Beverly Ross

(We regret that we were unable to publish this notice in a timely manner due to the move of *The Christian Courier* and of the Forsman's to Texas. — The editors)

Bellflower, CA

Dear Brothers, Sisters in Christ, and Friends:

I just want to take this opportunity to thank you for your prayers, cards, and telephone calls during my recovery period this past month. I am sure I am able to write this today because of God's grace and your prayers. Your cards and phone calls have lifted my spirits, and both Okja and I thank you so much. It has been almost a month since my heart attack and according to my cardiologist, I am doing very well. They still don't know if another procedure is going to be necessary, but they are keeping close watch and will run more tests as my heart regains strength.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, as all of you are in ours.

In Christian love,

Al and Okja Way

Broken Bow, OK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Just wanted to bring everyone up to date on the camp developments at Broken Bow.

First of all, the Beaver's Bend Camp Meeting in July has been cancelled. There has been much discussion among members of several congregations. Instead of spending thousands of dollars each year toward the Beaver's Bend Campground we will put that money into building our own controlled campground.

A huge section of land with lake access is available in Broken Bow for the purpose of creating a family-oriented campground. Members of a number of congregations are making their services and expertise available to make this happen. There is a huge building available that can be modified for a large meeting room, kitchen and dining facilities, men & women restroom and showers, and several dorm rooms. There is plenty of RV space available,

with the possibility of 18 RV hookup spaces ready for the first meeting. Materials for the construction project have been donated; however, manpower and funds are needed to make this project possible. Work is already underway with land bulldozing, tearing out unwanted walls and other construction, reroofing, water lines, plumbing, and electrical needs.

The name of this campground is Cypress Lake Campground. Anyone interested in assisting with this project, a construction work-week is scheduled for April 13th-20th (like the old-fashioned barn raising). Lord willing, there will be a weekend meeting scheduled on the 18th-20th of this week for the benefit of those present on the project.

On June 14th-22nd, 2008, we plan on having the first annual family camp meeting at the Cypress Lake Campground. There will be guest speakers throughout the week, as well as plenty of gospel singing and Christian socializing. There will also be plenty of activities for the young and old alike. Come and share this Christian group experience with us. See you there.

The Broken Bow, OK, congregation

Cedaredge, CO

Greetings from the Happy Hollow Church of Christ in Cedaredge, CO,

There is no excuse for not writing. Time seems to slip by with all good intentions. Keith and Patty had a wonderful time in March at the Yuma church meeting. It was nice to be able to visit with brethren and sisters we haven't seen in quite some time.

On May 18, Zach St. Jean was baptized into the Church of Christ. We are all very happy. He is the husband of Kresta Fouch. They live in New Castle, Colorado near Glenwood Springs.

We have had a couple of weddings this July. Both on the same day! It was the lucky 07-07-07 thing. Kade Knight wed Audrey Kier of Delta, in the afternoon. Diane Wilkerson wed Kent Clampitt also of Delta, that evening. We are very happy for both wedding couples and especially for Diane. She will have to have a sense of humor. Not many people have the same last name as the Beverly Hillbillies!

The weekend before the weddings, we had a wonderful surprise visit by Robert and Debra Davis of Yuma, AZ. We visited the old church camp and went for a drive on the Grand Mesa. Of course things have changed!

We have another wedding October 7. Debbie Newman will wed Troy Finch at the Ridgeway State Park. We are very happy with all the marriages in our little church. As you can see we have been very blessed this year!

Movelle is still in Georgia with Pam and Skip. It looks as though she may be there permanently. Her doctors have told her not to fly since she has a tendency to get pneumonia.

We would like the churches to please pray for Tony Schell. He has heart irregularities the doctors can't figure out.

Hopefully next time I won't take so long to write.

Keep your faith!

The Happy Hollow Church of Christ

Keith and Patty Wilkerson: 970-856-6274

George and Barbara Cowger: 970-856-8811

Tony and Jamie Schell: 970-249-9265

Chico, CA

Dear Brethren,

It is encouraging to hear by way of The Courier about the progress of the other congregations. I eagerly look forward to the arrival of each one.

We keep going here at Chico, losing some as they finish school and welcoming others who come here to attend the local university.

We "older ones" keep on in reasonably good health with plenty to keep us busy. I am enclosing a little donation to help with publishing expenses.

In brotherly love,

Eunice Bentz, Chico, CA

Glenwood, WA

Greetings from Glenwood, Washington.

Another year is almost gone with its floods and high winds. Happily, we can report that none of our brethren have suffered any losses. We are happy to have the brothers and sisters from Seattle and vicinity with us in our services. They are a welcome addition to our small number.

In 2007, we were privileged to visit with the brethren at Yuma, AZ, Waterford, CA, Yakima, and Gleed, WA. During our visits, we met with others from other congregations as well as renewing old acquaintances from past years. This is, indeed, a blessing!

We are sad to report the passing of our sister in Christ, Mabel Cooper of San Pablo, Cal. She was born Sept 9, 1913 in Okla; passed away Dec 16, 2007. She was preceded in death by her husband Bro Jack Cooper and son, Jimmy Cooper.

She had three sons: Jimmy, Wilburn, and David, 7 grand children and 14 great grandchildren. The church no longer meets at San Pablo, Ca.

It was my privilege to have known the Cooper family since 1946, the year they moved to Cal. I can truly say that I have never met a finer Christian couple. There was always a warm Christian welcome at their home. They will be sorely missed by many. Our sympathy is with all the family.

J D Logan

Glenwood, Washington

Goshen, AR

Dear friends and Bro. and sisters in Christ.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the Baptism of a wonderful Lady, who's name is Lynn Hayes. She took the giant step in her relationship with God, when she obeyed the Gospel of Christ. This took place on Sunday, Oct. 14th, 2007 in the river close to the church of Christ in Goshen, Arkansas. She is a very loving person. She and I plan to be married Jan.7th, 2008, in Springdale, Arkansas, if our God permits. Bro. Marvin Daniels has been very ill and was able to come to Church, after a long illness. Let us pray for all our brethren, including our sisters in Christ who are not doing well in their fight with sickness.

Yours in Christ, Bro. Marion Serrano

Goshen, AR

Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Just wanted to say "Thank you" to Bro. J D Logan for his very good lesson on "The Return". Even I had wondered how to put the scriptures together to understand about the Jews returning

to their homeland, as some people have told me. I've been in the church many years, and I believe this is the first time I can remember an article written to explain it. I thank Bro. J D so much. It was so clear; even older Christian can learn daily.

The Goshen congregation has had our share of sickness these late summer months.

Sis. Christy Burkhart is still having a lot of back pain. She asks prayers that she must lose a lot of weight before she can have back surgery.

Her dad, Bro. Marion Serrano, also has had pneumonia. Remember him in your prayers.

Bro. Marvin Daniels and his wife Jean both underwent surgery only one week apart, but both are recovering, and he has been able to return to church services after about 6 weeks out.

Sis. Flora Goldsmith has had surgery on both eyes this summer. We are hoping she will be returning soon from Dallas, TX, where her surgery was done.

The others have our usual aches and pains and complaints.

You may remove Bro. Mark Daniels from the prayer list. He is doing really well now.

Sis. Daniels,

Harlingen, TX

Dear Brethren:

I greet you cordially in the name of Christ, hoping that when this letter arrives you may be enjoying good health along with your family and esteemed brethren.

Also, we thank in the name of the Lord your participation and support during 2007 for the predication work of the gospel in some places of Mexico and Guatemala.

This year we had some difficulties between brothers of the south of Mexico and Guatemala because of disasters (rains and floods), but the Lord helped our brothers to solve these problems. Also, this year was of many benedictions and new churches were established in Mexico (San Jose, Huichihuayan, Hilitla) and Guatemala (Guatemala City, Cotzumalguapa).



The churches in different cities of Mexico and Guatemala continue firm and are grounded in the sound doctrine.

In the area of Matamoros, Mexico (frontier with Texas), the work of the Lord is growing quickly with the participation of the brethren of the church in Matamoros.



Also in this city, each first Saturday of the month evangelists are preparing to continue the evangelization in all the area north of Mexico.



In Brownsville, TX, this year was established a new congregation, and at this time there are seven members. Each Thursday and Sunday I have home Bible studies, meeting to 2:00 p.m.

In Harlingen, TX, this church continues firm, but also some brethren because of work have traveled to other cities to live.



Also, I comment that in December I visited some churches in Guatemala and south of Mexico with the purpose to encourage and teach to the new Christians.

During this visit we had the opportunity to correct some doctrinal mistakes and to strengthen the unit between the faithful churches. Some brothers that had been separated of a congregation by doctrinal causes is reconciled and this church remains firm and in peace.



The evangelists in Mexico and Guatemala continue working in different areas and we have hope that this year many people will obey the gospel.

Again, we express our gratefulness in the name of the Lord by your help and participation so that the evangelists can continue the work of preaching the gospel.

Your brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez

Lorenzo, TX

Dear ones in Christ,

All has gone pretty well here at Lorenzo, TX. Several have experienced difficulty with colds or allergies. Sis. Nell McCay, however, has experienced a number of physical difficulties. After some falling spells the doctors discovered a non-malignant tumor the size of a golf ball growing on the top of her head, putting pressure on the area that controls her left leg. She has undergone a procedure called gamma-knife surgery to kill the tumor. Her final gamma-knife treatment is scheduled in January. After her first treatment, Sis. Nell had experienced a few blackout spells. A separate team of doctors determined the source of this problem to be low heart rate, high blood pressure, and a blockage of an artery. A stint took care of the blockage problem, but her heart rate remained too low, so they installed a pace-maker in her chest. While she was in rehabilitation after these procedures she was placed back into the hospital for what they thought was pneumonia. It turned out to be a blood clot in her left lung that caused the lung to collapse. After the blood clot removal, Sis. Nell is doing much better. She is currently recovering at home with the aid of her family and daily checkups by nursing staff.

We are happy to announce the wedding of Roger Casarez and Brenda Norman on December 28th. We wish them all the best.

That's about all the news for now.

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

Pleasant View, OK

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It has been quite a while since I last wrote, so I will try to do so now. Everyone here is doing ok, just a few colds and growing older. Summer is behind us and the holidays are here.

Bro. Dennis Davis, Sis. Susie, and his mom came through a few weeks ago. Dennis preached for us on Sunday. Always glad to have visitors. We invite everyone anytime you can to come and worship with us.

On Sunday, September 25, I had a stroke and was admitted to the V.A. hospital in Fayetteville, Ark. I was released on the 27th and was admitted again on the 28th with a viral illness, dehydration and chronic lung disease. My right hand is weak now, other than that I seem to be doing okay. (NOTE: Daughter Christina says that he is feeling well enough to have rolled his four-wheeler. He is also recovering from this with just bruises.)

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, phone calls and visits during this time.

Gerald Buckner

Stilwell, Ok

Pine Mountain, OK

I hope all is well with you all.

We haven't for some reason been getting *The Courier*. Would you please add us to your list, I think 10 copies would do for now, thank you. I don't know if you could use a photo or not but here is a current one of the building if you decide to use it.

Thanks,
Rick Walkingstick
Rt.1, Box 240
Watts, OK 74964



Pine Mountain church, Cedarville, AR



View of dock and paddleboat at new Cypress Lake Campground, Broken Bow, OK

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

April 13-20, 2008	Broken Bow, OK	Camp work week
April 18-20, 2008	Broken Bow, OK	Guest speakers
June 14-22, 2008	Cypress Lake Camp, OK	Family Camp Meeting

Baptisms

Zach St. Jean	Cedaredge, CO	May 18, 2007
Lynn Hayes	Goshen, AR	October 14, 2007

Weddings

Kade Knight & Audrey Kier	Cedaredge, CO	July 7, 2007
Kent Clampitt & Diane Wilkerson	Cedaredge, CO	July 7, 2007
Troy Finch & Debbie Newman	Cedaredge, CO	October 7, 2007
Marion Daniels & Lynn Hayes	Goshen, AR	January 7, 2008
Roger Casarez & Brenda Norman	Lorenzo, TX	December 28, 2007

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Doug Ferguson's brother	Broken Bow, OK	Crippled with polio
Al Way	Bellflower, CA	Heart attack recovery
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Kidney, heart problems
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Richard Cutler	Flora Vista, NM	Severe stroke
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Chemo treatments
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Amputation of right leg & infections
Christy Burkhart	Goshen, AR	Back pain
Jean Daniels	Goshen, AR	Surgery recovery
Marvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Surgery recovery
Melvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Bad heart & lungs
Flora Goldsmith	Goshen, AR	Eye surgery
Marion Serrano	Goshen, AR	Pneumonia
Nell McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Brain tumor & heart surgery,
Gerald Buckner	Pleasant View, OK	Viral illness & stroke recovery
Nora Elliott	Randlett, OK	Back problems
Leroy Mullens	Randlett, OK	Possible leg blockage
Barbara Paseman	Springfield, OR	Fighting cancer
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Broke hip & shoulder