

The Christian Courier

May, 2008

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Sleep

Sleep is an important part of our daily lives, giving our minds rest and our bodies a chance to recuperate. God designed us to require a certain amount of sleep each day, and more at times, such as when we are sick.



Even God took a day of rest. It speaks to the importance of rest when you think of all the incredible things He created the first six days, and yet it was the day of rest that He sanctified. Let's read Gen. 2:1-3. "*Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made.*" Rest is important, and God designed sleep as the main way we get our rest.

The Bible has quite a lot to say about sleep, and rest, and we should hear God's Word on the subject.

First of all, the Bible gives us help to get a good night's sleep. This was very important to me personally, because I went through a period of many months of insomnia a few years ago. I was having some health concerns, and was afraid they were more serious than they actually were. The fear and worry made it hard to get to sleep; then the lack of sleep only made them worse, which in turn made it even harder to sleep. Medicine helped me, and I was thankful for it. But it did not offer a permanent solution; but during this process that the Lord blessed me with some scriptures that did provide a more permanent and peaceful solution.

Basically, what the Bible says about getting a good night's sleep is to trust in God, to trust in His Word, and do what He says to do.

One of the major root causes of insomnia is fear. Trusting in God overcomes fear of worldly concerns. Doing what God directs in His Word and trusting in His promises can lead us to welcome Christ's return, easing our fear of it. And it is a principle throughout scripture that if we will do things God's way He will bless us – including, with a good night's sleep.

Let's look to Prov. 3:24. "*When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet." What would cause our sleep to be sweet? We have to back up a few verses to find the why. We read in verses 19-24 that it is because of trusting and clinging to and walking in God's Word. "The LORD by <u>wisdom</u> hath founded the earth; by <u>understanding</u> hath he established the heavens. By his <u>knowledge</u> the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew. My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound <u>wisdom</u> and <u>discretion</u>: So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck. Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble. When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet." Where do we find God's wisdom, understanding, knowledge and discretion, so that we can keep them? In His Word. And keeping these things that we find in His Word allows us to sleep peacefully without fear. Now, if we read on to verses 25-26 we find that trusting in God enables us to overcome worldly fears, again enabling us to sleep. "Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh. For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.*"

Look to Lev. 26:3-6. Of course, we understand that this is part of the Law of Moses, and as such is not command, per se, to us. But the principle involved can still help us to find sleep in the loving care of God. The principle we find is that if we live our lives as God directs He will bless us in many ways, including with sleep. "*If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; Then I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase, and the trees of the field shall yield their fruit. And your threshing shall reach unto the vintage, and the vintage shall reach unto the sowing time: and ye shall eat your bread to the full, and dwell in your land safely. And I will give peace in the land, and ye shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid: and I will rid evil beasts out of the land, neither shall the sword go through your land.*"

Let's read Phil. 4:6-7, which tells us that God has given us the gift of prayer, to bring us peace of mind. "*Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and*

minds through Christ Jesus." We don't have to worry when we can pray.

Psa. 3:5. "*I laid me down and slept; I awaked; for the LORD sustained me.*"

Thus, sleep is an important natural process, and God's Word gives us some good guidelines for overcoming fear and worry so we can get a good night's sleep. It also tells us that if we live our lives God's way He will bless us in many ways, including sleep. The guidelines we discovered are simple – to trust in God, to trust in His Word, and to do what He tells us to do.

On the other hand, the Bible also warns us not to be too devoted to sleep. We don't want to be lazy. Prov. 20:13. "*Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.*" Prov. 24:30-34. "*I went by the field of the slothful, (which means lazy), and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.*"

We especially don't want to be lazy, and asleep, spiritually.

In I Cor. 11:29-30, we read that if our minds are not on Christ when we partake of the Communion, we are asleep (dead) spiritually. "*For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.*"

In Mark 13:34-37, we read that if we are not doing the Lord's work, if we are not ready for His return, we are asleep spiritually. "*For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.*"

So we need to wake up, and be zealous and active in the Lord's work. Rom. 13:11-12. "*And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*"

The next point we find about sleep is that physical death is referred to as sleep – a temporary sleep from which we will be raised on that great Judgment Day. I Thess. 4:13-18, "*But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*"

Finally, the 4th chapter of Hebrews refers to our eternal reward as rest. Verse 9, "*There*

remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." Verse 11. "Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of unbelief."

So, God blesses us with a good night's sleep when we trust in Him, trust in His Word, and do what He tells us to do. But we don't want to overdo sleep to the point where we are lazy, especially in the Lord's work. Physical death is referred to as a temporary sleep from which we will wake to live with Him forever in Heaven, which is referred to as rest.

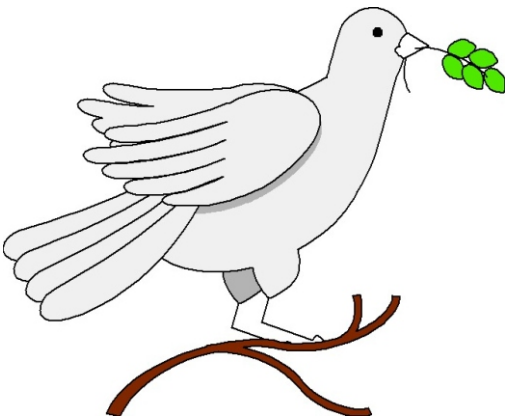
I hope this article has been edifying. We will close our study together for now. It's bedtime.

Good night,

Bro. Terry Warford

Peace of God

The world today is in great need of peace as we all can see around us. Some believe the condition of the world is becoming worse; but I wonder if sin is really more prevalent today than since time began on earth. We read in Gen. 6:5, "*And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.*" Also, read Rom. 1:21-22, "*Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.*" The world has forsaken the command of Col. 3:15, "*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body and be ye thankful.*"



Time after time, God said if Israel would obey Him they would be blessed and dwell in peace; and if they did not, they would be cursed as in Deut. 28. Today, people are far too willing to call things religious that are not by the authority of the gospel. Read Mal. 1:6-7, "*A son honoureth his father, and a servant his master: if then I be a father, where is my honour? and if I be a master, where is my fear? saith the Lord of hosts unto you, O priests, that despise my name? And ye say Wherein have we despised thy name? Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the Lord is contemptible.*"

After the attack of September 11, 2001, I heard people say they don't know why God allows such things to happen. I thought for a very short while, maybe people might finally understand God really does mean what He has said all along; that maybe people would look to God for truth and not themselves. Now, with the latest of events with Terri Schiavo in Florida and all the other ungodliness we see,

tells me there really isn't much difference in today and the time recorded in the Bible.

We desperately need to remember 1 Cor. 10:6, "*Now these things were our examples to the intent we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.*" God commanded Israel that they must not worship idols and graven images in Exo. 20:3-4, but they disobeyed God and worshipped things made with their hands. How is taking the communion in a way that is not by the authority of gospel, but by the work of men's hands, any different? The world does not remember these examples and still they worship images made by their own hands.

Considering the current events in Israel, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, and in fact the whole world, we see suicide bombers and murderers. Why do people not want peace? After a suicide bomber murders as many as they possibly can, someone retaliates and kills in returning evil for evil. These things are the power of the devil at work, and people still do not understand God will repay their evil upon their own heads.

Many of the Islamic's are radicals who say if they kill all who believe in God, they are promised to be in paradise. Some who convince others to be suicide bombers give documents saying they are guaranteed to be in heaven and give money to their families if they martyr themselves and kill the infidels. These are surely the fulfilling of the prophecies in Revelations concerning the battle of good and evil. These are more than wars between man here on earth. More importantly, the war is between God and Satan.

Let us also consider Eph. 5:21-31. In the interest of time and space, I am not copying the entire passage of this scripture. Also, I refer to Eph. 6:1-4 and Rom. 7:1-4. These scriptures tell us of the family unity and love and the relationship of husband, wife, children, and the church. With so many marriages ending in divorce, peace and tranquility is lost, along with obedience to God. People choose to call things communion that are not in the gospel. People say they come to Christ by the way a sinner prays. Many believe they can establish their own church, calling it by whatever name they dream up in the vanity of their own minds. The world believes it does not need God's commandments to be faithful to God, and does not know the way of peace, neither do they fear God. Also read Rom. 3:11-18, "*There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness: Their feet are swift to shed blood: Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.*" Many are content for the strength of their faith to be only, "Well, that is just what I believe." Many choose one verse and say, "That is what I go by." Read John 3:19-21, "*And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.*"

Sometimes people we work with, sometimes friends, sometimes (with sorrow) family members speak of their religion not by the gospel. We see different forms and kinds of religion all around us in the world. Can we not

see how wrong the way of the world is? Or do we choose not to dwell on it because of loved ones not being faithful? 2 Tim. 3:5 tells us, "*Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.*" Most one cup congregations are small with few members. But I would rather be with five faithful church members instead of five thousand or more that do not worship God in spirit and in truth.

The world, for the most part, has religion of some kind. And most people have good intentions. But good intentions are not enough. And those of other faiths than the one cup Church of Christ (which is the only church of Jesus Christ) have allowed the influence of the devil to prosper so well with them, they do not recognize how far they have erred from the truth. Let us read Gal. 1:6-7, "*I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.*" Those of individual cups believe the established and commanded pattern for the communion is not relevant and does not need to be kept, and that it does not matter as long as they call themselves Church of Christ. Also read Isa. 4:1, "*And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, We will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach.*" Not only are we commanded to be called by the name of Christ, we must also be worthy of the glory and honour and the blood that was shed for the name of Christ.

At Ringgold, TX, our congregation is small, as is our simple little church building. We don't have a gym, playground, nursery for the children during church, a bus, a stage and auditorium, or the other things of the world's churches. I suppose the world considers us boring; but what we have means more to me than all of their expensive toys. If the world's church toys are idols (I leave that to the consideration of others), they are certainly man's devices as in Acts 17:29. We might also read Isa. 2:17-18, "*And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low: and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish.*"

Having the truth is the only thing worth having. Other forms of religion, though beautifully polished and adorned, still are not worthy of the name, glory, honor, and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. I leave these thoughts in closing for our spiritual growth and well-being, the words of Paul in 1 Cor. 1:1-6, "*Paul called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which is given you by Jesus Christ; That in every thing ye are enriched by him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge; Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:*"

In Christ,

Larry Pollan
P.O. Box 93
Terral, OK 73569



Cards and Letters

Broken Bow, OK

Hello,

We hope this letter finds all of our brothers and sisters spiritually and physically healthy. We would also like to say how much we appreciate *The Courier* and hearing news from the other congregations. For this issue, the Costilow Street Church of Christ in Broken Bow would like to report several items of news to the *Courier*.

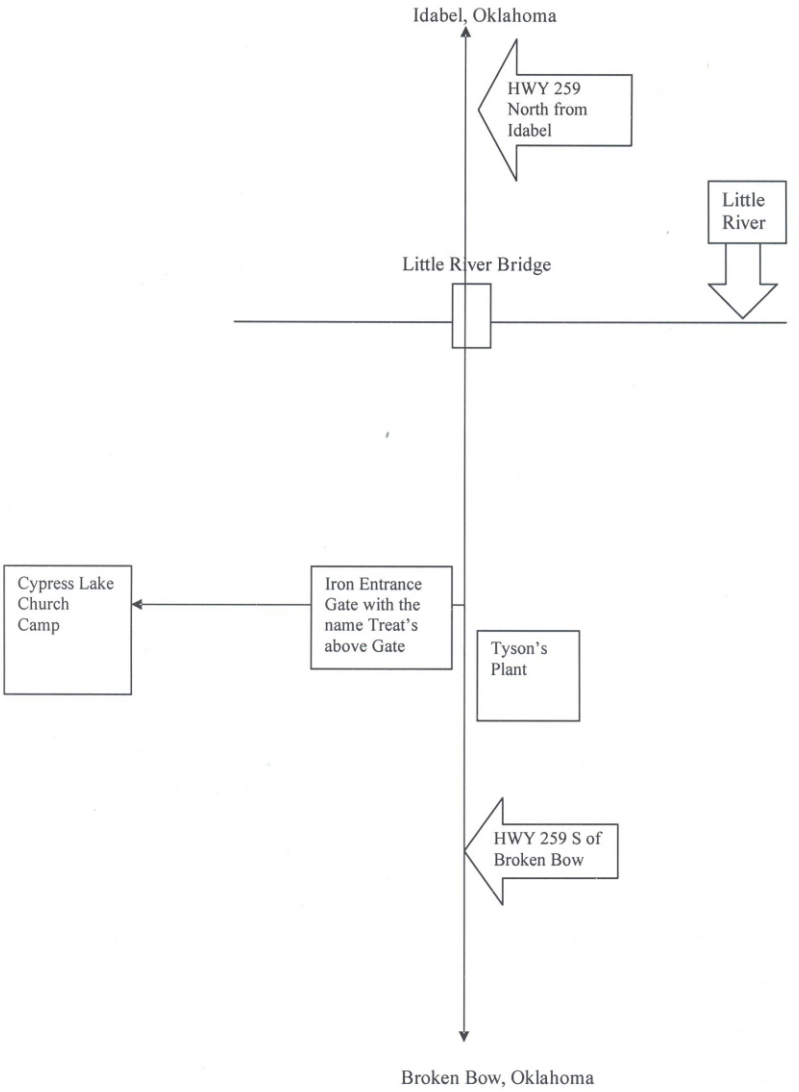
First, Bro. Edwin Crowell has recently undergone some testing for health reasons, but seems to be doing okay for the most part. Sis. Minnie Davis and Sis. Ruby Johnson are no longer able to worship with us due to their health. Both "Ms. Minnie" and "Ms. Ruby" have moved to a nearby nursing facility. Also, Bro. Will Bunn's mother, Vickie Raye Bunn, passed away Tuesday, May 6, 2008. She was born January 25, 1947, at Overton, TX. Services were Friday, May 9 at Brumley Funeral Home in Broken Bow. Please keep all of our members in your prayers.

We would also like to announce the graduation of four of our church members. Amber Bunn, Jake Morgan, Jesse Phipps, and Michael Rogers will graduate May 18th from Wright City High School in Wright City, OK. Amber is the daughter of Will and Tammy Bunn. She will attend Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, OK and major in music education. Jake is the son of Steve Morgan and Susan Walker. He plans to attend Tulsa Welding School after graduation and pursue a career in welding. Jesse is the son of George and Tammy Phipps. Last year, Jesse attended horseshoeing school during his summer break. He plans to further his education in this area and in horse training after high school graduation. Michael is also the son of George and Tammy Phipps. He plans to attend Paris Junior College in Paris, TX this fall and will major in welding. We would like to congratulate our graduates on a job well done and wish them the best of luck in the future. Remember graduates- "***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him and he will direct your paths".*** **Proverbs 3:5-6.** We pray our graduates — Amber, Jake, Jesse, and Michael — will have the wisdom to know the Lord's will and the strength to follow His will in the coming years.

In other news, for the last few months members of our congregation and members from other congregations have been busy demolishing and rebuilding what is to become the new church camp facility in Broken Bow. Camp will no longer be held at Beavers Bend. Starting this year, camp will be held at the facility being renovated on the property of Dan and Brenda Treat. It is located on HWY 259 between Broken Bow and Idabel, OK. The entrance (a white metal fence, with the name Treat overhead) is across from the Tyson Plant and north of the Little River Bridge. Although the entire facility will not be completed by the June meeting dates, our goal is to have the dorm rooms, restrooms, kitchen and meeting area finished. We would like to welcome all that can attend and look forward to visiting with friends — old and new — at the first Cypress Lake Camp Meeting. A huge "THANK YOU" goes out to all the many

folks who have helped us so far on the renovation. The generous gift of your time and effort have helped to make this dream a reality.

Sincerely,
Costilow Street
Church of Christ
Broken Bow, Oklahoma



Cypress Lake

"Lots of Good Old Fashioned Fellowship & Singing"



Church of Christ
Camp Meeting 2008

June 14th –June 22nd

(South of Broken Bow on HWY 259)

Accommodations	Activities	Necessities	Rules
▪ R.V. Hookups ▪ Dorm Rooms ▪ Tent Sites	▪ Bible Study ▪ Volleyball ▪ Horseshoes ▪ Basketball ▪ Softball ▪ Games ▪ Crafts ▪ Paddleboats ▪ Horse Rides ▪ Swimming ▪ Fishing ▪ And More	▪ Towels & Wash Cloths ▪ Personal Hygiene Items ▪ Light Blanket ▪ Pillow ▪ Bug Spray ▪ Tennis Shoes	▪ Please Adhere To ALL Camp Policies For Safety Purposes ▪ No Children Left Unattended ▪ Activities Will Be Conducted In Groups ▪ Wear Modest Apparel ▪ Camp Curfew 10:30

Cypress Lake Camp is a work in progress and will not be totally completed by this year's meeting dates. Please come enjoy spiritual renewing, fun, and fellowship- but please be patient with us while the facility is under construction.

Contact Information:

*Dan Treat (580) 584-2377 *Doug Ferguson (580) 981-2243
*Gerald Buckner (918) 696-3249

Colstrip, MT

Hello,

I would like to put the word out in the next issue of the *Christian Currier* that I am seeking photos and/or stories about my dad, Robert "Duane" Bixler who is a member of the Aztec Church of Christ and is afflicted with Alzheimer's.

If you are able to assist in anyway, Please contact me at the following addresses:

Kerrie (Bixler) McFarland
Box 1017
Colstrip, MT 59323
406-748-3818- Home
406-740-0873-Cell
kerriemc7@msn.com
Take Care, Kerrie

Gleed, WA (1/31/08)

Dear Brothers and Sisters

Glad to see that you are back up and printing.

The Gleed congregation is going to have a meeting again this year.

The meeting will start on June 26th with our young speakers holding the evening service. Then on the 27th -29th Bro. J.D. Logan will take over and do the speaking for us. We all look forward to hearing J.D. again as he is a wonderful speaker and has a tremendous knowledge of the bible.

This last Saturday we were sorry to have the funeral of Bro. Harry Booth here at the church.

Between his family, friends, brethren from Yakima and our congregation it pretty well filled our little church. Brother Harry will be missed here as well as most of the congregations up and down the coast that he attended through the years. I am doing a little better now but still cannot ride very far or sit very long at a time. We have been in our new home in Gleed now for almost a year but still miss the Farley park up on the hill and all the good fellowship and parties that we had there. Our new address is 461 N. Gleed Rd. Naches WA. 98937

Our new phone number is 509-972-8583.

Brethren I am not up on this computer stuff too much but I was wondering if there would be enough interest in getting a church chat room going one night a week or so? I am not sure how to set something up like this but I am sure Ellis could help us out there. One of the first topics I would like us all to discuss is what brother Morris commented on in the last Fruits of the Spirit. "As we look out into the world and see all the different organizations popping up everywhere and we see the church in most areas either getting smaller or closing its doors all together. What can we do as members of the body to put a stop to it."

Let's all put or heads together and see what we can come up with to stop this trend!

Yours in Christian love

Robert Farley, Gleed congregation

Gleed, WA (4/28/08)

Greetings from the Gleed Church of Christ,

Spring is here and we are looking forward to warm sunny days. Spring always makes me think of new beginnings. We here in Gleed do have some new beginnings. We have a new brother baptized April 20th into the fold, Shawn Dorr. He is the son in law of Carol & John Bauer, married to their daughter Ashley. Sean and Ashley had a baby girl born April 24th, weighing in at 7lbs. 7ozs. Her name is Kylee Ann Dorr, a double blessing in their family and their Church family. Another blessing was born to Amy and Dan

Coats. Hannah Renee Coats, born April 18th, she was in a hurry to get here. She was born six weeks early weighing in at 3 lbs and 13 ozs. Hannah needs a few extra prayers for her as she is so small to begin her journey here on this earth. She will stay in the hospital until she is a little bigger and stronger.

Felica Geho had surgery April 4th for carpal tunnel in her right wrist. April 25th she had the same surgery on her left wrist. It will be a while before she can go back to work fulltime. Sam Geho, son of Mike and Felica, left today for Alaska. He will be working there for the next six months. Remember him in your prayers as he goes on his adventure working on the docks where the fishing boats unload.

We are planning for our Gospel meeting in June 26th, 27th, 28th, & 29th with Bro. J.D. Logan from Glenwood, WA. One service is planned for our young men's service. Let us know if you can come. We are looking forward to edification and to the fellowship of other Christians.

July 21-25 we are planning a vacation Bible school for the youth who always enjoy learning about the word of God, singing praises, making crafts, and having fun.

If you have children in the area during this time, and want to send them, please contact John and Betty McKinney by phone: 509-865-4070 or E-mail: Libfishing@AOL.com subject: VBS Geed.

This is all for this time, may God bless and keep you all safe.

With Christian love from the congregation at Gleed, WA,

John McKinney

Harlingen, TX (3/4/08)

Dear brethren:

By means of this simple letter, I send you greetings, hoping at the moment that you read it you may be enjoying good health in the Lord.

I comment that during February we had much work between the churches of northern Mexico. In the city of Matamoros we continue studying and preparing the evangelists each first Saturday



of the month. Also, in this city, we have studies two times in the week in the houses of the brothers and with new people that we are evangelizing, and on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. we have church meeting.

In the city of Brownsville, TX, we continue the studies each Wednesday evening in brothers' houses and with new people teaching the gospel, and on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. we have church meeting. One of the people that attend the studies was baptized on Saturday 23rd of February.

In the city of Harlingen, TX, we have studies in the houses on Friday evenings and on Sunday the church meets at 4:00 p.m. In the month of February we began a new place of predication of

the gospel at Rangerville Rd, 5 miles from Harlingen, on Sunday at 7:00 p.m., in order to invite people that live in that area. And we have hope that someday a new congregation could be established in this place.

In the month of March, I have plans to visit the city of Roswell, NM, to support the new church in the work of evangelization and also to help the brothers in the knowledge of the scriptures.

Also, I have plans to visit the church in San Jose, Tampico (Mexico) to encourage the brothers and to study with new contacts in that area.

I am making plans of printing new studies of the scriptures to help the evangelists in Mexico and Guatemala, and continue preparation of the brethren.

I desire to express personally and on behalf of the other evangelists our gratefulness in the Name of the Lord by your important help and preparation in the predication of the gospel.

Your brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez

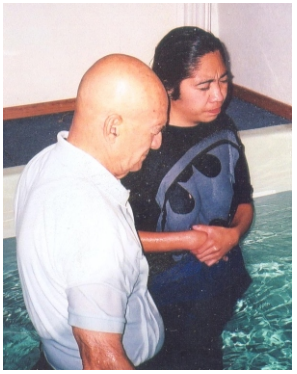
Harlingen, TX (4/30/08)

Dear brethren in Christ:

By means of this simple letter, I send you greetings, hoping you may be enjoying good health in the Lord.

I comment that during this month of April, I had much activity in some areas of Mexico:

- I visit two times a month in San Jose, Tampico, to study with the members and make new contacts. Also, each Saturday some brethren travel from Matamoros to have the Sunday meeting. Because of that, this church still does not have mature brothers that can take the responsibilities of preaching in the local congregation.
- I traveled again to Madero City to study with the three families that have interest in the scriptures and continue to open the door that very soon some people will obey the gospel.
- A group of people in Valley City obeyed the gospel in 2004 and a church was established and remained firm for some time, but because of familiar problems the church disintegrated. During the past years I continued working with some brothers of these families for several visits, and this month began church meetings with 7 members. I have plans to visit this congregation once a month, and also other evangelists in congregations in Rio Verde City will collaborate with this church.
- Also brethren in Oaxaca City called me several times, so that I traveled to preach to them for three days. For this reason I am making plans to visit this church May 2nd-4th.



- The church in Matamoros continues firm, and several brothers collaborate with me in the work of the churches in different areas of northern Mexico and Brownsville, TX, and Harlingen, TX.

- For information that I have, the churches in southern Mexico and Guatemala continue firm, and I have plans of working in this area during July or August.

Receive my most sincere greetings and many thanks for this valuable help for the work of the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,
Otto Alvarez

Lorenzo, TX

I have been in contact with some churches in Pennsylvania and as far as I can determine they meet exactly as we do.

Church of Christ
473 High St.
Woodland, Pa. 16881
Meeting time: 10:00 AM Sunday
Contact: Kenneth Rowles
Ph. 814-765-0147

Comments: I talked with Bro. Rowles and found him to be a very friendly and informative man. Woodland is in the northern part of PA.

Church of Christ
Old one room school house on Ironstone Dr.
1259 Old Airport Rd
Gabelsville, PA.
Meeting time: 10:00 AM Sunday
Contact: Daniel Shirly
1259 Old Airport Rc
Douglassville, Pa. 15918
Ph. 610-689-5361

Comments: I talked with Bro. Shirly and enjoyed the visit. He welcomed anyone who might be in that area to meet with them or maybe just visit.

Also:
Church of Christ
Scott, GA
Contact: J. W. Lamp
Rt. 9, Box 95
Dublin, GA. 31021
Ph. 912-272-3309

Comments: Joan and I have met with them several times. Bro. Lamp is very old now and I haven't talked with him since we left Georgia in 1996.

— Gene Boling, Lorenzo, TX, congregation

Lorenzo, TX

We apologize for the lateness of the *Christian Courier* this issue. This was due to a number of factors: Bro. Ellis Forsman still had to spend considerable more time in Seattle preparing his property for sale. During one of these trips he lost the use of his laptop due to some damage it received during travel. He has since gotten another laptop and has enough software on it where he can now review his e-mail (backlogged 450 e-mails) and get out the *Christian Courier*. Bro. Ellis also spent a few weeks in Broken Bow, OK, assisting with the building of the Cypress Lake Campground in readiness for this summer's Family Camp Meeting June 14-22.

On February 12th a number of the Lorenzo congregation attended the funeral service of Bro. Howard Taylor of the Comanche, OK, congregation. Bro. Howard, a faithful member of the church for many years, passed from this life on February 9th, 2008. He will be sorely missed by all.

Several from the Lorenzo congregation attended the Yuma meeting in March. It was very uplifting for all.

Sis. Nell McCay is doing much better. She still sees a doctor about her high blood pressure and occasional falling. She no longer requires in-home care service.

Sis. Jaetta Loftis had an unfortunate accident will at the Cypress Lake Campground construction. She fell and broke her left wrist in two places. She will be wearing a cast for awhile.

Sis. Kim Mattlock is seeing a doctor about her knee, which has been giving her a lot of pain with swelling. Nothing appears to be broken. They are giving her anti-inflammatory medication.

Some here have experienced colds or allergies, but seem to be better now.

Be sure to attend Lorenzo's meeting this summer, June 29th – July 6th. Bro. Eric Harper of the Sacramento, CA, congregation will be the guest speaker.

That's about all the news from Lorenzo that I can think of.

In Christian love,

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

Pleasant View, OK *(2/17/08)*

Dear Brother's and Sister's in Christ

We hear at Pleasant View Church of Christ are doing fair and well, except for a few.

Sis. Bonnie Johnson has been in ill health for quite a while but has the strength to come and worship with us as her health permits. We asked everyone to keep her in your prayers.

Bro. Jack Morris has gone to Home Care Hospice and doing fair as can be for his age and his health, Please keep him in your prayers also. (Note — Bro. Jack passed away on March 2nd — the editors.)

Brother George Morris and Brother Gerald Buckner doing a fine job teaching the word of God here in our hometown congregation to our small number in the body of Christ.

Russell and I (Reba) along with his brother Jack are planning on traveling to Texas, and the traveling on to Yuma, Arizona with the Brothers and Sisters McCay's, Forsman's, and Ma and Pa Loftis, seems like they are not only are Brothers and Sisters in Christ but they have become close as family to us and we love all of them dearly.

Also please keep Sis. Darlene Warford in your prayers, she recently loss her dad and is in the hospital after enduring a stroke. Not only the ones we mention but all our Brothers and Sisters in the body of Christ.

In Christian Love,

Russell (Sr.) and Reba Morris

Yuma, AZ (2/1/08)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A short message from Yuma with hopes all are doing well or improving. At this time we seem to all be doing pretty well. I think everyone has had colds.

By now, most everyone has heard that Bro. Harry Booth passed away. He died January 16th, 2008. His funeral was held at the Gleed, WA, Church of Christ on January 26th and buried in Yakima. On the 27th, a memorial service was held here at Yuma. We will sorely miss Harry. He was an asset to the church and community. He was a devout Christian.

Our meeting is scheduled for March 18-24. It is guest speakers, as in the past. It appears that it will be well-attended from the response at this time. A few old regulars may not be able to come, but others have shown interest in coming. We will provide lodging at the church for as many as we can and will help to locate others. If

you have RV's and can bring them, please do. Also, maybe bring some bedding if you can. Come if you can and join with brothers and sisters in fellowship, worship, and good times.

Bye for now, and take good care. Hope to see many of you soon.

Love from the Yuma congregation

Yuma, AZ (4/1/08)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A news letter from the Yuma, AZ, congregation to say "Hi" and hoping all are well or healing. At this time we are doing okay, getting over the colds, or whatever it was that everyone has had.

The news is about our meeting of March 16th – 23rd. It was a good meeting, with good attendance. Several could not be with us this year and were missed so very much. We cannot thank everyone enough for their contributions of being here and all the help in so many ways. The meeting could not have been what it was without you. The ladies worked so hard to prepare the meals, and many brought dishes from home. Thanks to all that brought RV's and trailer homes to provide lodging. Bro. Sonny Boling brought his 5th-wheel all the way from Roll. Without all the help from so many, the meeting could not be as successful. Now, thanks to the speakers who gave us so many good messages from God's word. You did a fantastic job!

I feel most have a concern of how attendance is falling in most churches. I spoke briefly to some that perhaps if there is suggestions from the churches of things or ways we could help this matter, without changes in doctrine and worship, that they send their ideas through the papers. Hopefully, there will be response one way or another. Some may disapprove of the idea.

This is about all I can think of at this time. Let us not be discouraged, but be filled with faith and hope, always looking forward.

In Christian love,

The brothers & sisters in Yuma, AZ

Other News

The following news just came in from Bro. Terry Warford of the Glenwood, WA, congregation:

Today (Sunday, May 11th), my niece, Miranda Baird of the Pleasant View, OK, congregation, was baptized.

Yesterday, we had a memorial service celebration of life for Bro. Corey Harrington of the Yakima, WA, congregation, who died of cancer. I don't know what day he died.

Fayetteville, AR

To the many churches:

I am in hope that you will love the poems I receive in thought, as they are given to me from my heart, as I write with pen and share (Rom. 12:13) them with you.

I am a struggling poet, as I have been given this ability over the past several years, after choosing to no longer work for wages, and began in love of life, as I began my little one-acre farm, raising my animals and growing fresh fruits and vegetables, as God had originally planned. Although, I am not totally self-sufficient, as man's system knocks at my door, wanting me to pay to keep my lights on and propane in my tank. You may ask, 'Why do you not sell your poems and have them made into a book?' The answer is, this is man's system, not God's. God's system is

love from the heart, as much is given for the healing heart by way of donations, as one entered life, not living in the money system. Donations are accepted, as I do not sell what has been given to me by way of the heart. Use the poems as you will.

Loving Jesus,
Billie Jones
17381 Edgewood Rd
Fayetteville, AR 72703

Hour Glass

**As the sand in an hour glass flows through a narrow passage,
So does the heart and mind from night to day.
The mind beginning first, flows to the heart
Of one father and mother in darkness of the world,
A child is born into the darkness, the hour glass is turned.**

**As the sand flows, so does the heart and mind
Of one born into the darkness of night.
As the sand reaches the bottom,
The mind and heart not love the depth of darkness.
One turn hour glass, and begin the flow from night to day,**

**Into the light, from darkness, from heart,
One chooses first to the darkness,
Then to the light.
Some hour glasses sit, and not turn,
Others turn, and turn, and turn,**

**One step, one step, one step out from the darkness in the valley,
To the mountain so high,
Some stumble, not having the faith
Of the one who came from the mountain
So high in the sky.**

**Some find love in heart,
And try to climb from the valley,
But Love sent one Son,
To show faith in love can move the mountains (Matt. 17:20)
And toss the trees into the sea.**

Faith in love, which comes through the narrow passage,
In the hour glass, shows time changes the heart,
To loving on in faith.
The hour glass turns the grains of sand
Into life in the light,

As the sea washes and cleans the seashores
From the waste that man has dumped into the depths below.
More good reach for Jesus' hand,
Who walks on the water (Matt. 14:25-31),
Not sinking to the depths of darkness,

But heals as the passing of time reaches the end
And the hour glass is turned,
For the next one to begin healing
From night to day,
In the light.

—Billie Jones

Obituary for Barbara Paseman

Sis. Barbara Paseman of the Springfield, OR, congregation passed from this life on April 29, 2008, of respiratory failure at age 75. The funeral was held on May 3rd.

She was born December 13, 1932, in Eugene, OR, to Roy and Mattie Yoder McCay. She married John Paseman on December 17, 1950, in Eugene.

She graduated from high school in Eugene. She was a homemaker, and had worked as a bookkeeper for Automotive Truck and Industrial, Inc. since 1982.

Survivors include her husband, John; two sons, Damon and Dwight, both of Springfield, OR; two daughters, Debra Manning of Eugene and Tammy Bohanan of Springfield; two brothers, Leroy McCay and John McCay, both of Eugene; a sister, Betty Kesling of Eugene; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A son, David, died previously.

Obituary For
Jack William Morris

Jack William Morris was born on June 16, 1927 in Mt Vernon, Kentucky to George Hayes Morris and Mae Emma Hansel Morris. He passed from this life on Sunday March 2, 2008 at 3:30 am in Fayetteville, Arkansas VA Hospital. at the age of 80 years.

Jack was married to Doris M. Linville on October 30, 1954, in Indiana. To that union a daughter was born, Cynthia Ann, in Yuma, Arizona.

Jack grew up in and around Mt Vernon, Kentucky, He was member of DAV, He served his country in US Army, World War 11, was honorable discharge August 29, 1947. Awarded the World War 11 Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal, he was the Medium Tank Crewman. He was Church of Christ faith and teacher in the Church of Christ for many years.

He is preceded in death by his wife, Doris; Dad, George Hayse Morris; Mother, Mae Emma Hansel; and second mother, Eva Jewell Morris; two sisters, Almeta Morris and Bonnie Rhodes; and two brothers, Monroe and Jearl Dean Morris.

In addition to his daughter, Cynthia Ann (Cindi), he is survived by his son-in-law, Alan Starch; three grandsons, Andrew, Nathan and Dalton, all of Fort Collins, Colorado; his sisters, Bernice Cromer of Broadhead, Kentucky, Betty Rhodes of Stilwell, Oklahoma, Rose and husband John Vandenburg of Lexington, Oklahoma; Vivian and husband Shawn Davis of Siloam Springs, Arkansas,

Brothers: George and wife Retha Morris and Russell M. (Sr.) and wife Reba of Stilwell, Oklahoma. Also a host of nieces and nephews and other brothers and sisters in Christ.

Gleed Church of Christ
Invites You to Attend Our 4-Day Gospel Meeting
June 26-29, 2008

The Gleed, WA, congregation is happy to announce that we are going to hold a 4-day meeting this year. The meeting will be held at:

Gleed Church of Christ
120 Donelson Ln
Gleed, WA 98908

Come and listen to some fine speaking from our guest speaker, J. D. Logan of the Glenwood, WA, congregation. One service will be conducted by the young members from the Gleed congregation.

For information, call:
Bob Farley 509-972-8583
Gene McKinney 509-965-7864
John McKinney 509-865-4070
Libfishing@AOL.com

Lorenzo Church of Christ
Invites You to Attend Our Gospel Meeting
June 29 – July 6, 2008

Join us this summer with an opportunity to listen to some very good gospel sermons from Bro. Eric Harper of the Sacramento, CA, congregation. You will be glad you did.

The Lorenzo, TX, meeting will be held at:
4th & Monroe St.
Lorenzo, TX

For information, call:
Larry Wood 806-778-7545
Matt Matlock 806-634-5606
Ellis Forsman 806-771-9587
forsmanep@yahoo.com

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 14-22, 2008	Cypress Lake Camp, OK	Family Camp Meeting
June 26-29, 2008	Gleed, WA	J D Logan & Gleed youth
June 29 - July 6, 2008	Lorenzo, TX	Eric Harper
Aug. 10-17, 2008	Yakima, WA	Guest speakers

Baptisms

Shawn Dorr	Gleed, WA	Apr. 20, 2008
Miranda Baird	Pleasant View, OK	May 11, 2008

Births

Hannah Renee Coats to Dan & Amy Coats	Gleed, WA	Apr. 18, 2008
Kylee Ann Dorr to Sean & Ashley Dorr	Gleed, WA	Apr. 24, 2008

Passings

Harry Booth	Yakima, WA	Jan. 16, 2008
Howard Taylor	Comanche, OK	Feb. 9, 2008
Jack William Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Mar. 2, 2008
Vickie Raye Bunn	Broken Bow, OK	May 6, 2008
Corey Harrington	Yakima, WA	May, 2008

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Doug Ferguson's brother	Broken Bow, OK	Crippled with polio
Minnie Davis	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Ruth Johnson	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Kidney, heart problems
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Felica Geho	Gleed, WA	Carpel tunnel surgery
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Amputation of right leg & infections
Christy Burkhart	Goshen, AR	Back pain
Melvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Bad heart & lungs
Jaetta Loftis	Lorenzo, TX	Broken wrist
Kim Mattlock	Lorenzo, TX	Knee pain
Nell McCay	Lorenzo, TX	High blood pressure problems
Bonnie Johnson	Pleasant View, OK	Ill health
Darlene Warford	Pleasant View, OK	Stroke
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Broke hip & shoulder