

Lou Dye	Citrus Ciry, AZ	Health issues
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Erica Ferguson	Clinton, NJ	In prison
Lynn Iker	Duncan, OK	Heart surgery & financial need
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe pain
Don Hammett	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Ola McKenney	Gleed WA	Tumor removal & age.
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Severe aching joints - age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, extreme pain, & life threatening blood clots
Bob Stacy	Glenwood, WA	Fighting cancer & mini strokes
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & financial hardship
Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & spinal problems
Angela Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Recovering from neck (spinal) surgery
Brenda Casarez	Lorenzo, TX	High blood pressure, eye problems
Ellis Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Dangerous & costly African travels
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Reba Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Serious Lupus & kidney failure
Renee Seaton	Pleasant View, OK	Blindness
Christine Burkhart	Springdale, AR	Health issues & financial need
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma
Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues
Gerald Warner	Waterford, CA	Stroke complications and age
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's & head injury from fall
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's

And all Those in nursing homes.

Jack Dean Phipps of the Broken Bow Congregation was born August 22nd, weighed 7 Lb. 2 oz. and was 20" long. He had seizures after birth and was in the Hospital for 10 days. He is home now and doing well with the help of medication. They will be taking him back in about a week for an EEG to help pinpoint the problem.

If you have any updates or corrections to this list, please email me at [editor.christiancourier@gmail.com](mailto:editor.christiancourier@gmail.com) so I can keep this list current.



# The Christian Courier

September, 2011

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## Voices from the past... Feb. 1988

### Preventive Medicine

Questions have been raised concerning marriage (and divorce) in the Church since its beginning. Much time has been spent discussing these questions..... after they have become problems. As with any disease, "preventive medicine" is always the best treatment. This is certainly true in this case. In an effort to save a lot of conflict and heartache for all the brotherhood (married and unmarried alike) we would like you to look with us at some essentials that need to be considered before marriage.

First of all, we need to realize that God has always intended that his people marry according to his will. Abraham realized that it was important to choose a wife for Isaac that was pleasing to the Lord. [Gen 24: 1-4, 12-14] ..v 4 ... "But thou shalt go unto my country, and to my kindred, and take a

wife unto my son Isaac." Realizing the wisdom of asking God's help in choosing a partner for his son Jacob, Isaac also sent his son to seek a wife from his own people. [Gen 28:1-7] ...v6... "Thou shalt not take a wife of the daughters of Canaan." On the other hand Esau did not listen to his father, and married a woman that was neither pleasing to his father, or the Lord. [Gen 28:6-9] Samson also chose a wife that pleased him, and did not regard the wishes of his father or the Lord. [Judges 14:1-4] God commanded the Israelites to choose a mate from among His people. [Deut 7:1-4] ...v3... "Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: So will the anger of the Lord

be kindled against you, and destroy the suddenly.” [Ezra 9:2] [Neh 10:30] [Neh 13:25] [Malach 2:11] God still requires that we choose our partners from among His people (Christians) [II Cor 6:14 ...]”Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers...” [Rev 18:4] [II Cor 6:17]

[I Cor 7:39] Tells us that widows (and all Christians) are at liberty to marry whomever they want, but only in the Lord. So we see that we are free to marry any member of the church. However, if our first desire is to serve the Lord, and please Him, then we want to choose a partner from among God’s people, who desire the same things. [Gen 24:10-14] Just as Abraham’s servant prayed to the Lord for guidance in choosing a wife for Isaac, we also should ask for God’s help when we are ready to begin looking for a partner. [James 5:16] ...”The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” We need to ask the most important person in our lives to help find the second most important person in our lives. After talking to the Lord we should listen for His answer, and search through His Word. [Jer 29:13] ”And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.” We need to examine this person in the light of God’s Word. Will this person help or hinder me in my Christian walk? Is this person comfortable with talking to God on a regular basis? [ I Thess 5:17-18] “Pray without ceasing.” [Phil 4:6] ...”In everything by prayer... Let your requests be made known unto God.” Does this person search the scriptures daily?

Will they study with you? [II Tim 2:15] “Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth.” [Acts 17:11 ...]”Search the scriptures daily...” Does this person serve the Lord fervently? Will this person’s candle merge with yours to form a brighter light? [Matt 5:16] ”Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Will they encourage you daily in your work for the Lord? [James 1:23-25] We need to choose someone who is not just a forgetful hearer... but a DOER of the word. Is this person going to help you bring up your children? “... in the nurture and admonition of the lord?” [Eph 6:4] [Prov 22:6] Will this person teach the Words of the Lord? “...Diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sitest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down. And when thou risest up? [Deut 6:7] Children learn by example. Does the person you are considering posses the kind of habits you want your children to pick up? Is the person you are considering content to remain a babe in Christ, or do they desire the sincere milk of the Word, that they may grow thereby? [ I Peter 2:2] [II Peter 3:18]

Friends, marriage is the second most important decision we will ever make. Just as we cannot expect to marry someone from the world, and make them a church member, we cannot expect to marry someone who is merely a church member and make them a Christian. We want to make them certain of heaven. The mate we

## Stilwell, OK

Pre Meeting:

Dear Brethren and Sisters,

We here at Pleasant view are holding our own. We are looking forward to our week end meeting with Roger Walkingstick from the Oklahoma City Congregation.

We have two Brethren that have been taking treatments for Cancer. They both are doing well. Brother Gerald Buckner, and Brother Bill Ross. Sister Reba Morris is still fighting Lupus. There are many that are ill, keep all of them in your prayers.

Hope this helps. In Christian Love,

Pleasant View Congregation

Post Meeting:

Dear Courier,

Just a note to let everyone know that our meeting was wonderful. We had visitors from Lorenzo TX., Lexington OK., our community congregations around this area (Broken Bow helped us). We would like to thank everyone for their help.

I would send our thanks out again for the great lessons, Brother Roger Walkingstick gave us wonderful and easy to understand lessons. On Friday evening he spoke on “Homecoming” as in the Prodigal Son. Saturday he spoke on “Choices – as in ‘Choose ye This day...’ ” Sunday am he spoke on Doest thou well to be angry? As in the prodigal son’s brother. In the afternoon he talked on the book of Job, especially to answer “why.”

The Sisters made up wonderful dinners and the visitors, played games and visited Saturday, while some went to the ‘Clothesline Fair and spent the day, doing things they enjoyed.

Thanks again, in Christian Love,

Pleasant View Church of Christ

# BULLETIN BOARD

## Meetings

November 11-13 Broken Bow, OK Guest Speakers

### Prayer of Faith for those in need

Sue (Bixler) Dodge	Aztec, NM	Stoke(2), Heart Attack & Diabetes
Jackie Brown	Baron, OK	Serious lung problems
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Lung infection
Jake Hollan	Baron, OK	Lip cancer
Doyle Wilson	Baron, OK	Severe headaches
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Arthritic problems
Al Way	Bellflower, CA	Heart problems
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Louise Brister	Citrus City, AZ	Health issues

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## Harlingen TX

Dear Brothers,

We greet you in the name of the Lord hoping that our God has blessed you along with your family and brothers in Christ. Many thanks for this valuable help and Participation in the work of the Lord.

I comment that in August I traveled to the south east of Mexico to visit and preach between the Churches in States of Yucatan, Campeche, Veracruz, and also to help the evangelization.

In the City of Merida (Yucatan ) during three days in the afternoons had study with the church and the morning we visit the brothers and also visit new peoples for evangelization.

During two days visited the Church in the City of Motul (Yucatan) and also during two days visit the Church in the City of Progreso (Yucatan) making the work of edification and evangelization.

Of return to Harlingen I preached during two days in the Church in the City of Campeche

(Campeche). Also during two days we worked with the brothers in the Church of El Higo (Veracruz ).

These Churches are approximately 1,800 miles from Harlingen TX. These Churches continue firm in the truth with the aid of the evangelists in those areas.

I continue making plans if the Lord permits me to visit the Churches in the States of Oaxaca and Chiapas.

The Churches in the area north (Matamoros, Vallehermoso, Brownsville, Reynosa) continue firm in the faith.

I request that you pray always for us that the Lord will care for us during our dangerous trips to Mexico and Central America. [gr]

Again thanks in the Lord for your support and participation in the predication of the Gospel.

Your Brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez



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## Cards and Letters

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### Newcastle TX

Dear Brethren and Brother Ellis,

We pray for you rich blessings from God in the missionary work in Africa. Brother Wade Fikes is recovering nicely from his cancer surgery and has started a five week radiation and chemo pill regimen. Please keep him in your prayers for a full re-

covery. The Doctors believe they were able to remove the cancer and no further cancerous cells were detected by their tests.

God bless you,

The Newcastle Congregation.

choose will either help or hinder us in achieving this goal. Brothers and Sisters, when we are ready to choose a partner for the rest of our earthly lives, we need to very carefully, with the Lord's help, select the one person best able to help us gain eternal life.

Written in love, with the desire that we might all attain eternal life.

Jerry McCay—Lorenzo, TX



## News from Abroad

African Update, September 14, 2011

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have been very busy over here, but I wanted to send off a quick update.

In the middle of August we headed for Western Kenya, then to Eastern Uganda to meet with a number of congregations that invited us to come. We were delayed in Migori, Kenya, because of car problems; we had to replace the Turbo because it was causing oil to go directly into the exhaust, causing much smoke. This delayed us a few days, causing us to be late for our scheduled meetings. Boaz had to take a bus to Nairobi to get the part we needed. While we were in Migori, a political figure living next door to the guest house (motel, to us) was gunned down, and the town rioted, burning wood and tires down the entire 2 miles of the town (only one street), every few yards, blocking traffic from going through the town. They also stormed the police station, throwing rocks at the police, who, in turn, fired a shot breaking an arm of one of the rioters. Boaz would not allow me to take any

pictures of the rioters, saying if they saw me taking pictures that could identify anyone rioting, they would take my camera. The national police were brought in to control the situation. After we were finally able to go, there were two more killings there.

Our first session in Uganda was at Nadwa; it was a good-sized meeting with representatives from five congregations. John Odunga, an old man who had been preaching for 30 years and who was well-respected by everyone, was there. He lived in Kenya and rode a bicycle 100 miles every Sunday morning to support a congregation in Uganda, and then he returned the 100 miles back home to Kenya. That is dedication! I had a private meeting with him; he was very happy concerning the message we taught there. He is making small payments on a piece of property and has started construction on a church building in Uganda. We also had meetings at Bubo and Banero, gaining a total of five more congregations in Uganda.

We returned to Sibembe, Kenya (a congregation we had gained on our first trip. Then we visited Alderena, Kenya, where we gained another congregation and Matunda, Kenya (another congregation we gained previously).

Then we traveled to Machakos, Kenya (southeast of Nairobi). We wanted to build up the congregation in Machakos Town that we established on our first trip there, so we prepared pamphlets and flyers for house to house meetings and open air preaching at public marketplaces (Boaz is very good at this; one time he said he had an audience of about 500 people listening to him). We gained four more people by these methods for this congregation who said they would attend regularly. One of the women of the four said she was baptized in the church many years ago, but had no place to worship. She is now very happy that she met us. We also discovered a man of 66 years who was meeting in his home with his wife, grown daughter, and two young children. He lived 7 miles from the Machakos congregation. They have agreed to walk to church every Sunday (He said it would take them 1 ½ hours) and meet with them. Both would be greatly benefited. Patrick Guambua (19) of the congregation at Machakos Town congregation was baptized on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

We visited congregations in separate mountain regions of Machakos and gained congregations in Kola and Kenyongo (spectacular views).

We have received reports of many baptisms in other congregations that we visited in times past. This is truly great!

We now have 40 congregations in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda; with many more on our visit list.

While in Nairobi, Kenya, we purchased 3 cases of Bibles (72 total) with references to distribute to congregations that are lacking. We got them at \$7.50 each less 10% because we bought so many. There is a great need for Bibles here; some places (remote tribal regions) there is only one Bible for an entire congregation. Some regions where I have been I am told that no white person has ever been there before.

Besides preaching to many congregations, I am editing a songbook in Swahili; and converting my lesson outlines (over 300) to tract form in English, and I have 3 people translating them to Swahili; I also have 2 people in Uganda that will translate them to Luganda. Few people in Uganda speak Swahili.

Everywhere Boaz and I have traveled we have taken some others with us who are helping with the work, and they said they have learned much in doing this. This last trip we took Laban Ambogo (from Matunda congregation) and Rispa (Boaz' wife) with us. Rispa has been a big help by talking to the other women and also washing our clothes for us in buckets of water (There are no washing machines). There are a lot of religious discussions in the car as we travel.

Eastern Kenya is in a severe drought; the worst in 60 years. Several members of the church there have small farms that are not producing because of the lack of rain. If they don't get rain soon, they will not have food for their families nor anything to sell for money for other necessities. They have requested prayers from many that God will send them rain while there is still time to get some crops in.

I have seen many hardships here. Last week I saw a young woman (20's) that crawled across the street on her hands and knees; she had no control of her muscles from the knees down. I have seen adults and children with "club foot" where the ankle on one of their feet was bent over so that they walked on the side of their foot. Many people cannot afford medical care, so they have learned to live with their hurt. I saw a boy about 12 – 13 yesterday come to the door of the restaurant where we were eating; he wore very tattered clothing and looked very hungry. He was homeless. We had the waitress gather up some of the food from each of our plates and take it to the boy. You wonder what happened to his home or parents. My heart goes out to many of the people here, but it is beyond my means to care for them all. People in the United States do not know what poverty is.

The mother of one of the boys in Machakos (near Nairobi) came to me on our last day there. This boy is about 14, and has been baptized. I spent some time working with him, although he does not speak English and I don't speak Swahili. The mother

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**Donation information:**

Remember, a bank account has been set up at Wells Fargo Bank for your support (Account number 8891458054). Checks can be made out to "African Mission" (the bank's name designation for this project of

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Editors note: Very few in the congregations Ellis has visited have their own bible. Ellis found a bookstore in Nairobi, Kenya that will sell them Bibles in Swahili for \$6.75 when purchased in bulk. They have purchased an initial 72 (3 cases) but their need for more is great. Also, as a late

asked me if I could take him when I go back to the United States. She wanted me to teach him on the Bible. Since he is still in school but doesn't know English, it would be a very great handicap for him in the United States. I got a similar request from a woman over a month ago if I could adopt a 15 year old girl that she had taken in, and take her back to the United States and help her get an education (many girls here do not get any schooling). Again, she would be at a very great disadvantage in the United States because she did not know any English. She cried because she wanted an education but had no way of getting it. We are still looking in Tanzania for someone who can help her.

Let your children know that they have been given an opportunity to accomplish something many around the world do not get a chance to do.

Give everyone my love, and keep me in your prayers for we are sometimes in dangerous areas.

Brother Ellis Forsman

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working with groups of people in Africa for account purposes) and sent to % Ellis Forsman, 6718 Santa Fe Dr., Lubbock, TX, 79407, or deposited directly at your nearest Wells Fargo Bank.

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update, There are now 45 congregations, and better yet, the last two were started by men who were taught by Ellis and Boaz and are now spreading God's word on their own.