



The Christian Courier

September, 2014

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HOPE – AN ANCHOR FOR OUR SOUL (Article 1 of 2)

Hebrews 6:19 describes hope as an anchor for our soul. *“Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;”* Just as ships need an anchor to keep them secure in a storm, we need something to keep our souls safe within Jesus while storms of life rage about us.

II Cor. 4:8-11 describes some of the storms we face, some of the reasons why we need an anchor. *“We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed. Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.”*

But a ship doesn’t just have a loose anchor that is thrown overboard in a storm. The anchor

is designed to hook into a rock. The anchor has to be connected to the ship with a chain or cable of some kind.

So if hope is our anchor, what is the rock that it is anchored into? What is the line that connects it to our soul? And how is the connection between the line and the anchor made? These are the questions we wish to explore in this article. And in a second article, we hope to follow up by looking at some of the storms we face in life, and how hope anchors us against each of them.

Let’s begin by looking at our anchor. We see that the writer of Hebrews describes hope as the anchor of the soul, and we read about the need for an anchor. Let’s look at what we are hoping for.

We have hope through the scriptures of a day when we and our loved ones will rise from the dead to live with our Savior and our God forever. Death is temporary, and life is eternal. II 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.”* And what wonderful comfort that brings.

Where will we be forever with the Lord? Well, where is He? In John 14:1-4 Jesus said. *“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”*

Our hope is to rise from the dead and spend eternity with God and Jesus and our loved ones in Heaven.

So, what is the rock that our hope is anchored into? And how does our hope anchor into it to keep our soul secure?

The rock for our hope to anchor into is Jesus Christ Himself, I Cor. 10:1-4. *“Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank*

of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.”

And we have a very specific way to anchor our souls into him, which is by doing what He tells us to do. Jesus said in Matt. 7:24-25. *“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock.”*

So that leads us to the next questions. What leads us to obey Jesus? And what connects our souls to our hope? While that is not the same question, the two questions have the same answer. Faith. Faith is what leads us to follow Jesus, anchoring our souls in the promise He made.

Heb. 11:1 describes faith as giving substance to our hope. *“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.”* Heb. 11:6 further connects faith to hope by pointing out that our faith is two-fold. *We must believe not only in God, but also that He will reward our diligent effort. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

The last thing we wish to consider in this first article is this. What makes the final connection? What is it that connects the line to the anchor? What connects faith to hope?

Patience. Heb. 6:11-12. *“And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”* Through faith and patience we inherit the promises.

Rom. 8:24-25. *“For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope*

for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it.” James 5:7-8. “Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain. Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.”

So we have seen through the scriptures that hope is described as an anchor for the soul. Jesus is the Rock our hope is anchored into, and that we anchor into Him through obedience. Faith is the reason for obedience, the line that connects our souls to our hope. And the connection between faith and hope is patience.

In a second article we will look at how hope anchors us against various storms in life. But for this article, let us close by reminding ourselves again of what we are hoping for.

1 Pet. 1:4-5. *“To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”*

In Christian love,
Bro. Terry Warford
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MOURNING FOR SIN

“Blessed are they that mourn, for they will be comforted” (Mathew 5:4). This statement from Jesus is something confusing to some and at the same time encouraging to others. This however is not about self purity by one who feels that life has short changed him. It is not a natural sorrow as expressed in Romans 12:15 where Paul wrote *“rejoice with those who rejoice, mourn with those who mourn”*.

Our Lord Jesus commanding the kind of mourning that one develops when he or she sorrows for the sin committed in his or her life. When one understands the Bible teaching regarding purity of life, he will mourn for his sin. David expressed its meaning well when he wrote, *“I confess my iniquity; I am troubled by my sin”* (psalm 38:18). The altitude of the mourning for sin did not end up with David. It was also expressed when Joel recorded God’s pleading with Israel in the Joel 2:12,13: *“even now, declares the Lord, returned to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning Rend your heart and not your*

garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate”.

We can also get a good example of mourning for our sins in Luke 18:13, the parable of the Pharisees and the Tax collector *“... But the tax collector stood at a distance he would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God have mercy on me, a sinner’* in order to have such a deep sense of sorrows one need to compared himself or herself with the example of the life of Christ during the time he spent here on earth, and his concerned for each other who is his follower. The Hebrew writer described our Lord’s concern for humanity by saying, “we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weakness, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet without sin”

Having learnt how we must mourn for our own sin committed in our life, we should not end there. However, the Bible tells us also to mourn over the sin of others such as mourning will

motivate us to do more evangelism, for research out to the lost with the gospel.

Brethren, all of you and myself, we have a commission to take the message of salvation to the world, because sin that have not been forgiven will bring condemnation of the sinners when the judgment comes. However, we who

have been given the commission may ignore the sin of others, or seek to save them, be affected by our choices. Ignoring God's commission is in itself, a sin (James 4:17).

John Kombo

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Nakuru – Kenya

A CHALLENGE TO THE LORD'S PEOPLE (CHRISTIANS)

I have invested more than twenty one years of my life preaching and teaching the word of God (the gospel of Jesus Christ) to many people in Kenya. Brother Ellis told us that he has spent more than fifty four years preaching in USA and other parts of the world. But still there are challenges to many of us who profess to be Christian. Do we know that Satan is continually at work? His goals are to spiritually destroy every soul that is not equipped to defend itself in this life or death struggle.

Listen! Going to worship every Sunday is not enough to make one faithful to the Lord. Being "good" morally is not enough to be counted as faithful. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "Every branch in me that does not bear fruits he takes away; and every branch that bears fruits he burns, that it may bear more fruits (John 15:2). Some of us have been privileged to hear and learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ from good teachers like Brother Ellis in our lives, but what are we doing with it? One may go to make use of the knowledge he acquired to make a living, what good would it be to him? Most Christians who have been taught are not using the gospel and helping others to be converted and to grow in Christ. Real Christians, according to the scriptures, are soldiers trained to endure hardship, persecution, even the threat of death (Romans 8:35, 36, Revelation 2:10).

Let us all wake up to the challenges;- elders, deacons, preachers, teachers, old, young, all members of the Lord's church everywhere.

Those who have opportunity to teach let us educate and inspire others to be active in the Lord's work.

Let us teach our children and young people that the Bible is their guide to life. It is not a history or story book. Evangelists, let us move into the community around us to teach the lost. Let us not wait till they come. They will never come.

Finally, brothers and sisters, what are you doing, personally, as Christians? Look for any opportunity to bring up spiritual things in conversations with friends and relatives. Nurture relationship, with the goal of sharing the gospel with that person, praying for them earnestly.

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another ..." (Colossians 3:16)

John Kombo Nadwa

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Nakuru, Kenya

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News From Abroad

Kenya (August, 2014)

Greetings from the church of our Lord in Kenya.

We trust this finds you brethren and your families there well in Christ.

Naivasha - At this time of writing, I have received good report from Naivasha. Bro. Situma says they plan to move from house to house to preach and teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, each week four families' would be visited according to this plan.

Kakamega - Report from Bro. Laban Ambogo is not a good one, according to him; the roof of the building they use for worship was blown out.

At present they meet at Laban's home. They had to postpone the congregational meeting till the end of August. The meeting had been planned to take place in July.

Nakuru - We at Nakuru continue to preach and teach the gospel. At Baruti Church two people have been baptized. Bro. Amos Mutai and Bro. Philip Koech on 3rd August 2014 at 3pm. Bro. Alfonse Kipngetich is doing a commendable job for the Lord. He is a fourth-year student at Tumaini High School. He brings his friends to church on Sunday where they are taught and later obey the gospel of Jesus Christ by being baptized. I baptized him four years ago when he

was in form one (I believe this is in reference to a school group – Ellis).

I have been invited at Rhonda church to officiate the youth group fundraising day to contribute for repairing church building and buying other church facilities like song books etc. this event will take place on 31-8-2014. I have attached the invitation letter to this report

The two Bible classes are doing so well, more students of the bible have shown much interest in the study. We still need some Bibles (Kiswahili). I had requested about 10 Bibles otherwise all is well and everyone appreciates you and your prayers. We wish you well in the God's work.

God bless you so richly,
Yours Because Of Calvary.
John Kombo Nandwa
Nakuru – Kenya.

Kenya (September, 2014)

Bro. Laban says that they are struggling to repair the church building roof that was blown up by the strong wind. He called me yesterday informing me about Bro. John Otunga of Busia, who requested that we visit the congregations at Nambale as soon as possible.

I also received call from Sis. Margaret of Machakos. They are doing well, but they lack a preacher. Members of Machakos are mainly women. The only few men who are there need to be trained in order to do the work of preaching. Bro. Thomas Situma has also communicated and said that the church at Naivasha is doing well as far as evangelism is concerned. They have organized an evangelism team to do personal evangelism by visiting homes during the weekend.

At Nakuru we had Harambee day at Ronda church to contribute funds to help the work of renovation of the church building. We were able to contribute Ksh 9500 (\$105). In Kenya when people come together to contribute towards a certain cause, it is called Harambee. This is

Kiswahili word (literally translated as “heave ho”) meaning to “pull together”.

As I informed you we have put in place two Bible study groups. We are doing very well. The members continue to grow. Our aim is to use these studies to convert men and women to the Lord’s church. In my last report I told you that we had baptized two. We are preparing to baptize three at this weekend.

A group of denomination preachers have asked me to prepare a bible lesson on PROPHEETS and PROPHECY. I am meeting this group on Saturday this week. Christians (denominations) are weary of one man known as prophet Owuori who has warned that the end of the world is very near, and this is the reason why most people who do not understand what the Bible teaches on the subject, are very much worried.

God bless you, your family and the church.
John Kombo
Nakuru, Kenya.

Uganda & The Congo (August, 2014)

We are well and the grace of our lord is too marvelous. We acknowledge your continued labor toward the Lord’s work here in Africa; without your sacrificially to support the work we would not be as it is now. So it is our sincere prayer that the Lord rewards you more abundantly.

I have gone through the *Christian Courier* it is indeed good; I am printing for my congregation whoever congregation need they shall pay for photocopying.

Evangelism in Uganda and Congo Kinshasa: We discussed that each congregation in this perspective region is to arrange for their evangelism schedules, so right now the brothers in the Congo are going on with their evangelism and even here in Uganda.

Baptism report: I have received communication from the following brothers about new conversions via baptisms:

- Bro. Bwire Obed, Mailosaba Church of Christ: Maka John and his wife, Esther

- Bro. Philp Lebu, CONGO Kitoma Church of Christ: Egessa Matthew
- Bro. Juma Peter, Buhatumba Church of Christ: Odwori Titus and Ajiambo Lilian

- Bro. Ouma Joshuah, Lugala Church of Christ: Auma Grace, Nandra Susan, Okuku Wilson, Were Poul, and Mangeni Agulla
- Bro. Andrew Mugeni, Namayingo Church of Christ David Wanyama and Sanya Alex
Your brother in Christ, Julius Wandera

Uganda & The Congo (September, 2014)

Hi Brothers in Christ. I have been off from the internet service but we are just well and continuing in the Lord's ministry. I hope you are well over there; here in Africa God is just multiplying His blessings and souls are continuing to accept Christ.

Bro. Otinyino Kenneth who is Amazon traveled to the West Nile (Kiriyaatongo District)

for he has a construction contract over there. He shared the gospel with people over there and he baptized 4 people and started a church there.

One member volunteered his home for worship. We ask you to remember them in your prayers that they will continue to be faithful to the Lord.

Your brother in Christ, Julius Wandera

The Philippines

We baptized last Sunday 2 women at Binoligan Church Kidapawan City — Sister Mendoza and Sister Jenny.

We had also other baptisms:

Bunawan Church Agusan Del Sur

- RONALDO C. MAGLIQUIAN
- CHARITO E. MAGLIQUIAN
- CHAROLD E. MAGLIQUIAN
- REGINA E. MAGLIQUIAN
- MA. CORAZON MAGLIQUIAN

Bacolod City Church

- CHERRYL E. MAGLIQUIAN
- MARY GRACE E. MAGLIQUIAN
- LLEIF G. MAELAND - this is a foreigner from Germany
- RYAN D. MAGLIQUIAN
- CEDREX E. MAGLIQUIAN

We, baptized 2 sisters the last three Sundays:

- MERLINA IPON
- FELOMINA MENDOZA

Felomina Mendoza was baptized, and then after one week their house burned at 4 p.m. in the afternoon at Barangay Binoligan, Kidapawan City. Nothing saved but her only worn cloths. Her child got serious injury - second degree burns on his face and body parts.

We are requesting for bibles and songbooks for Bacolod city; 50 copies in Hiligaynon version. Thanks and God bless!

Respectfully yours,
Dickson Fabian

Harlingen, TX (June, 2014)

(The following letter from Bro. Otto Alvarez was inadvertently missed from the last issue of *The Christian Courier*. We apologize for this — Editor)

Loved and appreciated brothers in Christ,

I send regards in the name of the Lord Jesus with the hope that the Lord blesses each one of you.

Because of prostate surgery and also a heart attack I was hospitalized from May 28th through

June 16th. The Lord Jesus Christ helped me and I am now at home in recovery. I have confidence that in a few days my health will be well and I plan to continue the work by predication of the gospel.

Thank you for your prayers and support to continue forward with you in this work that the Lord ordered us (Matt. 28:19-20).

Your brother in Christ, Otto Alvarez

Harlingen, TX (August, 2014)

Dear brethren in Christ,

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

I comment that the Lord has helped me and my health is better. My wife also was a little sick but thanks to the Lord she is already very well.

During these days I had opportunity of working with the brethren in Fernandez City, Mexico. This congregation is small and all are working for the growth of the church in this place. Also, we studied with a new family in this city and we had one baptism. We have hope that all of the family will continue visiting the church and obey the gospel.

A family of the church in Victoria, Mexico, went to live in Houston, TX, and we have a possibility of establishing a congregation in that city with my daughter who lives there.

In Brownsville, TX, we have new people that that visit us on Thursdays and Sundays.

The church in Matamoros, Mexico, continues the work of evangelization and some people visit the church on Sundays.

I have plans to travel to Tampico City, Mexico, to visit a family that is studying the scriptures on the church and seem to be ready to obey the gospel.

The evangelists in Colombia inform me that they are working and there is a possibility of establishing other churches there. This country has much danger but the brethren are faithful and continue evangelizing.

For all the faithful in the church, again I thank you for your important help. Masy God continue to bless you in everything.

Your brother in Christ, Otto Alvarez

(Two photos included are on the next page.)



Cards and Letters

Aztec, NM

Greetings:

As you are probably aware, we lost Sis. Sue Bixler-Martinez on August 16 to heart failure. We have lost a very good friend, sister, Mother, Grandmother, and comrade in Christ. But, now we have some good news to report; we had five (5) baptisms on the 24th at Charlie Johnson's place down on the Animas River!! Curtis and Sheila Wilson's two children : Jordan and Ryan Wilson. Curtis' sister Sherry Floyd and Sherry's daughter Brittany Harris. Then Sheila Wilson's sister Donna Maness was also given her new life. This was a very joyous occasion and we want nothing more than to share the happiness and fulfillment that they have attained.

Denny & Susie Davis were here for Sunday services but they weren't able to be here for the

baptisms. We are all well as can be, Sister Ruby, Tina Mickey's sister fell and broke her hip about two plus weeks ago and now she has blood clots in her feet, please pray for her as she is a normally energetic 91 years young individual. She had surgery on her hip and had been walking until the blood clots changed the pace of things.

We all have the "aging syndrome" but for the most part we are well and doing our best to be good Christians.

Sincerely,
Aztec Church of Christ

Glenwood, WA

To all my brothers and sisters:

I recently lost all my contact addresses and all my files. I am in the process of downloading everything I can at my new page.

My new E-mail address is jdandfern1219@gmail.com. Please send me

your e-mail address so I can bring my files up to date.

Your brother in Christ, J D Logan

Randlett, OK

Greetings to all.

It has been a while since I have written. Sorry, but things are so busy here it is just hard to find the time. I think I have an idea of about when my last writing was and will try to update with things that have occurred since then.

Many of you know that my mom, Sis. Anna Bell Barnes has Alzheimer's disease. She has gotten worse mentally. She is also physically weaker and is no longer able to walk. She is in a wheelchair all the time now, but does move up and down the halls at the nursing home checking things and people out each day. She is no longer able to attend service.

We have more members now than when I last wrote. Some baptisms and some have moved to us from non bread breaking churches.

Sister Nora Jo Elliot had a light heart attack recently, but seems to be recovering nicely. The doctor put her on a special diet to try to prevent additional attacks. As our members get older, things tend to ache more and wear out. We have enclosed a check to help with the expenses incurred to produce the Christian Courier.

May God Bless you and yours, Bro. Andy Barnes

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

August 29-31, 2014 Pleasant View, OK Guest speakers

Baptisms

Wyatt Alverson	Pleasant View, OK	July, 2014
Anna Thompson	Pleasant View, OK	July, 2014
Dakoda Bauer	Yakima, WA	July 13, 2014
Sarah Phipps Davis	Broken Bow, OK	July 16, 2014
Trinity Lamb	Gleed, WA	July 17, 2014

Births

Peter Boaz, Jr. to Peter & Rachel Boaz	Arusha, Tanzania	June 20, 2014
Wilkister Lynell to Sadat & Agrippina Alex	Gaita, Tanzania	July 28, 2014

Marriages

Wyatt Alverson & Courtney Moncravie	Pleasant View, OK	July 26, 2014
Jared Lawson Fresh & Jessica Erin Carter	Glenwood, WA	August 2, 2014

Passings

Buell Lindley	Alamogordo, NM	June 2, 2014
Betty Wegley	Newcastle, WA	July 17, 2014

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Musa Kimani	Arusha, Tanzania	Cerebral malaria
Rachel Boaz	Arusha, Tanzania	Extreme malaria, Typhoid Fever, & Urinary Tract Infection
Peter Boaz, Jr.	Arusha, Tanzania	In hospital for evaluation - extreme crying
Wilkister Lynell Alex	Gaita, Tanzania	Water in lungs

Nina Bixler	Aztec, NM	Esophagus repair, serious complications from surgery
Tina Mickey	Aztec, NM	Extreme dizziness
Linda Wilson	Aztec, NM	Extreme anxiety
Synda Swain	Bellflower, CA	Strock, now in rehab
Jay & LaWanda Durham	Broken Bow, OK	Surgery, illness, falls
Pam Berry	Canton, GA	Severe headaches
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Mary Shirey	Douglassville, PA	Fractured ankle
Carol Bauer	Gleed, WA	Fighting cancer (in remission)
John Bauer	Gleed, WA	Back surgery
Robert Farley	Gleed, WA	Severe back pain
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Diabetes & heart problems
Ola McKinney	Gleed, WA	Age related problems
Betty Simmons	Gleed, WA	Shoulder surgery
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Severe aching joints - age
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections, pain, blood clots, & falls
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel
Mariella Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Dangerous travel & spinal problems
Gary Calhoun	Hillsboro, OR	Brain tumor
Robert Lane	Hillsboro, OR	Recovering from stroke
Olene Howe	Lorenzo, TX	Fell & broke a bone in her hand
Jerry McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Eye treatments for Macular Degeneration
Wynetta McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Back troubles & dizziness
Joseph Davis	Mesa, AZ	Thyroid surgery & radiation treatments
Bo Forsman	Pine Mountain, OK	Heart attack - still recovering
Darrell Chastain	Pleasant View, OK	Broken foot mending
Retha Morris	Pleasant View, OK	Fighting Parkinson's disease
Ken Harper	Sacramento, CA	Recovering from stroke and paralysis
Gerald Buckner	Stilwell, OK	Stage III Anaplastic Large Cell Lymphoma
Reba Morris	Stilwell, OK	Recovering from 2 surgical procedures
Lawanda Durham	Tiner, OK	Serious health issues
Cinde McCay	Yakima, WA	Fighting Parkinson's & gall bladder surgery
Kelly McCay	Yakima, WA	Hernia surgery
Alice Davis	Yuma, AZ	Lower back pain
Debra Davis	Yuma, AZ	Swelling & pain in knees
Ruth Duncan	Yuma, AZ	In rehab
Florence Fuller	Yuma, AZ	Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's,
fell & injured elbow		
Verda Nelson	Yuma, AZ	Sheduled for heart valve replacement
Iris Stewart	Yuma, AZ	Heart problems
Betty Wallen	Yuma, AZ	Knee replacement
Bill Wallen	Yuma, AZ	Stint put in his heart

And all those in nursing homes.

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