



# The Christian Courier

March, 2015

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## LEST HE FALL

The Apostle Paul wrote; “*Therefore, let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.*” (1 Cor. 10:12). When one becomes arrogant in his faith, he has laid himself open for a fall from the grace of God. The very confidence, by which he thinks he stands, is that which causes him to fall. His arrogance moves him to trust in himself, and thus, he leads himself astray after this own righteousness (Rom. 11:20). We must not assume that one’s fall here refers to one becoming irreligious or pagan in behavior. In the Corinthian’s context, the false teachers were falling after their own arrogant religionism (Rev. 2: 2-6).

Paul continued to explain that “God is faithful” (1 Cor. 10:13): In contrast to one who trust in Him (1 Cor. 1:9; Psalms 125:3). One stands, therefore, not because of his ability to guarantee his salvation, but by the grace of God. “*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ,*

*(by grace ye are saved;)*” (Eph. 2:4-5). The justice of God stands on the fact that He has extended mercy to those who have sought Him by faith. (Rom. 9:23; 11:31-32; 15:9; 1 Pet. 1:3; Titus 3:3-7). God’s mercy has been extended toward man because of His great love for all men (John 3:16; Rom. 5:8).

Those who sin against God will reap the consequences of sin (Rom. 6:23). The problem with being human is the fact that we cannot live in a manner that is sinless before God. Therefore, we cannot live in a manner that would merit the mercy of God. Mercy is not given out of merit, but out of love. God’s mercy is not something that we merit according to the law. It is given out of love and not on the basis that is legally earned. “*Even when we were dead*”. But God manifests His love toward us, in that “*while were still sinners, Christ died for us*” (Rom. 5:8). No man can righteously live in a manner to earn the mercy of God (Rom. 3:9-10, 20, 23).

Temptations: All men are tempted. But the temptations to sin originates from within the individual (James 1:12-15). Sin occurs, therefore, when the lusts and pride of the individual are carried into action that is contrary to the will of God (1 John 2:15).

A way of escape: since temptation originates from within the individual to carry out lust and pride, the way of escape originates from within one's heart. In order to escape temptations, therefore, one must look within himself. It is within one's heart that he must seek the way in which he lives. He or she cannot blame anyone or anything that lies outside his heart for the sin he may commit in carrying out the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life.

Able to endure: one is able to bear only when he trusts in the will of God in his heart, he will give his heart over to the evil influences of the environment in which he lives. (Heb. 4:12) says, *"For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intents of the heart."* Let us all, the children of God, depend on it.

God bless you.

John Kombo – Barut Church of Christ

Nakuru – Kenya

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## From the Staff:

The article in January's issue was in response to a request for information on ways to make the communion loaf. It was written for your consideration and not as a rule to be followed. It is, and always has been, this publication's policy to only print articles that are positive and not of a controversial nature. It has been brought to our attention that the above mentioned article accidentally fell into this category. If this has happened it was not our intent and we do apologize for our mistake.

In the past, we have chosen not to print articles that might not have been positive, edifying, and uplifting and we endeavor to continue this policy. Please continue to help us in

this effort by submitting: news, notices, positive articles, and other information that serve to encourage the readers either by writing or email rather than social media such as Facebook.

When submitting material, please keep the content as brief as possible to conserve space, cut cost, and to allow us to include as many letters as possible.

Please continue to help us to share the love of the Lord through your news and notes. We welcome your input and suggestions.

In Christian love,

The Christian Courier Staff



# News From Abroad

## Harlingen, TX (Feb., 2015)

Dear brethren in Christ:

I greet you cordially in the name of Christ hoping that you may be enjoying good health along with your families and brothers in Christ.

I inform you that during several days we made work of evangelization near the city of Reynosa, Mexico, with some brothers that live there and we find several persons interested in the gospel. We have plans of visiting this place again in March or April to continue preaching with the hope that some people will obey the gospel and to establish a congregation in this area.

The brothers in the churches in Yucatan and Campeche (Southern Mexico) inform me that they are making work of evangelization and we have confidence that some people will obey the gospel.

The brothers in Queretaro, Mexico, comment that the church continues asserted and had studies of the bible three times in the week with the hope that this church could grow.

The churches in Guatemala inform me that they continue making the work of evangelization and edification and that the brothers continue growing in faith and complying with the responsibility of evangelization.

Also the brothers in Colombia inform me that they continue the predication work and that the work of the Lord in this country grows slowly but the members each day are more firm in the faith.

In Olmito, TX, we begin a new congregation and some brothers this area collaborate in this evangelization.

Brothers: again we thank you in the name of the Lord for your help in this work of evangelization because all are fulfilling the order of preaching the gospel.

I send photo of the new congregation in Olmito, TX. (see photo on page 5)

Your brother in Christ,  
Otto Alvarez

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## Report From Tanzania

We had a very beautiful meeting today (22<sup>nd</sup> of February) here in Mugeta and three were baptized. (see photos on page 5) We had a good sermon from Mabaya and also after the worship we had a get together at the church building. The Mugeta Congregation asked me to pass on information to you. They told me to tell you that

they received the money you sent and were very thankful. They want fellow brethren overseas to know they have true brethren in Africa. They were very happy and thankful.

Bro. Peter Boaz from Mugeta, Tanzania

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## Report from Kenya

Glad to greet you in the mighty name of our Lord Jesus Christ. The report I have received from my fellow-workers in the Lord's kingdom are very good and encouraging as far as evangelism is concerned.

The only sad news is that Bro. Muteti's wife is sick and admitted to Kenyatta National Hospital. She is waiting to be operated on. I do not know what disease she is suffering from. I got the report from Bro. John Mbithi. Yesterday I called Bro. Muteti on phone and he said his wife is still in the hospital and she has not yet been operated on.

Another report is that the government of Kenya has decreed that all churches or ministries registered by the government are required to send returns (as it is called) showing what their doctrines are, progress and how they get funds to support the work or the church, etc. this is because there so many false preachers or prophets who have started many churches in Kenya. Some of them have been, of recently, blamed to get money falsely by cheating innocent people who follow them.

Therefore we are planning to meet as a committee to prepare the report to be presented to the office of the Attorney General before the start of March 2015.

This is the timeline or starting date to send report there. We are not sure whether you are able to support us. We need most importantly, the transport to travel to Nairobi for four of us.

I have had good reports from various congregations and from individuals. Brother Laban reported 4 baptisms between January and February. At Barut, so far we have baptized only two people.

### **From Matundu Kakamega:**

- Enireter Munayi

- Lilian Imonje
- Ruth Miteba
- Sofia Ndega

### **Barut – Nakuru:**

- Medrine Nekesa
- Fanice Omuroka

Below is what we are supposed to accomplish according to our work-plan.

- National Committee Meeting – March
- Present our Church Returns – Attorney General's Office Nairobi – End of March.
- A visit to Mombasa to see Bro. Gedion – April.
- A visit to Tumain Church – April
- A visit to Busia near Uganda – June
- Meeting of all one cup church of Christ members in Kenya – September.

Finally, the major problem that is common everywhere I have visited in Kenya is that most of our member congregations have no place to worship. Starting with Barut where I serve. However, I understand the financial hindrance you are facing. But we can be able to do what we can.

Even as I was writing this letter, a preacher from Ivochio church called me, he asked if we can buy them 4 iron sheets for roofing their building whose roof is leaking. They have a building but the roof is old. 4 iron sheets is about Kshs. 2,800 (\$30 American).

You said something about the growing of the work. I am also beginning to feel it here in Kenya. It is also my prayer that one of the fine days I would be able to get a laptop, so that I can keep the record accurately of the growth of the churches in Kenya.

Yours in Christ Love,  
Bro. John Kombo



**New congregation in Olmito, TX**



**Three baptisms in Mugeta,  
Tanzania**



**Congregation with new church  
building at Mugeta, Tanzania**



**New church building at Mugeta,  
Tanzania**

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## Report From Uganda

Warm greetings from all the brethren in Uganda Congo Churches of Christ loyal congregations .

Churches in all this regions are growing in this month we have had 20 baptisms, the congregation at Buhatumba where Bro. Juma Peter is a preacher they started a school, baby to primary four. The school's name: CHARITY NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL; school motto: RAISE AND SHINE. Brother Peter said that purpose of this school is not to bring profit for individuals but is to contribute something toward church development through the school fee.

The school has 20 pupils in baby, 30 pupils in primary one, 15 in primary two, 40 in primary

three, 23 in primary four. The school has a total of 128 pupils. Of this number, 38 pupils are orphans, they cannot afford to get school fee plus the meals which is 30,000 UGSHS (\$10 American). The photos of the pupils, plus that of each congregation will be sent to few days from now.

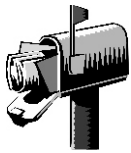
Thanks for you considerations.

Yours in Christ's service

Bro. Julius Wandera

Uganda

Editor's note - Each church group in each African country is required by law to support some humanitarian effort; Kenya has an orphanage, Uganda now has a primary school.



## Cards and Letters

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### Comanche, OK

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

We here at Comanche, OK, are few in number, and are, for the most part, doing well, health-wise.

Karla is still under care; the rest of us have the regular pains that go with old age. As we are growing old, we are afraid to travel long distance by ourselves. We are studying and trying to

earnestly contend for the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Included is a small contribution to The Courier; we enjoy reading it.

With Christian love,

Bro. Harold Don Taylor

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## Stilwell, OK

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Enclosed is a check to help with *The Courier*. Also, just send us one package of twelve as we don't need as many now.

It has been quite some time since anyone from here has written to *The Courier*, so I will try to catch up on the news.

We have had two baptisms to report: Michael Potter and Kaila (Soucie) Buckner. My grandson Jesse and Kaila were married on October 18<sup>th</sup>. They were married in the church; and I did the ceremony; it was a beautiful wedding.

Our Labor Day meeting was a great success. We would like to thank everyone that attended. There were several congregations that attended and I won't try to name them because I might accidentally leave someone out. Bro. Jerry McCay spoke Friday night, Bro. Mike Harcrow on Saturday night, Bro. Stanley Goodwin on Sunday morning, and Bro. Ellis Forsman on Sunday afternoon. Please mark your calendars for September 4-6 of 2015. Keep in mind that this will be a yearly meeting that everyone can plan to attend.

At this time everyone is doing okay, just everyday ailments of getting older. It has been a

trying four years since I have been diagnosed with cancer. The nerves in my hands and feet are burnt up because of the chemo and I have trouble walking and using my hands; but my cancer is in remission (Praise the Lord!) I am on maintenance, seeing the doctor every four months. The doctors tell me that it will return, but I know that with prayers and faith it will not return. I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, phone calls, and visits. You can remove me from the prayer list in the back of *The Courier*.

We invite anyone who can to come and worship with us. Sunday morning services are at 10:00 a.m. We do not have a Sunday evening service. On Wednesday nights at 6:00 we rotate from having singing one week and Bible study the next week. We have a dinner after services on the first Sunday of the month followed by a young men's service.

Please join us when you can.

Love and prayers,

Bro. Gerald Buckner  
Stilwell, OK

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## Yakima, WA (Jan. 28, 2015)

Dear Brethren:

Much has happened since I last wrote. Michael and Kay invited me to go along as they were going to Modesto over Christmas, so I went. It was great to be able to visit with Al and Charlotte for a few days. We were able to see their whole family, as their granddaughter Nicole had the whole family for Christmas dinner. It was also great to attend Sunday

services at Waterford and to see all the brethren there whom we hadn't seen for several years. On the way home. we got into a blizzard of snow, falling and blowing at the same time, so we stopped overnight in Bend, OR. The next day was beautiful, so we had no trouble going on home.

When we got home, we found out that there was a lot of flu going on at Selah Convalescent

and no one could visit .On January 1st, Veda was taken to the hospital where she was diagnosed as having pneumonia and congestive heart failure. From there, she was taken to a hospice house where she was kept pain free. We were able to visit her there at any time. On Sunday, January 4th, about 30 of us went and sang to her for about an hour. That night, she passed away peacefully in her sleep The Funeral Home had a capacity of 200 and there was standing room only at her funeral. She had touched a lot of lives. We want to thank all of you for your phone calls, cards and letters, flowers and prayers. We are also appreciative of you all who attended from other congregations. I won't try to name you all for fear I might leave some one out. You know who you are and we thank you. I have been blessed that I had 66 years with her.

Once again, we invite all of you who can to come to our meeting this summer. It starts on June 28<sup>th</sup> and runs till July 5<sup>th</sup>. Bro. Roger Walkingstick and Bro. Jerry McCay are both excellent speakers and we will do our best to take care of you. Please come and visit any time.

Yours in Christ,  
Bro. Bill McCay, Sr.

## **Yakima, WA (Mar. 3, 2015)**

Dear Brethren:

We have a few things to report,. Sis. Kay McCay arrived home last Wednesday after spending a couple of weeks in Modesto helping to take care of her mother, Sis. Charlotte had a knee replacement and Kay went down to help her in her recovery,

Then last Saturday evening, Bro. Richard and Sis. Monica had a singing at their home and it was enjoyed by all. Sunday morning we heard a good lesson brought by Bro. Terry Warford. Best of all, Sunday morning, Dillon Parham made that good confession and was baptized. Dillon is a son of Sis. Robin Parham, which makes him my grand nephew

We would encourage all of you Brethren to attend as many of the meetings as you can. You really miss going when you can't attend. I am very happy that Veda and I were able to visit as many congregations as we did while we were able.

Once again, we invite all who can to come and be with us during our meeting or at any time.

Yours in Christ,  
Bro. Bill McCay, Sr.

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## **Lorenzo, TX**

Dear ones in Christ,

Just a brief note to bring everyone up to date.

In Feb. Bro. Jerry & Sis. Wynetta and Bro. Ellis Forsman traveled to Yuma where they spent a few days with the brethren there. Several plan to go to Yuma later for their meeting.

Most everyone here has been doing well. Sis. Nell McCay and Sis. Reba White still are in nursing care, but are doing reasonably well. David & Brannan Marsh's son Deacon had been sick but hopefully is doing better now.

The weather here has turned a lot colder than normal and we received several inches of snow

and ice. One day there were over 100 accidents because of bad road conditions. One Sunday those of us living in the Lubbock area had church services at Sis. Amy Orendorff's house because of the bad road conditions and the city's request for people to stay off the roads until conditions improved.

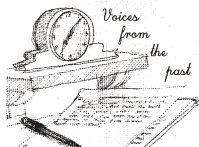
The Lorenzo congregation will publish the meeting date and speakers of our summer meeting when they become available. In addition, we are having a weekend meeting on May 1-3 with Bro. Stanley Goodwin as our guest speaker. All are welcome.



The printer that we had been using to print *The Christian Courier* broke down and we had it put in the shop to determine the problem and the cost to fix it. The cost to replace the entire paper feed assembly would be \$650. We decided to purchase another printer instead of fixing that

one. We purchased another printer at a cost of \$799 after the sale discounted price of \$200. This included the legal size 500 sheet tray needed for the printing of *The Courier*.

In Christian love from the Lorenzo, TX, congregation



## The Precious Promise (All This and Heaven Too)

The Bible is a precious book because God is its author. It is a revelation of His thoughts toward us.

David said, “PSA 139:17-18, *“How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand...”* And through the prophet Jeremiah, God said, Jeremiah 29:11, *“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.”*

I like to think of these “precious thoughts” of God as the promises of God. All the Bible from the first words, *“In the beginning God”* (Gen.1:1) to the final promise *“Christ be with you all. Amen.”* (Rev. 22:21), is a mine of truth, and the promises found on almost every page are like rare gems shining in their beauty.

They are like delicious fruit so good to look at, but so much better when eaten. So the precious promises of God when claimed by faith, not only appeal to the soul but give health and strength to the spiritual life. They are life, for they are God’s word. *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* (Heb. 4:12).

The promises of God are heaven’s. Anything that He promised can be obtained. It will be given gladly. God counts it an honor to him when his children ask largely. *“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.”* (John 14:13).

When God gave Jesus to the world, He gave also the treasure of the universe. Moses says, *“The LORD shall open unto thee his good treasure, the heaven to give the rain unto thy land in his season, and to bless all the work of thine hand: and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow.”* (Deut. 28:12). Paul exclaimed, *“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”* (Rom. 8:32).

With a new eagerness and carefulness we ought to search the word to really know more of the extent of our possessions in Christ. Paul said in Eph. 1:3 that all spiritual blessings was in Christ Jesus. So now since we are told all spiritual blessings are in Christ Jesus, we must get in Christ in order to enjoy the blessings promised. The only way we get in Christ is through faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. These steps are necessary in having our sins forgiven and our names written in the Lamb’s Book of Life (Rev. 21:27).

Written in the love of the Spirit,  
Bro. Elza Loveland, Yakima, WA

(Reprinted from *The Christian Courier*, May, 1973

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# BULLETIN BOARD

## Meetings

|                        |                         |                                  |
|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| March 22-29, 2015      | Yuma, AZ                | Guest speakers                   |
| May 1-3, 2015          | Lorenzo, TX             | Stanley Goodwin                  |
| June 28 - July 5, 2015 | Yakima, WA              | Roger Walkingstick & Jerry McCay |
| July 6-12, 2015        | Glenwood, WA            | TBA                              |
| July 12-19, 2015       | Delta, CO, Camp Meeting | Guest Speakers                   |
| Sept. 4-6, 2015        | Stilwell, OK            | Guest speakers                   |

## Baptisms

|                    |                              |                |
|--------------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Tina Smith         | Lost Sheep COC, Stilwell, OK | Dec. 14, 2014  |
| Brittney Walker    | Lost Sheep COC, Stilwell, OK | Dec. 14, 2014  |
| Enireter Munayi    | Matundu, Kenya               | February, 2015 |
| Lilian Imonje      | Matundu, Kenya               | February, 2015 |
| Ruth Miteba        | Matundu, Kenya               | February, 2015 |
| Sofia Ndega        | Matundu, Kenya               | February, 2015 |
| Medrine Nekesa     | Barut - Nakuru, Kenya        | February, 2015 |
| Fanice Omuroka     | Barut - Nakuru, Kenya        | February, 2015 |
| Michael Potter     | Stilwell, OK                 | February, 2015 |
| Kaila Buckner      | Stilwell, OK                 | February, 2015 |
| Dr. Hillian Muzyka | Citrus City, AZ              | Feb. 8, 2015   |
| Dillon Parham      | Yakima, WA                   | March 1, 2015  |

## Weddings

|                                 |              |                  |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Jesse Buckner<br>& Kaila Soucie | Stilwell, OK | October 18, 2014 |
|---------------------------------|--------------|------------------|

## Prayer of Faith for those in need

|                        |                        |                                  |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Muteti's wife          | Kenya                  | In hospital for operation        |
| Peter Boaz, Jr.        | Tanzania               | Severe Malaria                   |
| Peter Boaz             | Tanzania               | Back problems                    |
| Agrippina Alex         | Tanzania               | Back problems                    |
| Felomina Mendoza's son | Kidapawan, Philippines | 2nd degree burns on face & body. |
| Tina Mickey            | Aztec, NM              | Extreme dizziness & advance age  |
| Linda Wilson           | Aztec, NM              | Extreme anxiety                  |
| Jay & LaWanda Durham   | Broken Bow, OK         | Surgery, illness, falls          |

|                        |                   |   |
|------------------------|-------------------|---|
| Pat Reed               | Broken Bow, OK    | Fighting cancer   |
| Pam Berry              | Canton, GA        | Severe headaches  |
| Tony Schell            | Cedaredge, CO     | Heart irregularities  |
| Robert Farley          | Gleed, WA         | Severe back pain  |
| Gene McKinney          | Gleed, WA         | Diabetes & heart problems   |
| 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  |
| Jerry McCay            | Lorenzo, TX       | Eye treatments for Macular Degeneration                               |
| Retha Morris           | Pleasant View, OK | Fighting Parkinson's disease  |
| Anna Bell Barnes       | Randlett, OK      | Alzheimer's Disease & in nursing home                                 |
| Darlene Mullens        | Randlett, OK      | Knee replacement surgery  |
| Ken Harper             | Sacramento, CA    | Recovering from stroke and paralysis                                  |
| Gerald Buckner         | Stilwell, OK      | Cancer in remission   |
| Reba Morris            | Stilwell, OK      | Severe kidney complications   |
| Lawanda Durham         | Tiner, OK         | Serious health issues   |
| Charlotte Burtis       | Waterford, CA     | Knee replacement recovery   |
| Cinde McCay            | Yakima, WA        | Fighting Parkinson's & surgery for infected toe                       |
| Dorothy & Gary Calhoun | Yuma, AZ          | Gary has a brain tumor  |
| Alice Davis            | Yuma, AZ          | Lower back pain & advanced age  |
| Florence Fuller        | Yuma, AZ          | Fighting throat cancer, diabetes, & Alzheimer's, fell & injured elbow |
| Verda Nelson           | Yuma, AZ          | 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 who are aging or in nursing homes.

**Editor's note - We need updates for those who have recovered. We can still pray, but we also need space. The list grows and we seldom get updates. We are occasionally forced to delete, but we really don't want to be arbitrary.**

**Also - We know that many of you pass information to others via Facebook. We often miss any news information from this source unless it is messaged directly to the personal accounts of Ellis or Lynell Forsman. The preferred method of sending information is via the Courier email (located on page 1 of *The Christian Courier*).**

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