



The Christian Courier

September, 2007

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The Return

One hears much today about the “eminent” return of Israel as foretold by the prophets. We are led to believe by many “bible scholars” that there will be a general gathering of the Jews from all nations. Some even advocate that the whole earth will be populated by godly people, presided over by the “ingathered” Jews.

Is this taught in the scriptures? If this is truly the fate of all peoples, it behooves all to study the word of God to determine what God’s purpose is for us.

God’s Blessing ... Curse

Moses assured Israel that “...*God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth*”. (Deut. 28:1-14) There would not be any blessing withheld from them if they kept God’s commandments.

On the other hand, if they forsook God and his commandments, God would multiply his curses on all Israel. (Deut. 28:15-28)

Israel, throughout her history as God’s chosen people, continually rebelled against God’s commandments and adulterously went off after idols, seeking to live as other nations who did not know God.



Because of this, God continually caused His curse to come upon them in the form of invading armies, resulting in their exile into other nations; *“...smitten before thine enemies...and shalt be removed into all the kingdoms of the earth”* (Deut. 28:25).

First Dispersal ... Israel

Following the division of the kingdom of the Hebrews, following the death of Solomon, the northern portion (identified as Israel...separate from Judah), the Israelite kings and people became so wicked and idolatrous that God brought in the Assyrians and removed them out of their lands. This was by far the largest portion of the Hebrews. *“Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them out of his sight: there was none left but the tribe of Judah only.”* (2 Kings 17:17-18).

Some identify this removal as the “ten lost tribes” and attempt to trace their “wandering” throughout Europe in the ensuing centuries. This is clearly speculation coupled with false doctrine and has no bearing on facts revealed in the scriptures.

Second Dispersal...Judah

Judah was taken captive into Babylon because of idolatry. (2 Kings 24:15) Later some returned to Judah, but not all. This took place in the days of Ezra and Nehemiah. The Jews were scattered among other nations.

Some remained in other nations (See Esther). Some remained in Babylon even to the time of the Apostles. (1 Pet. 5:13 — There was a congregation of the church there)

There were other dispersals from time to time, but they were small local affairs and did not approach the concept of “national dispersals”.

Third Dispersal...Last And Greatest

The most devastating dispersal took place in the days of the Roman Empire. This was foretold by the prophets and also our Saviour during his time on the earth. Notice the symbolism in Deut. 28:15-68:

- **EAGLE**...The eagle was the symbol of the Roman Empire (Vs 49)
- **FIERCE** *“A nation of fierce countenance...no regard for the old...nor..the young.”* (Vs 50)
- **SIEGE** *“...he shall besiege thee in all thy gates throughout all thy land...”* (Vs 52)
- **CANNIBALISM** *“...thou shalt eat the fruit of thine own body, the flesh of thy sons... daughters...in the siege...wherein thine enemies shall distress thee.”* (Vs 53); *“...toward her young one that cometh out from between her feet, and toward her children which she shall bear: for she shall eat them for want of all things secretly in the siege...”* (Vs 57)

Compare these with the description of these events by Jesus, himself. (Matt 24:1-28)

- **BRUTALITY** *“...the abomination of desolation...”* (Vs 15)
- **SIEGE** *“...let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains.”* (Vss 16-18)
- **TRIBULATION** *“For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”* (Vs 21)
- **CANNIBALISM** *“...woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!”* (Vs 19)

Also, compare with Josephus’ account of these occurrences. (Josephus was a Jewish

historian who recorded the “Antiquities of the Jews” and the “Wars of the Jews”)

- ROMAN BRUTALITY Read Books five and six of the “Wars of the Jews”; the descriptions are vivid and unmistakable.
- SEIGE OF JERUSALEM Books five and six describes the siege by Titus (son of Vespasian) and all the attendant cruelties.
- TRIBULATIONS OF THE BESEIGED JEWS The sufferings of the populace of Jerusalem is candidly described. The suffering is unbelievable.
- CANNIBALISM Book Six, Division 4, #201-217 describes this horrendous act, so heinous that the Romans, hearing of it, were horrified.

It cannot be denied that these all have reference to the same occurrences. These atrocities were perpetrated on the Jewish Nation, after which, the nation was virtually de-populated and carried captive throughout the entire Roman Empire as slaves. According to secular history, some escaped eastward into the vast spaces of Asia, although the Bible does not record this. Some Jews remained in their country, but ultimately became a persecuted minority in the land.

Descriptions of the persecutions of the Jews throughout the ensuing centuries leave no doubt that this last dispersal was complete; there was no more Jewish Homeland. They had been scattered among all nations of the earth exactly as God had warned. Was it to remain so forever?

The Return Promised

God promised that He would not forget those who were scattered throughout the nations. “...then the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity,

and have compassion on thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee.” (Deut. 30:3)

The question is not whether or not God would keep His promise, but when and by what method he would do so.

“In The Latter Days”

Hosea tells us that the return will be “...in the latter days”. (Hosea 3: 5) “*Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the **latter days***” When were, or are the latter days, according to the scriptures? “...I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the **latter day** upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God:” (Job 19:25-26).

Note the words of Paul in Heb. 1:1-2, “*God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in **these last days** spoken unto us by his Son...*”

Peter fixes the time of the last days, Acts 2: 17 “...it shall come to pass in the **last days**, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh...”

To summarize:

- The Redeemer (Christ) would stand at the **latter day** on the earth...
- God spoke through Christ in these **last days**...
- Peter points to Pentecost as in the **last days**...

It was at this point in time that some very significant happenings occurred that indicate the time and means by which God would bring about the “return” of Israel as He had promised.

National Return Or A Residue?

“...there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, **out of every nation under heaven.**” (Acts 2:5). Here was the in-gathering of the Jews promised by God; not in a national sense, but as a residue of this people. But some say, “This is merely your interpretation of the in-gathering, but not actually true.”

Acts 15:15-17, “...to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the **residue** of men (Jews) might seek the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord...”

Thus we see that the scriptures teach that God brought about the in-gathering of the Jews on Pentecost during the “last days”, followed later by the introduction of the Gentiles.

This is attested to by Paul in Eph. 2:14-16, “...he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make of himself one new man, so making peace; And came and preached peace to you who were afar off, and to them that are nigh.”

Forty days before Pentecost, the Apostles asked him, “Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?” Despite all Jesus had taught them for three years, they still expected God to restore a national kingdom to Israel.

Jesus then replied, “it is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power.” However, he indicated to them that it was eminent. “And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they

should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.” (Acts 1:4-5) He indicated this would be “...not many days hence...” (Vs 5)

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Vs 8)

Tabernacle Of God

God promised that he would “...build again the tabernacle of David...” (Acts 2:5) The tabernacle was the tent wherein the Jews were to worship while on their journeys.

Paul indicates that Christian worship is to be performed in a more perfect tabernacle. “But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building.” (Heb 9:11) This tabernacle was “not made with hands”. God said, “**I will build again the tabernacle of David...**”

This return of Israel was not to be a national return under the old national covenant of Israel, for under that covenant God could only be worshipped in Jerusalem.

To the Samaritan woman Jesus explained the form of worship to come at the in-gathering. She said to him, “Our fathers worshipped in this mountain (Gerazim); and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. Jesus saith unto her, “Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall **neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.**”

What About Israel Today?

I remember reading in one of our religious papers in 1948, a brother wrote that we were seeing at that time the fulfillment of God's promise to gather Israel back to their land. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

As we have seen, God's promise was not of a national nature. The modern nation of Israel is not built on religious principles. It is a secular nation, not governed by religious writings. The Orthodox Jews of Israel since its birth have complained that the nation is not following the teachings of the law, and predict its eventual fall.

The tabernacle of David (temple) has never been rebuilt, despite the claims of some that it soon will be built. (One "evangelist" prophesied that the temple would be rebuilt at the beginning of the 21st Millennium, 2000; it never happened, and it never will).

There is much more that could be cited to show the true purpose of God, but this will suffice to show the true fulfillment of the in-gathering to be on Pentecost.

For the love of the truth,

J D Logan



Cards and Letters

Due to extensive travels to various meetings this summer and family illness, we regret the lateness of this issue of *The Christian Courier*. For this reason some of the following letters are dated.

Also we regret that there was no space available to include the photos from Bro. Otto Alvarez.

— The Editors

Broken Bow, OK

(May)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We here at Broken Bow are sometimes lax in writing in to the paper. We would like to let everyone know we are truly looking forward to our camp meeting and all the fellowship we enjoy there. Several of us had planned to do some visiting this year at other congregations and their meetings, but it has been a trying year for our small group. Bro. Doug Ferguson has a

brother that has been crippled with polio since childhood; his health is now failing to the point where he has little time left. He is a very special man to all of us so we would appreciate your keeping us in your prayers. Bro. Doug also suffered the loss of a life-long friend to bone cancer just a month ago. On the brighter side however Bro. Doug and Sis. Phyllis have been blessed with two new grandbabies this year. Bro. Edwin Crowell also continues to struggle with his health and his mother that he cares for is in her 90's. Sister Brenda Treat is also suffering health problems of which they can't seem to find the cause. Bro. George and Sis. Tammy Phipps have adopted a new son who is 17 years old. We have some fairly new Christians - Will, Tammy, & Amber Bunn. They seem to be doing well and growing stronger in the faith each day. We also want to report a baptism, Jake Morgan (life-long friend of Jesse Phipps) was baptized Sunday, May 5th. This young man needs prayers as he is starting his Christian journey without the support

of his family. Well I suppose that is all the pressing news. We would very much appreciate those who are contemplating attending our meeting to let us know as it helps us to plan better. All are welcome. We surely need some "Recharging" of our Christian Batteries.

Love to all.

Sincerely,
George Phipps

Broken Bow, OK

(June)

Just wanted to let you know that we have had two baptisms in the past month! Jake Morgan on Mother's Day and Michael Rogers on Father's Day! We are so excited for these young people! Jake and Michael will be seniors this coming year. Michael also brings his brothers to church. He is a wonderful addition to our family. We also have a new baby at church, Lily Charlotte Alise Fogg, born May 1, 2007, to Charlie and Julie Fogg, weighing 7lbs. and is 19 in. long. Doug and Phyllis are the proud grandparents. Mike and Melissa Harcrow are also expecting another baby in September. We are gearing up for the camp meeting. Hope you are making plans to join us. Love to all.

Costilow St. Church of Christ
Broken Bow, OK

Glenwood, WA

(August)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We here at Glenwood want to thank everyone who took time out of their busy summers to come and worship with us during our meeting in July. It was a wonderful week and the Lord blessed us with beautiful weather. Bro. Jerry

McCay brought us many uplifting sermons that we all enjoyed. One young man was baptized into the Lord's body, William Meltingtallow, age 16, from Spokane, WA. Welcome Bro. William! We had many activities and trips planned for just about every day. The kids enjoyed mini golf, the Zoo, and even a ferry ride to Seattle. Thank you Chris Carter for planning all of those for us.

We were fortunate enough to have many congregations from all over the country as well as Yakima, Gleed, and Seattle. We saw many loved ones that we had not seen in awhile and some we had not seen in many years. It's always nice to catch up on old times. There were also many new friendships formed among the kids. What a joy it was to see them all together playing games and having fun.

Thank you Jerry and Wynetta for coming and spending a week with us!! Thank you also to the Seattle congregation for your help before and during the meeting.

In other news, we have had some visitors come over our way. We had the pleasure of having Bro. Gene and Sis. Pat McKinney here for a few Sundays in which Bro. Gene gave us a wonderful lesson. We always enjoy hearing him speak. Sis. Patricia Bergman had shoulder surgery and was in quite a bit of pain. She is getting better every day but is not back at work yet, so please keep her in your prayers for a quick, pain free recovery. Sis. Ellen McCay has been having chemo treatments to reduce some lumps in different parts of her body. She says it is helping, so we thank God for that. Please keep her in your prayers as well that it continues to help her. As for the rest of us, we are doing well and are thankful for everyday that God gives us. We invite everyone to come and worship with us whenever possible.

In Christian Love,
The Glenwood Congregation

Goshen, AR

(June)

Hello to everyone, from Goshen Church of Christ in Arkansas. We here at Goshen are doing pretty well. Sis. Beulah Vanderpool is doing much better after her heart problems. I'm sure she appreciates the prayers of the brotherhood all over the different states.

A side note: Dear Bro. Otto Alvarez, I'm sure the brethren in Christ cannot thank you enough for the good work that you are doing to further the cause of Jesus our Lord. If there is anything we here at Goshen can do for you and perhaps some of your needs, please let us know. It costs a lot of money to travel, and for the work you are doing. Especially how high the gas prices are.

I want to thank the brethren for the great work that they are doing, and for the new website that they have established. May God bless all who have a part in making the good work happen. Thank you.

May God bless you and yours.

Sincerely,

Marion Serrano for the Church at Goshen, AR

Harlingen, TX

(April)

Appreciated brothers:

I comment that during the month of March we had many activities in the church of Matamoros, Mexico, and also in the church in the Tampico, Mexico, area. We baptized several people on March 17th.

April 9th we baptized another person in Brownsville, TX (see photos).

The baptisms are the result of the work that we are making in these areas, and the churches continue to grow in number and faith.

I had plans to travel to South Mexico and Guatemala to work between the churches in these areas during the month of March, but it was necessary to change the date to April 12th.

Thanks for your participation in this work of the Lord.

Your brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez

Harlingen, TX

(May)

Appreciated brothers:

Thanks for your communion with me in the work of the Lord in Mexico and Guatemala. I want to comment on the work during April and May with the purpose of informing you of the work in these countries.

This trip was difficult because my wife was sick for several days with infection of Typhus because of unclean water and food in areas where we traveled, but thanks to the Lord we surpassed these problems.

The visits to the two churches there was necessary to study with them daily to strengthen them so that they could move forward. Also, the visits to these churches were necessary for edification (especially Guatemala) because there are many liberal churches that support religious traditions that are not biblical. In some occasions these liberal Christians visit the faithful churches and cause many doubts among the brethren, and it is necessary to teach the truth in each visit. But with the help of the Lord, the brethren in all 11 faithful congregations that I visited continue firm in the truth.

Also, I studied with 3 Pentecostal groups at times and a small group obeyed and were baptized and a congregation was established in San Joaquin near Guatemala city.

Also, some brothers in the area of Quiche met with me and studied two days on different doctrinal points.

I am sending photos of some churches that I visited during this trip with some information. The brethren send regards and thanks for this participation of you in the work of the Lord.

My wife and I continue working among the churches in different Mexican places and we have interest in the city of a group in McAllen, TX, to study and possibly establish a new congregation.

The church in Brownsville, TX, continues to grow and new people visit on Sundays meetings.

The church at Matamoros, TX (near Brownsville), continue to grow in number and each brother is helping with the evangelizing.

Also, in the city of Matamoros starting next July I start a study a Saturday of each month with brothers to teach them how to preach to their local congregations. For these studies come brothers from different parts of Central and North Mexico.

Again, I thank in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ for your help in the work of the Lord in Mexico and Central America.

Your brother in Christ,
Otto Alvarez

Harlingen, TX

(June)

Dear brethren:

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

I inform you that during two weeks I traveled to preach the gospel in Xilitla area (S. Louis State). In this area we had an invitation to study the scriptures with some people of a religious group that call themselves Pilgrims. We had

some problems in arriving to these places because of the mountains and bad road conditions because of much rain. Thanks to the Lord that we had the opportunity of studying with these people because at the end of our visit four people were baptized and a church was started in this place. To help in the edification of this new church we have an evangelist that lives 4 hours from this place that visits them weekly.

Also, I visited the church of San Jose Tampico to encourage and teach them the scriptures concerning some problems they had in that congregation. Some brothers of the church in Higo Veracruz accompanied us in these visits.

Next in the month of July if the Lord permits, my wife and I will travel again to this area because a brother telephoned us that 3 people want to obey the gospel. We are praying for this work and are preparing the necessary time to visit them again (It is 11 hours from Harlingen).

The church in Matamoros, Mexico, continues to grow in number and each Wednesday we have home Bible studies and meet on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

Also, we visit the new church in Brownsville, TX, where we have home Bible studies each Friday and Sunday worship at 2:00 p.m.

Some members of the church in Matamoros, Mexico, live in a nearby city (Vallehermoso) and we have home Bible studies with them each Saturday at 4 p.m.

For the information that I have of the evangelists and of some of the brethren in South Mexico and Guatemala, they continue to meet together and more people continue to visit each day.

I continue in the plans of having scripture study meetings a Saturday a month with brethren in the North and Central Mexico that have interest in the Gospel. I have the hope that they will know the scriptures better and become more useful in the congregations.

I thank in the name of the Lord for your participation and support in this work of preaching the gospel. I send photos of the baptisms and of the new congregation in Xilitla.

Your brother in Christ,
Otto Alvarez

Harlingen, TX

(August)

Dear brethren:

I hope that on receiving this letter you are enjoying all the rich blessings of God with family and our esteemed brethren in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ.

It is a pleasure to inform you that during July and August we had much work in the area of Matamoros and Hilitla, Mexico, and Brownsville and Harlingen, TX.

During the year I plan (each first Saturday of the month) to invite brethren from Central and North Mexico to prepare them in the scriptures so that they can help in the evangelization in the areas where they live.

The Lord permitted us and on Saturday, July 7th, we had our first meeting with the assistance of 8 brothers. August 4th we had our 2nd meeting.

These plans have been very difficult from the economic point because some brethren need economic assistance (transportation, lodging, and food). I have confidence that in time these brethren will be prepared for the work of the Lord.

July 28th we had a baptism and August 5th we had two more baptisms.

The churches in the area of Matamoros, Mexico, and Brownsville and Harlingen, TX, continue to grow each day.

The churches in Tampico, Mexico, area continue to grow, and there are some new people

attending the meetings that we hope some of them will obey the gospel.

Two people will be baptized at the church in Hilitla, Mexico, during the month of August.

The churches in Guatemala City continue firm and growing. Humberto (evangelist brother) sent me photos of two baptisms there during the month of July.

Also, I want to comment that I have some problems with my health. This month (August) I will have an angioplasty in the hospital in Harlingen. For some years I had problem in the other artery of my heart and I recovered very well, and I have confidence that the Lord will help me with this problem, as well. I request your prayers for all this work for help in the extension of the gospel in all of these areas of Mexico, Guatemala, and South Texas.

I want to thank your valuable help for the work of the Lord, who will someday remunerate all of these efforts.

I am sending photos of:

Group of 8 brothers studying to be evangelists.

Baptisms in July 28th and August 5th (also living after baptisms).

Baptisms in Guatemala City in July.

Your brother in Christ,

Otto Alvarez

Editor's Note

Dear brethren,

This work needs to be supported. In a personal letter I received from Bro. Otto, he mentioned that if he could receive \$500 a month for a year from the brotherhood that it would cover the cost (transportation, lodging, and food) of training new evangelists to continue the work he has started. It is my thought that he should be supported more than this, for he has sacrificed

much personally in this work. Any support should be sent to bro. Otto at:

Otto Alvarez
P.O. Box 532514
Harlingen, TX 78553

Bro. Otto has invited me to go with him to these congregations and see first-hand the work that is being done. Lord willing, I plan to do that. I am currently refreshing my Spanish (I had two years of Spanish years ago) so that I may be able to converse with them.

In Christian love,
Ellis Forsman

Hillsboro, OR

(June)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is with sadness that I inform you of my dad's (James Jared) passing away. He died on Sunday evening, May 20th. Bro. Chuck Garner and Bro. Perry Calhoun came down and held services for us that Sunday. It was so special to know dad was able to be here for one last service. He always prayed for a peaceful hour in which to pass and he did have a peaceful one. He was laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery in Portland, Oregon, on May 23rd.

Thank you every one who sent e-mails, cards, flowers, food, or called. Also, thanks to those who were able to attend on such short notice. It is never easy losing a loved one, but it helps a lot knowing he lead a good Christian life.

I need to also inform all of you that the Keizer Church of Christ is no longer. We are now meeting with the group up in Hillsboro at their new location. We can never thank them enough for their support in this trying time.

In Christian love,
Doris Jared, Keizer Oregon

Hillsboro, OR

(July)

With great sadness I need to report the passing of my aunt Ruby Jared (Cincinnati Ohio). She passed away on July 21st. She was a faithful member of the church and will be greatly missed.

Doris Jared
Hillsboro Church of Christ

Pine Mtn. Church

Cedarville, AR (September)

Rick Walkingstick
Rt. 1 Box 240
Watts, OK 74964
Hello Everyone,

Just writing to let everyone know that we have finally started our building. We had bought the land a few years ago. Over that time we have put electricity, rural water and a septic system in and even have bought a heat and air system. We went to the bank and borrowed just enough to get the building up, the floor in, and a restroom in; we will do the rest as we get the funds. We didn't want to borrow a lot of money as we only wanted a 5 year note. Then we will be free of any debt. We want to thank all of you that have helped us to get started.

We are really excited and expect to be, Lord's willing, in our new building in a couple of months. It is a pretty location. We have a good crop of young ones and in a few years hope that they will become involved in the Church. We welcome visitors to come visit. Just call me on either of my phone numbers. We have been meeting at the Natural Dam Community Building on most Sundays, but there are a few Sundays we don't have that building so it would



Pine Mountain church under construction, Cedarville, AR

be best to call and see where we are meeting until we get into our new building.

May God Bless you all,
Rick Walkingstick,
Pine Mountain Church of Christ
Home: 918-723-4725
Cell: 479-549-8226
Email: wstick2000@yahoo.com

Randlett, OK

(July)

The Christian Courier is a great way for Christians to stay in touch across the country and I want to thank the Sea-Tac congregation for their many years of dedicated service.

As many of you have probably seen in the national news, Texas and Oklahoma have received a lot of rain that has led to flooding in our area. Roy and Kim Mullens and family were flooded out of their home and have experienced extensive loss. They did have flood insurance on the structure, but the contents and personal effects were not covered. They are in need of your prayers and could use some financial aid as much of what they had was lost or water damaged. They are still waiting to hear from insurance as hundreds of homes were flooded and there are many claims to be processed.

Darla and I had minor flooding in our barns, but nothing in the home. It has just been a muddy mess for several weeks. The ground is finally getting solid enough so that we do not sink while walking across it. We thought it was a mess at

our place, but after helping Roy and Kim salvage some things at their home, we feel extremely fortunate.

Leroy Mullens has been to the doctor and has possible blockage in his leg and may require surgery. Nora Elliott has been having trouble with her back. Please keep them in your prayers also. Everyone else in our small congregation seems to be doing fairly well at present and we are thankful for that.

David Elliott was baptized last year and has been leading songs and prayers. David, Roy, and I rotate the responsibility of speaking on Sundays. Kade Mullens and Hunter Elliott were also baptized last year and have been leading songs and assisting with communion.

May God Bless,

Andy Barnes

Phone: 580-439-5956

email: ouchickencrazy@pldi.net

Ringgold, TX

(July)

Dear ones in Christ,

The Ringgold, TX, congregation reports Lee Joe Pollan passed from this life on July 10, 2007, and is now asleep in Christ until the trumpet sounds and our Lord returns with the shout of the archangel. We mourn now, but we all anxiously await the Judgment when all the faithful will be given a crown of life in heaven.

It is always difficult to lose a loved one, but we take comfort in knowing the faithful will be victorious in death. *“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.”* (1 Cor. 15:54). As

Martha said to our Lord in John 11:24, *“...I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”* We are comforted by knowing our loved ones that are gone from us now will never suffer in this life again.

To leave this life faithfully is an opportunity given to us and made possible by the life and death of our Lord, which was God’s plan for us before the world began. Let us all remember the words of David in Psalms 116:15, *“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”* May the peace of God rule in all our hearts that we may all be one in Christ and be found faithful when our Lord returns.

In Christ,

Ringgold, TX

Sea-Tac, WA

(September)

Our dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We have much to be thankful for, and many people to pray for.

We greatly enjoyed and were edified by the meetings at Glenwood with Bro. Jerry McCay and Yakima with the various guest speakers. We learned a lot, and enjoyed a lot of good fellowship. We had one baptism at the Glenwood meeting. Our new Christian brother is William Meltingtallow. His mother, Sis. Jackie, was excited especially because Bro. Jerry – her brother – had baptized her many years ago, and now her son.

Bro. Ellis Forsman left to go to the camp meeting in Broken Bow, taking William and Bro. Jerry with him. Sis. Lynell, Sis. Nell McCay, Sis. Jackie, and Sis. Wynetta flew down later. Bro. Ellis held the meeting in Lorenzo, TX, during which Sable Boling was baptized on August 1st.

While there, it was found that Sis. Nell had a non-cancerous, but growing tumor on her brain. She and Sis. Lynell remained behind for treatment. She is currently doing well.

When Sis. Jeannean McSwane had her knee replaced several years ago, the doctors were never able to completely get rid of infection. With that infection a risk to her life, she had the leg amputated in late July, and needs continued prayers for her recovery.

Sis. Ruth Johnston is in a nursing home, undergoing treatment for cancer, and also needs our prayers.

Bro. Mike Boroff passed away in August because of cancer. We received word from the Glead, WA, congregation that Sis. Tommie Hammett passed away on August 14th.

With all of our love,
The Sea-Tac, WA congregation

Stilwell, OK

(June)

Greetings from Oklahoma,

We have really been blessed with a lot of rain lately. Last summer it was very dry and we are glad to see all of this rain. I have now completed my shop building and am now completely moved into my home at Fog Hollow. Sis. Nettie Walkingstick was in the hospital recently with ulcers but is doing better now. Congratulations to Bro. Sam Allgood (son of Bro. Greg and Sis. Tammy Allgood) for graduating from high school. Also to my daughter, Sis. Christina Fuson, for graduating college and obtaining her first certified teaching job at Maryetta Public Schools here in Stilwell. Everyone else is doing okay. Everyone is welcome at any time. Remember the Beavers Bend Camp meeting July 14-21. See you there!

Gerald Buckner

Yuma, AZ

(June)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our hope and prayers are for all that are ill or in sorrow, that God's blessings will touch you. Most of us here are doing well with the exception of Sis. Ruth Duncan. She spent five days in the hospital, two weeks in rehab, and now is convalescing in a rest home. She seems to be doing well, and hopefully will be able to be home soon.

We have been blessed with several visitors in the recent past, Sis. Janie Schell and Sis. Debby Newman of the Cedaredge, CO, congregation were with us one Sunday. Then Sis. Dorothy Calhoun of the Hillsboro, OR, congregation was with us over the Labor Day holidays, then on the Labor Day Sunday we had a large crowd too numerous to name them all. We really enjoy visitors at any time.

The first Sunday in June, Bro. Tony Brister was with us and gave our lesson. He is a good speaker.

Our weather has been very favorable up to now, but summer has to be close by. We have had quite a lot of wind here of late; that is not all bad, for it brings cooler temperatures.

Bro. Denny and Sis. Susie Davis, his mom, and mother-in-law Florence will be leaving for the summer soon. They plan to make several meetings. We miss everyone that is away even for one weekend.

I can't think of much else to write about at this time. Take good care of yourselves and God's business, and send news in the papers.

In Christian love,
The Yuma congregation

Yuma, AZ

(July)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our hope and prayers are with all that are ill. We have had some illnesses here this past month. Our Sis. Ruth has spent time in the hospital, then rehab, and on to a nursing home to recover further. She was released, went home, and then went back to the hospital for a couple of days. She is doing much better now. She has an appointment on the 5th of July at the Mayo Clinic in Phoenix. Bro. Harry Booth passed out while driving his car and collided with some unoccupied cars. He wasn't injured except for seat-belt soreness. His car was totaled. He was in the hospital for a week, then had a defibrillator put in his chest. His insurance may require him to move where he will have access to their facilities. It will be a great loss to us if he has to leave here.

All news is not bad this month. On the 16th of June, Emma Cummins, granddaughter to Bruce and Diane Cummins was baptized. Her family came to witness her baptism. We were all joyful at the occasion and we know the angels in heaven were rejoicing.

Our weather is warming up; the forecast in a few days is calling for 116°. July begins our monsoon season; that means high humidity, no rain.

Bro. Dennis & Sis. Susie Davis and Sis. Willie are gone for the summer, and that is great. Bro. Robert and Sis. Debra Davis will be away for a week. They plan to be in Cedaredge, CO, the first Sunday of July. We will miss them, too.

This is about all the news from here. Our prayers are with the brotherhood and all the ill. Everyone take good care.

Love from the Yuma congregation

Yuma, AZ

(August)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Checking in to say "Hi" with our prayers for all that are ill. We have several that are not doing so well. Sis. Jean Orendorff fell and broke her hip and shoulder. They put a pin in her hip and the break in her shoulder is in place, so she is wearing a sling. She seems to be doing fairly well. Bro. Harry Booth has to travel to San Diego for his medical help. His insurance will not cover him here in Yuma. He will have to move somewhere to be close to one of their facilities to have coverage. Sis. Ruth Duncan has problems with nausea and dizziness for some time; we hope and pray that they and all others that are ill will soon be doing better.

Bro. Denny Davis and family were here this past Sunday (Aug. 19th); he had a good lesson. They went back to the cool country for awhile longer. Bro. Joe Davis and family were here the Sunday before.

The gospel meetings are over till November when Citrus City will have theirs (18th-25th). How long does a meeting last? In various ways, for a long time, etc; in memories, the uplifting everyone gets from the messages, the fellowship, the singing that lingers in our hearts and minds, and from the leftover food. On the first Sunday of August when we have dinner after services, we used some leftovers (one being steak and gravy that Sis. Veda McCay made. It was as good this time as the first. So you see, they don't always end at the close of the meetings.

Our summer weather is still hot and humid, but in a matter of weeks we should get some break. That is always a welcome relief.

Better say bye for now. Let's all be at our Father's business.

Love from the Yuma congregation

Precious Memories

It Is Written, August, 1957. * Bro. J. W. Bedingfield, Carlsbad, NM, reported on the evangelistic efforts in Oregon where they had four converts.

It Is Written, September, 1957. * Bro. Ken Baldwin, Delta, CO, announced that have started a congregation near Delta, CO. * Bro. Amos Bever, San Pablo, CA, announced a new meeting location on Market Street. * The Abilene, TX, congregation announced two daughters of Bro. S. J. Wallace were baptized. * The La Habra, CA, congregation had three baptisms.

The Christian Courier, August, 1977. * Bro. Jim Brown, Baron, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. Horace Orendorff (13 baptisms). * The San Pablo, CA, congregation announced a weekend meeting with Bro. C. M. Brockman. * Bro. Horace Orendorff, Yuma, AZ, wrote of their meeting at Baron, OK; a baptism at Stilwell, OK, and two at Yuma, AZ. * Bro. Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on their camp meeting. * Two deaths were announced: Bro. Alvin Alexander, Broken Bow, OK, June 15th; and Sis. Vestal McKinney, Yakima, WA, July 29th.

The Christian Courier, Sept.-Oct., 1977. * The Glenwood, WA, congregation announced the baptism of Larry Wood on October 9th. * Bro. Al Way, Bellflower, CA, reported on: their meeting with Bro. J. D. Logan; his daughter, Tayna, was baptized in June; Virginia Brown was baptized during their meeting; his daughter, Tammy, was recovering from open-heart surgery.

The Christian Courier, August, 1987. * Bro. Billy Richardson, Furnish Canyon, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. Audley Barnes. * The Lorenzo, TX, reported on their meetings with Bro. Henry Oliver and Bro. Roger Walkingstick (four baptisms: Erica Forsman, Mark Ivins, September, 2007

Skipper Forsman, and Chris Forsman.) * Bro. Paul Andrews, Goshen, AR, reported on their meeting with Bro. Howard Taylor. * Bro. Mark Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reported on their meeting with Bro. Audley Barnes and Bro. Howard Taylor. * Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, announced the baptism of Bobby Gardenhire, June 28th and he reported on their meeting with Bro. Richard Johnston. * Bro. Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, reported on the success of the Delta, CO, Camp Meeting with the baptism of Caryn Foundation.

The Christian Courier, August, 1997. * The Baron, OK, congregation reported on their meeting with Bro. Homer Bryant with the baptism of Nicole McReynolds. Before the meeting Amber Barrett was baptized and afterward Kenli Leatherwood and Dustin White were baptized. * Bro. Melvin Daniels, Bohanna Mt., AR, announced the baptisms of Ida Hooper, Brenda Whitely, and Sandy Martin. * Bro. Audley Barnes, Comanche, OK, announced the baptism of Roy Smith and reported on their meeting with Bro. Tom Broadway. * The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation announced the baptism of Heather Geri-Toler on July 27th.

The Christian Courier, September, 1997. * The Cedaredge, CO, congregation reported on the Delta Camp Meeting. (Sam Geho was baptized) * Bro. Homer Bryant, San Pablo, CA, wrote of the passing's of his son Richard and his brother Marvin. He mentioned that they had three recent baptisms. * Bro. Robert Farley, Selah, WA, announced the baptism of Brian Dean on July 31st. * Also announced: Katelyn Marie born to Bro. Matt & Sis. Kim Matlock, Lorenzo, TX, on August 19th; and the passing of Frankie Jo Goodwin, Seymour, TX, on the same day.

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Nov. 18-25, 2007	Citus City, AZ	Guest speakers
July 19-28, 2008	Beaver's Bend, OK	Camp meeting

Baptisms

Jake Morgan	Broken Bow, OK	May 5, 2007
Emma Cummins	Yuma, AZ	June, 2007
Michael Rogers	Broken Bow, OK	June 17, 2007
William Meltingtallow	Glenwood, WA	July, 2007
Sable Boling	Lorenzo, TX	August 1, 2007

Births

Lily Charlotte Alise to Charlie & Julie Fogg	Broken Bow, OK	May 1, 2007
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Passings

James L. Jared	Keizer, OR	May 20, 2007
Lee Joe Pollan	Ringgold, TX	July 10, 2007
Ruby Jared	Cincinnati, OH	July 21, 2007
Tommie Hammett	Gleed, WA	August 14, 2007

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Doug Ferguson's brother	Broken Bow, OK	Crippled with polio
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Health problems
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Kidney, heart problems
Richard Cutler	Flora Vista, NM	Severe stroke
Patricia Bergman	Glenwood, WA	Shoulder surgery
Ellen McCay	Glenwood, WA	Chemo treatments
Mark Daniels	Goshen, AR	Brain tumor
Melvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Bad heart & lungs
Otto Alvarez	Harlingen, TX	Angioplasty
Ruth Johnston	Mount Vernon, WA	Fighting cancer
Nora Elliott	Randlett, OK	Back problems
Leroy Mullens	Randlett, OK	Possible leg blockage
Roy & Kim Mullens	Randlett, OK	Flooded out of home
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	Wheel chair bound, infection
Barbara Paseman	Springfield, OR	Fighting cancer
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Broke hip & shoulder