

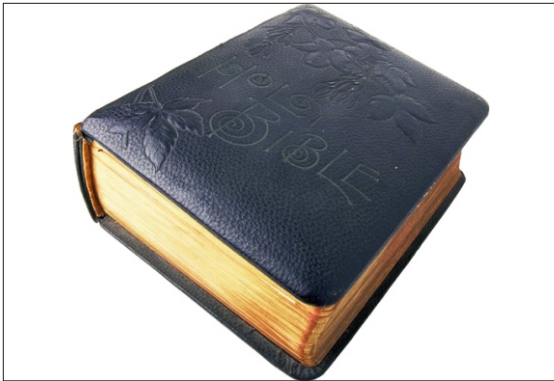


The Christian Courier

October, 2008

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Gospel



We, of the church of Christ, have constantly been exposed to the concept of the “gospel”. Whenever we preach, we refer to what the gospel teaches, as well we should. Sometimes, however, the word is used in ways not found in the Word of God.

I have frequently heard someone say, when making an assertion, that it is “the gospel truth”.

This is said of many types of statements, both religious and secular. This is simply not the true usage of the word. This is not to say that the gospel is not true, for indeed it is. The gospel, however, is a teaching, a doctrine that is plainly set forth in the Word of God.

Of what does it consist? where did it begin? and what was the purpose in its inception?

The gospel is unique in that its central message concerns one person. That person is Jesus Christ. It does not concern itself with any other personages, except as they relate to the central figure.

The Nature Of The Gospel

The Gospel is called by different names in the New Testament. Heb. 8:6, “...now hath he [Christ] obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.” Heb. 8:13, “In that he saith, A new

covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.” Heb. 8:7, “...if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.”

It is true that God had made several covenants prior to that with Israel through Moses. However, for this study, these were not in consideration. The Hebrew writer referred to the covenant with Israel (Sinai) as the “first covenant” and the covenant of Christ as the “second” (Heb. 8:13).

The gospel is also called “testament”. Another word for a “testament” is a “will”, such as one composes to dispose of his earthly goods upon his death. He 7: 22 *“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament.”* Testaments are written prior to the death of the testator. Heb. 9:16-17, *“For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength while the testator liveth.”*

Covenants (testaments) are written (enacted) prior to their confirmation (enforcement). In the case of the “first” covenant, we find, Heb. 9:18-20, *“Whereupon neither the first testament was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and of goats, with water, and scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book, and all the people, Saying, This is the blood of the testament which God hath enjoined unto you.”*

As it was in the first testament, so it was in the second. First, the testament was written: then, upon the death of the testator, it was enforced by the administrators (ministers). 2 Cor. 3:6, *“Who also hath made us (apostles) ministers of the new testament...”*

The Beginning Of The Gospel

When we indicate the “beginning” of the gospel, we do not mean the beginning of the “enforcement” of the gospel. These are two different thoughts. By the “beginning”, we mean when the gospel began to be formed by the author. In the present case, the author is Christ. So, when was the beginning? *“To the law and to the testimony...”* (Isa. 8:20).

Mark 1:1, *“The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.”* Here, we have stated in no uncertain terms, the beginning of the gospel. Matt 4:16, *“The people which sat in darkness saw a great light; and to them which sat in the region of the shadow of death light is sprung up.”* What was this “great light”? It was the gospel of the kingdom. Matt 4:17, *“From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

To verify that this was the gospel being preached prior to his death, I offer the following:

- Matt. 4:23, *“...Jesus went about all Galilee...preaching the gospel of the kingdom...”*
- Matt. 9:35, *“...Jesus went about all the cities...preaching the gospel of the kingdom”*
- Matt. 11:5, *“...the poor have the gospel preached to them.”*
- Matt. 24:14, *“...this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world...”*
- Mark 16:15-16, *“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”*

It is clear to all that Jesus, during his ministry on the earth, preached the gospel that was for “all the world”. This was not a gospel for the Jews only, neither was this to teach the Jews a better way to keep the law of Moses. Heb. 8:13, *“In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the*

first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away.” Why, we ask, would Jesus occupy his precious time teaching the Jews how to keep the law more perfectly when he knew that it was ready to vanish away?

The Gospel Contained The Word[s] Of Christ

- Mark 2:2, “...he preached the word unto them.”
- Luke 4:20, “...they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power.”
- John 5:24, “...he that heareth my word...and believeth...hath everlasting life...”
- Luke 21:33, “...my words shall not pass away.”
- John 6:63, “...the words that I speak...they are spirit and they are life.”
- John 4:23, “...if a man love me, he will keep my words.”

These, among many others, were spoken prior to Christ’s death. Let us remember this as we consider some scriptures following his death.

- Acts 20: 35, “...remember the words of the Lord Jesus...”
- Col. 3:16, “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...”
- 1 Tim. 6:3-4, “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing...”

So, we see that the same word was preached after the crucifixion as was preached before. Almost without exception, the words of Jesus were uttered before the crucifixion. This

corroborates Mark 1:1 which states, “...the beginning of the gospel of Christ.”

Enforcement

We must see, however, that the terms of the gospel were not enforced until after the shedding of Christ’s blood. (See Heb. 9:16-17) It was then administered by the executors (apostles) of the testament. (See Acts 1:3-8) Jesus spoke here of the establishment of the Kingdom of God and the part the apostles were to play. For the fulfillment of this promise, see Acts, 2nd chapter.

Some Questions

It is to be observed that Jesus, on occasion, spoke to the Jews concerning certain points of the Law of Moses. Contending that this was to the Jews only, the claim is made that all the teaching done prior to the crucifixion was to clarify Moses’ law to the Jews and has no relevance to us under the Christian Dispensation. Some have even claimed that NONE of Christ’s teaching during his earthly ministry can be applied today. Can this be true? Are there reasons why we should object to this interpretation of our Saviour’s words? Let us see!

Hear Jesus’ own words in John 5:45-47, “Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is ONE THAT THAT ACCUSETH YOU, even Moses, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words?”

In this, Jesus drew a line between Moses’ words and his (Jesus’) words. To further this thought, look to John 1:17, “For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”

Where did Moses write of Jesus? Look to Deut. 18:18-19, "*I will raise them up a Prophet from among their brethren, like unto thee, and will PUT MY WORDS IN HIS MOUTH; and HE SHALL SPEAK unto them all that I shall command him. And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken unto MY WORDS which he shall speak in MY NAME, I will require it of him.*"

Now, look to Acts 3:22, "*For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear IN ALL THINGS WHATSOEVER HE SHALL SAY UNTO YOU.*" (This is further quoted in Acts 7:37)

But why, some ask, did Jesus refer so much to the Law, and the Jew's lack of obedience to their Law? It is not hard to understand when we read of the constant questions concerning (sometimes obscure) points of the Law that the Jews raised against Jesus, accusing him of teaching and acting contrary to their Law. He was constantly pointing out to them where they, themselves, were not keeping their Law, and at the same time teaching them the truth according to his teachings. Notice the words of the Hebrew writer in Heb. 12:3, "*...consider him (Jesus) that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.*"

Jesus used an expression unique to his ministry to show a contrast between Jewish tradition and the teachings of the Law of Moses on the one hand, and his teachings on the other; "*...I say unto you*". If I counted correctly, Matthew, in his gospel quoted Jesus 48 times using this expression. Who would presume to argue that these statements concerned only the Jews; that they do not apply to us?

To use only two instances where Jesus taught lessons, which if this theory were true, we would

lose precious teachings of the gospel, consider the following:

- John 3:5, "*Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.*"
- Matt., chapters 5-7. (The entire "Sermon on the mount") Who would dare to excise this entire body of teachings from the gospel? Yet, I have had some to insist that we cannot be guided by these teachings!!

Summary

The gospel began to be formulated with the preaching of John the Baptist. This was done under the dispensation of the Law of Moses. The formulation of the gospel continued with the preaching of Jesus following the temptation in the wilderness. This process continued up to the time of the crucifixion after which Jesus commanded his apostles to preach "the gospel" to all nations and make disciples of all men.

The first four books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are rightfully the first four books of the New Testament, and not, as some claim, the last books of the Old Testament.

These thoughts are gleaned from many years of study of the gospel. I do not claim infallibility. I am open to correction from any source. If anyone should disagree with these thoughts and believe that I am wrong with these conclusions, I would be happy to receive any communication. God bless us all in our efforts to learn more of the GOSPEL OF CHRIST.

In the service of our Lord,
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The Church of Your Choice

In today's world there are many different views about which church is correct. Some contend the church is generic in form and name. Some are in support of one name or another. I am persuaded it matters to the greatest extent that we are commanded by the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost to know and have the truth.

I would like to begin with Eph. 1:17-23, "*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.*"

To my understanding, there are very important things in this passage. It is my effort and my greatest goal in all that I am and able to be and to do to rightly divide the word of truth and study to show myself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, as we are commanded in 2 Tim. 2:15. Let us do so in effort to have the spirit of wisdom and revelation Paul spoke of in verse 17 in the 1st chapter of Ephesians. In verse 20 Paul spoke of God's mighty power when he raised Christ and gave to our Lord this power. What is the power Paul spoke of? In verse 22 is the answer: the head of

the church. Verse 23 states the church, "*Which is his body.*" Eph. 5:30 reads as follows, "*For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.*"

Some believe the church is not limited to one name and doctrine. If I were able to assume that position I would refer to Col. 3:11, "*Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all.*" Again, let us remember 2 Tim. 2:15. In doing so, I refer to Rom. 15:5-6, "*Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*" Also Eph. 4:3-6, "*Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; 5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*" Also read 1 Cor. 1:10, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*"

To rightly divide the word of truth we must understand what is included in the "all" in Col. 3:11. If it refers to every church regardless of name or practice, how can we be like-minded? How can we be not divided? It is my understanding the church, which is the body of our Lord, has no division in name, practice, character, or age groups. This also is another area of discussion and study in reference to Sunday school and with which I also am opposed to.

Please read Matt. 16:18, *“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”* It is surely noteworthy our Lord Jesus is the only one given the power and authority by God our Father to be the builder of the church. If this isn’t the power spoken of in Ephesians, chapter 1, please, by all means, may someone reveal to me what is. The name of the church is the birthright and the legacy of our Lord given to Him by God, the Father.

Is there really a connection between Jesus and the name of the church? The answer is a resounding, “Yes”. Please read the following in Zech. 6:12-13, *“And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Behold the man whose name is The BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the LORD: Even he shall build the temple of the LORD; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon his throne; and he shall be a priest upon his throne: and the counsel of peace shall be between them both.”* And Jer. 23:5-6, *“Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.”* Also, Acts 2:36, *“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made the same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”* Psa. 29:2, *“Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.”* Eph. 3:15, *“Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,”* I believe these scriptures apply directly to the name of the church and to that of our Lord.

I also wish to offer my views on the value of Jesus’ name. With the church bearing the name of Jesus, the church’s name cannot be denied without also denying Jesus’ name, honor, and glory for they are the same. I refer to Acts 2:38, *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”* Luke 24:47, *“And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.”* John 20:31, *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.”* Acts 10:43, *“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.”* 1 John 3:23, *“And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.”*

In choosing the church we are members of we might decide to pick at random from the church directory section of any newspaper. Or we might thumb through the Yellow Pages in the phone book. There are indeed many listed in those categories. Some people probably look at these to make their selection. Or they might talk to friends or family members or maybe just drive around and look for the most attractive one.

Even the Bible used the work “church” in plural form. But in what way? Read Rom. 16:16, *“Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you.”* And in Gal. 1:2, *“And all the brethren which are with me, unto the churches of Galatia:”* There are others listed in defferent areas of the Bible, also.

How do we rightly divide these scriptures? We cannot unless we also read those in singular and relate them. Read 1 Cor. 1:2, *“Unto the*

church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:” Eph. 1:1, *“Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:”* 1 Thess. 1:1, *“Paul, and Silvanus, and Timotheus, unto the church of the Thessalonians which is in God the Father and in the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.”*

Can't we by comparing the plural and singular see these are congregations and not different churches of different names and manners of worship? The church at Lorenzo, TX, is the church of our Lord as is that of Yuma, AZ, Ringgold, Newcastle, and Randlett, OK, as well as many other places. If we have the unity commanded in Eph. 4:3, we are the churches and the church of Christ.

Some might attempt to apply Rom. 1:17, *“For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”* and say this is one kind of church to another. Remember to rightly divide (Eph. 4:5) for there is the total number of faiths worthy of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The many spoken of in Rom. 12:5 are many people in one body; not many faiths. Faith to faith is that of one person to another.

Each of us has a conscience and a mind to think with. If we with each other separate understandings and approaches can reach the same conclusion, it is then we are of one mind and one faith. It is then we have unity in Christ and that is the focus of my efforts in this article.

We cannot be void of understanding of the gospel and at the same time be steadfast and unmovable as we are commanded in 1 Cor. 15:58. If we are content to be without faithful

understanding our faith will be lacking the direction commanded of us. Read Matt.22:29, *“Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God.”* Our faith would be unworthy of the name, honor, and glory of our Lord.

To present ourselves as a living sacrifice as commanded in Rom. 12:1, our faith must remain within God's power unto salvation in Rom. 1:16. There are other ways in the world but not within the power of God. Jesus talks of other ways in John 10:1, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.”* Jesus is the door and there is no other.

In *“The Christian Exodus”*, written by Ellis Forsman, he wrote of falsified preachers who are nothing more than wolves in sheep's clothing. I agree with Bro. Forsman, and we are in unity concerning false teachers. People follow them because of their itching ears and they would rather have fables of men than the way offered to us through the gospel. If we look closely at false teachings we find they consist of carefully chosen scriptures that are not faithfully applied and falsely justifies unrighteousness. These are fabricated with the intent of pleasing and entertaining the audience. And oftentimes people will pay large amounts of money to hear them.

False teachers are well trained to deceive and put on a good show with the goal of making sin being fun. This is the power of deception through the devil and people actually want to be lied to. In Isa. 28:15 God said through Isaiah, *“Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood*

have we hid ourselves.” And in Jer. 18:12, “*And they said, There is no hope: but we will walk after our own devices, and we will every one do the imagination of his evil heart.*”

The devil’s power of deception is further defined in Gal. 1:8-9, “*But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.*” Also in 1 Cor. 15:12-18, “*Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain. Yea, and we are found false witnesses of God; because we have testified of God that he raised up Christ: whom he raised not up, if so be that the dead rise not. For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished.*” I use these scriptures to ask if the name of the Church is not “Christ”, of what value is any part of the gospel if so be the Church may have another name?

I was baptized by Paul Ferguson when I was twelve years old. Through the years of my life I have tried to know the truth by reading and studying the Bible and listening to the wisdom of other faithful church members. When I am before the Judgment Seat of Christ I want to be with the faithful in Christ whose names will be in the Book of Life.

Many times we read of those who reject the gospel. One such reading is Heb. 10:29-31, “*Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under*

foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace? For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people. It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.” Another is Matt. 10:33, “*But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.*”

I do not want to be included with those who are described in Phil. 3:18 as enemies of the cross and in John 3:18 as those who have not believed in the name of the Son of God. It is for these reasons I cannot call the church by a name except Christ.

We all who are church members are commanded to give the Lord the glory due His name as in Psa. 96:8. If Jesus is glorified in us it is because we are according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ in 2 Thess. 1:12.

In closing, I believe it is extremely important to raise our children to know why there is only one name for the church and give them the greatest gift within our ability raising them in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. If I have written anything not worthy of the glory, honor, and blood of our Lord, may someone please inform me of my error. Any response either in agreement or disagreement would be most welcome in public for all to see or in private.

In Christ,
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Tongues

There are many forms of communication between animals. Chickens cackle, roosters crow, dogs bark, cats meow, cattle bellow. Some have horns that honk in their automobiles. Some shrill, similar to the sirens that rush to pull you over, rush you to the hospital, or put out your fire. Rural life love, more calm minds. Loving the animals as they come to the fences and call to each other, as one herd is new. People are similar, some communicate by phone, some internet, some letter, some by the way of the heart. As good comes from loving life, not death. As one feeds farm life (Proverbs 1:22), to those in the cities. Showing life begins new, as the seeds are planted, giving life to the body, heart, mind, soul, and spirit within the body

living as one body within, the heavenly body. God provided it all, giving choice was good, as many choose good in God's world. Jesus gave life, and gives life, to the good, who choose good, as God provided His Son Jesus to heal all children, not rush to hell. As the star in the east was a guide for the wise men, today the light shines from the hearts of the wise, as spirit speaks in many tongues. Spirit of truth comes as the shining heart, not weighed down by the burdens of living in sin. Hope in Jesus, as He guides many out of the dark into the light of life.

— Billy Jones

Precious Memories

It Is Written, October, 1948. 📖 Bro. W. H. Francis reported on his meetings at Gilliland, TX (2 baptisms); Elk City, OK; and Furnish (1 baptism), CO. 📖 Bro. F. H. Stringham, Biggs, CA, announced he would hold a meeting there in October.

The Christian Courier, October, 1968. 📖 Bro. Howard McCay, Yakima, WA, reported on his meetings at Peoria, AZ; Lorenzo, TX; Baron, OK; Grass Valley, CA; and Chico, CA. He also reported on other meetings that he attended that were held by other speakers. 📖 Bro. Ellis Forsman, Yakima, WA, announced the birth of his third child, Lori Jenell, on September 11th.

The Christian Courier, October, 1988. 📖 Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, reported on four meetings he attended: Baron, OK; Pleasant View, OK; Goshen, AR; and Lorenzo, TX, and he announced he would hold a meeting in Yuma, AZ, in October. 📖 The Lorenzo, TX, congregation announced a meeting in December with Bro. Ellis Forsman. 📖 The Glenwood, WA, congregation reported on some of their member's experiences at the Delta Family Camp Meeting. 📖 Gerald Brockman, Bellflower, CA, reported on his travels to some congregations in the west. Also some baptisms reported: Shannon O'Connell, San Pablo, CA; Tony Treat, Broken Bow, OK; Lesa Treat, Broken Bow, OK.



Cards and Letters

Bellflower, CA

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The few of us at the Bellflower congregation send our love to all. There's not much news from here. We continue to meet Sunday morning at 10:30 a.m. and welcome anyone able to attend.

With much help from some of our northern brothers, we are trying to keep the church meeting house in reasonably good shape. We thank them with all our heart.

At this writing, we are doing okay. We each have our different health problems, but are very thankful to be able to attend services.

At a time when we see this country in turmoil, along with the rest of the world, we can be very thankful we have a safe and secure home in heaven waiting for us. Let's do our part to get there — just say “NO” to Satan and his crew. We can do that by saying “NO” to self, putting on and keeping on the whole armor of God and standing with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our prayers always continue for the ill, and we ask for yours.

It's wonderful to see some accepting the gospel call here in this country. The wonderful work Bro. Alvarez is doing in Mexico and other Central American countries is so much appreciated. God bless him and those supporting his efforts.

Our deep love,

The church at Bellflower, CA

Canton, GA

Greetings to all the Brethren:

The news from here is both not so good and great. Sis. Doris Ridlon had her knee replaced Oct. 6th. She is home, but experiencing a lot of difficulty that goes with that type of surgery. On the 8th of Oct., Monica Berry had a cyst and appendix removed. Sis. Pam Berry has had one carpal tunnel surgery (Oct. 10th) and on Oct. 24th will have the second C.T.S. On Oct. 28th Sis. Movelle Wilkerson (age 87) must have a stint cleanout or possible replacement.

On a happier note, Jason & Cindy Cathart became proud parents of a 6 lb, 13 oz girl. Cindy (mother) had to have a transfusion, but is home now — both are doing fine.

The best news is on Oct. 12th, two were added to the body of Christ. Devan Watts & Brannan Marsh both began a new life in Christ.

Love to all,

Canton, CA, Church of Christ

Harlingen, TX

Dear Brethren:

I greet you cordially in the name of Christ along with your families and brothers in Christ.

I inform you that the work of the Lord continues forward in Mexico and Guatemala. Also, several brothers in the church in Southern Mexico continue with some problems because of the permanent rains during these months. We worked during some time between the brothers in the state of Oaxaca, Chiapas, and Northern Guatemala in the reconstruction of some houses

that were affected by the rains. This work has been made with the collaboration of several brothers of those areas, and at time the situation of these brothers is a little better. These poor brothers still need clothes and food, but we have confidence the Lord will provide a solution to these needs.

I comment that in the Brownsville, TX, area we continue the studying in the houses, and a woman obeyed the gospel and was baptized.

In Matamoros, Mexico, the church continues forward and with the participation of all members, each Sunday we have persons that visit us.

I comment that in Brownsville we have an advertisement in the newspaper of the city and we offer Biblical booklets, study in the houses, and more information on the church. The new sister that was baptized is the fruit of this announcement in the newspaper.

During the month of November we have plans to visit some churches in the area of Huasteca, Mexico, to encourage all the brothers and teach the scriptures.



The evangelists in Mexico and Guatemala continue very animated work in different areas.

I send a photo of the new sister in Brownsville, TX, in the moment of baptism.

Members of the churches of Christ in Mexico

Hillsboro, OR

Dear Christian Courier,

I would like to request that you put a prayer of faith in the Christian Courier. It is for my mother Dana Garner. She has just been diagnosed with stage 1 breast cancer. She is going to be having the cancer removed in the near future. The thoughts and prayer of our fellow Christians would be greatly appreciated in her time of need. Thank you so much!

With Love, Katie Beardall, Hillsboro, OR

Lorenzo, TX

Greetings from Lorenzo, TX:

It was wonderful to have several visitors this past month. Bro. Bill & Sis. Earlene Jared came from Valparaiso, IN (Sis. Olene Howe went home with them, but is now back again in Lorenzo); Bro. Richard & Sis. Monica Johnston of Yakima, WA, were here (Bro. Richard spoke Saturday evening and Sunday morning; and then we had singing Sunday afternoon); and Bro. Stanley & Sis. Judy Goodwin came from Newcastle, TX.

We had a very good fellowship meeting Sept. 25th with Bro. Otto Alvarez & his wife. Bro. Otto showed us some slides of his work in Mexico and Guatemala. We discussed the future of the Church Web Site and *The Christian Courier*. Plans are being made to convert these to the Spanish language as needed for those areas. Our Bro. Roger Casarez did a fine job of interpreting for Bro. Otto.

Sis. Nell McCay is continuing to have medical treatment for her dizziness and eyesight problems. Sis. Angela Boling continues to have infection problems, but is no longer in the hospital. Sis. Joan Boling's heart problem seems to be stable for the moment. Sis. Wynetta McCay, Sis. Kim Matlock, and Sis. Brenda

Casarez have surgeries coming up soon. Please keep all of them in your prayers.

Love to all, The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

Nov. 7-9, 2008 Broken Bow, OK Guest speakers

Births

Daughter Canton, GA To Jason & Cindy Cathart

Baptisms

Devan Watts Canton, GA Oct 12, 2008
Brannan Marsh Canton, GA Oct.12, 2008

Prayer of Faith for those in need

Duane Bixler	Aztec, NM	Alzheimer's disease
Abram Labato	Aztec, NM	Numerous injuries
Minnie Davis	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Ruth Johnson	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Severe blood disorder
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Chemotherapy treatments
Pam Berry	Canton, GA	Carpel Tunnel surgeries
Movelle Wilkerson	Canton, GA	Stint cleanout or replacement
Doris Ridlon	Canton, GA	Knee surgery
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Gene McKinney	Gleed, WA	Heart trouble & diabetes
Jeannean McSwane	Glenwood, WA	Severe infections
Suzie Warford	Glenwood, WA	Back pain
Christy Burkhart	Goshen, AR	Back pain
Melvin Daniels	Goshen, AR	Bad heart & lungs
Dana Garner	Hillsboro, OR	Breast cancer
Angela Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Infection problems
Joan Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Heart problems
Brenda Casarez	Lorenzo, TX	Surgery
Kim Mattlock	Lorenzo, TX	Surgery
Nell McCay	Lorenzo, TX	High blood pressure & eyesight problems
Wynetta McCay	Lorenzo, TX	Surgery
Bonnie Johnson	Pleasant View, OK	Ill health
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	In nursing home