



# The

# Christian Courier

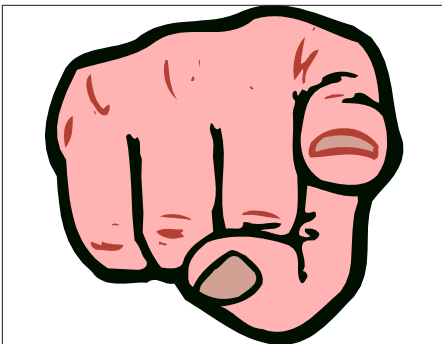
## September, 2008

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## A Chosen Generation

**Text: 1 Pet. 2:9-12**

*“...ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul; Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.”*



## Allegiances And Relationships

Our text deals with the position of the Christian throughout his earthly life, including his relationship with God, and with the world. It teaches us of our position in the heaven-appointed government, whose head is God, to whom we owe total allegiance, and of the respect we owe earthly governments, which are subordinate to that of God.

Realizing that words must be defined, it will be necessary through this essay to define the meanings of the various words of our text. I have used the following scholarly texts:

Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon, Vine’s Expository of Biblical words, and Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. There can be no better scholarship than these.

## Chosen Generation

Generation is defined “genos, born, country (-man), diversity, generation, kindred, nation, offspring, stock.”

“Therefore I say unto you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof.” (Matt. 21:43).

Prior to Christ’s advent, the kingdom of God was the sole possession of the Jews, but was taken from them and given to a different “nation”. This nation is described as *chosen* (*eklektos*) which is defined as “selected”, “favorite”.

To be a nation, there must of necessity be a government to exercise authority over the subjects within, otherwise chaos would rule over all. It is God’s will that there be no confusion in the nation, but rather peace. “For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” (1 Cor. 14:33)

## God, The King

Paul explains the nature of this government and its head. “One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.” (Eph. 4:6).

God, as is His prerogative, has appointed his Son, Jesus Christ, to be the head of His kingdom until the time of the consummation of all things. “And (God) hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church.” (Eph. 1:22).

We are a “royal priesthood” through our relationship with God, our King.

## Government On His Shoulders

Isaiah foretold of this new nation and of its government. “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called

*Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.*” (Isa. 9:6). “*Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with justice and with judgment from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.*” (Isa. 9:7).

## Functionaries

To oversee the nation of God, Jesus created positions to be filled by qualified persons who would draw their authority solely from Him. “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:” (Eph. 4:11-12).

## This Is A Brief Outline Of The Government Of Christ, The Appointed Head Of The Kingdom Of God

### Citizenship

Christians, as subjects of God, are termed “citizens” of this nation. “For our conversation is in heaven; from whence we also look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.” (Phil. 3:20).

The word *conversation* in this verse is from “*politeuma*” meaning “a community, i e (abst) citizenship”. Paul is telling us that our *citizenship* is in heaven (where the head of our government is).

Furthermore, he tells us, “Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, in one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.” (Phil. 1:27).

In this verse the word is “*politeuomai*” meaning “to behave as a citizen”. Our conduct in this world should be worthy of citizens of this “chosen generation (nation)”.

### Here, No “Continuing City”

We are citizens of a heavenly nation with our citizenship in heaven, because here we have no permanent home. “*Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims...*” (1 Pet. 2:11). *These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth.*” (Heb. 11:13).

If we are pilgrims and strangers in our present life, it follows that our true citizenship is not here among the governments and nations of men. “*For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come.*” (Heb. 13:14).

“*Continuing*” (*meno*) is rendered “...a given place, state, relation: abide, dwell. Thus, we are citizens whose permanent dwelling place is not here in this world, but in heaven with our king.

### A Peculiar People

In our text, Christians are described as a “*peculiar*” people. He does not refer to us as “*people*” (in general) but as “*a people*” (as Irish, a people). What does he mean by this? The word “*peculiar*” is defined as “purchased”

“*...your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own*” (1 Cor. 6:19). “*Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*” (1 Cor. 7:20). “*...feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*” (Acts 20:28).

We were purchased with a most exorbitant price, the blood of Christ. We should all keep in mind the words of Peter, “*Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness.*” (2 Pet. 3:11).

Your fellow-servant in Christ,  
J D Logan

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## Fertile Soil

Arkansas rocks are stones; so, so many in this ground. Making garden beds, one must have pick axe in hand to collect all the rocky stones. Stone, 1 Peter 2:4-8 teaches, rocky stones make good path, some make good trenches to keep heavy rains from becoming a river and washing newly laid seed away. Some are good in tin cans to water deeps roots during hot summer months. Preparation is slow, as it builds strength and endurance, for the new earth (2 Peter 3:13) is in need of tender loving care, as it becomes a garden in the passing of time to endless beauty that fills the earth. Make the ground rich, add

homemade compost, leaves, twigs, weeds, farm animal manure, food scraps, bones, feathers, hair, egg shells, all make good soil, not add synthetic or chemicals, as man loves to put in more money in pocket, as man sells heavy tractor equipment and tillers. The rich in mind, love labor, prepare the ground a little each day, and soon, hand fork and rack, make light soil, fluffy seed bed. Begin now, not wait, as spring begins new life each season; many turn to their roots (Genesis 2:15; 9:20; 2 Timothy 2:6) which began time on earth, beginning, no time soon.

— Billy Jones

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# The Church Of Christ

By O. E. Shields

In these days of many denominations we have no means of finding the right church except by stopping our ears to men's claims and to their plausible argument, and turning back to the Bible to learn from God only.

*"Upon this rock I will build my church."* (Matt. 16:18). Jesus said that, therefore the one true church is that which He established. It is also plain that at the time Jesus spoke, the church of Christ was not yet builded. Read through the rest of Matthew, and through Mark, Luke, and John, following the course of events to the death and resurrection of Christ, and even to his ascension. Have you found there the slightest intimation of the church as being in existence? Absolutely none! When then was it established? The following passage will help us to determine that point: *"When he raised him from the dead, and made him to sit at his own right hand in the heavenly places... and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body."* (Eph. 1:20-23; Col. 1:18). The church is here called *"the body"*. Over it Christ is head. This passage alone shows that the risen Christ was made the head of the body. Previous to Christ's resurrection the church could not have been in existence, for its most essential part was lacking. It would have been a body without a head. The church was completed by Christ's becoming its head, after his ascension and exaltation.

The church is also called *"...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth,"* (1 Tim. 3:15), a spiritual house built up of living stones (1 Pet. 2:5), a holy temple builded together for a habitation of God in the Spirit. (Eph. 2:21; 1 Cor. 3:16). But the Spirit was not given until Jesus

was glorified (John 7:39). The Holy Spirit came down after Christ's ascension and exaltation, on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). Only after that day is the church of Christ mentioned as being actually in existence (Acts 2:47; 5:11), 50 days after the Passover Feast on which Christ was crucified.

## How Many Churches Are There?

The word "churches" in the New Testament, as used in Rom. 16:16, is never used to mean various denominations, but congregations of the one true church which Christ established (Gal. 1:22; 1 Thess. 2:14; Rev. 1:4). These all being of *"one faith, one hope, one baptism,"* constitute the one body. *"There is one body."* (Eph. 4:4). So Christ predicted, *"they shall be one fold, one shepherd."* (John 10:16).

The splitting up of the church into factions, parties, denominations, and the consequent use of names to distinguish these parties from one another, is severely condemned in the Bible, for it is flatly against Christ's will, and teaching of the word of God. Christ prayed over and over that his followers might be one, *"that the world may believe that thou didst send me."* (John 17). And far from considering that to be an impossibility, the apostle solemnly enjoins it upon the factious brethren at Corinth.

*"Now I beseech you, brethren, through the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no [211] division among you, but that you be perfected together in the same mind and in the same judgment. For it hath been signified unto me...that there are contentions among you...that*

*each one of you saith, I am of Paul, and I of Apollos, and I of Cephas, and I of Christ. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were you baptized into the name of Paul?"* (1 Cor. 10:13)

In chapter three (verses 1-3) he shows them this denominationalism among them came of the carnal mind. Read in the Revised Version Gal. 5:19-21.

### **How Can I Find The True Church? First Called Christians at Antioch**

One cannot find the true church by asking men—for each one will say, “My church is the one.” Neither worry yourself with genealogies and church histories, creeds, claims of apostolic succession, etc. All these show only the folly and confusion of human wisdom. Go to God’s word.

You will find in Acts 2, that on the day of Pentecost sinners in obedience to the gospel,

repented and were baptized (Acts 2:38-42). These were afterwards known as members of the church—the one only true church, for there was no other. Take the same steps they took, in the same way, today and—has the gospel changed? (Gal. 1:8-9), has Christ changed? Will not the same teaching and obedience today cause you to be added to the same church of Christ (Acts 2:47)?

Why let men impose on you with great claims in this thing? Why subscribe to creeds and doctrines which are “*after the commandments and ordinances of men*”? Deal directly with God through his word. Enter the church of Christ, as men did 1900 years ago; be nothing but a Christian, and “glorify God in this name.”

Reprinted from *Word And Work* publication, Sept., 1945.

Submitted by Stanley Goodwin

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## **Editor’s Note**

Several of the brethren have expressed their heartfelt desire to attend more gospel meetings. If several congregations from the same region of the United States could schedule meetings following each other, this would save time and expense for those traveling. To this end, it has been suggested that as soon as your congregation begins to consider possible meeting dates, please let us (both publications) know ASAP so that brethren that are available to hold meetings or attend meetings can also make plans that do not conflict. If you have circumstances that could affect possible dates, such as school, weather, distance, job etc. (especially for the various

camp meetings), these factors can also be addressed. If a pattern of scheduled meetings can eventually be decided upon from year to year, this will greatly facilitate yearly vacation planning.

*The Christian Courier* and/or *Fruits of the Spirit* could assist in coordinating and sharing information. Early sharing of such information could reduce conflicting dates. All of this will allow the greatest number of congregations and the largest number of people to be blessed through these events.

— Editors of *The Christian Courier*

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## On The Meaning of “Break” as Pertaining to the Loaf of the Lord’s Supper



(As defined by two of the most able scholars of both Greek and Hebrew:

Adam Clark, LLD, FSA & Alexander Campbell)

Adam Clark on Matt 26:26, “*And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body.*”

“We often read in the scriptures of “*breaking bread*”, but never cutting it. The Jewish people had nothing similar to our high raised loaf: their bread was made broad and thin, and was consequently brittle, and to divide it there was no need of a knife. The breaking of the bread I consider essential to the proper performance of

this solemn and significant ceremony, because it was designed by our Lord to shadow forth the wounding, piercing, and breaking of His body upon the cross; and, as all this was essentially necessary to the making a full atonement for the sin of the world, so it is of vast importance that this apparently little circumstance, AS THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD, should be carefully attended to, that the godly communicant may have every necessary assistance to enable him to discern the Lord’s body. That the breaking of this bread to be distributed, and is a necessary part of this rite is evident, first by the continual mention of St. Paul and all the evangelists, when they speak of the institution of this sacrament, which shows it to be a necessary part of it. Secondly, our Lord said, “1 Corinthians 11:24 And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, “*Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you.*” (1 Cor. 11:24). But when the elements are not broken, it can no more be said, “this is my broken for you”, than were the elements not given. Thirdly, our Lord said, “*this do in remembrance of me*”, eat this bread, broken in remembrance of my body broken on the cross; now when there is no body broken is distributed, there, nothing can be eaten in memorial of this broken body. Lastly, the Apostle, by saying “*The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?*” sufficiently informs us that the eating of a BROKEN body is necessary to that end. (1 Cor. 10:16). Hence it was that this rite, of distributing bread BROKEN continued for a thousand years, and was, as Hambertus testifies, observed in the

Roman church in the eleventh century. At the present the opposite is as boldly practiced as if the real scriptural rite had never been observed in the church of Christ.” From *Clark’s Commentaries*.

Alexander Campbell on the one loaf at the Lord’s table.

“We have said that the loaf must be BROKEN before the saints partake of it. Jesus took a loaf from the paschal table and broke it before He gave it to His disciples. They received a broken loaf, emblematic of His body once whole, but by His own consent broken for His disciples. In eating it we then remember that the Lord’s body was by His own consent broken and wounded for us. Therefore, he that gives thanks for the loaf should break it, not as the representative of the Lord, but after His example; and after the disciples had partaken of this loaf, handing it to one another, or while they are partaking of it, the disciple who brake it partakes with them of the same loaf, thus, they all have communion with the Lord and with one another in eating the broken loaf. And, thus, they as priests feast upon His sacrifice. For the priests eat of the sacrifices and were partakers of the altar. The proof of this found in Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and 1 Cor. 10. In each of which his breaking of the loaf after giving thanks and before His disciples partook of it, is distinctly stated.” From “*Christian System*”, page 329.

In his report of the churches he visited (pg. 353), setting forth their method and manner of

procedure in the public assembly on the first day worship, when he came to the manner of partaking the Lord’s Supper, the one officiating at the table, “RAISED THE LOAF IN HIS HAND, AND SIGNIFICANTLY BRAKE IT, AND HANDED IT TO THE DISCIPLES ON EACH SIDE OF HIM, WHO PASSED THE BROKEN LOAF FROM ONE TO ANOTHER, UNTIL THEY ALL PARTOOK OF IT.”

Note: These two accounts agree perfectly with the scriptural writings cited. This practice was continued by churches of Christ for over a thousand years until the year 1928, when several preachers began to advocate that we should not (significantly) break the bread before passing to the congregation, but should merely “break off” a piece (and eat it) before passing to the congregation. This, of course, required proof that Christ “broke off” a piece and ate it, which they cannot do, inasmuch so that the scriptures do not teach it. This scriptural practice is still practiced by a small minority of congregations throughout our nation to the present day.

Many are the arguments advanced by the advocates of this innovative practice, but always falling short of success because it cannot be proven. This, however, is not the thrust of this article: merely the testimony of these two scholars, one of which was a member of Christ’s body.

J. D. Logan

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# Precious Memories

***It Is Written, July, 1948.*** 📖 Bro. E. H. Cavin, La Habra, CA, reported that he was recovering from a heart attack.

***It Is Written, September, 1948.*** 📖 Bro. J. C. Spurlin, Reydon, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. W. H. Francis, wherein Lola Garver was baptized. 📖 Bro. Coy Garrison, Oklahoma, City, OK, reported on a meeting he attended at Coulter, OK, during which a man and his wife were baptized.

***It Is Written, August, 1958.*** 📖 Bro. J. S. Bedingfield, Sacramento, CA, mentioned the passing of Bro. E. H. Cavin. 📖 Bro. J. V. Wood, Midwest City, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. Coy Garrison during which there was one baptism and one restoration. 📖 Sis. Annis Brown, Escalon, CA, informed us that Bro. J. G. Condor was very sick and she reported on Bro. J. D. Logan's meeting at Modesto, CA. 📖 Bro. R. C. Clements, Broken Bow, OK, indicated that he had been in the hospital twice and was expected to go back in again. 📖 Bro. L. C. England, Whittier, CA, stated that his wife had just come home from quite a siege in the hospital.

***The Christian Courier, September, 1978.*** 📖 The Richard Jones family expressed their thanks and appreciation for the support given after the loss of their home and possessions in a fire. 📖 Bro. Claud Perigen, Bellflower, CA, reminisced on their trip to several congregations and thanked Bro. Howard McCay for holding their meeting and thanks all the visitors for coming. 📖 The Yuma, AZ, congregation reported that Sis. Arzulla Renick and Bro. & Sis. Davis had been under the weather.

***The Christian Courier, August, 1988.*** 📖 Bro. Terry Warford, Baron, OK, announced the

baptism of Michael Barker. 📖 Bro. Ken Williams, Waterford, CA, reported on their meeting with Bro. Roger Walkingstick and announced the baptism of Melissa Williams, Lisa Callahan, Travis Lamb, and Melissa Baker. He also said they were saddened by the loss of Sis. Tommie Henderson on July 5<sup>th</sup>. 📖 Bro. Gerald Brockman, Bellflower, CA, reported that Sis. Burdett Taylor was recovering from eye surgery. 📖 Sis. Verda Nelson, Yuma, AZ, wrote that Bro. Earl Broadway was in the hospital with a severe bout of kidney stones. 📖 Also mentioned: The passing of Bro. Stanley Bryant and Bro. Les Baker, both of the Waterford, CA, congregation.

***The Christian Courier, September, 1988.*** 📖 Bro. Lloyd Treat, Broken Bow, OK, announced the baptisms of four people: Tresa Treat, Randel Treat, Ricky Brown and his wife. 📖 The Aztec, NM, congregation announced that Bro. Paul Warford would hold their meeting in September. 📖 Bro. Billy Richardson, Furnish Canyon, OK, reported on the passing of Bro. Clyde Couchman and the birth of Zachary Wiggins on June 27<sup>th</sup>. 📖 Bro. Stanley Goodwin, Newcastle, TX, announced that Bro. Jim Brown would hold their meeting in September. 📖 Bro. Audley Barnes, Loco, OK, reported on their meeting with Bro. Al Way, during which there were two baptisms: Carla Mullins and Greg Jones. 📖 Also mentioned: Sis. MacDonald of Olivehurst, CA, passed away on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

***The Christian Courier, July, 1998.*** \*The Newcastle, TX, congregation announced they would have a weekend meeting in July with Bro. Bob Eldridge. 📖 The Aztec, NM, congregation announced the baptism of Tanya Bixler and also



the birth of a new boy to Bro. Marshall & Johnson and his wife Delinda. 📖 The Bohanan Mt., AR, congregation reported that Bro. Marvin Daniels was recovering from surgery for a large aneurysm in his artery just above his kidneys. They also reported that Bro. Ed Faulkner required skin grafts for 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> degree burns to his upper body, arms, and legs. 📖 The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation announced the baptism of Rennie Elwell on June 7<sup>th</sup>. They also reported that Bro. Howard McCay had no strength in his legs and had to be assisted from his bed to a wheelchair.

### ***The Christian Courier, September, 1998.***

📖 The Baron, OK, congregation reported on their meeting in June with guest speakers during which Bobby and Desiree Wilson were baptized.

📖 Bro. J. L. Jared, Aloha, OR, announced the baptism of Christina Calhoun on April 19<sup>th</sup>. 📖

The Randlett, OK, congregation announced a weekend meeting in September with Bro. Larry Pollan and Bro. Robert Eldridge. 📖 The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation reported that Bro. Howard McCay had not been able to attend services since April 1<sup>st</sup> and that Bro. Garold Morris was having difficulty battling cancer.

📖 The Yuma, AZ, congregation reported that Bro. Bud Davis was taking chemotherapy and may undergo radiation treatments on his back.

📖 The Cedaredge, CO, congregation reported on the success of their Family Camp Meeting during which there was the baptism of Heather Luchsinger and the wedding of Heather Luchsinger and Brent Berry on July 4<sup>th</sup>. 📖 Also announced: The birth of Sierra Lenora to Brian & Jessica Dean on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the passing of Danese Coody of Oklahoma City, OK, on August 31<sup>st</sup>.



# Cards and Letters

## Aztec, NM

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I would like to thank all of you for your thoughts and prayers for me. I had an unfortunate accident with my John Deere tractor on Friday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. I was doing some yard work and the tractor got away from me and ran me over. I have numerous injuries that will only take time to heal, but God still needed me because I am still here.

My family and I thank you from the depths of our hearts for your concern and love. We are

truly blessed to have so many wonderful people (family) praying for us.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Abram Lobato

P. O. Box 1171

106 C. R. 5005

Bloomfield, NM 87413

PH. 505-632-3176

Lobo7trk@yahoo.com

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## Broken Bow, OK

Just wanted to let you know that we had a baptism last month — Jimmy Treat! We are so excited for him! We also have a new baby at church, Andrew Coy David Fogg, born Sept. 4th to Charlie and Julie Fogg, weighing 7.1 lbs., and is 20 in. long. Doug and Phyllis are the proud grandparents.

The Broken Bow congregation is planning a weekend meeting Nov. 7-9 with guest speakers. Come if you can make it.

Bro. Ed Crowell is still undergoing chemo treatments. Bro. Doug Ferguson had to have a stint put in his leg because of a blockage. He is doing much better now. Sis. Brenda Treat is still having trouble with blood disorders. Please remember these folks in your prayers.

Costilow St. Church of Christ  
Broken Bow, OK

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## Citrus City, AZ (July, 2008)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It has been awhile since we last wrote. Hope this message finds all well. We are sending a short note to let you know we are still alive here at Citrus City and doing as well as can be expected, considering our ailments and aging. Sadly, our congregation is getting smaller and smaller.

We are sending a donation to help with the expenses of the Christian Courier. We thank those who take the time and effort in writing and preparing this newsletter.

We at the church of Christ in Citrus City send our love and prayers to all.

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## Citrus City, AZ (Aug., 2008)

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Hope this message finds all well. We are sending a short note to let you know that we are still meeting at Citrus City every Sunday at 10:30. Sadly, our congregation is getting smaller and smaller.

We are sending a donation to help with the expenses of The Christian Courier. We thank those who take the time and effort in writing and preparing this newsletter.

We at the church of Christ in Citrus City send our love and prayers to all.

The Citrus City, AZ, congregation

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## Douglasville, GA

Hello from Georgia,

We had a good trip home from the Cypress Lake Camp Meeting for the most part; we went down to Hornbeck, LA, to see Jack and Betty Wood, who have been brother and sister in Christ and close friends forever. They moved here from Texas about 35+ years ago and stayed about 25 years, then retired to Louisiana. We enjoyed our visit with them very much. On the way home, our old van died in Forest, Mississippi, and we were delayed a day to have it repaired. Luckily, we were within 4 miles of a Ford dealership, and they were so nice to us when we had it dragged in. When they realized that we were stranded travelers, they immediately pulled the van into the shop and started troubleshooting it. They got it back to us late the next day, and we hitched to the camper and drove until about one a.m., but we got home.

Home — to the grass knee high in the yard and garden, and the produce coming in, so the canning and freezing began. Home —with my

boss calling and wanting me back at work! I stay about three days behind in everything, it seems. Poor Herman Derrick cannot do much on a walker, though he would if he could, but I am just grateful that his health is as good as it is.

Our grandchildren still talk about camp; they enjoyed it so much.

The following is contact info for the leaders of our congregation:

Robert Bearden 770-562-3888

Russell Turner 770-942-6776

Pray for the Wood's; they are only 90 miles from the Louisiana coast at Lake Charles and this is a bad hurricane.

Jean Derrick

Douglasville, GA

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## Glenwood, WA

Our beloved brothers and sisters in Christ:

We have a lot of exciting news to report from the congregation at Glenwood.

Several of us were able to attend the meeting at Glead, WA in June. Bro. JD Logan from our congregation did the speaking, and did an excellent job. The brothers and sisters there had several activities on the grounds as well. We all had a great time and thank the congregation there for their efforts.

Then our own meeting (July 11-13) went very well, with three of the brethren from Yakima doing the speaking. Brother Richard Johnston spoke Friday night (the 11<sup>th</sup>), comparing and drawing spiritual lessons from the two songs: "It Is Well With My Soul!" and "Is It Well With My Soul?". Brother Mike McCay spoke Saturday on "The Great Message In John 3:16". Bro. Bill McCay, Jr. spoke Sunday morning on "Give Me The Bible". All three did a great job, and we

appreciate them. Thank you also to all of our visitors. That really helps the meeting to go well.

Several of our number got to attend the meeting (and other events) in Lorenzo, Texas in July, and reported a wonderful time.

It was good to see Bro. Ellis and Sis. Lynell Forsman up for a few weeks. Bro. Ellis spoke for us August 3<sup>rd</sup>. He gave an excellent lesson on "Overcoming Sin".

The Yakima congregation had an excellent meeting then in August with several guest speakers and lots of excitement. The best news was three baptisms. Two of the young ladies were from our congregation. Kaylena Warford was baptized Wednesday night (August 13<sup>th</sup>), and Amarissa Orendorff Saturday evening (August 16<sup>th</sup>). Then Carrie Johnston from the Yakima congregation was baptized Sunday evening (August 17<sup>th</sup>). We thank the congregation there for all their hard work and hospitality.

We are hoping to coordinate our three meetings a little more closely next year so that any out-of-state visitors are able to take in more than one meeting, if they wish.

More good news from Washington state, from the Glead congregation. Bro. Jason and Sis. Katie Christianson had their second daughter (Hailey). She was born on Monday 8/4/08 at 8:04 AM, weighing 8 lbs, 4 oz. Her parents are both real sweethearts (as is big sister Hannah), and her daddy is turning into quite a good preacher as well.

We have enjoyed our new brother (Bro. Ben Mason) in our congregation the past couple of months. We enjoyed the visit of his mother and brother-in-law from out of state one Sunday.

We appreciate the various visitors we have had this year, and invite you back at any time you are able.

On the down side, we have had some injuries this year. Sister Debbie Taylor broke her arm earlier this year, recovered from that, and recently had carpal tunnel surgery. Sister Barbara Carter had surgery on her foot. Sister Suzie Warford was in a traffic accident that has her in quite a bit of back pain.

With all our love,  
The congregation at Glenwood, WA

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## Harlingen, TX (July, 2008)

Dear brethren in Christ,  
I greet you in the name of Christ, hoping that you may be enjoying good health.

I inform you that Mariela and I arrived at Harlingen Saturday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

I comment that during the month of June we traveled to the state of Chiapas (southern Mexico) to help the brethren in those areas



because of the rains and floods that still continue. Several brothers that live in those areas collaborate in this reparation work of the houses, and as the primitive church (Acts,

chapter 2) the brethren worked several days to help others. All of these brethren desire to express their gratefulness for your prayers and help.



I preached and evangelized in the city of Tuxtla, Chiapas. Two brother's families that live in this city were gathered sometimes in their houses, but they had not established the church. During a week we had Bible studies and several people attended, and the brothers decided to begin the church with 4 members and children. With this purpose we rented a small piece of



property and began the church in this area north of the city. Some brethren of this area visited and we had the first assembly with the assistance of a good group of people who were evangelized. We have hope that this church will



continue to grow.

Also, I visited some churches in Guatemala for encouragement, especially where there are new brethren or congregations where there is trouble. The churches in Guatemala continue firm with the working of the evangelists in those areas and the needs of some congregations to be supplied by obtaining Bibles and booklets for the evangelistic work in this area. Would that we could support in this need.

Also, I comment that in June before traveling to Chiapas we had baptisms in Matamoros, Mexico. I send photos of the new church in Chiapas, baptisms in Matamoros, and also different areas where we walk in the mountains and field in Chiapas and Oaxaca.

Thank you for your fellowship with us in the work of the Lord.

During July we plan to visit some churches in Mexico.

Your brother in Christ,  
Otto Alvarez

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## Harlingen, TX (Aug. 2008)

Dear Brethren,

I hope that on receiving this letter you are enjoying all the rich blessings of God.

I comment that during June and July several brothers in Oaxaca and Chiapas, Mexico, and also in some places from Guatemala suffered problems from the rains and floods. With the aid (help) of the Lord and the collaboration of you some of the food needs were solved, but they still have repair problems in the houses. Several brothers in these areas continue working in the needs and we rely that the Lord provide us the resources to conclude these repairs.

When I returned to Harlingen from visiting and helping these brothers, we has a strong hurricane that entered exactly by the area of Harlingen, Brownsville, and Matamoros, Mexico, and caused many problems in all this area. Several brothers were affected by this hurricane and we are working in the repair of the houses.

Also, we have good news. The churches in these areas continue firm in the truth and a good number of brothers and sisters participate in the work of evangelization. Each brother that has the responsibility of making the work of evangelization in the different areas continue firm.

We are much thankful with the Lord and you for your help and participation in this work of the Lord for preaching of the gospel. Some occasions are very difficult to preach the truth but always we encounter people to teach the pure gospel for their salvation.

Brethren, again I thank you for your help. I hope God will continue to bless you in everything.

Your brother in Christ,  
Otto Alvarez

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## Lorenzo, TX

Greetings to all from Lorenzo, TX:

In June, several from the Lorenzo, TX, congregation attended the brand-new Cypress Lake Campground meeting in Broken Bow, OK. Although it is still a work in progress, with some challenges to overcome, it got off to a fantastic start with greater response than anticipated. There was a lot of good fellowship, singing, and great sermons from the word of God by the guest speakers. There were many visitors from Georgia, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Arizona. We are happy to report the baptism of Samantha Hudson, granddaughter of Bro. Jerry & Sis. Wynetta McCay of Lorenzo, TX.

The June-July meeting at Lorenzo was also a very productive meeting with Bro. Eric Harper from Sacramento, CA, doing an excellent job of speaking. We are thrilled to report that Katelyn Matlock, Brock Harper, Ashley Harper, Audrey Harper, and Makenzee Lee all obeyed the gospel and were baptized that week. Sis. Barbara Carter and her children, Chris, Kayla, & Jessica came down from Washington to travel with the Harpers to attend this meeting, as well as visitors from Oklahoma, Texas, and Arizona. We enjoyed and appreciated all who attended.

Sis. Lynell Forsman is nearly recovered from being knocked down by a ball as she stood on the sideline of a vigorous volleyball game, from which she received a fractured pelvis.

Sis. Nell McCay is doing much better. She still sees a doctor about her high blood pressure, failing eyesight, and balance problems, but she is walking a mile a day with a walker and gaining strength for which we are thankful.

Sis. Joan Boling and her daughter Angela Boling have both been hospitalized recently. Joan has had trouble with her heart and had a pacemaker installed. Angela underwent several tests to determine the extent of her physical problems. Both seem to be doing much better now, for which we are very thankful.

Bro. Ellis & Sis. Lynell Forsman returned to Seattle to see about their property that is still up for sale. On the way they visited Matt & Kelly Shepherd & family and Eric & Lori Harper & family. After they worshipped with the brethren in Glenwood, WA, and Sacramento, CA, they returned home to Lubbock, TX. They also were able to be at Duncanville, TX, two Sundays, which was great.

To recap briefly: Sis. Jaetta Loftis has recovered from her broken wrist; Carolyn Hatter injured her foot, but is now out of her boot cast; Kim Matlock had 2 knee surgeries, but is now requiring a total knee replacement in October. Many friends and loved ones including all 7 of her children gathered in July to celebrate Sis. Olene Howe's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was great! Bro. Stanley Goodwin spoke for us on "The Palm Tree".

We are looking forward to having Bro. Richard & Sis. Monica Johnston from Yakima, WA, and Bro. Bill & Sis. Earlene Jared from Valparaiso, IN, here this weekend (Sept. 13-14).

In Christian love,

The Lorenzo, TX, congregation

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## Pleasant View, OK

Dear Brethren,

We would like to congratulate our high school seniors upon this graduation: Alisha Jackson (granddaughter of Brother George and Sister Retha Morris), Chris Rhodes (grandson of Sister Betty Rhodes), and my granddaughter Kellie Buckner.

During one of the recent storms, the roof of the church building was damaged badly and had to be replaced. A few days later during another

storm, both buildings were flooded. They were cleaned up without a lot of damage.

Everyone at this time are doing well health wise. I'm to go to the VA hospital the 20th for x-ray's, EKG, and a colonoscopy to make sure I am still doing good.

Gerald Buckner  
Pleasant View

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## BULLETIN BOARD

### Meetings

Nov. 7-9, 2008

Broken Bow, OK

Guest speakers

### Baptisms

Samantha Hudson	Cypress Lake Camp Meeting	June 18, 2008
Katelyn Matlock	Lorenzo, TX	June, 2008
Brock Harper	Lorenzo, TX	June, 2008
Ashley Harper	Lorenzo, TX	June, 2008
Audrey Harper	Lorenzo, TX	June, 2008
Makenzee Lee	Lorenzo, TX	June, 2008
Kaylena Warford	Glenwood, WA	Aug. 13, 2008
Amarissa Orendorff	Glenwood, WA	Aug. 16, 2008
Carrie Johnston	Yakima, WA	Aug. 17, 2008
Jimmy Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Aug., 2008

### Births

Hailey Christianson	Gleed, WA	Aug. 4, 2008
to Jason & Katie Christianson		
Andrew Coy David Fogg	Broken Bow, OK	Sept. 4, 2008
to Charlie & Julie Fogg		

# 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
Doug Ferguson	Broken Bow, OK	Stint in leg for blockage
Ruth Johnson	Broken Bow, OK	In nursing home
Brenda Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Severe blood disorder
Edwin Crowell	Broken Bow, OK	Chemotherapy treatments
Tony Schell	Cedaredge, CO	Heart irregularities
Travis King	Gleed, WA	Severe nasal cyst surgery
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
Several	Harlingen, TX	Hurricane damage
Jack & Betty Woods	Hornbeck, LA	Bad hurricane
Angela Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Infection problems
Joan Boling	Lorenzo, TX	Heart problems
Kim Mattlock	Lorenzo, TX	Knee surgery
Nell McCay	Lorenzo, TX	High blood pressure problems
Eunice Bumgardner	Myrtle Creek, OR	Shoulder & back surgery
Bonnie Johnson	Pleasant View, OK	Ill health
Darlene Warford	Pleasant View, OK	Stroke
Vivian Baker	Waterford, CA	Fighting cancer
Jean Orendorff	Yuma, AZ	Ill health

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## Editor's Note

We were not able to include all of the articles that we have received in this edition. That's primarily because it has been awhile since the last edition. This was the result of a very hectic schedule (moving, travel, health issues, etc.). We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused and they will be included as rapidly as possible in future issues. Please continue to send articles and particularly letters, as they sometimes are the only means of communication for those who are unable to travel.

We ask you to please review the number of copies of *The Courier* that you are receiving and let us know if the count should be changed.

Thank you.

— The editors