The Christian Courier

April, 1998

Send correspondence to: 1034 S. 140th St., Seattle, WA 98168

"*What Sort Of Persons Ought* (We) *To Be?*"

In two articles over the past two months we gave attention to two thoughts suggested by the Apostle Peter in the above quotation. In the present writing we intend to conclude the study of this scriptural passage by considering the thought, "*what sort of persons ought* (we) *to be?*"



We have seen the impending destruction of the used-up and corrupted heavens and earth present, as well as the anticipated "*new heavens and new earth*" that God has promised. In the light of these facts, we re-state the question,, "*what sort of persons ought* (we) *to be?*"

It would, of course, be impossible to consider every teaching by our Lord and his Apostles on this subject. However, some suggestions would be in order. Let us rely on the words of our Lord and his Apostles, sometimes corroborated by the words of the prophets for their words carry much weight in our study of God's word.

Moderation

"*Let your moderation be known unto all men.*" (Phil. 4:5).

The above quotation does not refer to abstinence or moderation in eating and drinking. The thought is simply "mild-gentle-patient". (***1933*** epiekes). Herein is expressed the true sign of a reformed soul. No longer angry, argumentative, or "brawling", but kind, gentle and patient.

The "moderate" spirit of a truly converted person will show outwardly in one's attitude toward others, especially brothers and sisters.

Titus was instructed by Paul to "*... put them* (us) *in mind ... to speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle* (moderate), *shewing all meekness unto all men.*" (Titus 3:1-2). To be a "brawler" does not necessarily mean to be a physical fighter. In its usage here, the word simply means (***269*** - amachos) "negative (opposite of) peaceable." We are not to be aggressive, argumentative, contentious, never prone to fault-finding. We are to avoid tale-bearing and gossiping.

It is sometimes difficult to be a quiet, peaceable person outwardly, when our very inborn disposition is otherwise. However, this is just one more trial to overcome; another enemy to be defeated.

We need to exercise patience toward all men (Titus 3:2). James teaches us, "*... let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire.*" (Jas. 1:4).

If we are to "*let* (our) *moderation be known*" we have excellent examples to follow in the Apostles of the Lord. In our interpersonal relationships with our brothers and sisters we have a great need of such examples to guide us in every step of our journey. We ignore these good examples at our own peril.

Paul teaches us to follow him because he followed Christ. "*Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ. Now I praise you, brethren, that ye remember me in all things ...*" (1 Cor. 11:1-2).

I recommend 1 Thes. 2nd chapter for reference, especially verse 8, "*So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls,* ***BECAUSE YE WERE DEAR UNTO US.***" (emphasis mine, JL) Note vs. 7, "...

we were gentle (moderate) *among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children.*" How better could Paul have let his "moderation" be known? What better example could we have to follow?

This is easily done when we agree with others in what they say or do. However, we sometimes encounter difficulties with those with whom we disagree. How do we react? With impatience? With anger? With harsh words?

Patience

We must be patient. James tells us "*... let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect* (complete) *and entire, wanting nothing.*" (James 1:4).

Exercising patience, we consider others before ourselves. Paul instructs, "*Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*" (Phil. 2:4).

But before we can do this, we must "esteem other better than (ourselves)." (Phil. 2:3). This brings to mind the words of our Lord, "*... if any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*" (Matt. 16:24).

Brotherly Kindness

There is no act or attitude in the life of a Christian more conducive to peace among brethren than that of brotherly kindness. Peter indicates this virtue to be one of the Christian "*graces*", "*... add to ... godliness brotherly kindness*". (2 Pet. 1:5-9).

Our affections are to be those of kindness between brethren. "*Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honor preferring one another.*" (Rom. 12:10). How many ways we can demonstrate our affections for each other! "*Put on ... kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering (patience, moderation); Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.*" (Col. 3:12-13). Where is there a better example to follow?

Two Sides Of The Coin

We are shown two sides of the human emotional experience. Paul emphasizes negatively that we are to "*put away*" the following, "*... bitterness, wrath, anger, clamour* (angry shouting), *evil speaking, and malice.*" (Eph. 4:31-32). On the other hand we are to practice the following as virtuous conduct, "*... kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.*"

These virtues, "*moderation, gentleness, patience, love of brother before self, self denial, brotherly-kindness, compassion*", etc. are all evidence of a truly converted spirit desirous of serving God by serving our brothers and sisters.

"*What sort of persons ought* (we) *to be?*" Let us all consider the above.

With brotherly love,
John D. Logan
3708 Mission Rd
Stockton, CA 95204

Are We Of The Highest Quality?

When we go shopping here in this life, we are always concerned with quality. In most cases it is worth paying a little more for higher quality. With food in particular, we want the highest quality.

Our thought today is: are we of the highest quality in our service to God? Paul told us to be so in Eph. 4:1, "*I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called*".

An example of the quality that we should strive for is Moses, Heb. 11:24-26, "*By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharoah's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.*"

We also learn from bad examples.

The Laodiceans provide an example of the type of quality we don't want to be. Rev. 3:14-16, "*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*"

What caused them to be lukewarm? Verse 17, "*Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:*". Being most concerned with the things of this life lowered the quality of their service to God.

The same thing can happen to us. Luke 8:14, "*And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection.*"

So, how do we maintain the highest quality in our service to God? Keep focused on Him, and on serving Him. Col. 1:1-3, "*If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those*

things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

In John 14:15, Jesus said, "*If ye love me, keep my commandments.*" 1 John 3:22, "*And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.*"

In closing, look at the encouragement and commands of Jesus in Matt. 6:19-21, "*Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"

Given in the name of Christ,
Bro. Terry Warford
22023 29th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198

Two Kinds Of Righteousness



"*Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved. For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. For they being ignorant of* ***God's righteousness****, and going about to establish* ***their own righteousness****, have not submitted themselves unto the* ***righteousness of God.***" (Rom. 10:1-3). "*In the way of righteousness is life: and in the pathway thereof there is no death.*" (Prov. 12:28).

From the above scriptures we learn that there are two distinct and separate kinds of righteousness, namely, "***God's righteousness***" and "***man's righteousness***." In the latter scripture (Prov. 12:28), Solomon clearly states that there is "***life.***" (spiritual) in the pathway of God's righteousness. It is certain that no spiritual life is in the "***righteousness of man,***" and that such righteousness is contrary to what Paul calls "***God's righteousness***" in Rom. 10:3. We may safely conclude, therefore, that these two are opposite from one to the other. Since God's righteousness only will lead us to life, it is sure that the other kind (man's) will lead to the other state or condition – **spiritual death**. We learn that it is not by man's righteousness that lost people have life (are saved), but rather by the execution and renewing of the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).

Great Bible scholars are agreed that this passage can mean nothing else than the obeying of God's commands in being born again by the alien sinner, completed by being immersed in water for the forgiveness of sins into the one body, or church. It is true, then, that alien sinners can only receive life by doing the righteousness (God's) that Job ascribes to his Maker (Job 36:3). Since the question is asked by inspiration, "*Can two walk together, except they be agreed?*" (Amos 3:3), this agreement surely could not be reached by following two entirely different ways, each having different authors. David says, "*He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation.*" (Psalms 24:4-5). We must conclude that the kind of **righteousness** which lost souls are saved by comes not from any man-made way, or ways, of righteousness or system of commands.

Now let us learn clearly just what God's righteousness is, so none may be misled in an effort to walk this way and reach life. For a true Bible definition, let us go to an inspired writer: "*My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy* (God's) *commandments are righteousness.*" (Psalms 119:172) David also says, "*And the heavens shall declare his righteousness: ...*" (Psalms 50:6). All who believe the Bible may clearly see that in order for lost souls to have spiritual life (be saved from past sins) and stay free from sin, God's commandments must be obeyed. This positively proves that salvation cannot be obtained by doing any man-made set or system of commands, none of which can be read or ascribed to God's book for us, the New Testament.

Let us now learn who has authority to dispense, or give, us God's righteousness. Jesus says, "*... All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*" (Matt. 28:18). He made this statement soon after His resurrection, and it is positive now that no man or set of men has such authority. To follow a way or plan just because it may seem right will lead to a bad end (Prov. 14:12) when such a way cannot be found in the scriptures. Surely, "*... the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.*" (Jer. 10:23). Jesus calls man-made doctrines (righteousness) vain (Matt. 15:9), and in verse 13 He warns that any system or order that is not of God shall be rooted up.

Dear friends, why not let Christ be the leader of us all, and that by what we learn in His book (to us, the New Testament) (Heb. 10:7). This, and this alone, will cause us to be led in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake (Psalms 23:3). Indeed, it is very true that people are

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after (God's) *righteousness: for they shall be filled."* (Matt. 5:6). This agrees perfectly with Christ's statement: *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."* (Matt. 7:21). To claim life or salvation by asking of God and refusing or neglecting to do His commands is gross contradiction of the word of God and cannot produce what those who advocate and practice such claim for it. *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?"* (Luke 6:46).

We have learned that none can have salvation without doing God's will or His righteousness. Now, let us consider the one and only place wherein righteousness can be found. *"For I am not ashamed of the* ***gospel*** *of Christ: for it is the* ***power*** *of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For* ***therein is the righteousness of God revealed*** *from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."* (Rom. 1:16-17). The scriptures furnish us completely unto every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Only two kinds of works are listed in the scriptures (2 Cor. 5:10), and one is "***good****, the other* ***bad****."* It surely behooves us all to be sure that what we do and have done is in the scriptures. Remember Christ is the author of eternal salvation only to those who obey Him (Heb. 5:8-9). To please God one must "***walk by faith***" and not by sight (or man's feelings or righteousness) (2 Cor. 5:7). Paul tells us that faith comes by hearing God's word (Rom. 10:17), and we find that *"without faith God cannot be pleased"* (Heb. 11:6). Anything that is not "***of faith***" is said to be sin (Rom. 14:23).

Then comes the question, "Is our life secure in the kind of faith God is pleased with?" All should carefully examine their life and know whether we be "*in the faith*" (2 Cor. 13:5). Responsible people are taught in the scriptures to faithfully repent of all wrongs, confess the name of Jesus Christ, and be baptized for the remission of sins into the true body of Christ (John 8:21-24; Luke 13:3; Matt. 10:32; Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; and 1 Cor. 12:13).

Since there is only one body or church (Eph. 4:4; Eph. 1:21) we could not do God's will and get into any other or be added to the wrong one (Acts 2:47). As the items (faith, repentance, confession, and baptism) are in the gospel of Christ, one can truly obey them and in this way be obeying the gospel.

Have you, dear friend, obeyed this gospel, or have toy been misled by some doctrine of man's righteousness? (Rom. 10:16; Prov. 16:25). Since God has a law for those of us to live by who have obeys the gospel, we need carefully to mold our lives and worship by this law (James 2:10). Observation teaches us that there are many different forms of worship carried on by those who claim to be God's people. Jesus prayed that His followers be **one** (John 17:21) and worship God "***in spirit and in truth***" (John 4:24). The world is filled with many different churches and many different names for the members. Are all of these a part of God's righteousness to be found in His book divine?

Let us think on these things, too, is my prayer.

By W. H. Francis

(reprinted from ***It Is Written*****, February, 1956**.

Precious Memories

The Christian Courier**, April, 1988**. Bro. Randolph Kellems, South San Gabriel, CA, sadly announced that they had to disband the San Gabriel location, as the building they met in was sold. Some of them planned to meet at the congregation at La Habra. He also mentioned that Sis. Laura Esther had passed away. Bro. Robert Bearden, Temple, GA, wrote to say that they enjoyed reading *The Christian Courier*. Bro. Audley Barnes, Loco, OK, reported that Sis. Oma Taylor had eye surgery; Sister Karen McCollough and her husband, Thomas, from the Lugert congregation were now meeting with them; Vicky Jump was baptized March 6th; and they planned their meeting in July with Bro. Al Way. Bro. Billy Richardson, Kenton, OK, wrote that Bro. Clyde Couchman, who worshipped at Trinidad, CO, passed away November 1, 1987.

E-Mail Addresses

Several of you have requested that we post e-mail addresses of the brethren. Here are those that are known to us:

Remco Dykstra	remco.dykstra@tip.nl
Robert Farley	farleyr@juno.com
Becky Forsman	Becksf@juno.com
Earlene Forsman	Lingy@juno.com
Ellis Forsman	ForsmanEP@aol.com
Evart Forsman	Forsman_Eric@juno.com
Kevin Harper	kjharper@worldnet.att.net
Matt Matlock	Matt_Matlock@juno.com
Bill McCay, Jr.	Mccayb@wolfenet.com
Ellen McCay	EMcCay@aol.com
Gene McKinney	monya@televar.com
John McKinney	Jmckin7799@aol.com
Matt Shepherd	mattsheph@aol.com
Amy Orendorff	amh31@juno.com

— The editors

Cards and Letters



Cedaredge, CO

Dear ones all:

A quick note from the Cedaredge Church of Christ.

Everyone here is doing fine except for colds, etc. We have had a lot of winter weather, but we all manage to be in church on Lord's Day. Bro. Eddie & Sis. Diane Wilkerson and their children, Joseph & Lindsey, visited the Lorenzo congregation in February. Sis. Movelle & Sis. Debbie Wilkerson visited the Yuma congregation also in February.

We have had several visitors since we last wrote.

Attention, everyone!!! The Colorado Camp Meeting is coming up fast, so don't forget to make your plans to come and be with us June 27-July 5. Also, please help us to plan your activities, etc. We need your input and help. So, write to us and let us know what you would like this year. We hope to make this year's Camp Meeting the greatest.

We would like to thank all of our visitors from other congregations. We appreciate all of you for coming to visit us.

Sis. Carolyn Bedingfield is very ill and needs the prayers of everyone. Please put her on the prayer list.

Again, a reminder for everyone to plan for the Colorado Camp Meeting, and encourage your friends to bring their families and come with you. See you there.

Our love and prayers to all, and God bless.

The Cedaredge congregation

Yuma, AZ

Hello to everyone in the brotherhood,

A little news from the congregation here. Haven't written for awhile, so thought we would send a message to just say, "Hi."

We have had quite a number of visitors since we last wrote. To mention a few: Sis. Earlene Forsman was here just prior to us hearing of her illness; Sis. Verlie Baldwin, before her illness; Sisters Movelle & Debbie Wilkerson; Bro. Eddie, Sis. Diane Wilkerson, and children; and Bro. Frank & Sis. Doris Ridlon.

We have had quite a lot of illness. Sis. Betty Carlson spent several days in the hospital with probable heart problems; Bro. Bud Davis has had multiple problems; Sis. Sybil Schrader has had work on her eyes; Bro. Eugene Hughes suffered injuries from an accident, and is in a rest home; and Sis. Zelma Broadway is in a rest home and doing well. All seem to be improving good, thanks to the Good Lord.

We have had more rain than usual, and the desert wildflowers are blooming. Our weather has been cool, but everything is about to bud and bloom. This is a beautiful time of year, but bad on allergies.

This is about all the news I can think of at the time. Come and see us if you can. Take care and may God bless us all.

With Christian love,

The Yuma congregation

Sea-Tac, WA

Dear Brothers & Sisters everywhere,

We, here in Seattle, are for the most part reasonably okay, and are still striving to be pleasing to our Father.

Last weekend, there were lots of willing hands and feet, young and old, that helped Bro. Howard & Sis. Nell McCay move to the new apartment, which was much better situated for them. Even Bro. Matt & Sis. Kelly Shepherd came to be part of the "moving experience." It was so uplifting to see all of the young people that gave up their time, energy, and effort to help this beloved couple move and get mostly settled. It means a lot that the young people here (and other places) are so caring and willing to be "up and about their Father's business" here on this earth. It gives us older ones hope for the future of the church.

Sis. Jeannean McSwane is gradually more able to get around and has been able to be at services the last couple of Sundays. She still has to be very careful to not get bumped anywhere. Sis. Nancy Staley also has some degree of arthritic pain, but continues to do whatever is necessary. Teri Sue & Kaylena Warford are just about recovered from the chicken pox, and Sis. Suzie Warford's sore throat is slowly improving. Bro. Garold Morris is somewhat stronger than he was for awhile. We are thankful for that. Bro. Howard McCay & Sis. Jeanne Boroff are not doing so well, but they come when they are able. It is so wonderful when anyone who has been gone or ill is able to be back with us. We miss each loved one a lot.

We're so thankful for all things — according to the Lord's will.

Our love to all,

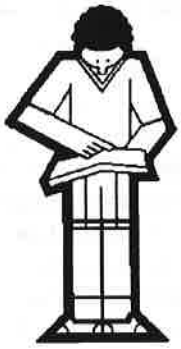
The Sea-Tac, WA, congregation

Big Spruce Family Camp Meeting









Delta Family Camp Meeting

Church of Christ Gospel Meeting

Place: Big Spruce Church Camp

Cedaredge, Colorado

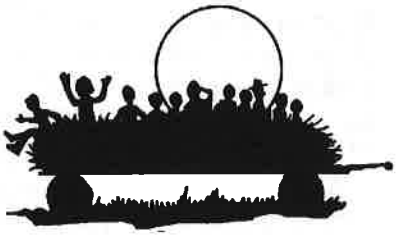
Date: June 27 - July 5, 1998

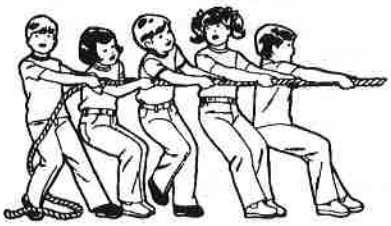
Everyone is welcome to join in lots of Gospel Preaching, Singing and Fellowship with brothers and sisters from other states.

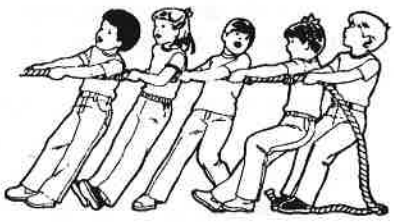
Plan Now To Join The Fun!!

Ed Wilkerson: 970-856-3703

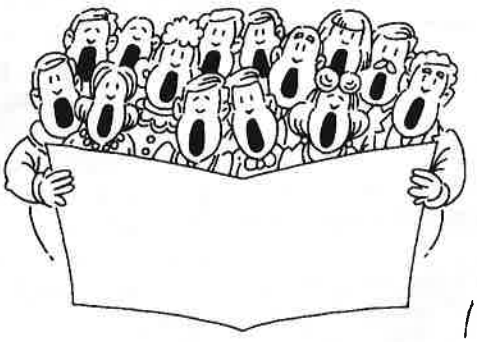
Verlie Baldwin: 970-856-7481













PEOPLE AND PLACES

Below are two columns. Match the person and the place by writing the number of the person in the space before the place.
If you need help, refer to the Scripture after the place listing.

People	Places
1. Joseph	____ Gath (1 Sam. 17:4)
2. Joshua	____ Bethany (John 12:1)
3. Abram	____ Egypt (Gen. 39:1)
4. Adam	____ Thyatira (Acts 16:14)
5. Moses	____ Jericho (Josh. 6:1-2)
6. Jesus	____ Caesarea (Acts 10:1)
7. Paul (Saul)	____ Mount Carmel (1 Kings 18:20-21)
8. Lot	____ Nod (Gen. 4:16)
9. Peter	____ Ur (Gen. 15:1-7)
10. Lydia	____ Sodom (Gen. 13:12)
11. Lazarus	____ Jericho (Josh. 2:1)
12. Elijah	____ Ararat (Gen. 8:1-4)
13. David	____ Midian (Judges 7:7-8)
14. Cornelius	____ Eden (Gen. 2:7-8)
15. Philip	____ Damascus (Acts 9:8)
16. Nebuchadnezzar	____ Jerusalem (Acts 2:14)
17. Noah	____ Babylon (Dan. 1:1)
18. Cain	____ Sinai (Exodus 19:20)
19. Gideon	____ Nazareth (Luke 4:14-16)
20. Goliath	____ Gaza (Acts 8:26)
21. Barnabas	____ Bethlehem (1 Sam. 17:12)
22. Rehab	____ Antioch (Acts 11:22)

BULLETIN BOARD

Meetings

June 5-7, 1998	Goshen, AR	Richard Jones
June 21-28, 1998	Yakima, WA	Sammy Boen & Mick Boen
June 27-July 5, 1997	Delta Family Gospel Meeting	Guest speakers

Prayer of Faith for those in need

J. L. Jared	Aloha, OR	Intestinal blockage surgery
Jim Brown	Baron, OK	Heart blockage
Erelene Chessman	Bellflower, CA	Fighting cancer
Ted Drysdale	Brawley, CA	Fighting cancer
Hazel Harville	Broken Bow, OK	Heart condition
Carolyn Bedingfield	Cedaredge, CO	Very ill
Jo Williams	Duncan, OK	Fighting cancer
Gary Bergman	Glenwood, WA	Severe back pain
Ernest Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Maysel Buchannon	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer & broken hip
Letha Ferguson	Goshen, AR	Fighting cancer
Earlene Forsman	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Reba White	Lorenzo, TX	Fighting cancer
Lauren Guthrie	Pleasantview, OK	Epileptic seizures
Leroy Mullen	Randlett, OK	Stroke
Jeanne Boroff	Sea-Tac, WA	Epstein Barr virus & mono.
Howard McCay	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Jeannean McSwane	Sea-Tac, WA	R S D Syndrome
Garold Morris	Sea-Tac, WA	Fighting cancer
Dorothy Sage	Selah, WA	Water around heart & double pneumonia
Anna Lee Warner	Springfield, OR	Broken vertebrate, surgery
Barbara Howard	Waterford, CA	Brain surgery recovery
Teri Lamb	Yakima, WA	Partial throat paralysis
Sarah Sauve	Yakima, WA	Fighting cancer in hip
Zelma Broadway	Yuma, AZ	In rest home
Betty Carlson	Yuma, AZ	Water on lungs, heart problems
Bud Davis	Yuma, AZ	Multiple problems
Eugene Hughes	Yuma, AZ	In rest home after accident
Sybil Schrader	Yuma, AZ	Eye work

Passings

Sue Treat	Broken Bow, OK	Mar. 6, 1998