FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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TRUST IN GOD

Moses and the people were in the desert, but what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding 2 or 3 million people requires a lot of food. According to the Quartermaster General in the Army, it is reported that Moses would have to have had 1500 tons of food each day. Do you know that to bring that much food each day, two freight trains, each at least a mile long, would be required! Besides you must remember, they were out in the desert, so they would have to have firewood to use in cooking the food. This would take 4000 tons of wood and a few more freight trains, each a mile long, just for one day. And just think, they were forty years in transit. And, oh yes, they would have to have water. If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes, it would take 11,000,000 gallons each day and a freight train with tank cars, 1800 miles long, just to bring water! And then another thing! They had to get across the Red Sea at night. Now, if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and would require 35 days and nights to get through. So there had to be a space in the Red Sea, 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5000 abreast to get over in one night. But then, there is another problem - each time they camped at the end of the day, a campground two-thirds the size of the state of Rhode Island was required, or a total of 750 square miles long. Think of it! This much space for camping. Do you think Moses figured all this out before he left Egypt? I think not! You see, Moses believed in God. God took care of these things for him. Now do you think God has any problem taking care of all your needs?

I asked the Lord to bless you as I prayed for you today. To guide you and protect you as you go along your way. His love is always with you, His promises are true, and when we give Him all our cares, you know He will see us through. Our God is an Awesome God!! So when

the road you're traveling on seems difficult at best, just remember I'm praying and God will do the rest. *Editor's note: the above was sent in an e-mail from Brother Skip Berry. We thought it was worth sending out to all of you.*

Christian Influences

We help to preserve and flavor others.

Matthew 5:13, "Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."

Salt, is one of the very most important commodities in the history of man. But in times past it was even more important as a preserver of different kinds of foods before the advent of refrigeration. Salt also represented the insoluble covenant that was made between God and man. One of the oldest uses for salt, and still today, was that it was used to influence the taste of our food. Salt enhances the flavor of our food. We, as Christians, are called the salt of the earth here in Matthew 5, especially the older and more knowledgeable brothers and sisters, "Old Salts." It is for us to carry God's message to others. If we don't have an effect or influence on others in this world then what is our value as a Christian. We are to flavor the world with God's Word; We are to flavor the world with our actions; We are to flavor the world with our firm stances in God's Word not giving in to the pressures of biblical change. What value do we have if we are too much like the rest of the world?

We help save by our influence

Romans 11:14, "If by any means I may provoke to emulation them which are my flesh, and might save some of them."

Paul wanted the new and saved Gentiles to be an influence on those Jews that were still clinging to the old way. He wanted them to see what these Gentiles had in order that some of them, the Jews, could be saved. The Jews had to learn to accept Jesus as the only way for them to gain their salvation. We can in our daily lives influence others by what we have in our belief in Christianity. Sometimes it takes a few words to possibly plant a seed that will eventually grow into the full-blown thought and on into a new and devout Christian. Watch our words in life

that the right message is going out to be heard by others. Our influence can be just as devastating to others as it can be redeeming.

We Serve God By Inspiration

1 Thessalonians 1:5-10, "For our gospel came not unto you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost, and in much assurance; as ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sake. And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost: So that ye were ensamples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia. For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing. For they themselves shew of us what manner of entering in we had unto you, and how ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God; And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come"

Paul here was giving praise to the Thessalonians about how they had inspired others in Macedonia and Achaia not just in speaking the Word of God but by prayers and by the way that they showed an abundance of self-confidence in the convictions of their belief in God's Word. They saw the lives that Paul, Silas and Timothy were living while among them and the Thessalonians followed their pattern and in turn they became a pattern for others everywhere they went and spoke. They were recognized as God-loving and God-fearing people.

Even In Death We Can Influence

Hebrews 11:4, "By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh." Also Hebrews 12:1, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"

What a tribute God paid to Abel here in Hebrews that his faith was such that it carried on past his death. The influences that the brothers and sisters have on us are immense. I can remember Brother Nelson, Brother Broadway, Brother Orendorff and so many others just here in my home town that were such "icons" in the Church;

They influenced everyone here during life and they continue that beaming broadcast of faith even now. What a wonderful cloud of witnesses we have to remember and to help us along the way even now. Did you go out and influence someone yesterday? Was your influence a positive influence? Has someone been able to stand back and say without words or in a compliment that you must be a Christian? Our very own children are probably the hardest to influence, especially in the teenage years but like me I'm sure that they will remember your Christian ways later on. I know that I remember the influences in my home not only from Mom and Dad but aunts and uncles and dear friends that lived their lives that could easily be recognized as Christian. Next time you go out remember that the rest of the world is watching you, let them recognize you as a believer in Christ and in His Holy Ways.

Denny Davis
The Yuma Congregation

MY REASONABLE SERVICE

If I am to live, let me live for Christ, my Savior, my King, and my hope rests in Him. I delight in His word and strive daily to immerse myself in His righteousness and His love. He is my lord and my God, and I am nothing without Him.

If I am to die, let me die for Christ. They took my Lord without cause. Do I deserve better? They shamed Him and mocked Him. Do I deserve better? They smote him and scourged Him. Do I deserve better? They shamed Him and crucified Him. Do I deserve better?

The answer to each of these is no! For who am I? I am who was created from the dust of the earth and He is the first of creation, my Lord and my God.

If I am persecuted, let it be for my Lord's sake. Persecution is certain to come on me if I live according to righteousness. It comes from friends, brethren, family, and enemies. All of these I accept, but let it not come upon me from my actions or disobedience to God, for this is unprofitable for me. So if I am to be strong, I must bear persecution and give God the thanks that I have been found worthy to be persecuted for His namesake.

Jim Bryant
46450 Hwy. 58
Westfir, OR, 97492

SOMEDAY

Someday will come the judgment, *Someday* we'll win a crown. *Someday* all must stand before God; *Someday* all must give an account. *Someday* all knees will bow, *Someday* all tongues will confess. *Someday* the sinners will depart; *Someday* God will say, "Welcome ."*Someday* the Saints will shout. *Someday* all of us will die. *Someday* we will cross the bar. *Someday*, our time may be tomorrow, *Someday* our time may come in the night. *Someday* we can live for all eternity, *Someday*, if our wrong becomes right.

Written in love of the truth,
Don Johnston

YUMA, ARIZONA

Hello again brothers and sisters in Christ.

There isn't much in the way of news coming out of Yuma right now. We are mostly all healthy having just the simple ailments that life sends our way. My dear wife had carpal tunnel surgery yesterday and naturally she is suffering some pain from it but hopefully it will stop the continuous pain that she was having from the syndrome. As the doctor said, "she got the double whammy" because she also had tendonitis at the same time but she received a shot of cortisone for that. Our Sister Iris Stewart is between treatments for her cancer and has had some good news from the reports showing some shrinkage. We have to continue with our prayers for her and the others that are ill because we know the one great healer is answering our prayers.

It was another very sad day when we heard about our Sister in Oklahoma that has passed away. Sister Wilma Buckner will be missed by everyone that knew her. I thank God for the times that we were able to meet with her at the various camp meetings in the years past. We from the Christ's Church here in Yuma send our love and condolences to Brother Gerald and the rest of the family.

Tomorrow will be the first Sunday of the month and a brother from Citrus City will be in to give us a lesson. It has turned into blessing to be able to trade preachers with them. We get some very good lessons from the brothers that are near to us and we have the opportunity to visit with them on the second Sunday. We are able see how they are doing even though it is just an hour or so. It would be great if they were a little closer so that we could be together every Sunday.

for our meeting this year. We hope and pray that there won't be a single seat left in the Church building during the meeting and that many others that are out there looking for peace can come and find it there with us. We send our love and prayers for all.

Denny and Susie Davis
The Yuma Congregation

LORENZO, TEXAS

Time sure gets away from us. I just hope it is not too late to get in this month's paper.

A few things have happened since I last wrote. Larry Woods has sold his screening business and now works for the new owner. He says it sure feels good to be relieved from all that stress.

Joan has gone to the hospital twice to get her heart rhythm back in sync. It seems she has one valve that is damaged but not bad enough to warrant replacement.

Most exciting was Cliff (our son) and Leesa house warming. Their house caught fire and burned completely to the ground. The firemen removed some items but most everything was either fire damaged or water damaged. They are staying with us until they can make other arrangements. Fortunately, we have enough room that we are not too crowded and there is plenty of storage room.

There is no abnormal sickness in the church at this time. Ailments come with age so we expect that, but everyone seems to be doing fairly well.

With Christian Love
Gene and Joan Boling
Church of Christ at Lorenzo, TX.

FLORA VISTA, NEW MEXICO

Hello.

My name is Desiree Darrough, and this beginning winter you had my baptism reported in your newspaper called ,"The FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT." I haven't had time to contact you to tell you how much I really appreciated you doing that. I am gladly reporting that I have been going to church regularly, and have also been praying a lot more then normal. I am a foster child and I have just gotten a foster home after

waiting for 3 months to get one. I sadly report that there is very little light at the end of the tunnel to help me go home. But on the happy part of my hurting, I have also become a better Christian in my heart.

On that note, I thought that now I am in a place that I feel I'm here to be for a while, that I would respond to you. If you would correspond with me, I don't really have many people to talk to so please respond. And if you know you're in the area you're always welcome in my church. I may only be a 15 year old, but I bet I speak for all my fellow members 'There is no space limit in the house of the Lord, for the only house that is too small is the house of Evil!' I hope to hear from you soon.

Love,
Sis. LaFrances D. Darrough.

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Greetings from Oklahoma;

Just a note to say that we enjoy the "Fruits of the Spirit" very much, and we are sending a contribution to help with a portion of the expenses.

Our Sister Wilma Buckner is having a hard, painful time. She has been in and out of the hospital a lot this past year. She needs the prayers of her faithful Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

We thank the Lord for the recovery of Charles Johnson, and know that the prayers of the faithful all around the country were a factor in his recovery. Also, I would like to mention Brother Eddie Wilkerson. We send our prayers to him and his family, and the congregation there at Cedaredge, Colorado. My wife Retha is doing better with her Parkinson's and Rheumatoid Arthritis. My prostate biopsy report came back negative, and Brother Gerald Buckner is doing well after his surgery.

Our granddaughter, Laurine Guthrey, is still plagued with Grand Mal seizures but with her medication, the attacks are about one half of what they have been. She is 14 years old, still at high risk, and is 90% housebound.

I finish this with 2 thoughts for the week: Number 1: The church has a prophet sharing plan, but if we don't show up for the service, it doesn't do us any good. Number 2: There is a plan for each of us by God's design. He gave us a talent, so use it with all your heart, soul, and

strength no matter how small or large that talent may be.

With all our love,
George Morris and congregation.
Pleasant View Church of Christ

STILWELL, OKLAHOMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

I've been lax about writing in the past, so, as a new year begins, I will try to start by writing. We have had a mild summer and fall. Now it is January, and it is in the 70's.

Most everyone here is doing pretty well with the usual aches and pains, except Wilma. She is so weak we can hardly get her in the car. She received two units of blood 4 weeks ago, then a week later, another 4 units. The doctors can't find out where the blood is going. She had a mammogram, which revealed spots on her right breast and another spot on the left side. We are supposed to find out the results on the 6th of January. Wilma was back in the hospital on the 30th of December and was given 3 more units of blood.

I had surgery in December to remove kidney stones, and I go back January 12th to have a stent removed. We hope that everything will be OK then.

I would like to remind everyone of the Beaver's Bend camp meeting in July, and invite everyone to try to attend.

Written in Love,
Gerald Buckner,
Pleasant View Church of Christ

Editor's note: *We are saddened to report that Sister Wilma Buckner passed to her reward on Sunday, January 23rd. She will be missed by all of us who knew her as the great Christian lady that she was.*

Dear Brethren;

My family and I would like to thank everyone for the prayers, phone calls, flowers, cards, visits, and financial help during the sickness and passing of my wife Wilma. Again, thank you.

Everyone else here seems to be doing OK. Just the usual colds

and aches and pains from growing older.

Please remember the 2005 Camp meeting at Beaver's Bend, OK. Try to attend. It will be a great blessing. Anyone coming this way, stop and visit and attend Church services with us.

Yours in Christ,
Gerald Buckner.

VAN BUREN, ARKANSAS

Just writing you for Olde Towne Church of Christ. We are not in a building right now. We are meeting at Mick or Keith Boen's residence and at my house. One Sunday at Van Buren and one Sunday at Westville every other week, at the moment. We are looking for a building in the Natural Dam area to rent or buy to have more of a permanent location. If you are going to be in the area give us a call. Mick's number is 479-471-1403 or my number (Rick) is 918-723-4725 or my cell is 479-549-8226.

In some good news today. We have 2 new Sisters that have joined the fold today. Latasha Gardenhire and her Aunt Darline Pathkiller. That is Bobby and Penny Gardenhire's daughter and Penny's sister. Baron Church of Christ graciously let us use their baptistry and Bro. Jack Warford was the one that baptized them. Of course as most of you know by now Sister Wilma Buckner passed away a few weeks ago and we keep her family in our prayers. We will miss her, I have known her my whole life and she was a fine example as a Christian.

If you are in the area give us a call we would love to visit with you.

Rick Walkingstick

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren;

Well, we made it to Spokane for Matt and Katherine McCay's wedding, and although there was heavy snow in Spokane and Yakima, the road in between was bare. The Good Lord was watching over us one more time. The newlyweds were here this last weekend but will be leaving for Mississippi sometime this week.

Brandon Lamb was home for only about three days instead of

the week that he was supposed to have, but plans to be back home for an extended visit sometime this month.

We haven't had any more snow since the first of January, for which we are thankful. However, we could use some more in the mountains.

The colds and sniffles that seem to hold on so long, have just about had all of us in its clutches, but hopefully has pretty well run it's course.

I was very happy to speak on the phone with Brother Rex Mickey today (not that I minded talking to Tina.) He says he can hear about as well as he could before he got sick.

Sister Barbara Paseman of the Springfield, Oregon congregation says that she is still getting along pretty well, but that Sister Shirley Severe has been diagnosed with lung cancer. We have also heard that Brother Eddie Wilkerson is not doing well.

We are saddened to hear of all the sickness throughout the Brotherhood, and especially the passing of Sister Dabbs and Sister Buckner. We weren't very well acquainted with Sister Dabbs, but have visited with Brother and Sister Buckner in their home on several occasions. Please keep all who are hurting, whether through illness or loss of a loved one, in your prayers.

We are still planning to attend the Yuma meeting, if the Lord wills, and have heard from several around the country who are also planning to attend. We are truly looking forward to seeing all the ones who are always there, as well as any who might be attending for the first time. When we left last year, I think we all agreed that it had been the best meeting ever. We encourage anyone who can to attend. It is truly an uplifting experience.

We have decided that since we will be in the midst of renovating the church building this summer, we will go with a weekend meeting again this year and squeeze in as many services as we can over the 4th of July holiday. We invite all who can to come and be with us.

As always, if you are in our area, come and visit and/or worship with us.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McCay Sr.

(Well, since I started this letter, we have had another wedding. Our grandson, Michael Jr. to Marisa Lee.)

MYRA MAE DABBS

Myra Mae Dabbs, 97, of Aztec, NM went to her Heavenly Home January 5,2005. Myra, known fondly as "Grandma Dabbs" and loved by all, was born August 30, 1907 in Knowles, NM to Clarence and Armeasa Smith. She was preceded in death, in 1969 by her beloved husband of almost 50 years Calvin Roy Dabbs. Four children also preceded her in death. Eugene Dabbs, Betty Thompson, Carolyn Bedingfield, and Donald Dabbs. She is survived by two loving daughters, Doris Ridlon and husband Frank, of Aztec NM, and Flora Bixler of Farmington, NM. Over 100 grandchildren, great-children, and countless friends and relatives will miss her dearly. Her life spanned over 6 generations when her great-great-great-granddaughter Hayly was born this past November.

She was married at the age of 16 to her beloved Roy, in Mesilla Park, NM. They moved to Aztec, NM in the early 1930's, but also lived in Colorado, Arizona, California, and throughout New Mexico during their marriage.

The Dabbs home was always open to a stranger and a kind heart extended to the needy, whether the need was hunger, a place to sleep, a warm hug, or a cookie. They raised 6 kids of their own, and a dozen or so of other peoples kids.

Myra was baptized at age 17, and continued in God's service for almost a century. She was a member of the Church of Christ for 80 years. She spent all 80 years, approximately 26,000 days, preparing for her crown of righteousness.

Grandma was a "Godly Woman" in the truest sense. She awoke early to cook for her family, worked long days with eager hands and strong arms. She did not have any time to be idle. She watched over the affairs of her family, sewed fine clothing and beautiful quilts for others. But for herself, she chose to be clothed with grace and dignity.

(Written by her granddaughter, Roberta.)

WILMA MAE BUCKNER

On September 5, 1942 at 4:30 AM there was a little girl born in the Elk Grove Community to Kennie and Lectie Ross. She was followed by 3 siblings; Wanda Sue, William Sylvester, and Shirley Kay. At the age of 14, she obeyed the Gospel and was added to the Church that Christ

established.

On August 3, 1961, she was united in marriage to Gerald Buckner. To this union, 3 children were born; Kenneth Dow, James Dean, and Christina Bell. Wilma sold Avon products for a number of years, worked at Hunter's Five and Dime store and was a part time cook for the Stilwell Schools for a while.

Wilma's life was built around doing the Lord's work and her greatest priority was attending Church services, attending the Church camp, and serving the Lord daily.

She was preceded in death by her father, Kennie Ross, daughter-in-law, Debbie Buckner, and stepfather, Hugo Denny

She is survived by her husband, Gerald Buckner, two sons, Kenneth Dow Buckner and wife Lisa, and James dean Buckner and wife Valerie, all of Stilwell. Also one daughter Christina and husband Robert Fuson, also of Stilwell. Her mother, Lectie Denny of Stilwell, and two sisters, Wanda Sue Wilson and husband Doyle of Cookson, OK and Shirley Kay Eldridge and husband Robert, of Stilwell, also survive her. Also one brother, William Ross and wife Barbara of Stilwell, and 12 grandchildren, 4 great-grandchildren, and a host of friends, relatives, and Brothers and Sisters in Christ.

BAPTISMS

Latasha Gardenhire	Van Buren, AR
Darline Pathkiller	Van Buren, AR

WEDDINGS

Katherine Whitworth of Boise, ID to Matthew McCay of Yakima, WA in Spokane, WA on January 7th.

Marisa Lee to Michael McCay Jr. in Selah, WA on February 14th.

PASSINGS

Myra Dabbs	Aztec, NM
Wilma Buckner	Stilwell, OK

MEETINGS

March 20-27	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
July 1,2,3,4	Yakima, WA	Guest speakers.
July 16-25	Beaver's Bend, OK	Camp Meeting