FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT

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THE HOUSE OF GOD

Luke 6:47-49, "Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

I believe that the House our Lord is talking about is a Spiritual House. We are to hear the words of Christ and follow them all the days of our lives. When we believe the Gospel and obey it, we become a temple, or tabernacle of God, for we read in I Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." And in I Corinthians 6:19-20, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are Gods." Also, in II Corinthians 5:1, "For we know that, if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

Now our Lord said that we are to dig deep and build this house on a rock. Since it is His words that we are to live by, we

need to dig deep into the Scriptures and build upon that Rock, which is Jesus Christ our Lord.

I Peter 2:4-8, "To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed."

Again, Peter tells the same thing. One built on a rock, and the other stumbles at the word. If we add to the Word of God, or take away something from it, we are building our house upon the sand and it will eventually fall.

Revelation 22:18-19, tells us that those who tamper with His word will suffer greatly "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

We must dig deeper into His word and apply it to our lives so that we won't suffer the consequences as those who don't keep it and stumble. In fact, we are told to grow into the likeness of our Lord, and to be transformed into His image.

Hebrews 5:13-14, "For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

If we listen to the doctrine and commandments of men and

follow after them, that is evil in God's sight.

I Corinthians 3:1-3, "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?"

Romans 8:6-9, "For to be carnally minded is death: but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his."

We conclude then, that those who build their house of worship on the doctrines of men are still carnal and not spiritual. To be spiritual, we have to believe every word of the gospel, acknowledge it, and live by it.

Those who make their bodies a temple and a house for the Lord, make up the church of our Lord, for we read in Hebrews 3:6, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." The church (the assembly of those who are "called out") then is the House of our Lord for we read in I Timothy 3:15, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

We are all baptized into that one body and Christ is the head of that body.

Colossians1:18, "And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Ephesians 1:20-23, "Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might,

and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."

We are to obey Christ in all things which leaves no room for any man to be over us. Christ is our King.

Hebrews 8:1-2, "Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; A minister of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man." Hebrews 9:11-12, "But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us."

The temple of the Jews was destroyed in 70 AD but now our bodies become His tabernacle if we let Him be our head and always obey His word.

Acts 7:48-49 and Acts 17:24-28 both say that God doesn't dwell in houses made with hands.

Acts 7:48-49 "Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet. Heaven is my throne, and earth is my footstool: what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?"

Acts 17:24-28, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with mens hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets

have said, For we are also his offspring."

I Corinthians 3:16-18, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

Corinthians 6:19, "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?"

II Corinthians 6:14-18, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty."

Since we each have to work out our own salvation, let's do it according to the scriptures. We each are to examine our own selves to see if we truly are in the Faith.

I Peter 4:17, "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

Luke 21:33, "Heaven and earth shall pass away; but my words shall not pass away."

Let us learn to keep the words of Christ while we are here on earth so that we may enjoy the blessings of eternity with those who have kept His words and gone on before us .

Written in the love of His words,
Rex Mickey

YUMA, ARIZONA

Brothers and Sisters,

I thought that I would sit down and write a letter and let everyone know how we are all doing down here in Yuma, AZ. We do have a few that are not in the best of conditions but all in all most are fairing well. Brother Harry Davis isn't feeling very well to say the least. He has one of the most dastardly diseases that ever existed, shingles. He has been in tremendous pain for some time now besides he still is having some problems from that open heart surgery that he had last year. Sister Alice Davis is kind of on a roller coaster with both good days and bad days. She has also suffered with a case of the shingles as most of you that attend the Yuma meetings might know. If you have never had them then pray that you never do. I can't say that I have suffered from them but the symptoms that have been described to me are extreme. Sister Ruth Duncan seems to be doing somewhat better than before. Mom Davis is still struggling with getting her medication leveled out properly. My wife Susan continues to get bad reports on blood tests and it concerns both of us but we don't know which doctor to believe. One suggests that her blood work is fine and another tells us that there is a problem with it. Keep all of our congregation in your prayers.

I believe that I mentioned in the last letter that my wife and I are back from up north and it is really good to be back home with all of those that we love so dearly. It seems that our congregation is getting smaller but that seems to be the road that many congregations seem to be following these days. What a wonderful sight it would be to look out on the people attending Church and see no empty pews. Satan is very good at his job. A job that he must be proud of, decimating congregations in Christ's Church.

The weather is some of the very best in the country right now. The days are in the mid to low 80's during the day and down into the 50's and low 60's at night. With all of the devastation all across the country, the hurricanes, heavy rains and flooding we

can then certainly feel blessed with this weather. Our streets have filled up and our RV parks have filled up with our wonderful "snowbirds" from the north country that have come down here to Yuma to enjoy it with us.

I will be reminding everyone as often as I can to try and set aside time for our meeting in March, the last full week in March. That's the 19th through the 25th! I know how hard it is to travel so many miles to get here or to some of the other meetings around the country but they are essential in fighting that battle with that evil Satan. But we must keep spreading God's Word to those that will listen. Some won't listen but will look outside for other answers other than the ones that are found in God's Word. They are going to be searching for fables and preachers that will serve them rather than God. As you might gather, my lesson for last Sunday was on verse 3 of Jude, " Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." In some ways it is an uphill battle but a battle that we must fight daily. Who will keep it for us, who will with all earnestness watch over this precious Word if we don't?

This is one of my most fervent prayers out of Romans 15:4-7, "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope. Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." Dear Father in Heaven stand with us as we remember that hope that is spoken of here and that we gain the comfort that these scriptures can give us and others that will hear them. Be with us as we speak these words that are so precious to us that they be spoken according to your will, with the singleness of one mind and that they glorify both you the Father of all and the

Son that so freely gave His life for us. Amen.We love you all.

For the Yuma Congregation,
Denny and Susie Davis

Continued - December 9, 2005

Well, the weather is nice, maybe a tad cool for us desert rats but it's still tolerable. We've had a couple of weeks of windy days with some pretty nasty winds at times. Hopefully though, all of the bad weather will be behind us for the meeting that we have planned in March.

Everyone at the Church here is doing pretty good considering all that could be afflicting us. Just look around and you can always find someone else that is suffering worse in life. My wife Susie, was in the hospital for about five days with some kind of ailment. She couldn't hold anything down and they gave her some intravenous liquids to replenish her electrolytes and such. She is home now and doing somewhat better with that problem but I still think that she is off a bit as she still has some bad days. Hopefully, whatever has been ailing her won't come back. The doctor has ordered some tests done on her arm because of numbness and tingling and pain in her arm to see if surgery will help to eliminate the pain. Keep her in your prayers. Brother (uncle) Harry is still suffering from his shingles though I think that he must be some better. Sister (aunt) Alice Davis is also doing somewhat better. She is gaining some weight back and looking healthier than she has been in a long time. Sister Florence Fuller, Susie's mother, is having a lot of pain in her knees and hip and is having difficulties getting around. Sister Iris Stewart is undergoing radiation treatments. She is such a wonderfully kind and dear person to be around. Please keep her and her family in your prayers. We love and miss this family as they are now going to Church at Citrus City so we know that they are in good hands out there.

Some sad news to report. A lot of you will remember Lewis and Susan Boling from years past, well their daughter

Rebecca was told that her unborn baby had passed away and gone from this world to the next to be with God our Father. The baby was near full-term. Brother Sonny Boling will do a memorial service this Saturday (December 10, 2005) at the Citrus City Church. Please remember prayers for this family during their time of grief, We will share in their agony of loss.

Brother Melvin Lytle came into Yuma and gave us a lesson this past Sunday; his lesson covered preaching and preachers and it gave us plenty to think about. It's always great to have him come in and speak to our congregation. This verse came to mind during that lesson. Romans 10:15," And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! " How can those that want to hear God's Word hear it but for a preacher ? How can our loved ones that are outside of the realm of Christ learn of Him unless there is someone that preaches of Christ? How can this beautiful message of glad tidings and good things be understood unless someone is able to explain it? Thank God for the preachers that came before us and gave us this wonderful message. Thank God for those that are still pressing on to higher ground. What a wonderful thought and opportunity we are given by those that are chosen to speak these words of eternal life; Accept, believe and participate in the Christian life once you've heard.

We heard some good news this week and I would like to share it with everyone. Robert and Debra Davis are going to be a grandparents again. Iris and Brandon Reagle; it has been confirmed that they are expecting a baby. It will be their first child. Iris is the daughter of Robert Davis. She had been attending Church here in Yuma since her early childhood but is now living in Phoenix, AZ with her husband Brandon. Everyone is just bubbling with joy about this new addition, especially Great Grandma Alice and Grandma Deb.

I've already mentioned our meeting that starts March 19th and goes through the 26th of March. I know that we here are all

looking forward to the meeting and being able to visit with our loved ones from other areas and hearing lessons again from those that we don't get to hear very often or from those that we've never heard before. It's always so nice to sit down and talk and just associate with everyone, to talk about the bible scriptures, to chat about our families, just being close to those people that aren't with us year round. Life here is just so short not to spend as much time as possible together. We hopefully will be able to accommodate as many as can make it down. If you are planning on being here let us know, if you can, so that we can make arrangements and plan in advance for any needs that we are able to take care of. If there are any with special needs, diabetics, walking problems, again let us know and we will give it our best effort to make your visit pleasant.

We from the Yuma congregation think of you all and our prayers go out continually for you all that your lives might be blessed as ours are. God be with you all! We send our love and prayers.

Denny and Susie Davis,
the Yuma Congregation

LORENZO, TEXAS

Everyone here is doing well. Some are using walkers and some are on oxygen but I consider that a blessing since it allows them a better quality of life than they would have without them. I just had my teeth pulled last week and although it may be a little inconvenient I am so thankful I could have it done since it was necessary. I am doubly thankful they could do it without causing me pain. I just wish we could all be thankful for what we have and stop complaining about what we don't have.

Joan and I have a great grandson born last week. That makes us 2 great grandchildren now. Hatter's second grand-

daughter is due very soon.

Bro. Jerry McCay is to hold a three day meeting in Broken Bow starting Friday. Hope we can go. Jerry is an excellent speaker but I don't get to hear him too often but I am hoping it will be a very good meeting.

Gene Boling for the
Lorenzo Church of Christ

WATERFORD, CALIFORNIA

Greetings Brethren,

Here we are almost to the last month of 2005. Time is surely passing fast as we get older.

Most of us here at Waterford are doing pretty well. Brother Gerald and Sister Juanita Warner are having health problems but are able to attend services on Sunday. Sister Mary McKenzie isn't able to come to church all the time as she has breathing problems.

We have a new addition to our congregation. Kurt and Jeanine Harper have a new baby boy, Nathaniel Roy, born November 10th. He has 3 older sisters.

It is with much sadness that we report the closing of the church in San Pablo. There were so few members there and the only male member moved to Wisconsin.

We have been painting our church building both inside and out. There are always things to be done and we need to keep the building, where we worship our Lord, in good condition.

Al and Charlotte Burtis went to Yakima for the Thanksgiving holiday to be with their family there, Mike and Kay McCay. Our grand-son, Mark Bentz also was there. He is going to school at Eastern Oregon U. in La Grande, Oregon and drove up for the weekend.

Remember us in your prayers as we do you in ours.

The Waterford Congregation

OAKDALE, CALIFORNIA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ

This is to inform you of the passing of our son, Stephen on December 12, 2005. As most of you know, Steve had battled a stubborn cancer for a little over two years and finally succumbed this past Monday night. We cant say enough about the dignity and strength of this young man. Not once during this long journey did he ever question God's judgments, lash out at those around him, or utter any words of anger even during periods of extreme pain and emotional distress. He was an inspiration to all of us who were close to him.

Tammy and I want to extend our gratitude to all of you who kept him continually before you in prayer. For all the cards, the phone calls, the financial help, we can't thank you enough. We are so proud to be part of God's body of believers. Truly, the love of Christ was shown to our family during these trying times.

On a happier note, we were able to enjoy many good times with Steve between the end of his first go around with the disease and when he finally passed after being re-diagnosed. Some notable times were a trip to his favorite fishing spot for a week of camping with his cousins and grandparents, a trip to Washington DC with two other church families, Disneyland, and through Make-a-Wish Foundation, a trip to Homer, Alaska, the "Halibut Capital of the World". Steve caught his big one, and many more and the whole family thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We were given a gift from God, in having over a year of relief between battling the disease. We loved, laughed, and completely lived life.

Better than all of this, Steve was baptized into our Lord's body a few weeks prior to his death. He had talked about it months before but wanted to wait until the pain abated so he could fully concentrate on the moment. That moment came. A one day respite from the persistent pain gave Steve the opportunity to accept the Lord on His terms. He remarked that night, "Dad, I

have zero pain and feel so peaceful." That was weeks ago but I know he feels that same peace now. Upon his death in our arms, we prayed as did his namesake, Stephen of the bible, "Lord Jesus, receive his spirit." Our boy was saved and we knew exactly where he was. We do not grieve as those who have no hope but only that our short stay here on Earth will be lonelier without him. But we will see him again when our Lord returns. I believe this with all that is in me. Can't wait!!

Thank you again for all you have done over these past two years! We love you.

The Perigen Family

GLENWOOD, WASHINGTON

Hello from Glenwood, Washington.

I must apologize for being late this month. It seems that this month many things interfered to delay writing. The little group at Glenwood are attending faithfully each Lord's Day. There are some health-related difficulties that arise but, at the present, only two of our members are not doing as well as we would wish.

Sister Patricia Bergman is suffering from a frozen shoulder, which is very painful. She may undergo surgery after the first of the year. This afternoon, I received word that Bro Bill Taylor had come through his surgery well. He is recovering in the hospital.

It was sad to hear of the passing of young Brother Steve Perigen after a long battle with cancer. We don,t know all the answers in cases like his; he was so young. But what we do know is that the Lord knows best and His answers are best. We grieve with the family for their loss and pray the Heavenly Father will comfort them, as only He can.

Let's all remember the meeting in March at Yuma. Fern and I hope to be able to go and fellowship with loved ones as we have for several years.

Continue to pray for us, that we may have strength to do God's will in a timely manner.

J D Logan
for the Glenwood congregation.

YAKIMA, WASHINGTON

Dear Brethren,

We have just received word of the baptism of Bill Graves back in June, and his marriage to Amanda Boen. We are always happy to hear of weddings, baptisms, and births. However, it saddens us to hear of the passing of loved ones. We were so sorry to learn that Brother Stephen Perigen has lost his battle against cancer. He was so young and such a brave person. Our hearts and prayers go out to his family.

Work is slowly progressing on our church building remodel. The work area is completely enclosed now so the temperatures in the teens and 20's don't bother as much.

We were happy to have most of our grandchildren home for the holidays. Bill III, Stefanie, and Elise drove over from Bellingham, WA and Jason and Kim flew in from New Albany, OH. It was great to have them all here.

Our plan for the coming year is to have a full weeks meeting. The "when" and "who" hasn't been worked out yet.

We would join Brother Logan in urging anybody who can, to attend the March meeting in Yuma. It seems as though each year gets better and better. Veda and I plan to be there if the Good Lord wills and we keep our health. We are getting to the age where we aren't always able to do what we wish.

Also, don't forget the July meeting in Beaver's Bend.

We would once again extend the invitation to any and all who might come this way, to come and worship with us and/ or visit in our homes.

Last of all but certainly not least, we want to thank all of

you who have so faithfully supported us, whether financially or with news letters and articles, or even just a word of encouragement, in our efforts to print the "Fruits of The Spirit." It doesn't seem possible that in 2006 we will be starting our 20th year. Thank you all so very much for keeping us going. Keep all the ill and hurting in your prayers. Also remember us as we do you.

Yours in Christ,
Bill McCay Sr.

We are truly rejoicing tonight (Dec. 28th) as Matt, Katherine, Mike Jr., and Marisa came out to Bill Jr.'s and announced that Mike Jr. and Katherine wanted to be baptized. Katherine is Matt's wife and he did the baptizing. Most of the congregation was there as we had Bible study at Bill and Cinde's tonight.

MEETINGS

March 19-26	Yuma, AZ	Guest Speakers
July 15-24	Beaver's Bend, OK	Guest Speakers

BAPTISMS

Bill Graves	Old Town Church of Christ
Stephen Perigen	Oakdale. CA
Katherine McCay	Yakima, WA
Mike McCay Jr.	Yakima, WA

WEDDINGS

Amanda Boen to Bill Graves June 25th Van Buren, AK

BIRTHS

Nathaniel Roy, to Kurt and Jeanine Harper, Waterford CA on November 10th.

PASSINGS

Stephen Perigen Oakdale. CA



Stephen Claud Perigen

October 19, 1988
December 12, 2005

In Loving Memory

Stephen Claud Perigen

Place of Birth	*Entered into Rest*
Long Beach, California	*Oakdale, California*
October 19, 1988	*December 12, 2005*

~ Chapel Service ~

Friday, December 16, 2005, 2:00 PM
Lakewood Funeral Home
Hughson, California

~ Officiant ~

Minister Ken Williams
Church of Christ

~ Pall Bearers ~

Jeffrey Brockman	*Gregory Brockman*
Josh Gazdik	*Wakely Konberg*
Matt Holcomb	*Austin Curtis*

~ Interment ~

Pioneer Garden
Lakewood Memorial Park
Hughson, California