

**Community of Christ**  
**Fairbanks Branch Happenings**  
**July 7, 2005**

The theme for this Sunday is "Plant the Seed"

Seeds can planted  
Everyday with everyone you  
Encounter. Plant  
Daily and spread His Word

**God's Word Is A Seed**

Most people expect God's Word to work like a stick of dynamite -- but God's Word is like a seed. We know because of what Jesus said.

LUKE 8:11 NKJ

11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.

The Holy Spirit, through Peter, also said God's Word is a seed.

1 PETER 1:23 NKJ

23 having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever,

God's Word is alive. Just like a seed -- the Bible is full of unseen life.

JOHN 6:63 NKJ

63 "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Jesus said His words are alive. They contain life. The words in your Bible may look lifeless and powerless. Seeds do, too. But they are not without life or power.

In Mark 4:30-31, Jesus explained that the kingdom of God works like a seed. So, if we are to understand God's kingdom and how He operates, we need to understand seeds.

**Seeds**

\* **A seed is alive: it contains life.** Your physical senses are incapable of judging whether a seed is alive or not. You cannot see, feel, hear, smell, or taste the life in a seed. There is only one way to prove a seed is alive -- plant it.

\* **A seed does nothing until planted.** Seeds do not grow sitting in a sack on your shelf. They must be planted in the proper place.

If you desire the Word of God to produce in your life, *you* must decide to plant the Word in your heart and mind.

*The best way to plant the seed of God's Word in your life is by speaking the Word. Hearing others speak the Word is good -- but will not produce as bountiful a harvest as speaking the Word yourself.*

Speaking God's Word with your mouth is essential. As we speak God's Word we are planting the seed in our heart for the harvest of results we desire.

ROMANS 10:10 NKJ

10 For with the heart one believes to righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made to salvation.

Whatever you need to be saved or delivered from, confession (what you say) is essential.

\* **A seed is much smaller than the plant it produces.** The problem you face may seem huge. In comparison, a scripture may seem very small. But when planted, that Word will grow in you and overcome the problem.

\* **A seed always produces after its kind.** GALATIANS 6:7 NKJ

7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. Whatever you need, or desire, find scriptures relating to that. Then plant those scriptures inside you in abundance. Those seeds will grow up and produce a harvest of what you need or desire.

\* **A seed is powerful.** As a seed begins to grow, it will push up dirt, rocks, etc. Whatever the obstacles are, God's Word planted in your heart will push them out of the way.

\* **A seed begins its growth in secret (underground).** The only way to tell if a seed is growing is to dig it up, or wait for a plant to appear. If you dig up a seed, you may kill it.

\* **A seed takes time to produce.** No one expects a seed to produce a harvest the same day that seed is planted. Sometimes the Word of God seems to spring up and bear fruit immediately. Yet, if we knew the details, we would understand that the fruit of the Word grew in that person's life over time.

\* **A seed is persistent.** A seed never gives up, but works day and night. Even when you are sleeping, the seed you have planted is working to grow and express itself in a fruitful harvest.

\* **A seed is not affected by other seeds.** Whatever happens to other seeds does not make any difference to a specific seed. Each seed sticks to its own task. One wheat seed planted in a corn field will still produce wheat. Seed does not become discouraged, or quit, even if other seeds die.

\* **A seed will stop growing without nourishment.** Planting a seed is not enough to assure a harvest. Seed must be protected and taken care of until harvest time. A seed which is dug up, or not watered, will not produce.

\* **More seeds planted produce a larger harvest.** 2 CORINTHIANS 9:6 NKJ

6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

*Think on these truths about seeds. Allow the Holy Spirit to help you apply them to the role of God's Word in your life*

*Above excerpted from - believers.org*

What is the fruit of your fruit? Perhaps the fruit of the seed is the manner in which you live your life.

## The Emperor's Seeds

An emperor in the Far East was growing old and knew it was time to choose His successor. Instead of choosing one of his assistants or his children, he decided something different. He called all the young people in the kingdom together one day. He said, "It is time for me to step down and choose the next emperor. I have decided to choose one of you."

The kids were shocked! But the emperor continued. "I am going to give each one of you a seed today, one very special seed. I want you to plant the seed, water it and come back here one year from today with what you have grown from this one seed. I will then judge the plants that you bring, and the one I choose will be the next emperor!"

One boy named Ling was there that day and he, like the others, received a seed. He went home and excitedly told his mother the story. She helped him get a pot and planting soil, and he planted the seed and watered it carefully. Every day he would water it and watch to see if it had grown.

After about three weeks, some of the other youths began to talk about their seeds and the plants that were beginning to grow. Ling kept checking his seed, but nothing ever grew. Three weeks, 4 weeks, 5 weeks went by. Still nothing.

By now, others were talking about their plants, but Ling didn't have a plant, and he felt like a failure. Six months went by; still nothing in Ling's pot.

He just knew he had killed his seed. Everyone else had trees and tall plants, but he had nothing. Ling didn't say anything to his friends, however. He just kept waiting for his seed to grow.

A year finally went by and all the youths of the kingdom brought their plants to the emperor for inspection. Ling told his mother that he wasn't going to take an empty pot but his Mother said he must be honest about what happened. Ling felt sick to his stomach, but he knew his Mother was right. He took his empty pot to the palace.

When Ling arrived, he was amazed at the variety of plants grown by the other youths. They were beautiful-in all shapes and sizes. Ling put his empty pot on the floor and many of the other kinds laughed at him. A few felt sorry for him and just said, "Hey. Nice try."

When the emperor arrived, he surveyed the room and greeted the young people. Ling just tried to hide in the back. "My, what great plants, trees and flowers you have grown," said the emperor. "Today, one of you will be appointed the next emperor!"

All of a sudden, the emperor spotted Ling at the back of the room with his empty pot. He ordered his guards to bring him to the front. Ling was terrified. "The emperor knows I'm a failure! Maybe he will have me killed!" he thought. When Ling got to the front, the Emperor asked his name. "

My name is Ling," he replied. All the kids were laughing and making fun of him. The emperor asked everyone to quiet down. He looked at Ling, and then announced to the crowd, "Behold your new emperor! His name is Ling!"

Ling couldn't believe it. He couldn't even grow his seed. How could he be the new emperor? Then the emperor said, "One year ago today, I gave everyone here a seed. I told you to take the seed, plant it, water it, and bring it back to me today. But I gave you all boiled seeds, which would not grow. All of you, except Ling, have brought me trees and plants and flowers. When you found that the seed would not grow, you substituted another seed for the one I gave you.

Ling was the only one with the courage and honesty to bring me a pot with my seed in it. Therefore, he is the one who will be the new emperor!"

- If you plant dishonesty, You will reap distrust.
  - If you plant selfishness, You will reap loneliness
  - If you plant pride, You will reap destruction.
  - If you plant laziness, You will reap stagnation.
  - If you plant bitterness, You will reap isolation.
  - If you plant greed, You will reap loss.
  - If you plant gossip, You will reap enemies.
  - If you plant worries, You will reap wrinkles.
  - If you plant mean-spiritedness, You will reap guilt.
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- But If you plant honesty, You will reap trust.
  - If you plant goodness, You will reap friends.
  - If you plant humility, You will reap greatness.
  - If you plant perseverance, You will reap victory.
  - If you plant consideration, You will reap harmony.
  - If you plant honest work, You will reap success.
  - If you plant forgiveness, You will reap peace
  - If you plant openness, You will reap trust
  - If you plant patience, You will reap improvements.
  - If you plant faith, You will reap miracles

Be careful what seeds you plant today. They will determine what you will reap tomorrow. The seeds you now scatter will either make life worse - or better not only your life, but everyone else's life as well.~ Author Unknown ~

What are you planting? Where are you planting? What seed lives in you?

Summer is upon us and that means **camps and reunions**!! Check out the mission center web page to get dates and forms for the various camps and reunions planned for this summer.

**Notice of Cancellation:** The Astros' baseball outing schedule for July 7<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

No adult Sunday School on July 10<sup>th</sup> – Presentation by Mark Euritt at 10:00 a.m. instead.

**July 10<sup>th</sup>** – We have a special **10:00 am** presentation and opportunity for discussion of the proposed 2006 program for our Mission Center. Mark Euritt will be conducting the session. It promises to be a very interesting and excellent opportunity for us to understand and influence next year's program of action for our Mission Center.

**July 31<sup>st</sup> – 4:00 p.m.** – Lunar Golf at Katy Mills Mall. Sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

See the calendar on bulletin board in the fellowship hall for upcoming events at Fairbanks and Mission Center events. June and July have been posted.

The worship and nursery schedules have been posted in the family center for July through September, 2005. Please check these.

Nursery Schedule:

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Alex & Sue Turner

We need volunteers for the nursery. Please see David Romig.

Please review the prayer list in the Sunday bulletin. If you have added someone to the list please update Leo Caesar with any new information and current status of the prayer concern. Please contact Leo Caesar if you wish to add/remove someone from the list.

**Calendar & Mission Center News:**

The Coastal Bend Mission Center is proud to announce that the Coastal Bend web site is up and running! You can visit the site at [www.coastalbendmc.org](http://www.coastalbendmc.org)

**Visit the World Church Webpage and view/listen to events from World Conference.**

**June – July - Camps and Reunions**

The following is a schedule of those that are currently scheduled to deliver the message for the 3rd quarter. This is not the “official list” and is for informational purposes only. Please refer to the worship schedule in the fellowship hall for changes.

July 10<sup>th</sup> – Mark Euritt

I will be sending out periodic e-mails letting everyone know what is “HAPPENING” at Fairbanks. Please let me know if your e-mail or other contact information changes.

Mark your calendars and **participate, enjoy, reach out!!!!!!**I pray that everyone have a safe and happy week.

*Martha Romig*