

# News & Announcements

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Annette Asbury's** surgery is Saturday morning and at this writing we do not have any update on her status. She is in Mountain View Hospital. Keep Annette in your prayers.

**Ramona Barton**, daughter-in-law of Dorothy Barton, is not doing well. Her cancer has returned and she needs our prayers to help her get through chemo treatments and her well being.

**Keep the following on your prayer list who are either shut-in, unable to worship with us, or have on going health concerns,**

**Daryion and Janette Banks, Clara Beth Barker's daughter, Marsha; Dorothy and Firman Barton, Vaughn, Keith Barton, Ramona Barton, Mary and Bob Cress, Beverly Dempsey, Delois Jenkins, Rachel Kidwell, Beth Nebeker, Bobbye Pounders, Ignacio Reyes, John Simo, Fernando Vizcarra, Jr., & Lewis Wells. Also, keep in your prayers** all those members who have left the church. Pray that they will realize their need for God and return soon before it is too late.

**Our Gospel Meeting** is Sunday, May 1 through Friday, May 6, 2016. The speaker is John Robertson of Wichita Falls, Texas. The lessons are as follows: 1) The Jesus of the Bible; 2) A Spiritual Phenom; 3) The Sabbath; 4) Self Control; 5) Bible Study; 6) The Pharisees; 7) How to Use the OT in the NT and; 8) The Beloved Saints.

## TRAVELING MEMBERS

**Linda Brickell** is traveling to the Philippines on Thursday, April 14, 2016, and will return in two to three weeks.

**Delois Jenkins** is in California visiting with her son. Keep Delois in your prayers for a safe return.

## MILITARY MEMBERS

**Michael Barnes and David Sims** are stationed at Nellis Air Force Base.

# WORD OF FAITH

*Weekly bulletin of the Vegas Drive Church of Christ*

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April 10, 2016 • 3824 Vegas Drive • Las Vegas, NV 89108 • (702) 636-4986  
Sunday Bible Class: 9 AM • Sunday Worship: 10 AM & 6 PM • Wednesday Bible Class: 7 PM  
[www.vegasdrivechurchofchrist.com](http://www.vegasdrivechurchofchrist.com)

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## LIVING THE ABUNDANT LIFE

Some times life is tough and hands us a difficult hand. Jesus said, *"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly"* ([John 10:10](#)). Jesus said that the thief comes to rob and steal. The thief is the devil. The devil desires to take away all our happiness and contentment. He uses various methods with which to do so. Paul said this about the devil, *"Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices"* ([2 Cor. 2:11](#)). We need to be alert to his tricks. He uses stress and nervousness. Someone said, "Some people are so stressed out that they would make coffee nervous, give an aspirin a headache or cause a tranquilizer to have a nervous breakdown." So, how is it that we can enjoy the abundant life in Christ?

One thing we can do to enjoy the abundant life is to **forget the past**. Dale Carniage has a chapter in one of his books entitled, "You Can't Saw Sawdust." How true it is that you can't relive the past. The apostle Paul writing by inspiration said, *"Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before"* ([Phil. 3:13](#)). Repent when necessary, but then move on to live better.

A second thing we can do to enjoy the abundant life is to **give ourselves away**. That is the essence of the supreme beatitude as written in the New Testament. Here it is: *"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive"* ([Acts 20:35](#)). Send a note to someone who is sick or has lost a loved one. Bake a pie and take it to a neighbor. Cut grass for an elderly neighbor. *"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all [men], especially unto them who are of the household of faith"* ([Gal. 6:10](#)). Give yourself away.

We can enjoy the abundant life if we follow the principles of the New Testament. That is what all faithful brethren and faithful churches of Christ do.

By: Larry Acuff

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## THE TRUTH ABOUT “SAFE SIN”

According to the name I scribbled on the page, the two quotes that follow are from the pen of Mike Jackson. He says: I like coming up with oxymorons. These are expressions or statements which are apparently self-contradictory but make a point nonetheless. Some examples are: ‘cruel kindness,’ ‘heavy lightness.’ And some on the lighter note include: ‘clean dirt,’ and ‘tough love.’ As a rule, these words just do not go together. I shall add another one to the list, ‘safe sin.’ Please let me explain. These are ‘good’ sins (there’s another one). Acceptable sins, sins that are laughed about! If put to a vote, these would be removed from the list of sins altogether.

It is obvious that the world in which we live would like nothing better than to vote certain “sins” out of the realm of sinfulness! Our government evidently decided long ago that it would become the expert on sin, and now it informs us about the so-called “social ills” of society. The psychologists and sociologists have influenced most folks more than the Bible, thus, sin has now become a disorder, a disease, a fault of one’s own heredity, etc. Never mind that the inspired Word of God says that sin is “lawlessness” (ASV) or “transgression of the law” (KJV) (cf. 1 John 3:4)! It does not matter with most that they must ignore the fact that the Bible declares, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23). And, since some one or some thing can always be conveniently blamed for one’s acts and condition, it would be unthinkable to think *“the soul that sinneth, it shall die”* (Ezek. 18:20). Since, according to worldly wisdom on human behavior, changes must continually occur in the way folks think and act, it would be a total surprise to learn that the Bible states, *“Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven”* (Psa. 119:89). In other words, sin has always been just that, sin, and always will be! Nothing that man can do or say will change this Biblical truth. At the great Day of Judgment, every soul will be reminded that Christ compassionately warned, *“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48).

The world has indeed “done a number” on most people’s thinking. How many people do you know who simply smile upon hearing a filthy joke? What about one eagerly listening to another tell of their sinful encounter? How often do you hear of someone referring to a person’s sinful action as “cute?” Or, one may exclaim, “It’s just the way that boys/girls are today.” Another boldly declares, “We are living in the 2000s, not the 30s or 40s.” Someone else says, “society has changed,” as if such an explanation makes sin acceptable today. The wisdom of the world would have one believe that the passage of

time changes everything. Such is the devil’s lie. There is no truth in what Satan says (cf. John 8:44). God never changes (Malachi 3:6), and His word/truth will never “pass away” (Mark 13:31).

From the beginning of time, sin has been the problem of man (Gen. 3:1-19, 22-24). It is sin that separates one from God. Isaiah recorded, *“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid [his] face from you, that he will not hear”* (59:1-2). Sin will not change, and neither will the truth that sin separates one from God change! People who commit the sins this world has deemed to be “normal” and “acceptable behavior,” glamorous and exciting, will one day learn *“that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5:21). Listen carefully, no matter what one chooses to believe, there is no such thing as “safe sin!” The high price of sin is the devil’s best-kept secret! Sin is always costly, but the devil will attempt to disguise the high price that one will pay for sinful living. Yes, one can live in sin! The apostle Paul notes, *“Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry: For which things’ sake the wrath of God cometh on the children of disobedience: In the which ye also **walked some time, when ye lived in them**”* (Col. 3:5-7).

One will do well to never forget that God’s word is true (John 17:17). God’s Word also *“abideth for ever”* (1 Peter 1:25). Jesus Christ, the One who came to save the world (Luke 19:10), will at His next coming judge the world (Rom. 2:16). At that great day, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess, *“Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father”* (Phil. 2:10-11).

Keep in mind there is no “safe sin.” All will one day not be accountable to worldly wisdom, but they will *“give account to him that is ready to judge the living and the dead”* (1 Peter 4:5).

Marvin L. Weir

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HEAR the gospel Rom. 10:17  
BELIEVE the gospel John 3:16  
REPENT of your sins Luke 13:3  
CONFESS Christ Matt. 10:32  
Be BAPTIZED Acts 2:38  
Live FAITHFULLY Rev. 2:10

If you are visiting today, we appreciate your presence and hope to get to know you better. Please fill out a visitor’s card so we can have a record of your attendance, and if there is any way we can serve your spiritual needs, please bring this to our attention.

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