

# News & Announcements

## PRAYER REQUESTS

**Beth Nebeker** has a new address: The Wentworth, 2620 Lake Sahara Drive, Room 226, Las Vegas, NV 89117.

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.

**Our Gospel Meeting** begins today through Friday, May 6, 2016. Let us welcome our guest speaker 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 in the Philippines and will return sometime in May.

## 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*

May 01, 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

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## TRUE BRANCHES OF CHRIST

The fifteenth chapter of John portrays Christ as the true vine and individual Christians as the branches. One who obeys the Gospel is a branch in Christ. Man-made denominations are not the branches spoken of by John as is made clear in verse five. The disciples who are followers of Christ are the branches under discussion. Each child of God has the responsibility to produce fruit as a branch in the kingdom.

Denominations teach that these "branches" are different "churches" in a futile attempt to justify denominationalism. The context, however, will not allow such an erroneous interpretation. It is individual people under consideration and not different religious groups. Man-made religious bodies are desperate to find New Testament Scripture to back up their existence but they will search in vain. There is only "one body" (Eph. 4:4), and one does not mean many!

Only those who obey the Gospel (Rom. 1:16) are branches "in Christ" (II Cor. 5:17). One puts on Christ in the act of baptism (Gal. 3:27). A penitent believer who obeys the Gospel plan of salvation is "baptized into Christ" (Rom. 6:3) and "raised" to walk "in newness of life" (Rom. 6:4).

One who does not bear fruit is not maturing in Christ. The apostle Paul identifies the fruit that every child of God is to produce as being "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness, [and] selfcontrol" (Gal. 5:22-23). The Christian who is bearing fruit for the Master will continue to mature as Peter demonstrates in saying, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity" (II Peter 1:5-7). A Christian will also strive to teach others the Gospel in planting and watering as the opportunity arises (I Cor. 3:6).

When the Word of God is proclaimed, the seed of the kingdom is sown (Luke 8:11). The Gospel is still to this very day God's power to save souls from sin (Rom. 1:16). No one has ever been saved by the wisdom of man (cf. I Cor. 1:20-25), and this truth strikes a deathblow to all the gimmicks that are employed today by religious shysters to draw a crowd. A true follower of Christ who is bearing fruit for the Lord will preach the Word and be content to let God give the increase.

The Word of God has the ability to clean and make pure. The apostle Peter says to brethren, *"Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever"* (I Peter 1:22-23).

It has already been noted that a person puts on Christ at the point of immersion into Christ (Gal. 3:27). One who is **in** Christ must choose to continue to **abide in** Christ (John 15:4). If one fails to *"walk in the light as he is in the light"* (I John 1:7) or *"goeth onward and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ"* (II John 9), he does not *"abide in the vine"* (John 15:4) and **cannot** bear fruit. Many today pretend to be "branches" while refusing to do the Lord's will. Jesus notes this truth in saying, *"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. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity"* (Matt. 7:21-23).

May we submit to the Master's commands so that we will not hear Him say at the judgment, *"And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say"* (Luke 6:46)? John 15:6 says, *"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned."* This makes it clear that Jesus is speaking of individuals and not "churches." One is obligated to remain in the vine. Whatever is required to do he must do or be purged from the vine. This shows that man can apostatize and lose his soul.

Different fruit does not come from the same vine. Religious division is contrary to Jesus' prayer (John 17:20-21). All "branches" in Christ are to produce the same fruit. In other words, each Christian is to *"speak the same thing...that there be no divisions...be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment"* (I Cor. 1:10).

One cannot claim to **follow** Christ while refusing to obey His commands. A true branch of Christ abides in His Word and enjoys fellowship with the Father and the Son and all others who are content to abide in the teaching of Christ. May we strive to be true branches of Christ!

Marvin Weir



## ON THE BRINK OF DISASTER

Which will it be? The way that leads to God or the way that leads away from God? Everyone has their own ideas about social issues (which make no difference one way or the other). But Biblical issues do not fit into that category. What the Bible says makes all the difference in the world — the difference between heaven and hell. Unless the citizens of this land and its governing officials turn from their present course, destruction will be the final outcome. God declares, "righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. 14:34; 11:11). As Christians, our job is to pray and work to promote righteousness; not lend a hand to hasten our own destruction. It's far past time to get our mind set on things ABOVE, not on things of this world (Col. 3:2). In which direction are YOU pushing this county, toward God or away from God?

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### GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

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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