

## Upcoming Events

**Business Meeting: June 14**

**Ladies Bible Class: June 14**

**Father's Day: June 21**

“Statement of Information” due to State Secretary

Congregational Meeting: Financial Report

Mid-course Review: Saturday Meeting 2021

**Panera Bread Open Bible Study: TBD**

### Jesus said...

*“This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you slaves, for the slave does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.”* John 15:12-15

### June Birthdays

9 Debbie Pescador 12 Celina Perales

### June Anniversaries

5 Kurt & Debbie Hoffman 9 Sue Tanner

11 Marcos & Celina Perales

# Indio Informer

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## Friends and Family

By R. W. McAlister

Friends are such a blessing. When we need a “shoulder to cry on,” as the expression goes, a good friend is often the one to whom we turn. When we need to be cheered up, a good friend is often just the person for the job. Good friends aren’t afraid to tell us when we’re about to make the biggest mistake of our lives, and they continue to love us even if we do. The wise man wrote, *“A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity”* (Proverbs 17:17), and again, *“A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother”* (Proverbs 18:24).

A true friend loves in adversity as well as in prosperity. Such is not a “fair-weather friend” and it often it takes hard times to show us which friends are genuinely loyal. D. L. Moody says, “A true friend is like ivy—the greater the ruin, the closer he clings.”

As Proverbs 18:24 points out, gaining friends is dependent upon demonstrating friendliness toward others. He who will be a friend will always meet others eager to reciprocate an attitude of friendliness. Friends, however, will sometimes desert or fail us in the time of need. This reality shouldn’t depress us, for there are true friends (Proverbs 17:17) whose commitments will never waver. The true friend is rare, and his devotion often surpasses that of a blood-brother.

Jesus Christ is such a friend. His devotion to you surpasses that of any blood relative or earthly friend. He was willing to go to Calvary and be nailed to a tree and shed His blood to cover our sins. *“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends”* (John 15:13). Jesus is our friend. The question is: are we His?

### Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Sunday.....6:00 p.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

**Preacher:**  
(Vacant)

### Church of Christ

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Indio, CA 92201  
(760) 342-1859

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Every friendship must have a foundation, be it common interests, a shared profession, etc. The foundation for friendship with Jesus is obedience. *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you”* (John 15:14). Have we obeyed His commands? Have we shunned man-made religious teachings for the pure truth of the Bible? Have we responded in obedience to the ordinance of baptism for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)? *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.”* We mustn’t ignore the conditional nature of this promise of friendship with Jesus.

Have we ever had a good friend that we wished could be part of our family? That doesn’t often work out in the physical world, but it can in the spiritual. You see, we can not only claim Jesus as our friend, but He can be our brother as well! Isn’t that a thrilling thought – that we could claim Jesus as our brother? Here’s how, in Jesus’ own words: *“Whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother”* (Matthew 12:50). Notice again the conditional promise: *“whosoever shall do the will of my Father...the same is my brother and sister...”*

The message is clear: in spite of what the majority of the religious world teaches, such things as “faith only” salvation, “once saved always saved,” etc. “Do” in Matthew 12:50 translates the Greek word, “hodos,” which means, “a traveler’s journey; a manner of thinking or deciding.” It means a continuous action – we must always strive to do what the Savior commands. We must always strive to do the will of the Father. Then, and only then, can we enjoy friendship with Christ and be part of His family.

## **The Church that Jesus Saw**

By Bill Brandstatter

One of the most familiar passages to many Christians is Matthew 16:18. There Jesus states, *“...Upon this rock I will build my church”*; but what was the church that Jesus saw when He spoke those words? He no doubt knew about what the Old Testament writers said regarding the church.

Jesus knew about the prophecy of Daniel pertaining to the kingdom. When the church came, the kingdom came. Daniel prophesied that God would set up a kingdom that would never be destroyed (Daniel 2:44). Later Jesus told Peter He would give to

him the keys to the kingdom of heaven (Matthew 16:19). The establishment of the church was in the eternal purpose of God (Ephesians 3:11). Since Jesus was with the Father in the beginning and involved in Creation, He no doubt knew all about the establishment of the church in New Testament times (John 1:1, 2).

Jesus read and knew about the prophecy of Isaiah pertaining to the Lord’s house being established in the top of the mountains, and all nations flowing into it (Isaiah 2:2-3). Later the apostle Paul described the church as the *“house of God”* (1 Timothy 3:15).

Jesus knew that the name of God’s people in the church would change. Being familiar with the writings of Isaiah, He read Isaiah 62:2 where Isaiah stated that the Lord would give His people a new name which the mouth of the Lord would utter. He also knew that God’s servants would be called by another name. (Isaiah 65:15) That name was first used in Acts 11:26 when the disciples were first called Christians.

Jesus knew about the day that the church would be established. Peter stated that *“all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as man as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days”* (Acts 3:24). Jesus being familiar with Old Testament writings, no doubt knew what those days were. He also knew what Joel wrote in Joel 2:28-32. This is what Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost. He prefaced Joel’s words by stating, *“this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.”* (Acts 2:14)

Jesus no doubt knew about the establishment of the church was in God’s plan before He even came to earth. Paul writes to the church at Ephesus and told them that the church was in the eternal purpose of God (Ephesians 3:11). Jesus was there in the beginning (John 1:1-2). Today we have at our disposal a lot of information about the church. We have His words. We have the words of the apostles. Yet with all the information available to us many still are confused regarding the church. Jesus read about the church; we can too. Will I believe what is written, accept it, and obey it? Jesus would want me to since the church belongs to Him (Matthew 16:18; Acts 20:28). We can read the same verses that Jesus read. With all this information there should not be any problem with understanding about the church. Perhaps we need to look again at the church that Jesus saw.