



PRAYER REQUESTS

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JULY 29, 2012

- **Mark McCollum, Pam Richard's Parents, Sasha Tompkins & La Donna Gammill** all need your prayers as they continue to seek great results.
- **Bobbye Wright** had a serious fall and could use prayers.
- Beverly and Clifford Gunn, Judy Roybal, JO Vick, Dick and Judy Bird, Belle Yokum, Willie Johnson, Larry Reeder, Koben Puckett, are all in need of prayers.

Announcements

- **Helen Shaw** had surgery and was hospitalized. She is home now, but has really had a tough time. Please keep **Helen** and her family in your prayers as she recovers.
- **Beverly Overton** was able to return to worship with us this last week following her injuries. She still will need a substantial period of recovery, so please keep her in your prayers.
- Paul, Belle's son, had knee surgery and is recovering from that.
- Jean Good is having some significant trouble with her hip and has been down for some time.
- Our missionary in India, Satish, had a scooter accident. His daughters have both been ill as well. Let's ramp up our prayer efforts for Satish and his family
- On **Wednesday** evening we will meet at **7:00 PM for our Bible Class. Please join us.**
- **Pam Richard's** father is not doing well in his battle against cancer and could use some extra prayers.
- Judy Roybal is having a hard week.
- Check the back table and box for our donation items this month for the **Portales Christian Children's' Home.** We are collecting **ranch style beans** and **pork and beans** for the children. It is "side dish heaven" this month :-)

Silas Shotwell will bring the lesson today
Men Serving this Month

- **Announcements:** Tom Oliver
- **Scripture:**
- **Song Service:** Mark McCollum

Happy Birthday

July 31— Jaben Richards

Anniversaries—

None this week

Calendar of Events

August 5— Potluck

August 15— Working for the Master at 6

August 20— First Day of School for Teachers

August 22— First Day of School for Students

I Will Bear Much Fruit by Tom Norvell

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing" ([John 15:5](#) NIV). Within this one verse, Jesus reminds us of an essential truth, issues an important challenge, and makes an eternal promise. The essential truth.

"I am the vine; you are the branches ... apart from me you can do nothing." It is absolutely essential that I remember that He is the vine, that I am a branch, and that apart from Him I can do nothing. Being connected to Him is essential to my spiritual life. I cannot make it alone in this world. Though there are times when I think I am big enough, and strong enough, and mature enough to strike out on my own, I cannot. I must be connected to the vine in order to live the life I have been called to live. The important challenge.

"If a man remains in me and I in him ..." Staying connected to the vine is not always easy. My independent spirit and my stubborn will make me prone to disconnect from the vine so that I can live life my way, not His way. Because I have free will I sometime choose to isolate myself, and distance myself from the vine. The "if" is there obviously for a reason. That part is up to me. The eternal promise.

"... he will bear much fruit ..." If I remember that He is the vine, that I am a branch, that I must remain connected to Him, I will bear much fruit. There is no uncertainty. There is no perhaps. There is no maybe. I will bear much fruit. My life will not be wasted. God's [gift](#) and trust in me will not be wasted. My life will have meaning. I will serve a purpose.

So, how's your spiritual walk this week?

1. Are you feeling independent and self-sufficient? Be careful, you cannot make it on your own. You need the life-giving resources of the vine.
2. Are you having a difficult time hanging on to the vine? Are other suppliers of energy looking pretty appealing? You must remain in the vine and allow the vine to remain in you.
3. Are you bearing much fruit? Are you realizing what a gift God has given you and using it to bring glory to Him? You are seeing the fruit of your labor. Life is good. Keep it up. Live the life you were called to live. Bear the fruit. Enjoy it.

When you remain in Him and he remains in you, you will bear much fruit, because He is the vine, and you are the branch. Let Him use you.

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URL: http://www.heartlight.org/articles/200608/20060806_muchfruit.html

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<http://fortsumnerchurchofchrist.com>