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January 15, 2018.**

My Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ Jesus,



I greet you in His Wonderful Name, this first week of the new year 2018.

I want to teach about "Discipleship", a word the Lord uses so many times in the Scripture.

I am sure that a lot of you do not understand what it really means. Who qualifies as a disciple? And what is required to become one?

It's a term Jesus often used when calling people to follow Him, and before He ascended to the Father, He told His followers to make disciples of all nations.

The word disciple means a learner - one who follows another's teaching. Although a variety of definitions have been used to describe this relationship, I would define a disciple as one who has accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, and yielded to Him and His teachings. A disciple is someone who can say, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me." Gal.2:20

All Christians are called to be disciples, but not everyone who attends church is a disciple. Those who simply listen to sermons without applying what they learn or sharing their faith are not disciples.

A true disciple hungers for Christ and His Word, and the Bread and Wine, and as a result grows in his or her Christian life.

Many churches today are more focused on numbers than discipleship, but Jesus was never impressed by the crowds that followed Him. This was the situation in Luke 14:25-33, when large crowds were following Him. In fact, Jesus sometimes made difficult statements that caused the people to leave Him when He told them what was required to be a disciple.

First of all, our loyalty, love, and devotion to Christ must supersede our love for everyone else.

CWIA PRAYER BREAKFAST MEETING

Saturday, January 27, 2018
9:00 am – Noon

Holiday Inn – Carlyle

2460 Eisenhower Avenue
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
Phone: 703.960.2000

2 minute walk from Eisenhower Ave Metro

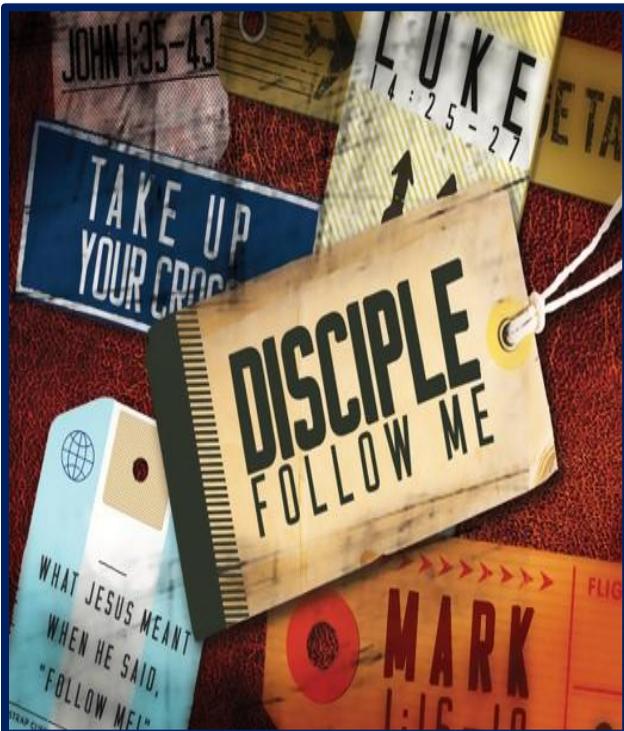
For info/tickets, call Patti: 703.971.3633

Kathleen Murray: 703.451.5737
Edelmira Cruz: 703.266.4850

Cost: \$16 - Buffet Breakfast

Due to increased hotel expenses,
the price has increased to \$16

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"If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brother and sister, yes and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple." Luke 14:26

Christ is not advocating that we should hate our family members. He's making a contrast between degrees of love. To be Christ's disciple, our obedience to Him takes priority over what our loved ones may expect or desire of us.

Throughout history, Christians have had to make hard choices in order to follow Christ, and we may be required to do the same. At one point in my life, I had to make a decision that resulted in misunderstanding, criticism, and opposition from people I love. Although it was a very painful experience, I learned what is demanded to be a disciple of Christ. Sometimes our choices will look ridiculous to those around us, but disciples of Christ must be committed to obedience to Christ no matter what the consequences might be.

"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after Me cannot be My disciple." Luke 4:27

Sometimes we think our cross is an illness, problem, or heartache we must bear, but that's not what Jesus meant. The cross was an instrument of execution that resulted death.

Sometimes disciples must die in order to stay true to Christ, but most of us will probably not be called to a sacrifice so extreme. However, every disciple must undergo the death of the self-life.

We are no longer to live as we did before, instead of being attached to our former sins and lifestyle, we are to attach ourselves completely to Christ.

Let us in this New Year began a new life that is pleasing to our Lord. Let's make changes and become a better disciple of Christ. Let us pray for each other that God will show us what it is we need to do. As a member of CWIA, let us keep each other in our prayers, so we can all see the changes in our lives in 2018.

God bless you all,

Your Servant,

Stella Davis

You are invited to our **prayer breakfast meeting** on **Saturday, January 27, 2018 at 9:00 am** at the **HOLIDAY INN - CARLYLE** at **2460 EISENHOWER AVENUE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314**. Off Interstate 495, a 2-minute walk from Eisenhower Avenue Metro station. **Phone in your reservations early** to Patti at 703.971.3633. **Due to increased hotel expenses, the Price has increased to \$16**, but this is still a great price for a Buffet Breakfast and guest speaker! If staying, ask hotel for CWIA discounted rate. Great praise & worship music. Men and women are invited. A healing service follows.

January 27th Guest Speaker: DAVID VARNES David, a CWIA member, was not raised Catholic, and was not baptized until he was 17. He knew very little about his faith until he married his high school sweetheart, Jean, a past Secretary of CWIA, and became the father of two sons. As a new father he became a Catholic so his sons could better understand their faith. Following the death of his 14 year old son, Dave joined the Catholic charismatic renewal, and went on pilgrimages with CWIA to the Holy Land and later Medjugorje. These experiences helped him to grow in his faith and better understand the love of Blessed Mother. After graduating from the University of Maryland, David entered the US Air-Force, and served his country for over 20 years. David now serves his church as a Eucharistic Minister, is a member of the Knights of Columbus and Kings Men, and assists Meals on Wheels. David, married to Jean for 53 years, now with two sons and three grandchildren, will share how the Lord changed his life and gave him a strong faith. Come and hear his wonderful story, and bring a friend!

CWIA March Trip: In March 2018 we will take an overnight trip to see the show "Jesus" at Sight and Sound Theatres in Lancaster, PA. This show is "the action-packed musical stage adventure that takes you on a miraculous journey alongside the most famous person ever to walk the earth and the everyday people whose lives he changed". The next day we will visit the National Centre for Padre Pio in Barto, PA. Those that wish to go must sign up at the January Breakfast, because we only will take one van load.

Pilgrimage: We are planning a CWIA pilgrimage to the Holy Land in July 2018. Details when available will be on our website, cwiadholyspirit.org. We will only take the first 25 people that sign up, so if you'd like to join us, please sign up soon with Stella.

Life In The Spirit Seminar in April 2018. If you have not attended yet, or if you have but it's been over 3 years ago, it is time to renew it again. We will announce the time and place at a later date. If you are interested, contact Patti at (703) 971-3633.

Intercessory Prayer Meetings: Mondays, 10:30am at 5917 Bond Court, Alexandria, Virginia, 22315

Prayer Chain: For prayer, e-mail our Prayer Chain at franraven@outlook.com.