

Date: January 10, 2007
To: The Brothers and Sisters of the Greater Las Vegas Church of Christ
From: The Church Leadership
Re: Response to Daniel & Deenie Triana's actions

The Leadership of the Greater Las Vegas Church of Christ (GLVCC) is writing this letter to bring clarity and direction to a cloudy situation.

Biblically, to keep the bond of peace and the spirit of unity, (Eph. 4:3-4, Rom. 15:5, Col. 3:18) churches were not planted or sent out from one congregation without the consent or knowledge of the sending congregation. However, without prior knowledge or blessings of any elder or evangelist of the GLVCC, Daniel and Deenie Triana have broken off from the body and have started their own church. We first became aware on Sunday morning, January 7th that Portland International Church of Christ's Website stated, "Excitingly, as of today we are recognizing two more new churches: Las Vegas, Nevada led by Dan and Dene Triana and London, England led by Oliver and Eugenie Greenwood." We firmly believe that this is not the biblical way to react, and does not build up the faith of the body of believers.

On Monday, January 8th, Daniel met with Ernest Govan, Dennis Matzel and James Counts for over three hours in an effort to substantiate Portland's claim. It was confirmed that he, in fact, is starting a church in Las Vegas with the help of Kip McKean and the Portland International Church of Christ. He stated that due to his perceived lack of progress in the GLVCC, he needed to protect his biological family's spiritual well being. As the Leadership group, we do not agree with the way the situation was handled and are deeply saddened by his perspective and drastic unilateral choice.

Moreover, we informed Daniel of the steps we are taking to protect the GLVCC family of believers from the spirit of disunity and divisiveness his decision has caused. The Bible is clear on the unity God expects. He agreed and the Leadership then cited **Titus 3:10 (NIV)** and gave him a first step warning as a brother in the Lord, ¹⁰"Warn a divisive person once, and then warn him a second time. After that, have nothing to do with him." Secondly, we mutually agreed that at no time will his church try to persuade members of the GLVCC to attend their services. If this Biblical directive is not strictly followed then the church Leadership will take steps pursuant to the previous scripture in an effort to protect the body and promote unity.

The Triana's have decided not to be members of the GLVCC and we do not in any way condemn them or their church. By their actions, however, they have made it very clear that we are now two *separate* churches trying to please God in different ways. We do extend brotherly love, but are solely committed to the GLVCC worship services and membership.

Finally brothers and sisters, all of God's plans are not always revealed right away. But if we remain faithful God will make things clear. As the Scriptures say, ¹⁵"All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained." **Philippians 3:15-16 (NIV)**

If, at any point, you need further clarification please limit your inquires to the Leadership group and not allow Satan to get a foothold through gossip, slander, or misinformation.

Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

James Counts, Lead Evangelist
Behzad Fathi, Evangelist
Dennis Matzel, Elder
Ernest Govan, Elder