

## Pastor's Perspective

### The Definition of Love

*"This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us." -1 John 4:10-12*

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How do you define love? Years ago, when Joanna and I were dating, Joanna lived in an apartment in Pacific Beach that she shared with two other girls. These girls were sweet and easy to get along with, but when Valentine's Day came along, it became clear that their definition of love was directly tied to how many roses and boxes of chocolates their boyfriends got for them. I felt bad for these boyfriends, who clearly didn't have more than a few pennies to their name, and yet they were spending money they didn't have to meet the very high standard of love that was set. On Valentine's Day that apartment looked like a combined floral and candy shop!

But if the sea of expensive roses and chocolates seems like an incredibly high standard for love, God sets an even higher one. The biblical definition of love in 1 John 4:10 does not come from anything we do for God (or anyone else for that matter), but from what God has done for us, in sending his Son to die for us, to pay the penalty for our sins that we deserve. **God's love for us is self-sacrificial love; God giving his Son for us.** John then says that if this is how God has loved us, we should love one another, in the same self-sacrificial, self-giving, self-emptying way. **And when we have trusted in Jesus as our Lord and Savior, God's Spirit dwells within us and enables us to love others the way God has loved us.**

Furthermore, John goes on to say that the way God will really be seen in us and through us is through our self-sacrificial, self-giving, self-emptying love for one another. Think about that. God is not primarily seen through our knowledge of the bible, our church attendance, our spiritual gifts, our work ethic, or even our passion for him. God is seen first and foremost through our self-sacrificial love for one another.

So this month, how can you show self-sacrificial love to those around you? To your spouse? Your kids? Your church family? Your neighbors? Your community? There are an endless number of ways we can grow in self-sacrificial love, from how we serve, to how we spend our time, to how we balance priorities, to how we speak to one another. Self-sacrificial love is not a box we check and say, "Yeah, I'm doing pretty good at this!" It is a kind of love where there is always room to grow. After 15 years of marriage I am still learning new ways to love Joanna self-sacrificially! And every new season of life presents us with new and unique opportunities to love others with God's self-sacrificial love. So how can you love the people God has placed in your life with a self-sacrificial, self-giving, self-emptying love? "Since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another."

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

#### Worship Schedule

- 8:30 a.m. Sunday Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship Service
- 10:00 a.m. Sunday Children's Bible Adventure

From your Moderator ☺

Hi Church,

I've never really made New Years resolutions, but this year I did make one. I decided I wanted to get the flu and have a rippin' cough going on for three weeks!

Just kidding about the "resolution"- but it's been a real fun time ☺

Each morning I try to figure out why it's dragging on so "long",

and then I realized something .....

with all the laying around and lollygagging I've noticed that my body has rested so thoroughly that all my everyday aches and muscle pains, achy elbow etc. have all cleared up! I'm definitely caught up on sleep and my stomach muscles are getting ripped from all the coughing, hahaha!

My job painting houses can be physical at times and it can take a toll. I'm learning that I need to take time to really rest and recuperate so that I can be alert and ready for what God has for me.

I'm just thanking God for the "silver lining" with this flu and know that He is watching over me and He is in TOTAL control.

My "take away" from all this is my need for REAL rest in order to be ready to git-r-done!

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Ned Peek



- 04—Jim Williamson
- 15—Steve de Vos
- 15—Bruce Kraft
- 16—Mike Evans

- 16—Joanna de Vos
- 16—Steven Johnson
- 19—Margi Eno
- 20—Ladina Krokee

- 01—Carl & Marilyn Jensen
- 08—Tony & Susan DaVee
- 14—Aender & Jenn Harris
- 17—Steven & Luisa Johnson

**"-this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."**

**Romans 12:1b-2**

**Small Groups**

Monday  
1:00 p.m.  
Afternoon Bible Study  
MVCF Library  
2650 Melbourne Dr. 92123

7:00 p.m.  
Women's Bible Study  
MVCF Library  
2650 Melbourne Dr. 92123

7:00 p.m.  
Men's Bible Study  
5102 Baxter St. 92117  
858-829-2097

Tuesday  
7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting  
2650 Melbourne Dr. 92123

Wednesday  
6:45p.m. Youth Group  
MVCF Youth Room  
2650 Melbourne Dr. 92123

Friday  
7:00 p.m.  
Chris French Home Fellowship  
3333 Ruffin Rd. 3E 92123  
858.735.5924

## *Children's Ministry*

Hi Church,

It's Newsletter time! But alas, I do not at this time have any new news to put into a letter. ☺ But I do have something that you could do. Let me start by saying if you know me at all, you know that I love games and challenges. So... below, I have put a couple of challenges and some bible trivia questions to do around the dinner table (or else where) with your children, grandchildren, spouses, or friends. There are four different challenges, so you can choose one of the four on different evenings if you like.

So get out your timers and competitive hats and play. Ready, Set, GO!

1. In 5 seconds, who can name the most old-testament books of the bible?  
(for those who want harder, name them in alphabetical order ☺)
2. In 5 seconds, who can name all or most of the 12 disciples?
3. Who can look up all the verses below and read out loud in the fastest time?

Or, who can do it under a minute? (yes, it's possible. I tried it and did it in 54 seconds. Boo Ya!)

Galatians 6:4-5, 1 John 5:3, and 1 Samuel 16:7

And...Discuss afterwards what each of these verses mean.

4. Trivia Questions, The challenge here is to answer without looking it up. 5 points off the top of your head. 2 points for looking it up.

Who was the high priest at the time of Jesus' crucifixion? (Matthew 26:1-4)

Which evil queen tried to kill the prophet Elijah and wound up dead?

Which of the 12 sons of Jacob was destined to be an ancestor of the Messiah? (Genesis 49:8-10)

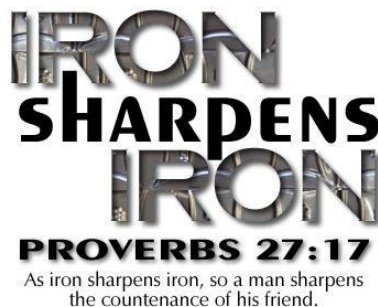
Which disciple was supernaturally transported away after he baptized the Ethiopian? (Acts 8:36-40)

Who was the mother of John the Baptist? (Luke 1)

What is brown, has a fluffy tail, climbs trees, and eats nuts? ☺☺

Let me know if you did the challenges. I would love to hear how you did.

Love in Christ, Leah Peek



## *Youth Ministry*

Wednesday, January 8th, was our first Youth Group meeting of the new year. It was good to be back together again after the holidays!

Terri Carver taught the first lesson of the year and focused on the theme of "Epiphany." She asked the students if they had ever had an epiphany - defined as a sudden manifestation of the essence or meaning of something. In easier to understand terms, an epiphany is an "Aha" moment. It's like when you don't understand then all of a sudden you understand. Students and leaders shared some great answers and stories.

Pastor Steve did a lesson from the Book of Romans in the second week. There was lively interaction with the lesson and questions presented to the students. The lesson on Romans was done on two Wednesday evenings in January.

For February the Youth Group plans include doing the Fellowship meal after the church service plus a special bowling outing at Kearny Mesa Bowl. We may have a special lesson or activity to celebrate the day of love - Valentine's Day.

In the spring the Youth Group will hold its third Rummage Sale.

It is a blessing and joy to be part of the Youth Group ministry.

For the Youth...

Jim

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## *Adult Ministry*

Hello Church Family,

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

We are so blessed to be able to have a relationship directly with God because Jesus died on the cross for our sins that we could have this relationship. I say this because the Women's Retreat is coming up on March 6-8 and Church Camp on May 8-10 at Pine Valley, both of these allow us to draw closer to Jesus. Also, as a church family, we draw closer to each other.

Ronda and Joanna are coordinating the Women's Retreat. See either of them to sign up and for other information you might need. I want to thank Ronda for all the work she does on the Women's retreat and the Church Camp. Without her help, I would be lost. I hope this year's women's retreat sets a new record for attendance.

God Bless you all,

John Nowak

Adult Ministry

# February 2020

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

						1
2 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Kearny Mesa Nursing Center Visit	3 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	4 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	5 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group	6	7 7:00 p.m. French's Home Fellowship	8 8 a.m. God's Extended Hand
9 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	10 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	11 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	12 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group	13	14 11:00 a.m. Grief Support Group 7:00 p.m. French's Home Fellowship 	15
16 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	17 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	18 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	19 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group	20	21 11:00 a.m. Grief Support Group 7:00 p.m. French's Home Fellowship	22 Work Party 8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
23 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	24 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	25 7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting	26 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group Ash Wednesday 	27	28 11:00 a.m. Grief Support Group 7:00 p.m. French's Home Fellowship	

We exist to worship God by helping people to know and follow Jesus.

## Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Dr  
San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633  
missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net

We're on the web!

[missionvillage.church](http://missionvillage.church)



### Council Members

Pastor	Steve de Vos
Moderator	Ned Peek
Clerk	Open
Financial Secretary	Tony DaVee
Treasurer	June McCollough
Children's Ministry	Leah Peek
Youth Ministry	Jim Ryer
Adult Ministry	John Nowak
Stewardship	Mike Loren
Fellowship	Shirley House
Service	Darryl Angus
Evangelism	Sara Guenther
Missions	Sabina Adjibolosoo
Finance Ministry	Ernie Garcia
Worship	Arturo Aray

### Sunday Schedule

Adult Class.....	8:30 a.m.
Worship & Children's Sunday School.....	9:30 a.m.
Fellowship & Refreshment following Worship	
Nursery & Toddler Care is Available During Worship Service	

### Elders

Pastor / Elder.....	Steve de Vos
Administrative Elder .....	Russ Armstead
Elders.....	Tony DaVee
	Chris French
	Carl Jensen
	Arturo Aray

### Staff

Administrative Assistant.....	Ronda Adams
Worship Leader .....	Arturo Aray
Nursery Attendant.....	Hannab French