

Pastor's Perspective

Asking the Lord For What We Really Need

Perseverance is the virtue we don't know we need until we need it. We usually don't know the depth of our perseverance until we find ourselves in a situation where perseverance is necessary. We can say we have the strength to persevere through a trial, but until that claim is tested, we don't really know how deep our perseverance is.

And as we get deeper into 2021, I sense that our perseverance is being tested. Kids are tired of distance learning. Adults are tired of social distancing guidelines. Everyone is tired of masks. I've even found that the uncertainty surrounding this year has made it more difficult to make plans, which for me (who is a planner by nature!) is particularly draining. And I've found myself increasingly longing for "normal" things. Our perseverance is definitely being tested!

So what do we do when our perseverance is tested, especially during a pandemic? We can't change our circumstances, so that's off the table. Therefore, we can either complain, or we can ask the Lord to strengthen us so we can persevere.

When Israel and Judah found themselves in exile after rejecting God for generations after generations, they found themselves with a similar choice. Complain, or ask the Lord to strengthen them. They at first complained. But this is what God says to them:

"Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel, 'My way is hidden from the Lord; my cause is disregarded by my God'? Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." -Isaiah 40:27-31

This is glorious, wonderful, encouraging, good news for us in the midst of a pandemic when we are tired and weary and when our perseverance is being tested! God does not grow weary, and he gives strength to the weary. We can persevere through anything life might throw at us, not because our strength, but because of God's strength! God's strength for the weary is like a never ending reservoir, it is always full and there is an unlimited supply. In contrast, the reservoir of our own strength is like a barrel full of holes...it always drains out before you can fill it to the top with water.

So if you find yourself worn out and weary and lacking in perseverance, there is a simple solution: stop looking to yourself for strength, stop complaining about the circumstances, and start asking the Lord for strength. I believe one of the reasons we lack in perseverance is because we simply don't ask the Lord to strengthen us. There are prayers God loves to

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Worship Schedule

Until Further Notice

- 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School
- 9:30 a.m. Outside & Online Sunday Worship Service
- 11:00 a.m. Zoom Fellowship
- 10:00 a.m. Outside Sunday Children's Bible Adventure

Pastor's Perspective, continued

"- 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

answer. And one of them is this: Lord, I am tired and weary. I don't have any strength left. Strengthen me Lord with your strength, help me to persevere.

So as we enter this second month of 2021, in what ways are you weary? In what ways are you lacking in perseverance? Ask the Lord to strengthen you, and watch what happens!

Persevering with you,
Pastor Steve

Adult Ministry

THE MONDAY AFTERNOON HOME FELLOWSHIP

The Monday afternoon bible study was started more than 40 years ago by June Angus and has continued unbroken through many changes. From the beginning all the members were women. There have been only two teachers during that time: June Angus and I. The Home Fellowship has met on various days of the week and times of day. It started as an evening study but eventually became an afternoon study.

From the beginning the group did Book Studies from the Scriptures, studies by famous theologians - using published books, and in later years studies done on line. One thing that evolved was the desire that on the first meeting of each month the fellowship would go out to brunch at a restaurant for a time of fellowship and bonding. This took place of that day's bible study. A favorite brunch for the women was one that served a high tea. That encouraged the ladies to have a yearly high tea for the women and girls of the church with all the formalities that go with a high tea and a program. This lasted many years.

I invaded the group when June noted my wife was not attending the Fellowship. June called me and asked if I were to teach, would Mignon return to the fellowship? I said I thought she would. So I became the only man among the ladies. I enjoy working with them because they tended to be serious about their faith and they did bring cookies and/or cakes to the meetings for a fellowship time after the lesson. That, of course, forced me to leave time in two hour meetings for treats!

Today a few men have come to attend the fellowship with their wives which adds to the value of the study. We meet every Monday of the month now because of Covid 19 there are few if any restaurants that would take a group of 12 or 13 people. We have vowed to continue the brunch after it is possible. We are doing a study of the Gospel of MATTHEW and are just finishing Chapter 10. If anyone is interested in joining us we meet every Monday afternoon from 1 until 3 on the patio of the church socially separating.

We continue to use Hebrews 10:25 as our guide: *"Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching."* NIV

The spirited discussion and care and concern for one another keep us involved with each other and with our Lord. We seek the goal of increasing our knowledge of the Bible and our understanding of our role as followers of Jesus Christ.

Russ Armstead

Small Groups:


- Monday
1:00 p.m.
Afternoon Bible Study
at MVCF
- 7:00 p.m.
Women's Bible Study
at MVCF
- 7:00 p.m.
Men's Bible Study
TBD Where
- Tuesday
7:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting
Online
- Wednesday
6:45 p.m. Youth Group
MVCF
- Friday
2nd & 4th Friday
11:00 a.m. Grief Group
at MVCF
- 7:00 p.m.
Chris French Home Fellowship
at MVCF

February 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	2 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	3 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group	4	5 6:30 p.m. Home Fellowship with the French's	6
7 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	8 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	9 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Online Council Meeting	10 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group	11	12 11:00 a.m. at MVCF Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. Home Fellowship with the French's	13
14 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service ♥ Valentine's Day ♥	15 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	16 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	17 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 7 p.m. Online Ash Wednesday Lenten Service	18	19 6:30 p.m. Home Fellowship with the French's	20
21 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	22 1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study 7:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	23 7:00 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	24 10:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:45 p.m. Youth Group 7 p.m. Online Lenten Service	25	26 11:00 a.m. at MVCF Grief Support Group 6:30 p.m. Home Fellowship with the French's	27 Work Party 8:30 a.m.—11:00 a.m.
28 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service						



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



04—Jim Williamson
 15—Bruce Kraft
 15—Steve de Vos
 16—Joanna de Vos
 16—Mike Evans
 16—Steven Johnson
 19—Margi Eno
 20—Ladina Krokee

Youth Ministry

We are celebrating and thanking God at every meeting to be able to 'meet together' in 2021.

We are praying for a better year than last, honorable leadership in our country and to have more fun.

The Youths are glad to still be able to meet in person. We suggested Zooming some **again and I received an emphatic unanimous shout of "No!"** In order to keep meeting we need to be so COVID-19 careful by washing our hands a lot and wearing our masks. Since the tarp got blown off with the wicked winds, we are meeting in the fellowship hall – social distancing of-course. We still start by playing Frisbee on the lawn as the youths are getting really good and competitive. When I suggested another game – **again a unanimous "No!"** **They are loving to run around some. Ivan is our super defender who gets lots of D's.**

Last Wed. Chris brought his guitar and we sang some patriot songs in honor of the inauguration: *God Bless America & America America God shed his grace on thee.* We sang many old but new to us verses.

We are studying in the book of John and in Chapter 8 now. The Youths read the chapter out loud – well.

The students like the opening ice breakers questions a lot that lead to some revealing funny discussions.

Some of the opening questions for the study guide are like:

Have you ever been in a situation where you felt like you were in over your head? Talk about that experience.

If you could eat one thing for the rest of your life, what would it be?

What's the best meal you've ever had? What made it so great?

Have you ever been caught in the act of doing something wrong? What happened when you got caught?

What is one thing that you have learned – a lesson or a skill from your grandparents?

Our Youth Group wishes Pastor Steve a very happy Feb. birthday! An ice cream social rain check!! ☺

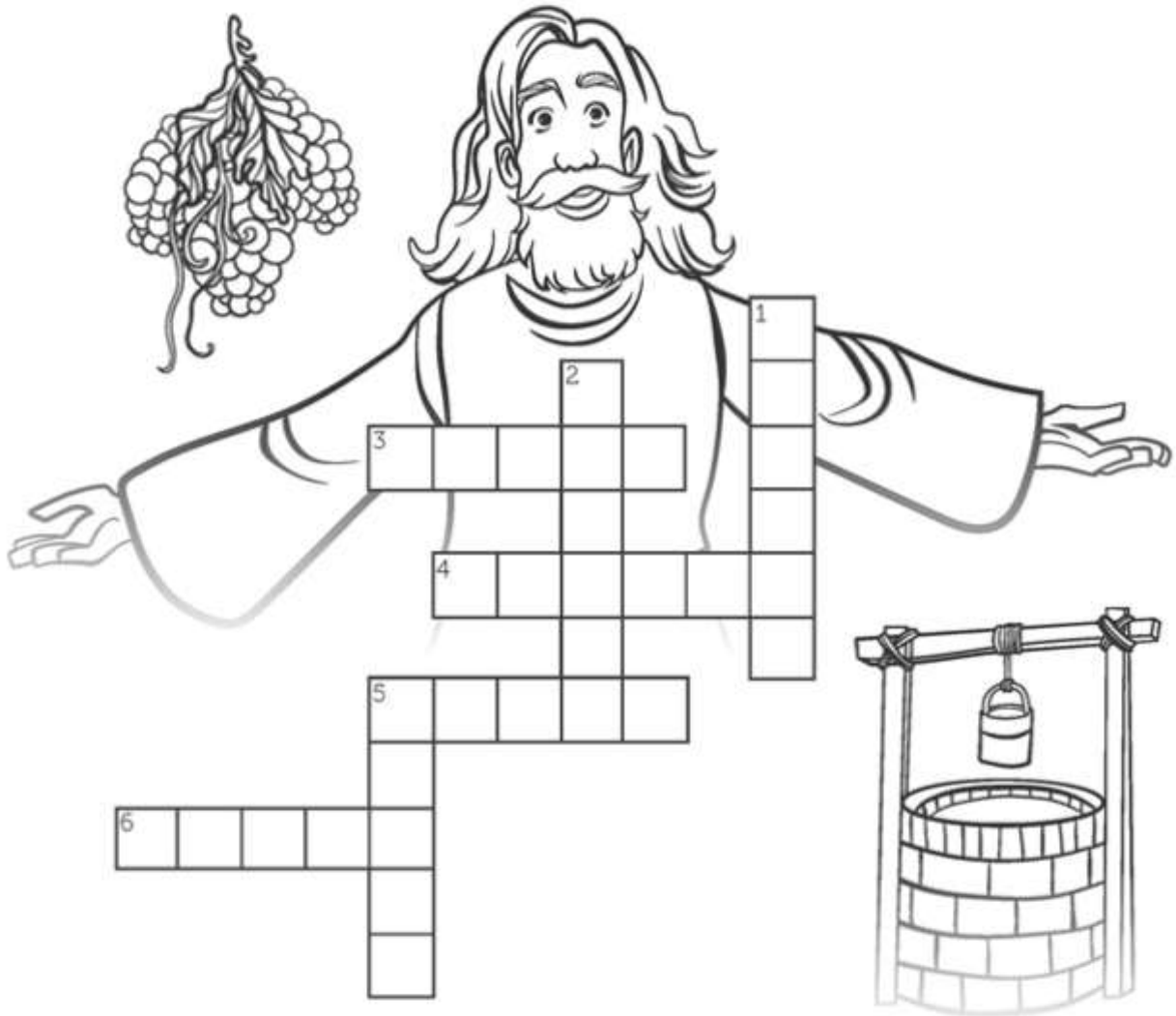
Grief Support Group
on the second & fourth
Friday
of every month at
11:00 a.m.
If you are interested in
attending, please talk to
Joanna de Vos

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

Work Party
Every Fourth
Saturday
of the month
8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
refreshment will be
provided.
For more info call
Mike Loren
at 619-464-1133

THE POWER OF WORDS

James 3:1-12



Across

- 3. A tiny ____ can start a forest fire.
- 4. A bit and ____ helps us to control the direction in which horses move.
- 5. James warned that we should not be ____ to teach God's word.
- 6. We should use our words to ____ God and reflect a godly life.

Down

- 1. A ____ and a person can steer a sailing ship.
- 2. We use our tongues to ____ God and then curse people He made in His own image.
- 5. The only thing on ____ humans have not tamed is their own tongues.



..as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness and patience. Col. 3:12

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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We're on the web!

missionvillage.church

Council Members

Pastor
Moderator
Clerk
Financial Secretary
Treasurer
Children's Ministry
Youth Ministry
Adult Ministry
Stewardship
Fellowship
Service
Evangelism
Missions
Finance Ministry
Worship

Steve de Vos
Tony DaVee (Pro-tem)
Ronda Adams
Tony DaVee
June McCollough
Leah Peek
Terri Carver
Joanna de Vos
Mike Loren
Shirley House
Darryl Angus
Sara Guenther
Ellen Davis
Ernie Garcia
Arturo Aray

Sunday Schedule

Worship & Children's Sunday School.....9:30 a.m.
Nursery & Toddler Care is Available During Worship Service
Service will be live on [YouTube](#) or [Facebook](#)

Elders

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

Staff

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