

# February 2023 Newsletter



## MVCF

### *Pastor's Perspective*

**“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”**

**-Colossians 4:2**

I came across this verse in my bible reading a few weeks ago, and it really stuck with me; it was one of those moments where the Lord moves in your heart and makes you really pay attention and reflect more deeply on the verse as you go through your day. This verse has really strengthened my prayer life over the past few weeks, so I wanted to share it with you in hopes that it will encourage you in a similar way.

First, Paul exhorts his listeners to be devoted to prayer. Continuously, moment by moment, keep on devoting yourself to prayer. I've always known and embraced the truth that prayer goes beyond saying grace at meals and praying during a devotional time, but I was struck by the continual urgency of Paul's exhortation.

Second, Paul gives two qualifiers to his command to pray. Be watchful in prayer, and be thankful in prayer. First is watchfulness. We can certainly be watchful in looking for Jesus to return, and praying for Jesus to return. But we can also be watchful in noticing our lives and the world around us.

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### Sunday Worship Schedule

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

**Grief Support Group meetings are held on call, if you desire to meet MVCF would like to offer support.**

**If you are interested, please contact Russ Armstead**

### *Small Groups:*

#### **Monday**

**1:00 p.m.** Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF

**6:30 p.m.** Women's Bible Study

#### **Tuesday**

**6:30 p.m.** Prayer Meeting Online

#### **Wednesday**

**6:30 p.m.** Youth Group at MVCF

#### **1st Thursday**

**5:30 p.m.**  
de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF

#### **Friday**

**6:30 p.m.**  
French Home Fellowship

#### **Church Work Party**

**Every Fourth**

**Saturday**

**of the month**

**8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**  
refreshment will be provided.

**For more contact Frank Romeo**

## *Pastor's Perspective Continued*

I once heard a pastor encourage the congregation to pray with the newspaper open on one leg and your bible open on the other (today it would be with your news app and bible app open!). As you observe what is happening around you in the world, pray about those things. This is still a great practice! But we can also be watchful about our lives. Notice what is going on in our families. Notice what concerns are floating through our minds. Notice what is causing us stress. Notice what is causing us joy. Then pray about those things as you think of them. The more watchful we are about our lives and our surroundings, the more we can pray about the immediate needs that we have. Then our prayer time is not contained to a few minutes at the beginning of our day, it can extend throughout our day into every interaction that we encounter and every circumstance that we face. Being watchful in prayer means that we can in real time have an ongoing conversation with the Lord about our day and every single part of our lives.

Then there is thanksgiving. We can so easily forget thanksgiving in prayer, especially when the news is so bleak and we face various daunting challenges in our lives. But praying with thanksgiving is such a critical balance to praying with watchfulness. If we only pray with watchfulness, then we can easily become bogged down in the reality of our own struggles. But if we pray with both watchfulness and thanksgiving, then we are reminded that God is in control and that he is working in each and every situation we face in life.

So I have found myself praying more throughout the day, particularly when I have time to myself (such as when I walk the dog). And I pray with both watchfulness and thanksgiving. So I pray for each member of my family as they come to mind, talking to the Lord about the struggles they face and the hardships they are going through, asking the Lord to intercede on their behalf, even asking for very specific interventions. I do the same for folks in our church and others who come to mind. But at the same time I pray thanking the Lord for how he is working in the struggles and hardships that my family is facing, even if I can't see how he is working, and maybe especially if I can't see how he is working. I thank him that I don't need to be in control of these situations because he is, and I thank him that he has a plan and purpose for every situation that every member of my family faces.

So this exhortation on prayer has brought me closer to the Lord, made me more dependent on the Lord, helped me to be more real with the Lord, and given me more joy in the Lord, because of a thankful heart that knows God is in control.

How does the Lord want you to draw closer to him in prayer this month? "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful."

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve



## *Children's Ministry*



### **Just You and me God...but???**

John 14:6 NIV “Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”

Romans 8:17 NIV “Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.”

The first verse clearly shows us that we cannot come to God, the father except through Jesus. There is no other way. However, we need to approach God individually. There are no grandchildren on the path to salvation and relationship with God. Everyone’s relationship with God the Father is totally unique. The second verse indicates that we are joint heirs with Jesus; a unique brother or sisterhood with Jesus. This next verse show us an added dimension to our walk with God.

Matthew 12:48-50 NIV “He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and brothers?” <sup>49</sup>Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>50</sup>For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.””

We start, as we must, with the one on one with God through Jesus. Continuing our walk with God the Father has to be in community with other believers. There is no “lone ranger” aspect to this faith journey that will work out well for us. These and other verses in Scripture show us that our belief journey is a family affair. This was and still is critically important for me in my walk with God.

Before I present my situation let me make a clear statement: birth mothers and fathers can be wonderful examples of God’s love even if they do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. Sadly, that was not the case in my family situation. The extreme dis-function in my family skewed my concept of love in a family dynamic completely. So, the concepts that Jesus revealed in His words in Matthew 12-48-50 became critically important in my ongoing walk of faith. Biblically, my friends were brothers and sisters in Jesus, but in some cases they were more like mothers and fathers, due to their caring for me and their examples for me to follow. The only way we grow in our unique and individual relationship with the Father God in community is alongside our brothers and sisters.

Please ask the Lord how you can learn from your brothers and sisters in Jesus and also how you can be a blessing to a brother or sister in very special way.

***Mr. French***



## Vacation Bible School

July 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>

**Day 1 Bible Point:** When life feels dark, shine Jesus' light!

**Key Bible Verse:** *"Jesus...said, 'I am the light of the world.'" - John 8:1*

**Day 2 Bible Point:** When people don't get along, shine Jesus' light!

**Key Bible Verse:** *"Live in harmony with each other." - Romans 12:16*

**Day 3 Bible Point:** When good things happen, shine Jesus' light!

**Key Bible Verse:** *"Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!" - Psalm 100:1*

**Day 4 Bible Point:** When people are sad and when people need help, shine Jesus' light!

**Key Bible Verse:** *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God." - John 14:1. "Let your good deeds shine...so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." - Matthew 5:16*

### VBS 2023 Needs You

**Station leaders and helpers for:**

**Crafts station**

**Snacks station**

**Games station**

**Group leaders to lead children to different stations**

**Registration table**

**Security and timekeeper**

**Assistance on site for set up and tear down help.**

And very, very importantly are **prayer warriors**. Please pray for the children and families who will be coming to our VBS.

For more info or to volunteer please:

Call or text Christopher AKA Mr. French at 858-735-5923

Email [christopherpfrench@gmail.com](mailto:christopherpfrench@gmail.com)

text Hannah French 858-731-6026

Email [hannahjrench93@gmail.com](mailto:hannahjrench93@gmail.com)



## Youth's Ministry



We started our year with Pastor's advice – not to make resolutions that most of us start and do not keep but to take a good look at ourselves and add 3 Life Lessons to our day to make our own 'Rules of Life'. Pastor shared how his 1<sup>st</sup> two are to: read the bible and pray at least 10 minutes a day. The students and I agreed they would add those rules as well plus 1 more activity that brings them self-improvement and thus closer to God, always asking for His help. Our mutual spiritual goal when adding rules in our lives is to become more like Jesus. They set attainable goals and agreed we'd follow up with again in 3 months.

We continue to view the bible projects reading and watching Psalms to start out. Then viewing Proverbs reading and learning versus of God's wisdom. Anyone can process wisdom. Learning the boundaries and laws of the universe to have a better life. Again, our goal is to become more like Jesus.

### Proverbs 3:7-12 (NLT)

- <sup>7</sup> Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn away from evil.  
<sup>8</sup> Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.  
<sup>9</sup> Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything you produce.  
<sup>10</sup> Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with good wine.  
<sup>11</sup> My child, don't reject the LORD's discipline, and don't be upset when he corrects you.  
<sup>12</sup> For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.

We watched the book of Jeremiah, a prophet, written by the scribe Baruk. This book of the bible gives us hope. We are to be messengers of God's grace. To plant seeds of God's wisdom and build each other up.

### Jeremiah 29:11-13 (NLT)

- <sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Pastor Steve wanted to teach us more about relationships and emphasized that as teenagers to choose the 'right' person. To move on if respect is not there and any type of abuse is present: verbal or physical.

He taught each of us to be looking for these character traits when they start dating and liking someone.

Mutual Value & Respect: Principle: Your life is precious, find some who values and respects you.

Put Jesus 1st: Principle: Look for someone who also loves Jesus to help you grow closer to Him.

Relationship to Criteria: Principle: True evidence of someone who loves Jesus is seen in their character, so look for good character over compatibility. Character develops and lasts a life time.

Love: Principle: True love is selfless, not selfish. True love is an action, not a feeling.

Pastor stressed that God created Man and Women. We are made to represent God. We are all created unique. Psalm 139: I am fearfully and wonderfully made, your works are wonderful, to know full well.

Chris French also taught about healthy God-like relationships; focused on the book: Songs of Solomon.

We collectively wrote a song, each adding a verse, and will try next put it to music. Here is how it went:

Praise the Lord Mighty God  
 He has forever helped us face the odds  
 He loves us unconditionally  
 His spirit guides us on paths of greatness  
 He will forever hold us up with his strong right arm  
 He will guide us toward the light and  
 Away from the devil's charm.

God bless us all! Terri Carver and the Youth group!



## Youth's Ministry Continued



This is My commandment: that you love one another, as I have loved you.  
John 15:12

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





# February 2023



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	2 5:30-7:30p.m. de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF	3 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	4
5 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	6 <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Women's Bible Study</b>	7 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	8 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	9	10 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	11
12 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	13 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Women's Bible</b>	14 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. Council Meeting	15 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	16	17 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	18 <b>9-11a.m. Women's Wellness workshop by: Christian MFT</b>
19 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	20 <b>MVCF Office Closed</b> 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Women's Bible</b>	21 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	22 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service 10 a.m.—1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30p.m. Youth Group	23	24 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	25 8:30 a.m.—11a.m. All Church Work Party
26 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service	27 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study at MVCF <b>6:30 p.m.</b> <b>Women's Bible Study</b>	28 6:30 p.m. Online Prayer Meeting	<div style="background-color: #f8d7da; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"><b>February Celebrations</b></div> "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." <b>Matthew 7:7</b>			



*Happy Birthday*

- Jim Williamson 02/04
- Bruce Kraft 02/15
- Steve de Vos 02/15
- Joanna de Vos 02/16
- Mike Evans 02/16
- Steven Johnson 02/16



- Tony & Susan DaVee 02/08
- Aender & Jenn Perez Harris 02/14
- Steven & Luisa Johnson 02/17



♡♡♡♡ Pictures from our Epiphany Service ♡♡♡♡

**Pictures courtesy of:  
Hanna French**





## Word Search

S Z Y U Q I I G K B N L K R L Y D N L N  
 A W C R H X E I D E U T E R O N O M Y W  
 N N J F U M Z G O V E C G C A T W P U J  
 C X U C P B Q T T G C J Q E O A M G K L  
 T L G G E X Y K Q A E F Z G K Q O R M U  
 I A M M T J B J T L I Z Z D R E E A R W  
 F S Y B E A W V M I W Z F A I T H C A J  
 Y T M P R G I J Z L V G N M I K T E H K  
 M S U J A P E K B E T A C X A R X U Z C  
 O U J H Q R C O T E J L L K W R F Q H J  
 S P X Q V Z A O R K M A J J I C T R P I  
 Y P X Y X V O B D Z V T R U G E U H P P  
 J E L C R M F I L E C I H M O P N U R L  
 H R T I X Z B I Y E F A P O L Z H A I Y  
 C H R I S T P E P R P N H S I N B D R I  
 G O O D F R I D A Y A S C E A P R I E G  
 E Q P Q Q E B H H S I T V S T L N G D X  
 L D R I Q V Y X R V T P J U H U M T E Q  
 S V A H M W N Z F V Z E L R X Y V S E A  
 W Z H V D V E F K C P J R F J I V U M X

DEUTERONOMY	GOOD FRIDAY	LAST SUPPER
GALATIANS	SANCTIFY	PARABLE
GOLIATH	GALILEE	EASTER
CHRIST	PSALMS	FAITH
MOSES	REDEEM	PETER
GRACE	MVCF	

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**We're on the web!**  
**[missionvillage.church](http://missionvillage.church)**

**Council Members**

- |                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Pastor                | Steve de Vos       |
| Moderator             | Jennifer French    |
| Clerk                 | Ronda Adams        |
| Financial Secretary   | Tony DaVee         |
| Treasurer             | June McCollough    |
| Children's Ministry   | Christopher French |
| Youth Ministry        | Terri Carver       |
| Adult Ministry        | Joanna de Vos      |
| Stewardship           | Frank Romeo        |
| Fellowship            | Jenny Fiori        |
| Service               | Carl Demas         |
| Missions / Evangelism | Matt & Ellen Davis |
| Finance Ministry      | Ernie Garcia       |

**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 Adminis-  
trative Elder ..... Tony DaVee  
Elders.....Chris French  
Carl Jensen

**Staff**

Administrative Assistant.....Judy Yacob  
Nursery Attendant.....Hannah French