

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

March 2023 Newsletter

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Pastor's Perspective

Hope in the Darkness

In the beginning of February I was invited to an alumni luncheon for people who went to my seminary. In addition to getting a free lunch (yay!) it was wonderful to be able to connect with alumni from multiple generations and enjoy a sweet time of fellowship with them.

The alumni director who hosted us at this luncheon gave us a free giveaway. Now most giveaways at events like this I find to be utterly useless. Not this one however. I love it. It is a cell phone stand, with Paul's words from Romans 15:13 on the front panel: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." It now sits in my office, and every time I sit down and place my phone on the stand I see Paul's words. Every time I pick up my phone I am again reminded of the God of all hope and how he fills us with all joy and peace as we trust in him.

How precious these words have been to me this past month. Most of you know that this has been a very difficult month for our family. After an eight and a half year journey with cognitive decline and dementia, my dad went home to be with the Lord on February 16th. While I am thankful that my dad is with Jesus and is no longer in pain and finally free of dementia, there is very little about the circumstances of this past month that I would describe as peaceful and joyful. In fact, to be brutally honest, the circumstances have been fairly traumatic, stressful, and emotionally and physically draining. While I am thankful for stories that I hear from others regarding the peaceful circumstances surrounding the death of their loved one, this past month was definitely not one of those stories for our family.

And yet...God is still the God of hope. God is still the God of all comfort (2 Corinthians 1:3). He is merciful and gracious (Psalm 103:8). And this has reminded me of a long held conviction: God does not need me to find a silver lining of hope in my circumstances in order to fill me with hope. God does not need my circumstances to be peaceful in order for him to give me peace. God does not need me to find a moment of joy in order for me to experience joy. There is only one thing required for me to receive hope, peace, and joy from our heavenly Father: Trust him.

Pastor's Perspective Continued on page 2



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

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 details
contact Frank Romeo

Pastor's Perspective Continued

What is beautiful about this is that I don't have to put on a happy face, I don't have to find the silver lining. I think far too many of us spend way too much time and energy trying to manufacture positivity in the midst of pain and suffering so that we then have something to praise God for and be thankful for. I catch myself sometimes saying things like, "at least this part was a blessing, at least this part was a moment of joy." And sometimes there are those silver linings. But the beauty is this: I don't need to manufacture positivity. I don't need to find silver linings. I can just come to God as I am: grief, pain, stress, fatigue, all of it. I can know that Jesus Christ, fully God and fully man, has experienced my grief. I can fully entrust myself to him, just as I am.

When I do come to God in this way, two wonderful things happen. I find I can truly sing with my whole heart, "Blessed be your name, on the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering, blessed be your name." And then I find that I receive peace and joy from the God of hope.

I would encourage you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, if you are experiencing a season of loss or pain or suffering, or if you know someone who is going through a season like that, don't try to find the silver lining or manufacture positivity. The silver lining may or may not exist. But even if it does, that is not the source of true hope, peace, and joy. Our true hope, peace, and joy is found as we fully trust the God of hope. And what a glorious hope it is.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve



Children's Ministry

Prepare your Heart

Mark 1:1-9 **1** The beginning of the good news about Jesus the Messiah, the Son of God, as it is written in Isaiah the prophet:

“I will send my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way”

³“a voice of one calling in the wilderness,
‘Prepare the way for the Lord,
make straight paths for him.’”

⁴ And so John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem went out to him. Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River. ⁶ John wore clothing made of camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ And this was his message: “After me comes the one more powerful than I, the straps of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. ⁸ I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

1 Peter 1:13 So then, **prepare your hearts** and minds for action! Stay alert and fix your hope firmly on the marvelous grace that is coming to you.

The question is: For what specific purpose am I preparing my heart?

Will this be the only time this year in which I will be preparing my heart?

Remembrances and memorials are woven into every culture on earth. We remember special events that occurred in our histories. We have celebrations and memorials for births and deaths. And in each case there is usually some aspect of preparation depending the nature of that event. Israel has several events that were either celebrations or somber memorials of their history

As believers in Jesus, we have two special events that we observe with a period of preparation. One is Christmas with a season of preparation we call Advent. The other is the one coming up which is the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus, the Lenten season. And because the focus of each event is different, our preparation is also different. The key focus of the special remembrance is the work of Jesus Christ on the cross, which could forever change our heart. And the process of preparing is both exceedingly profound and exceedingly simple.

John the Baptist stated that we must repent. This is the most critical and most important step in preparing your heart. He did do the water thing (baptism). But without a repentant heart, it's just another bath. There was no other instruction, no other steps; repent. However both David and Peter who understood what was required. They also knew that could not be done in our own power. **Psalm 10:17** says, ¹⁷ Lord, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Please ask the Lord this Lenten season to help you prepare your heart so we can truly remember Our Jesus sacrifice and truly celebrate His resurrection.

Mr. French

“ 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

Youth's Ministry

MVCF YG Newsletter March 2023

We are in the Lenten Season again preparing our hearts for Easter. It is amazing how time flies!

I was happy to see and be able to say that not only did we have a Ash Wednesday service this year but 6 of our Youth Group students attended! MaryJo and I believe that was a small miracle. It was such a good service to learn more about Jesus' story and his upcoming resurrection which is a biggest miracle. The Youths experienced the meaning in a special way. We had 3 stations: 1) to receive the ashes on our foreheads from Chris French who said the special saying that went something like this: From ashes we have come and to ashes we will return. Then 2) Tony had communion and grape juice the represents the body and blood of Christ Jesus. I am writing that here because this was the 1st for a most of our students. In was decided, without even talking about it, that they could participate in the service stations without being baptized this 1 time. It was Because Pastor graciously invited us all to come when our hearts were right with God and they know they are to follow his lead. Finally 3) Pastor Steve prayed for us one on one. I felt that because he knows each of these students personally, that when they received their personal prayer it was extra special for them and me. We talked about if afterwards, together, and they were 'moved' by the Holy Spirit and God. They are going to continue their Lent by praying the 10 minutes a day as they said in January for our Rules of Life then adding another gesture for God and giving something they like up. They realized how hard it was when they tried to give up their favorite thing last year and so they went to the 2nd favorite or 3rd to be sure they time they can do it for God. However, we emphasized to put God 1st and by sacrificing your 1st choice, your absolute favorite, you are showing God that you really do want to put Him 1st. A known fact: Our church has Special leaders!

We continued with the Bible Project but mostly talked about making better our relationship with God and each other and finding that person to 'date' or 'get to know then date'. We kept re-emphasizing respect and that they should know OF God to be able to have a 'better' relationship and support them. They realized that there are so many different types of religions out there that something is better than nothing. They realized that having God in their life is so much better than not having him to pray to. Then we talked out how to have a better relationship with their parents. Imagine opening up that topic with teenagers. The room exploded. Everyone was talking at once. Half were content with their relationship with their parents but the other half were struggling big time and said it is like an 'all out war zone' at home when they get into it. I was amazed at some of the issues I heard and they talked about. These are private issues they have to 'work out' and pray about – they all agreed. Also, we said, at least try and keep your mouth shut when your parents are reprimanding or disciplining you because words are like weapons and once you say it, it will always be out there and you cannot take it back. Yes, you can apologize but sometimes the hurt remains in them and you for a long long time. I said try this: once or twice a day ask your parent if they need help with anything or what can I do to help you today? In the month of March we will be completing our relationship chapters then asking them, "What College would you like to go to and why?" Some want to go and others do not. There is so much training out there now. Like Learning a physical trade, going in to active military or reserves, etc. We'll see what they say and who has already thought about and decided. I did not think I could go to college, but I did and it was so wonderful!! I had the best times of my life there and still participate in many Alumni activities.

Here are the highlighted ideas we studied in Dr. Dobson's book from the last couple chapters:

Mutual respect is critical

We crave what we can't attain, but we disrespect what we can't escape.

The Key issue to understand is the importance of respect in romantic affairs

Romantic love is one of those rare human endeavors that succeeds best when it requires the least effort.

Who wants to date an unambitious weirdo who grovels in the dirt like a whipped puppy? No one

Extreme dependency can be Very bad for a love affair. Each person needs to be independent

Minor conflict plays a positive role in maintaining the health of a relationship

Youth's Ministry Continued

We relate best to each other when we show deference and honor.

A person usually falls in love with another person who asks questions and they can answer brilliantly!

Genuine love ... is an expression of the deepest appreciation for another human being.

The family was God's idea, not our own, and it is still a wonderful institution.

Dating is fragile

Our generation is bombarded with more antifamily rhetoric than any that preceded.

The basic source of conflict between generations is that old bugaboo of power.

It is extremely difficult to be good parents today.

Until you ... begin providing for yourself, you will remain in a state of arrested development.

The task of raising kids is rather like trying to fly a kite on a day when there is no wind blowing.

One day you will become the 'son' or 'daughter' of your children. (life comes full circle.)

Even the young and the brave can be fooled by the shenanigans of runaway emotions.

We must understand that emotions are unreliable and at times, tyrannical.

Anything that takes you up will also bring you down.

If you expect to live for months or years on a romantic mountaintop, you can forget it

You can be as close to the Lord when you feel nothing as when you're in the grip of spiritual passion.

Whenever you begin to conclude, "I can't win" and "What's the use?" you've set yourself up for failure.

Resist the temptation to see yourself as a victim.

Jesus Christ offers complete and total forgiveness.

It's time we told young people the truth. (According to God's Word, Commandments & versus)

God is infinitely reasonable and just.

Our responsibility is ... to admonish men & women to love in purity and holiness always.







March 2023



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

			1 10–1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	2 5:30 p.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	6 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	7 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	8 10–1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	9	10 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	11 2:00 p.m. Celebration of Life for Chris de Vos
12 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Daylight Saving Time Starts	13 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	14 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting 7 p.m. Council Meeting	15 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	16	17 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship 	18
19 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	20 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 	21 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	22 10–1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	23	24 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	25 8:30 a.m. All Church Work Party
26 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	27 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study	28 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	29 10–1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	30	31 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	



**04—Darryl Angus
04—Tony Quion
05—Tony DaVee
07—Andrew de Vos
07—Van Thibodeaux
14—Matt Leigh**

**16—Admasu Agiro
19—Frances Chism
24—Frank Romeo
25—Jayson Stone Jr.
27—Mike Loren**



**05—Jean & Michelle Fortanas
05—Tony & Michele Quion**

Jesus's I am Statements



"I am the Good Shepherd"
John 10:11-14



"I am the way, the truth, and the life"
John 14:6



"I am the Bread of Life"
John 6:35-48

THE SEVEN "I am" Statements of Jesus



"I am the Door of the Sheep"
John 10:7



"I am the Resurrection and the Life"
John 11:25



"I am the Light of the World"
John 8:12 & 9:5



"I am the True Vine"
John 15:1-5

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive

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Phone: 858.278.2633

Email: missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net

We're on the web!

Council Members

Pastor	Steve de Vos
Moderator	Jennifer French
Clerk	Ronda Adams
Financial Secretary	Tony DaVee
Treasurer	June McCollough
<i>Children's Ministry</i>	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
Worship	Hannah French

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 ElderTony DaVee
Elders.....Chris French
Carl Jensen

Staff

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