



# April 2023 Newsletter

MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP  
2650 MELBOURNE DRIVE | SAN DIEGO CA 92123 | (858) 278-2633

## *Pastor's Perspective*

### 1 Corinthians 15:55-58

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

Easter is almost here! What a glorious day to celebrate the fact that Jesus did not stay in the tomb, he did not stay dead, but he rose from the dead and is alive and with us today!

For our family this is an interesting Easter, celebrating Jesus' resurrection as we go through this season of grieving over the loss of my dad. On the one hand, Jesus' resurrection does not diminish the pain from the grief; the pain is still there. This is a very hard season for us.

But on the other hand, and this is critical, the pain of grief that we are experiencing does not diminish in any way the glory of Jesus' resurrection. In fact, the grief I have experienced and am experiencing makes Jesus' resurrection that much more precious and glorious to me. Looking at Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 15:55-58 above, Jesus' resurrection offers us great hope, especially in a season of grief.

*Pastor's Perspective Continued on page 2*

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### 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 contact  
Frank Romeo**

### *Pastor's Perspective Continued*

First, Jesus' resurrection means that while we still experience death, we have victory over death. Paul, after his brilliant exposition on the resurrection of Jesus Christ in 1 Corinthians 15, ends by mocking death. "Where, O death is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" In this life, death certainly does have a sting. It hurts deeply. But what a glorious hope to know that death does not have the final word. Not only has Jesus gained victory over death personally, God gives us victory over death through Jesus! So even in the midst of grief, we can, with Paul, mock death because we know we have the ultimate victory over death. Death does not have the last word.

Second, Jesus' resurrection means that we can persevere in this life and in our work for the Lord. There are so many things in this broken world that can trip us up, and when you add the pain of grief and loss it can feel tempting to just stay down. But if we have victory over death, then we have victory over everything else as well. Therefore, we can stand firm as Paul encourages us to do. We can keep going, even when every part of us wants to curl up in a ball and give up. We can keep serving Jesus, because he is alive and he is with us.

So as we approach Easter Sunday, be encouraged that through Christ you have victory over death, and that through Christ you can continue to stand firm and serve him. And as part of your work for the Lord, I want to challenge you to go invite your friends and family members who do not know Jesus to join us for our Easter celebration. They need this hope! We'll have our Sunrise Service outside at 7am, followed by our Celebration Service at 9:30am in the sanctuary. And right after the Celebration Service we will have a community Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn and a community BBQ where we can connect with our neighbors and build relationships with those in our community. While we live in an increasingly post-Christian world, many people are still open to being invited to church on Easter. So reach out to them this week, invite them, and offer to give them a ride.

Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! What a glorious hope we have to share with the world. And I can't wait to celebrate that hope with all of you.

Blessings,  
Pastor Steve

# April 2023


Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	3 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	4 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	5 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	6 7:00 p.m. <b>Maundy Thursday</b> Worship Service	7 7:00 p.m. <b>Tenebrae-Good Friday Service</b>	8
9 <b>Easter Day</b> 7:30 a.m. <b>Sunrise Service</b> 9:30 a.m. <b>Celebratory Service</b> Followed by Easter Egg Hunt & BBQ	10 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	11 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	12 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	13	14 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	15
16 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	17 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	18 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	19 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	20	21 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	22 8:30 a.m. All Church Work Party
23 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	24 1 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	25 6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	26 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	27	28 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	29
30 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship						



Carl & Marge Demas	4/16
Matt & Ellen Davis	4/16

Blessed is He who comes  
in the name of the LORD!

~ Psalm 118:26




Hannah French	04/02
Jayson Stone	04/08
Marge Demas	04/09
Michele Quion	04/11
Carl Demas	04/22
Jenn Perez Harris	04/27

## Children's Ministry

### Knowing What You Know/ A Faith Journey

Our faith journey is built through the development of relationship. And a key component of relationship is how you “know”.

Something very important to consider is that God did not create us to live in isolation. The life lived in community is a beautiful, albeit imperfect, but non-the-less beautiful reflection of the faith journey we have with our Lord. The beginning of any earthly relationship starts with identifying that a person exists and that usually starts with a name and a recognition of their presence. In the case of Jesus, the same first step is necessary. The following scripture is unique in that even the most ardent enemy of Jesus recognized and acknowledged His presence.

Luke 4:33-34 NIV “In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, <sup>34</sup> “Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!””

The next step in building an earthly relationship is learning about the person; their background, likes/ dislikes, plans, etc. This is again a reflection of what needs to happen as we grow in our relationship with Jesus. Luke, the author of the gospel of Luke, knew the importance of this when wrote these verses:

Luke 1:3-4 NIV <sup>3</sup> “With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.”

The process of knowing was so great that the Greeks actually use three separate words in scripture for the word used as know:

Eido: “to become aware of, I can see you”. The first step

Epinosis:” to have knowledge about, to have full discernment” The second step

Ginosko: “to know absolutely, to have a relationship, a heart of knowledge”

This last form of “to know” is expressed in the earthly relationship that comes about with the intimacy of a family or a spouse. This form of “to know” is the goal we seek in a relationship our Lord and Savior and our Father.

The Apostle John understood that when he penned these words:

John 17:3 NIV <sup>3</sup> “Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.”

This is a faith journey that will occupy our entire span of life. It will also be the greatest adventure of our life. The wonderful culmination of the journey will come when we stand face to face in glory before our Lord.

# MVCF ALL CHURCH CAMP

May 12-14, 2023

Pine Valley Bible Conference Center

*Join us for an awesome time of biblical teaching, worship, fellowship,  
adventure activities, and personal reflection!*

*\$190 Private Lodge / \$175 Shared Lodge - includes:*

- TWO NIGHTS LODGING
- SATURDAY ONLY: \$25 (plus meals)
- 5 MEALS
- ALL TEACHING SESSIONS
- RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Please contact Joanna de Vos ([sjdevos@gmail.com](mailto:sjdevos@gmail.com)) or June McCollough ([j\\_mccollo@pacbell.net](mailto:j_mccollo@pacbell.net)) for Registration details.

## *Youth's Ministry*

We LOVE April so we can say proud and out loud: HE HAS RISEN – HE HAS RISEN INDEED! J

We, our wonderful Youth Group, is so looking forward to our annual Easter Egg Hunt including a BBQ afterwards; we would like for us to draw in more people from our community. This year we talked about handing out 'tracks' or for our YG Artists to personally make invites to come to our Church Service each Sunday mornings, or our Children's Ministry or our Youth Group; have Pastor spread the taste of Jesus' love! This last month we taught life lessons to our Youth Group: how to deal with their many emotions; especially grief. Each person handles grief differently and that is 'ok'. Our prayers went out continuously to Pastor Steve and his whole family when his Dad (Chris) passed away. For some of our Youths, this was unknown territory, the first time a loved one passed; it hit them and all of us quite hard. We poured our love and support on each of them as much as we could. We even celebrated Andrew's birthday in the middle of March; and a couple of students attended Chris's celebration of life. We are all so proud of Evan and Andrew - speaking from their heart so eloquently, Andrew reading a Psalm flawlessly and Evan telling us bravely about how much his Grandpa meant to him - how they had long talks while fishing. Steve poured out his emotions and kept in 'check' while he spoke profoundly and lovingly! So nicely Briahana shared how special their Grandpa was to Evan & Andrew. We are glad to say they are all taking a break right now in Hawaii with Karen (Steve's Mom) during Spring break. Please God let them recover the best they can, heal, to find God's strength 'to go on' while keeping the good memories alive in their hearts.

We have been advised there is a book out called: Anxiety Sucks! We have a copy now, it is an easy read, and we are passing it around to anyone who wants to read it. Just ask me (Terri) for your time slot to read. Steve talked about the main 7 points, the students listened and interacted as in their current stage of life, they ask for prayers each week for better mental health.

We encouraged students to use TOOLS:

- Call it what it is. Label your anxiety, identify it then deal with it.
- Talk back to yourself. Ask yourself 'what if' questions to weigh different possible outcomes.
- Don't be fooled by physical false alarms i.e., stomach aches, fidgeting – get control over crisis.
- Reject double agents. Don't mask the problem and not deal with it but deal with it 'head on.'
- Do the opposite of what your brain is telling you to do (if negative thoughts appear-override!)
- Seek out things your brain is telling you to avoid (i.e., a fear)
- Ask for help. (From: a student counselor, adult family members, good friends, psychologist, us).

On that same Saturday, some of our Youth group Students went to see the movie together: the Jesus Revolution. We thought it was very well done and a great way to get more people to learn about Jesus. The exciting part is that was based on a true story, the main actor was portraying Lonnie Frisbee, and the churches they were building are called Calvary. Pastor Chuck Smith was played by Frazier. These many churches are still here today in San Diego and LA! J On the way home, down Friars Road, we blasted the radio and started laughing & loudly singing Halleluiahs and Amens! We are going to study further to see how maybe our church could start a 'revival' too! Find the old TIMES Magazine article from that era. Seems like many people do not even know that they 'need' Jesus – this movie is a real eye opener! Thank you Jesus!

We also took a few of our Youths to a San Diego Gulls Hockey game during the Wed. of Spring Break.

See PICTURE!

What we read 8in Proverbs 8:22-36 refers to the universal moral law in the 1<sup>st</sup> person:

### **Proverbs 8:22-36 (NLT)**

<sup>22</sup> “The LORD formed me from the beginning, before he created anything else.

<sup>23</sup> I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began.

<sup>24</sup> I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters.

<sup>25</sup> Before the mountains were formed, before the hills, I was born—

<sup>26</sup> before he had made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil.

<sup>27</sup> I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans.

## *Youth's Ministry Continued*

- <sup>28</sup> I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established springs deep in the earth.  
<sup>29</sup> I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations,  
<sup>30</sup> I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence.  
<sup>31</sup> And how happy I was with the world he created; how I rejoiced with the human family!  
<sup>32</sup> "And so, my children, listen to me, for all who follow my ways are joyful.  
<sup>33</sup> Listen to my instructions and be wise. Don't ignore it.  
<sup>34</sup> Joyful are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home!  
<sup>35</sup> For whoever finds me finds life and receives favor from the LORD.  
<sup>36</sup> But those who miss me injure themselves. All who hate me love death."

God Bless us all! HAPPY EASTER!! Terri Carver, MVCF YG Leader



## Easter Word Search

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

ASCENSION OF JESUS

RESURRECTION

CRUCIFIXION

LAST SUPPER

HE IS RISEN

PENTECOST

CHRISTIAN

EASTER

JESUS CHRIST

GOOD FRIDAY

SON OF DAVID

FELLOWSHIP

HALLELUJAH

HOLY WEEK

MVCF

ASH WEDNESDAY

THE NAZARENE

PALM SUNDAY

FORTY DAYS

SON OF GOD

SON OF MAN

CALVERY

LENT

## Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633

Email: [missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net)

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

### *Council Members*

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

### *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*

<i>Pastor / Elder.....</i>	<i>Steve de Vos</i>
<i>Administrative Elder .....</i>	<i>Tony DaVee</i>
<i>Elders.....</i>	<i>Chris French</i>
	<i>Carl Jensen</i>

### *Staff*

<i>Administrative Assistant.....</i>	<i>Judy Jacob</i>
<i>Nursery Attendant.....</i>	<i>Hannah French</i>