

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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MVCF

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF MISSION VILLAGE CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
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Pastor's perspective

A Common Language

As a college student, I had to take several Spanish classes to satisfy my foreign language general education requirements. My education in Spanish to that point was mixed, to say the least. The most Spanish I learned was in two years in middle school when I had an incredible teacher. Then my Spanish teachers in high school were not the best, so everything I learned in middle school slowly drained out. By the time I got to college, I was definitely not proficient in any way in the Spanish language. And yet I still had to take more classes to satisfy my college requirements. So I plodded on, understanding just enough to scrape by.

My last Spanish class in college however, was almost a bridge too far. My teacher was from Spain and had a thick accent that I was not used to. All of my previous teachers were either from Mexico or from the United States, and their Spanish accent was drastically different from this teacher from Spain. And it was not just the accent; Spanish speakers from Spain use grammar structures that I knew existed but never fully learned because they are not used by Spanish speakers in this part of the world. So even though my teacher was speaking Spanish, between her accent and grammar usage it sounded like she was speaking a completely different language. Needless to say, I did not do very well in that class!

So what does all of that have to do with Mission Village Christian Fellowship? Well, as a church we exist to worship God by helping people to know and follow Jesus. That is our vision, that is our target on the wall that we are working towards. And yet to build that culture of discipleship that helps people to follow Jesus, a common language is necessary.

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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

We're on the web!

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
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 Elder	Tony DaVee
Elders.....	Chris French Carl Jensen

Staff

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

Pastor's perspective continued from page 1

In the book *Essentials of Sociology*, several sociologists observe that, “a common language is often the most obvious sign that a people share a common culture.” A common language is needed for a common culture, which is needed to pursue a common vision together.

Sadly, most churches do not have a common language when it comes to discipleship and spiritual growth. One pastor puts it bluntly: “The reality of our church communities is that we simply don’t have a shared language in which we can create a discipling culture.” I would suggest that our church most certainly needs a shared language for spiritual growth, because our church pulls from a wide range of church backgrounds and traditions that often bring with them different emphases and even different terminologies. In many ways we are a wonderfully loving community of faith that speaks different spiritual languages, and even when we do speak the same language we can have such different spiritual accents that we can have a hard time understanding each other (similar to what I experienced with my Spanish teacher from Spain). And if we can’t understand each other, we will have a hard time growing closer to Jesus together. We need a shared language.

This need for a shared language for spiritual growth is one of the reasons we are going through our current sermon series “Common Ground.” This series outlines the foundational realities of a relationship with Jesus: how we begin, what God does in us, how we grow, where we grow, and how we know if we’re on the right track. My goal is not to teach us a new spiritual language, but to help us recover a biblical language of spiritual growth that is common to all of the different backgrounds and traditions that make up our wonderful church family. And the more we become fluent in that language of spiritual growth, the more we will grow together as followers of Jesus.

Summer is coming, and we’ll have plenty of opportunities as a church to be together and practice this common language of spiritual growth. Therefore I want to ask you to join me in two tasks in the coming weeks and months. One, practice this common biblical language. Think about how this language might differ from terminology you may have used before and what difference it might make in your life. For example, how does “repent and believe” differ from “inviting Jesus into my heart” to describe the beginning of the Christian life and what difference does that make in your life?

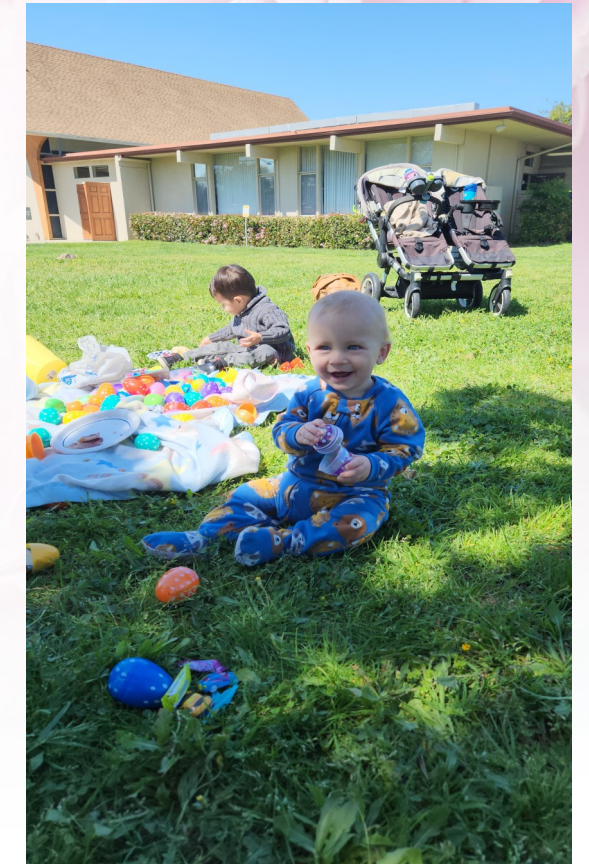
Two, ask questions as we grow into this common language. Language learning takes time. If someone (including me!) says something you don’t understand about spiritual growth (or anything else for that matter!), please ask them to explain more what they mean. Take the time to really understand. Asking those questions helps both of you grow into this common language where we are fully on the same page as to what it means to grow as a follower of Jesus, and that is a very good thing. So ask away!

I’m looking forward to this coming season at Mission Village Christian Fellowship and I hope you are as well! A common language of spiritual growth leads to a common culture of spiritual growth which leads to us becoming wholehearted followers of Jesus together. And that is a goal well worth pursuing.

Blessings,
Pastor Steve

David B. Brinkerhoff, Lynn K. White, Suzanne T. Ortega, *Essentials on Sociology* (Wadsworth)

Mike Breen, *Building a Discipleship Culture* (3DM)



Easter Photos Courtesy of Michele Crone Quion



Children's Ministry

"It takes a village to raise a child" Which Village?

Mark 3:31-35

31 And his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 And a crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside, seeking you." 33 And he answered them, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking about at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 For whoever does the will of God, he is my brother and sister and mother."

This is my reaction to Luke 8:19-21

The mother of Jesus and his brothers came to him but were unable to join him because of the crowd. He was told, "Your mother and your brothers are standing outside and they wish to see you." He said to them in reply, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and act on it."

My initial response to the "village" concept proposed in the early 90s was very unfavorable. This appeared to go beyond to just providing the physical needs of a child but letting the community/society establish a child's moral compass. And we have seen communities and societies with some seriously flawed moral perspectives. However, Jesus provides us with the true understanding and especially the breadth of the concept "It take a village to raise a child". It does take a Christ centered community to raise a child. And this goes beyond just an actual young child, but to "raising" a child of God at any age. We need the nurturing community of faith in order to grow in our walk with the Lord. We need each other in this amazing and wonderful journey of faith. My hope and prayer for our Fellowship is that we will understand how important we are in each others' lives in the process of growing in our relationship with God and each other.

Mr. French

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

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

The Promises of God

For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations. ~Psalm 100:5

"May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." ~Psalm 20:4

"The LORD blesses you and keep you; the LORD makes his face shine on you and be gracious to you." ~Numbers 6:24-25

"See, I will send an angel before you, to keep you in the way and to bring you into the place which I have promised you." ~Exodus 23:20

Youth's Ministry

We can still say HE Is Risen ... HE is Risen indeed! Pastor has been teaching our youths that this is what we believe in, to have no doubt about the resurrection of Jesus, have faith; believe that when you obey God's commandments and follow his purpose for you, you too can have eternal life. It is a gift from God!

We loved celebrating Easter at our church. The front lawn is perfect for a huge Easter Egg hunt and so fun. The Youth Group is in charge of filling, and hiding their own Easter Eggs. Thanks to Chris & Hannah French for organizing the whole affair. The BBQ was a huge success prepped by Jenny Fiori and our Chef Alex Fiori! He did an awesome job grilling up the hamburgers, cheeseburgers and a lot of hot dogs! We have lots of pictures to share in this newsletter and short video Michelle and Tony and creating.

We watched the life of Jesus bible project including the resurrection and the time period right after Jesus died on the cross! The Video started with Jesus as a Baby, then teacher/prophet, sent to rescue Israel, the crucifixion. That Joseph boldly asked the Romans if he could be in charge of Jesus' body so there would be 'no trouble'. That the 2 ladies went to the tomb on the 3rd day to find only angels there. Jesus walked along the road to Emmaus, he broke the bread as was gone. He said for us to bring forth the kingdom of God, share the good news that Jesus defeated death on the cross and rose again to have eternal life. The path has been paved and is quite clear. Thank you God for this entire belief system.

We are very excited about upcoming Pine Valley Bible Conference Center to get a shared girls and boys room! We will be praying in the chapel plus praying for our mothers for Mother's Day to see them smile.

Also, to get ready for FUTURE QUEST June 28-29-30 in El Cajon. A spectacular faith based teen age affair.

Travel Plans are starting to be a real joy these days. Chris & Jennifer French are in Ireland, Pastor and family just went to Hawaii, Terri is going to Hawaii April 26-May 4th for a Leadership conference then to have 4 days of a real vacation in Oahu. Any other travel plans? We'd love to hear and write about them!

Deuteronomy 7:6-9

For you are a people holy to the Lord your God. The Lord your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth.

It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the Lord set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, but it is because the Lord loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the Lord has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt.

Know therefore that the Lord your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

May 2023

Proverb 31:31

Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group	de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF	Cinco de Mayo 6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group		Family Camp	Family Camp
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Family Camp Mother's Day 8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group		6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship	1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group		6:30 p.m. French Home Fellowship	8:30 a.m. All Church Work Party
28	29	30	31			
8:30 a.m. Adult Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Pentecost Joint Celebration	1:00 p.m. Afternoon Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study	6:30 p.m. Zoom Prayer Meeting	10 a.m.-1 p.m. Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6:30 p.m. Youth Group			



5/13 Shirley House

5/22 Audrey Nakamu-



5/23 Jim Ryer & Audrey Nakamura