



MVCF

July 2023 Newsletter

2650 Melbourne Drive, San Diego CA 92123 | Phone: 858.278.2633 | www.missionvillage.church

Pastor's perspective

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.” -1 Peter 2:9

You probably have heard the phrase “form follows function.” It is a principle of architecture that dictates the form or shape of a building should relate to or flow from its intended function. A good example of this would be the construction of Petco Park several decades ago here in San Diego. While there is certainly some ingenuity and creativity in the design of Petco Park (for example, incorporating the old Western Metal Supply Building into the design), the basic shape of the stadium follows its function as a place to play baseball. There is a field in the middle surrounded by stands, and the seats all face towards the field so the fans can see the game. That is the basic shape of every baseball stadium in the world. Form follows function.

At this point it is tempting to take this principle and apply it to the church. If we follow this principle, we should see what our primary function or purpose is, and then design and structure our church to meet that function. Many churches do just that. Churches that see evangelism as their primary function structure themselves in such a way that everything they do is outreach focused. Churches that see worship as their primary function structure themselves in such a way that they create an amazing and reverent worship experience on Sunday mornings, and everything else they do centers around that worship experience. Churches that see teaching as their primary function structure themselves in such a way where solid, biblical teaching is present in every activity of the church.

All of this might seem to make sense; it carries a certain amount of logic to it. But...the principle of form follows function does NOT take into account the way God builds his kingdom. Notice what Peter writes: “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9).

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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**

Here, Peter starts with form (chosen people, royal priesthood, holy nation, God's special possession), and then gets to the function of the church (that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness). For Peter, function follows form. What we do as followers of Jesus flows out of who we are.

Therefore, it appears that the biblical principle for the kingdom of God is not form follows function, but rather that function follows form. For example, when God first calls Abram in Genesis 12, function follows form: "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing...and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you" (Genesis 12:2-3). God's plan is to make a new people for himself (form), and from that people the rest of the earth can receive God's blessing (function). Another example can be seen in the book of Ephesians, where Paul uses the first half of his letter to describe how God has brought Jews and Gentiles together through the cross into "one new humanity" (ex. Ephesians 2:15), and then uses the second half of the letter to describe how the Ephesians Christians should live in light of this new humanity in Christ. Function follows form.

Now, all this is well and good, and provides good food for thought, but does it make any difference in how we look at Mission Village Christian Fellowship as we go through the summer and head into a new fiscal year? It makes all the difference in the world! If we take a form follows function approach, then we should spend our time and energy this summer figuring out exactly what God has called us to do, and create strategies and programs to meet that function, and involve everyone in training so that we can carry out that function to the best of our ability.

But if we follow the biblical pattern and take a function follows form approach, then our focus should not be first on what we do as a church. Instead, we should focus more on who we are as a church, or more specifically, who God made us to be: A chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession. With this approach then, our job is not to try and help each other be productive, but to help each other be the people God has made us to be. And if we help each other to be the people God made us to be, function will flow from that. Doing what God has called us to do will flow from being who God called us to be.

So here is my challenge for this summer: Be the people of God. Be who God made you to be. When we come together on Sunday mornings, or on Wednesday evenings for our summer picnics, or when we serve together at Vacation Bible School, ask yourself, how can I help my brother or sister become the person God has made them to be? How can I let others into my life so I can become the person God has made me to be? And what does it look like to grow together as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession?

In God's kingdom design, function follows form. So let us encourage and build up one another so that we grow into our identity as a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, and God's special possession. And as we do, we will find that it is natural to declare the praises of God to a world that desperately needs the grace of God.

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steve

July 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	3	4 Independence Day 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	5 10 am-1:00 pm Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6 pm Picnic on the Lawn	6	7	8
9 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	10	11 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	12 10 am-1:00 pm Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6 pm Picnic on the Lawn	13	14	15
16 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	17	18 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	19 10 am-1:00 pm Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6 pm Picnic on the Lawn	20	21	22 8:30 am All Church Work Party
23 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	24	25 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 6-8:30 pm VBS	26 10 am-1:00 pm Serra Mesa Food Pantry 6 pm Picnic on the Lawn 6-8:30 pm VBS	27 6-8:30 pm VBS	28 6-8:30 pm VBS	29
30 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	31					



07/08 Christopher & Jennifer French
07/17 Bruce & Gayle Kraft



Happy Birthday

07/04 Aender Harris
07/06 Amy Cheshire
07/08 Selassie Adjibolosoo
07/20 Matt Davis

Children's Ministry

Miracle, Mission or Both

Act 3:1-4:4

The story of the lame man at the Beautiful gate is one of the most wonderful miracles in the Scriptures. This man, lame from birth, was able to not only walk but leap and dance after the Disciples healed him. He had never learned to walk or had the opportunity to develop the muscles or dexterity that are required to walk much less dance and leap. Yet here he was doing all three.

As Peter and John headed toward the Beautiful gate and toward the temple to pray they were undoubtedly focused on the mission Jesus gave to them:

Matt 28:16-20 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In this lame man there was a special opportunity to move forward in their mission. While I don't believe this was their thought process, the result was still the same. The fact that when the lame man was healed he didn't bow down and worship Peter and John but instead immediately gave credit to God, which shows that his heart was in the proper place and that he was a believer. This is an amazing miracle.

However this lame man became part of fulfilling the mission set by Jesus. This dramatic evidence of God's handiwork coupled with what appeared to be a scathing condemnation the people in the temple's complicity in the crucifixion, created another miracle: a changed heart. What appeared to be condemnation of the people was actually challenge to the people to examine their actions and hearts, repent and believe. Verse 44 said that up to 5000 hearts were then changed. Wow.

We do love the dramatic miracles. However, the greatest of all miracles may actually be the quietest one of a changed heart. Stay on the mission and be ever watchful for all the miracles.

Mr. French

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, "Truly, I say to you, **unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.**"

Matthew 18:1-3

Missions Ministry

Hi Church,

The Serra Mesa Food Pantry continues to operate on the MVCF church grounds every Wednesday under the leadership of Kristine Webb, and faithfully continues to serve community members in need. We are so grateful for this ministry partnership! Below are a few updates and ways to pray and get involved.

Recent update:

The pantry is in training for the new Oasis Insight system that is being required by the San Diego Food Bank, and will soon begin using the new system to log community members who come to the pantry.

How to pray:

Recently the pantry has been seeing new Serra Mesa families signing up. The pantry currently serves approximately 165 families each week and food supplies have been low. Please pray for the ability to keep providing full and nutritionally diverse meals to these families.

Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive

San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633

Email: missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net

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