

MVCF

September 2023 Newsletter

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

Pastor's perspective

Becoming a Little Christ

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’” -Matthew 28:18-20

In 2003, Billy Graham led one of his final evangelistic crusades in San Diego, California. As a young adult, I was excited to be part of the event, partially to see the kingdom impact it would have on our city, and partially because I simply wanted to see Billy Graham preach. In the lead up to the four-day event, there was extensive training for churches and church members who would be participating and serving at the event in some way. During that training, a representative from the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association issued a sobering warning amidst the excitement for the upcoming event. He said something comparable to “if churches do not follow up with people who make decisions for Christ, if there is no discipleship after this event, then this whole thing is pointless.”

Pastor's perspective continued on page 2

Inside this issue:

Pastor's Perspective	1
Pastor's Perspective Cont.	2
Birthdays/Anniversaries	2
Calendar	3
Children's Ministry	4
Service Ministry	5
Youth Ministry	6
Jesus Word Search	7
Missions	8
Missions Continued	9
Council Members	10
Contact Information	10

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

Continued from page 1

The message was clear. Evangelism is not the end of the Great Commission. Jesus' command to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 is to "make disciples of all nations," not simply to make converts. Spiritual formation then, lies at the heart of Jesus' Great Commission; to help those who believe in Jesus to become fully devoted followers of Jesus. And the New Testament makes it clear that this maturing process is not simply a process of self-improvement, it is a process of radical, Holy Spirit driven transformation to become like Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18; Romans 8:29, 12:2; Philippians 3:20-21), where Christ is actually formed in the life of a believer. As C.S. Lewis succinctly states in his classic work *Mere Christianity*, "Every Christian is to become a little Christ. The whole purpose of becoming a Christian is simply nothing else."

If every Christian is to become a little Christ, if every Christian is to become more and more like Jesus as they follow Jesus, then we need to honestly wrestle with several questions. First, am I becoming a little Christ? Is my personal life structured in such a way where I am allowing the Holy Spirit to make me like Jesus? Over time, do I see less and less of my sin and more and more of Jesus' heart in me?

Second, am I helping my brothers and sisters in Christ become little Christs? Are my relationships at Mission Village Christian Fellowship simply friendly, or are they also transformational? If we think of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit like a wave that washes over us, are we helping our fellow brothers and sisters get in front of that wave?

Finally, is our church family of Mission Village Christian Fellowship structured in such a way that helps us to become little Christs? Are our Sunday worship services, biblical teaching, fellowship times, small groups, and other church ministries leading us to become more like Jesus? And do we look at the various ministries of the church as simply ministries, or as opportunities to become more like Jesus?

These are important questions. And to help us wrestle with these questions, this month we are going through a sermon series on Sunday mornings (we actually started last Sunday!) called "Growing Together." We'll be diving into these questions and letting God's Word shape our answers to these questions. My prayer is that this series would help us to open ourselves more and more to the transforming work of the Holy Spirit so that we increasingly become more and more like Jesus. The more we become like Jesus, the more our community around us will see Jesus. And our community, city, and world desperately need to see Jesus!

Your brother in Christ,

Pastor Steve

SEPTEMBER CELEBRATIONS



Senyo & Sabina Adjibolosoo 09/02

Admasu & Etalemahu Mahu Agiro 09/18



Paul-Michael Dekker 09/12

Raylynn Stone 09/20

Christopher French 09/28

SEPTEMBER 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	4 <i>Labor Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	5 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	6 10 am-1:00 pm SM Food Pantry	7 de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF	8	9 11:30am-3pm Endless Summer
10 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	11	12 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00 pm Council Meeting	13 10 am-1:00 pm SM Food Pantry 6:30 pm Youth Group	14	15	16 92123 Day Serra Mesa Recreation Center
17 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	18 1:00 pm Bible Study	19 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	20 10 am-1:00 pm SM Food Pantry 6:30 pm Youth Group	21 6:30 pm React Team Meeting	22	23 8:30 am All Church Work Party 5:00 pm HFLA Fundraising
24 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	25 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30 pm Women Bible Study	26 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	27 10 am-1:00 pm SM Food Pantry 6:30 pm Youth Group	28	29	30 9:00am Elaine Mains, LMFT

Children's Ministry

A Reason, A Season, or a Lifetime Author Unknown

People come into your life for a reason, a season or a lifetime. When you figure out which one it is, you will know what to do for each person.

When someone is in your life for a REASON, it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty; to provide you with guidance and support; to aid you physically, emotionally or spiritually. They may seem like a godsend, and they are. They are there for the reason you need them to be.

Then, without any wrongdoing on your part or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they die. Sometimes they walk away. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realize is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled; their work is done. The prayer you sent up has been answered and now it is time to move on.

Some people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it. It is real. But only for a season.

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons; things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. Love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.

Who??

Nearly three-quarters of a century of life experience have shown me that the above ideas are true and good. Those, coupled with James 1:17 NIV: "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows" causes me to ask the question, who's reason, who's season and who's lifetime? We serve a God who has a perfect purpose and plan in all His creation. Even when we think we know the answer, we should ask God, "is that all?" The answer may not come immediately. Trust and patience may be an important part of the process, especially when we don't have any understanding of the reason, season or even lifetime.

Our God has given a wonderful and unique creation to explore and regard His handiwork. However with all that amazing intricacy, the most unique part of creation is the exploration of our relationships. First with God the Father, and then with each other. Remember His commandment, "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. ' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matt 22:36-40. Have a wonderful and prayerful exploration.

Mr. French

Service Ministry

So what is Service Ministry? One of the reasons for joining a church such as Mission Village Christian Fellowship is to join in the communion of saints. We need balance in our faith and while prayer and staying in the Word are important, we also need to be in the company of others who believe the way we do. The Communion of Saints is coming together as one in worship of our LORD together as one body. In that body we have issues that require us to come to the aid of one another when one of us is compromised in some manner. It may be due to sickness, age, loss of a loved one, or just bolstering each other at a time in our life when we have doubts. At MVCF we have many aspects of service from pastoral consultation, elder support for belief or financial issues, or sickness due to health or age. If you have needs and would like support in your time of need, the service ministry is here for you. All you need is to contact the Pastor, One of the Elders, or the Service Ministry where we can make personal visits, phone calls, or whatever manner is comfortable for you. Should you also know of someone who has a need for contact, please let us know through the Pastor or elder or direct if desired. All contacts are kept confidential but shared with Church Leadership where necessary or beyond Service abilities.

Carl Demas, Service Coordinator

8 Powerful Bible Scriptures on Being Christ Like

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ. And you should imitate me, just as I imitate Christ.

~ **1 Corinthians 11:1**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

~ **Galatians 2:20**

Remember the word that I said to you: 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you. If they kept my word, they will also keep yours.

~ **John 15:20**

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ~ **Matthew 11:29**

Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ~ **Romans 10:9**

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.

~ **John 15:12**

A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone when he is fully trained will be like his teacher.

~ **Luke 6:40**

If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

~ **John 14:15**

Youth Ministry

We are so excited to embark onto another year of Youth Group (YG) at our church. Our 2 original students: Sam Miller & Bri DeLaCruz are now high school seniors! We have grown over the years together to get closer to Jesus Christ our Lord. We are hoping our other students return as well for another great year and perhaps a couple new students who are hungry to learn the Good News, too!

We are also grateful & thankful that our team of Youth Group Leaders will also be returning with: Pastor Steve & Jo Anna (as needed); Chris French & Mary Jo Cooper (as needed). *All of you are so appreciated!*

We will start up Youth Group on **September 13th 6:30p** with a game of Ultimate Frisbee & prayer requests. We will follow the same format with: games, bible teachings, discussions and many prayers.

Our Youth Group has been following Steve's sermons and teachings. We are placing and learning about and discovering new friends (a reason), teachers (a season), and our loving family members (a lifetime).

Stay tuned as we will be hitting the ground running with our usual events our YG helps with and more:

Sept 9th Community Picnic on the Church front lawn

Sept 23 **IIHFD Fundraiser:** The International Institute for Human Factor Development

Oct. 31 Harvest Festival (Leading this event this year is Bri & Hannah)!

Nov. Food Drive for Serra Mesa Food Bank

Dec. Angel Tree & Gifts to the King & Christmas & New Years!

Holiday Break Dec. 20 & @ 27 and Jan. 3rd 2024

Let's have a wonderful school year which includes our Wed. YG meetings - we hope all students attend!

Signed with love and dedication: Terri Carver – Youth Group Leader (2019-2024). God Bless us all!

JESUS

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

COMMANDMENT	LORD JESUS	CHRISTIAN
CAPERNAUM	BLAMELESS	BELIEVERS
BELOVED	GALILEE	CLEANSED
MESSIAH	KINGDOM	JUDAEA
HEAVEN	CHRIST	WORTHY
GLORY	PEACE	FOLLOW
LOVE	JORDAN	LEADER
HONOR	MVCF	

Missions



IIHFD FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR HUMAN FACTOR LEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN GHANA

The Momentum Advances

Improving the Human Quality to Enhance our Future

DATE: Saturday, Sep 23, 2023

TIME: 5 pm - 7:30 pm

**Fee: \$40 General
\$20 Students**

**PLACE: Mission Village Christian Fellowship
2650 Melbourne Dr
San Diego, CA 92123**

**Help Support
The Human Factor
Leadership Academy**

REGISTER AT: givebutter.com/IIHFD-event | Or Scan ->



Missions Continued

This special “MOMENTUM Advances” event will benefit the Human Factor Leadership Academy (HFLA) in Ghana. The evening will include entertaining music, a delicious Ghanaian dinner, an array of Ghanaian items for sale, informative speakers, and a fun memorable experience for all.

Founder and President Senyo Adjibolosoo, Ph.D., created IIHFD (International Institute for Human Factor Development) with the belief that improving the human condition is not dependent on external factors like laws, money, or technology, but rather on internal factors like Love, Grace, Compassion and Forgiveness – the primary positive Human Factor qualities. The vision of IIHFD is to improve the quality of the Human Factor with a mission of producing honest and compassionate leaders.

IIHFD was initially established in 1992 in Canada. In 1999, IIHFD was incorporated in the United States as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The Human Factor Leadership Academy (HFLA) was established in Akatsi in the Volta Region of Ghana in 2010 and continues to provide worldwide impact of the IIHFD.

The HFLA in Ghana is thriving and successful and has been achieving the Human Factor quality goals for over 12 years. The school currently serves approximately 400 students ranging from Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade. The goal is to reach out globally with HFLA’s ongoing excellent academic program and training.

There is a basic school and a senior high campus at HFLA in Akatsi. In May 2022, a severe tropical rain in Ghana caused major flooding and damage to the basic school campus. Many books, laptops, and other supplies were lost. There is much to replace and rebuild. The MOMENTUM fundraiser will help with these immediate needs as well as ongoing essential necessities.

Please join us for this event. Tickets can be purchased at <https://givebuter.com-event>

For more information, visit iihfd.org

If you have any have questions about IIHFD, contact senyo@iihfd.org

Akpe! (Thank You!)

Mission Village Christian Fellowship

2650 Melbourne Drive

San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633

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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