

# MVCF

## October 2023 Newsletter

2650 Melbourne Drive, San Diego CA 92123 | Phone: 858.278.2633 | [www.missionvillage.church](http://www.missionvillage.church)

### *Pastor's perspective*

#### **Do You Have An Answer?**

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” -1 Peter 3:15

A few weeks ago Joanna was participating in an online training as part of a networking group she belongs to. She was asked to serve a six month leadership term (something everyone eventually does in that group), and this training was for that leadership position. For those not familiar with a networking group, the concept is simple: Business professionals from various occupations meet regularly together, build relationships with one another, talk about their various businesses, and refer business to one another. So participating in a networking group helps your business to grow and helps other businesses to grow.

Unfortunately, this online training was long. Several hours long. Joanna eventually had to lie down on the couch and put the training seminar on speaker so she could finish it. Which meant that I got to hear the last part of the training, which interestingly was on how to get new people to join your networking group. How do you get someone who is not part of your networking group to come, check out the group, and join the group?

This of course is not just a question on the minds of business professionals and networking groups, it is a question on the minds of many Christians. Church attendance has been in decline for a long time in this country, and especially so since the Covid-19 pandemic.

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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

## *Pastor's perspective continued*

Our culture is becoming increasingly post-Christian and increasingly hostile to the exclusive claims of Jesus as the only way to God. In the past you could invite someone to church, and they were likely to come because they had a worldview that valued church attendance as a good and positive thing for their lives. Now it is hard for most non-Christians to see any value in going to church, especially when it entails giving up precious hours of your free time on a weekend after a long and hard work week (especially during football season!).

Given these dynamics, it is not surprising that on multiple occasions I have had conversations with various folks at our church asking that same question: how do we get more people to be part of our wonderful church family? So when I heard this question asked in Joanna's online training, even though it was a completely secular organization, I was curious to hear the answer. What would someone in a secular organization say is the way to attract and retain new members into this group?

There were several parts to the answer, all of which would take way too much time and space to analyze. But one part of the answer dripped with biblical truth for a post-Christian world: In this seminar, members of each networking group were encouraged to share one specific thing with their friends they wanted to invite: how much the group has helped them. In other words, share why you are a part of that group. Share how many business referrals you get each month from the group. Share how much the group has helped your business. Share how the group has been a key part of your business growth and success. If people see how much the group has helped you, it will be more attractive to them.

It is not hard to see the biblical foundation of this teaching. Peter offers almost the exact same encouragement to brothers and sisters who were experiencing persecution from a culture that is far less Christian and far more hostile than ours in 1 Peter 3:15: "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give a reason for the hope that you have." Don't just be able to tell someone why you believe what you believe, but also be able to tell them why that belief has helped you. Be able to share how Jesus has helped you. Be able to share how Jesus has given you hope. Be able to share how Jesus has changed your life. Don't just tell someone about Jesus; tell them how you have experienced Jesus.

We have many opportunities to invite people to our church in the coming weeks and months. The Harvest Festival is coming at the end of this month. And Advent begins only a month after that. So as we prepare for this wonderful season of celebration and invitation, let me offer two challenges for us in light of Peter's exhortation to always be ready to give a reason for the hope that we have:

First, prayerfully consider how Jesus has changed your life. Why do you have hope? Think in very specific terms on the changes and blessings you have seen in your life as you have grown closer to Jesus and come deeper into the life of this church family. You cannot share how Jesus has helped you if you haven't thought about it yourself.

Second, don't just invite someone to come to church. That in and of itself is not going to draw anyone. Instead, invite someone to come and experience what you yourself have experienced here at Mission Village Christian Fellowship. Invite them to experience the kind of change and transformation and growth that you yourself have experienced.

People do not need more meetings and events in their lives. But people do need help in their lives. People do need change in their lives. People need to be saved. So this fall, don't offer your friends and family another calendar filling event, offer them the God who helps and changes and saves, and tell them how God has helped and changed and saved you.

Blessings,

Pastor Steve

# October 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship	<b>2</b> 6:30pm Women Bible Study	<b>3</b> 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	<b>4</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>5</b> 5:30pm de Vos Home Fellowship at MVCF	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	<b>9</b> 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women Bible Study	<b>10</b> 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 7:00pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	<b>16</b> 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women Bible	<b>17</b> 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	<b>18</b> 10am-1:00pm SM Food Pantry 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30am Adult Sunday School 9:30am Worship	<b>23</b> 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women Bible Study	<b>24</b> 6:30pm Zoom Prayer Meeting	<b>25</b> 10am-1:00 pm SM Food Pantry 6:30 pm Youth Group	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:30am All Church Work Party
<b>29</b> 8:30 am Adult Sunday School 9:30 am Worship	<b>30</b> 1:00 pm Bible Study 6:30pm Women Bible Study	<b>31</b> 6:30 pm Zoom Prayer Meeting 5:30 pm Harvest Festival				

# 92123 DAY



*Photos Courtesy of Roger McCollough*

*And Pastor Steve de Vos*



*Youth's Ministry*

We are so excited that our new school year & Youth Group year has begun. Harvest Festival coming!!

We so far have had 6 returning students: Samuel, Briahna, Jonas & Geneva, Andrew and Evan – hoping to get more from all the community efforts we have been having like: BBQ's on the Lawn OR 92123 Day!

Pastor & I have decided to teach our Youths in detail: line by line. 3 main Prayers from God:

- |                   |                           |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| The Lord's Prayer | Relating to God           |
| Apostle's Creed   | Knowing who God Is        |
| 10 Commandments   | Honoring & Respecting God |

The insights and comments from them so far have been so thrilling to see how much they are learning, absorbing and memorizing to better spread the Good News to their families and friends. Last year they all memorized the Lord's Prayer, it's Devine importance and 'a concept' to say The Lord's Prayer daily.

A few comments from our students from our 1<sup>st</sup> day back to Class:

- The Lord's Prayer: is not a joke, it is not a performance; it is not about self-validation; talk
- After we pray – we feel a sense of calmness and relief – give it to God!
- We feel as sense of security that someone (God) will be there for us
- We need to trust God's timing – A good Prayer Life correlates to peace

We surveyed the students in 3 areas asking them where they would like to Grow the most with God. Most said, "All Areas!" We want to live the way God wants us too! We are open to all good Godly ideas!

One student asked, " Who is Our Father?" He is our dear Heavenly Father who Art in Heaven; Steve elaborated: focus on God. We deliberated. We call him Father because we are His children, we love each other, unconditionally. Pray anytime, pray more often, short prayers, be confident; trust-give it to God!

Pray even before you talk to someone! Keep praying if you don't get what you ask for right away –

Steve offered our Youths any counseling, anytime, as he said that is engrained in his Master's Degree.

We all wrote our own heartfelt prayer to God in class, some were courageous – to read it out loud.

- I read mine: *Dear Heavenly Father*
- Thank you for being our Great God!*
- And the sacrifices you made for us to have eternal life.*

*Please help me/us by sending your Holy Spirit to improve our relationship with you! Amen*

**OCTOBER CELEBRATIONS**



*Happy Birthday*

Rebecca Schnarr	10/11	Terri Carver	10/17
Autumn Quion	10/12	Susan Garcia	10/19
Russ Armstead	10/12	Luisa Johnson	10/20
Jennifer French	10/14	Jenny Fiori	10/25

## Missions

Dear Church,

We, at IIHFD would like to thank you immensely for all your support with the fundraiser.

It is our pleasure to announce that within the hour for matching funds, we raised \$5,650 in pledges, and donations. We also raised an extra \$1,480 outside of the hour So, with the match, we will end up with \$12,130

We are grateful to all of you for your unfailing support!

Many Blessings!!!

**Senyo Adjibolosoo**

*Photos Courtesy of Roger McCollough*



*Missions Continued*



*Missions Continued*





*Missions Continued*



*Missions Continued*



*Missions Continued*

**Pre-Event Planning**



## Mission Village Christian Fellowship

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San Diego, CA 92123

Phone: 858-278-2633

Email: missionvillage1@sbcglobal.net

**We're on the web!**

**[missionvillage.church](http://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